**Sections in red require you to add in local information.**

CLUB LETTERHEAD

DATE

FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS NOT A CABINET MINISTER[Name of Member], M.P

FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS A CABINET MINISTER, The Honourable [name], M.P

Name of Federal

City, Province

Postal Code

Object: **Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

Dear [Mr./Mrs./Ms. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_] / FOR A LOCAL MEMBER WHO IS A CABINET MINISTER: Dear Minister \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I am writing on behalf of the [CFUW/UWC\_\_\_\_\_], an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) that works to improve the status of women and to promote human rights, public education, social justice and peace in Canada and abroad.

In light of a more pressing than ever global refugee crisis, we are calling on you to ensure that Canada honours its commitment to the 1951 Refugee Convention. Since 2012, the number of forcibly displaced people continues to reach record highs, year after year, with 25.4 million refugees under the UNHCR mandate and 85% of the world’s refugees hosted in developing countries[[1]](#endnote-1).

We applaud the government’s 2017 resettlement efforts, welcoming 40,000 Syrian refugees into Canada[[2]](#endnote-2). However, the modest targets set for 2018-2020 are insufficient to meet growing needs. The current global protectionist and militarized approach to borders in developed countries are contributing to increased suffering and make displaced populations highly vulnerable to violence, sexual violence, torture, trafficking and exploitation. We believe increased Canadian efforts are necessary now more than ever to uphold our legal obligation to the 1951 Refugee Convention and spark international solidarity towards the world most vulnerable.

Moreover, the recent blatant violation of the human rights of asylum seekers and migrants in the US reinforces our position that the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement should be immediately suspended. As the Canadian Association of Refugee Lawyers points out: “There are no “safe” or “unsafe” countries for refugees. There are only “safe” or “unsafe” circumstances.[[3]](#endnote-3)” The travel ban issued in 2017 on seven Muslim-majority countries and the executive order issued in April 2018 that resulted in the detention of asylum seekers and children forcibly separated from their parents, has demonstrated that the circumstances in the United States are not safe for many asylum seekers.

We ask that you **contact** the Minister of Border Security and Organized Crime Reduction, as well as the Minister of Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship, and **make three important requests** that will ensure the fair and non-discriminatory management of refugees and asylum seekers:

1) The allocation of adequate resources to ensure successful refugee resettlement and integration;

2) The increase of Canada’s refugee intake;

3) The immediate suspension of the Canada-U.S. Safe Third Country Agreement.

Please ensure that Canada champions refugee rights and lives up to Prime Minister Trudeau’s statement: “To those fleeing persecution, terror and war, Canadians will welcome you, regardless of your faith. Diversity is our strength”.

Yours sincerely,

 [NAME OF CLUB PRESIDENT]

President – [Name of Club]

1. UNHCR. “Global Trends http”, 2017, URL http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2017/ [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Grant, Tavia. “Are asylum seekers crossing into Canada illegally? A look at facts behind controversy”, August 2018, URL <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-asylum-seekers-in-canada-has-become-a-divisive-and-confusing-issue-a/> [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. CARL. “Legal Backgrounder: refugee claimants are not illegal”, June 2018, URL <http://carl-acaadr.ca/sites/default/files/CARL%20-%20refugees%20are%20not%20illegal%20-%20June%202018%20%2800266338xDE1E4%29.pdf>, [↑](#endnote-ref-3)