



Attn: Minister of Justice, The Honourable Sean Fraser

Subject: Urgent Concerns Regarding Bill C-9, the Combating Hate Act

We are writing on behalf of WDI Canada, the Canadian branch of Women's Declaration International. WDI Canada is committed to restoring the sex-based rights of women and girls in Canada. To do so, we must be allowed to speak plainly about the erosion of protections for women and girls in recent years without the threat of legal consequences.

We wish to express our urgent concerns with respect to Bill C-9, the Combating Hate Act, which passed its first reading before Parliament on September 19, 2025.

While we fully support efforts to protect marginalized groups from harm, we are deeply concerned that the language and scope of Bill C-9 are alarmingly vague. In its current form, the bill risks criminalizing legitimate, good-faith expression, including advocacy for the restoration of the sex-based rights of Canadian women and girls.

Feminist voices, particularly those who raise concerns about the impacts of gender identity legislation on women and girls, have increasingly faced deplatforming, censorship and mischaracterization as "hateful." This bill could further embolden efforts to silence those engaged in reasoned, evidence-based discussions on critical public policy issues, including:

- The erosion of single-sex spaces such as shelters, prisons, change rooms, and rest rooms
- The inclusion of males in female sports categories
- The use of compelled speech in legal and institutional settings

These positions are far from fringe or extremist. On the contrary, they are part of a legitimate and growing international debate. Women must be free to openly share opinions about their rights and experiences without fear of reprisal or prosecution.

International human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), recognize sex as a basis for rights and protections. Our advocacy is grounded in this legal framework and reflects the concerns of countless Canadian women who feel increasingly silenced.

We respectfully urge you to publicly oppose Bill C-9. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience to discuss these issues in more depth. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Samantha Brown'.

Samantha Brown

Coordinator, WDI Canada

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