

**Amendment to Criminal Code Section 319(4)**

**PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED**

**WE, THE UNDERSIGNED CITIZENS OF CANADA**, draw the attention of the House to the following:

**WHEREAS** the public promotion of hatred has been made illegal under the *Criminal Code* because it is acknowledged to be a contributing factor in the promotion of discrimination and violence against the target group;

**WHEREAS** studies indicate that Canadian girls and women are subjected to high levels of discrimination and violence;

**WHEREAS** the hate propaganda section of the Canadian *Criminal Code* only prohibits the public incitement of hatred against a limited list of identified groups, i.e., “any section of the public distinguished by colour, race, religion, ethnic origin or sexual orientation”, as set out in Section 319 (4);

**WHEREAS** *Criminal Code* Section 319 (4) does not include “sex” or “gender”, thereby leaving the female half of the population unprotected from those who promote hatred and violence against them;

**WHEREAS** Section 15 of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the supreme law of Canada, stipulates that laws shall be applied equally to everyone in Canada “without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability”;

**THEREFORE** your petitioners request that Parliament amend Section 319 (4) of the *Criminal Code* to read: “In this section, “identifiable group” means any section of the public distinguished by colour, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or mental or physical disability”.

**Signature (do not print)**

**Address (city & province, or province & postal code)**

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NOTE: Signatures and addresses must be handwritten originals ONLY – Address can be full home address, or city and province, or province and postal code - Petitions must be free of erasures, striking through of signatures or changes to the text of the petition - The subject matter of the petition must appear on every sheet of signatures – A petition must contain a minimum of 25 valid signatures with addresses