



Canadian Voice of
Women for Peace
(VOW)
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Women's International
League for Peace &
Freedom (WILPF) Canada
c/o PO Box 11466,
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July 31, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A2

The Honourable Anita Anand, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive,
Ottawa, ON,
K1A 0G2

Re: JOINT LETTER: Please send aid to Cuba and show support for Cuba at the United Nations

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Minister Anand,

We, the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) and the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Canada, are writing to you to express our disappointment that Canada abstained on the United Nations General Assembly's (UNGA) vote to decide whether to proceed with a debate on "the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba." Regrettably, Canada was one of only thirty countries that abstained whereas 136 countries, the vast majority of UN members, voted in favour of having a discussion about Cuba's suffering under the cruel, illegal U.S. blockade since 1962.

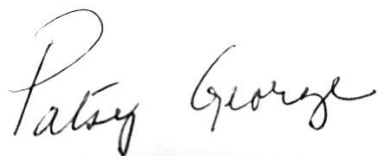
Canada should exercise our sovereignty and stand up for international law, which offers the best option for human security. Just as we would hope that other nations would support us if a rogue nation blockaded Canada, we must offer more assistance to Cubans, whose wellbeing is seriously undermined by the illegal U.S. embargo. In January, the Trump administration imposed an illegal energy blockade against Cuba that has resulted in the catastrophic deterioration of the electrical grid and rolling blackouts that have adversely impacted hospitals and schools. In February, United Nations' human rights experts denounced the U.S. government's executive order that imposed trade tariffs on imports of oil from third countries to Cuba. They stated that the U.S. "fuel blockade on Cuba is a serious violation of international law and a grave threat to a democratic and equitable international order."

We also urge you to change Canada's travel advisory discouraging travel to Cuba and to permit travel and tourism from Canada, which is a crucial sector of the island's economy. The Canadian people want good relations with the Cuban people and want our country to help them not to be complicit in the U.S.'s inhumane and illegal blockade, a form of warfare.

We also remind you of Cuba's incredible legacy of medical internationalism sending doctors and nurses to many of the poorest communities around the world and of providing medical training to people from developing countries. In January 2014, it was with Cuba's leadership that the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Havana declared their region to be a zone of peace and cooperation, which is an example of peacebuilding for the world.

We ask that you also make a statement of solidarity for Cuba and send comprehensive aid to the long-suffering island nation that is a good neighbour of Canada. Thank you for your attention to our concerns and we hope for your reply and action for Cuba.

Sincerely,



Co-chair Patsy George

On behalf of co-chair Ellen Woodsworth and
board the Women's International League for
Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Canada



Co-chair Lyn Adamson

On behalf of co-chair Hannah Hadikin and the
board the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
(VOW)

cc:

Hon. Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

Hon. Yves-François Blanchet, Leader of the Bloc Québécois

Hon. Avi Lewis, Leader of the New Democratic Party

Hon. Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party of Canada

Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in Geneva

Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations in New York City

SOURCES

Canada Network on Cuba Statement “CONDEMNATION OF THE UNITED STATES’ BLOCKADE OF FUEL SUPPLIES TO THE PEOPLE OF CUBA”

<https://canadiannetworkoncuba.ca/2026/01/31/condemnation-of-the-united-states-blockade-of-fuel-supplies-to-the-people-of-cuba/>

CELAC Declares Latin America and the Caribbean a Peace Zone

<https://www.sela.org/celac-declares-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-a-peace-zone/>

Cuba Travel Advice, Canada

<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/cuba>

Presidential Actions, Executive Order: ADDRESSING THREATS TO THE UNITED STATES BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA, January 29, 2026.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2026/01/addressing-threats-to-the-united-states-by-the-government-of-cuba/>

UN experts condemn US executive order imposing fuel blockade on Cuba, February 12, 2026:

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/02/un-experts-condemn-us-executive-order-imposing-fuel-blockade-cuba>

ABOUT

Canadian Voice of Women for Peace (VOW) is the largest national feminist peace organization with members and chapters across the country. VOW was established in 1960 and is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization comprised of a network of diverse women. VOW’s main office is in Toronto. VOW runs many campaigns related to women, peace, disarmament and anti-militarism. VOW has consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and every year brings a delegation of Canadian women to the UN Commission on the Status of Women conference. For over 60 years, VOW has tirelessly advocated for a world without war. VOW stands for a feminist peace based on nonviolence, disarmament, diplomacy and common security with gender equality.

Web site: <http://vowpeace.org>

Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom (WILPF) Canada is a membership-led organization committed to a feminist peace, social justice, and gender equality. We are a non-partisan, non-governmental organization members across the country. We are the national section of WILPF International, which is the world's longest standing women peace organization founded in 1915, with 32 Sections and 13 Groups across Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East. Two of our leaders, Jane Addams and Emily Greene Balch, won the Nobel Peace Prize. WILPF International is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and has a disarmament program called *Reaching Critical Will* in New York. Our *Peace Women* program monitors the United Nations’ Women, Peace & Security agenda and we have an international *Environment Working Group*.

Web site: wilpfcanada.ca

VOW and WILPF-Canada are also members of the **Global Women for Peace United Against NATO**:
<https://womenagainstnato.org/> and the **Canada-Wide Peace and Justice Network**:
<https://peaceandjusticenetwork.ca/>