

NATIONAL PARTNERS

- ♦ Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada
- ♦ Canada Without Poverty (National Anti-Poverty Organization)
- ♦ Canadian Academy of Child Psychiatry
- ♦ Canadian Association for Community Living
- ♦ Canadian Association for Young Children
- ♦ Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs
- ♦ Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work
- ♦ Canadian Association of School Social Workers and Attendance Counsellors
- ♦ Canadian Association of Social Workers
- ♦ Canadian Auto Workers
- ♦ Canadian Child Care Federation
- ♦ Canadian Co-Operatives Association
- ♦ Canadian Council for Reform Judaism
- ♦ Canadian Council on Social Development
- ♦ Canadian Council of Churches
- ♦ Canadian Feed the Children
- ♦ Canadian Federation of Students
- ♦ Canadian Federation of University Women
- ♦ Canadian Housing and Renewal Association
- ♦ Canadian Institute of Child Health
- ♦ Canadian Jewish Congress
- ♦ Canadian Labour Congress
- ♦ Canadian Mental Health Association
- ♦ Canadian Pensioners Concerned
- ♦ Canadian Psychological Association
- ♦ Canadian School Boards Association
- ♦ Canadian Teachers' Federation
- ♦ Catholic Health Association of Canada
- ♦ Child Care Advocacy Association of Canada
- ♦ Child Care Resource and Research Unit (U of T)
- ♦ Child Poverty Action Group
- ♦ Child Welfare League of Canada
- ♦ Citizens for Public Justice
- ♦ Food Banks Canada
- ♦ Islamic Social Services Association
- ♦ Jewish Women International of Canada
- ♦ June Callwood Campaign Against Child Poverty
- ♦ KAIROS
- ♦ Make Poverty History Canada
- ♦ Mazon Canada
- ♦ National Association of Friendship Centres
- ♦ National Council of Jewish Women of Canada
- ♦ National Council of Women of Canada
- ♦ Our Kids Our Future
- ♦ Oxfam Canada
- ♦ Pueblito
- ♦ Save the Children Canada
- ♦ SpecialLink (MB)
- ♦ United Steel Workers
- ♦ YWCA of/du Canada



END CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY IN CANADA

By email only to: pm@pm.gc.ca

Prime Minister Stephen Harper

Dear Mr. Harper:

I am deeply concerned about CIDA declining the 2009-2013 project proposal for KAIROS, a major faith-based human rights organization which has been funded by CIDA for the past 35 years. This \$7 million hole in KAIROS' budget means that they will be unable to carry on with work which is critical to advancing human rights and ecological sustainability around the world.

This decision has ramifications around the globe. Among many important KAIROS projects, it cuts off funding to a women's legal clinic in the Congo, support for the Sudan Council of Churches to work for peace, and funding for KONTRAS, an Indonesian commission that monitors human rights.

It will also cut funding to a grassroots Colombian women's right group, Organizacion Femenina Popular. They wrote to ask Minister Oda to continue funding to KAIROS, "so that our sons and daughters grow up without being recruited by armed groups, kidnapped or assassinated - so that they have the right to a dignified life."

Both KAIROS and CIDA play a crucial role in educating Canadians and people around the world about their rights. The priority of both organizations is to improve the quality of life of vulnerable segments of society, which is Canada's responsibility to the international community.

I am gravely concerned that there was no written explanation made by CIDA for the proposal rejection, or attempts to compromise or better align priorities. As Canadians and as global citizens, we need the work of organizations like KAIROS, and I believe the long-standing relationship between CIDA and KAIROS needs to be maintained.

I strongly hope that, considering the individual lives that KAIROS changes, you encourage CIDA to reverse their decision.

Yours sincerely,

Laurel Rothman, National Coordinator, Campaign 2000

CC: MINISTER BEV ODA; M. BIGGS, PRES. OF CIDA



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