



CANADIAN MUSLIM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COUNCIL

CMPAC POLICY BRIEF

November 2025



CMPAC Policy Brief: November 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the weeks following the October 2025 ceasefire, Gaza remains in a severe humanitarian crisis. Despite the formal halt to large-scale hostilities, military operations have not fully ceased, aid access is heavily restricted, and tens of thousands of civilians remain displaced. In the first month after the ceasefire, [at least 242 Palestinians were killed](#) in documented Israeli violations and raids, underscoring the fragility of the agreement. Only a fraction of agreed-upon humanitarian aid has entered Gaza, and northern regions remain largely cut off, leaving residents exposed to harsh winter conditions.

Canada's responsibility does not end with the ceasefire. As a signatory to the *Genocide Convention*, the *Arms Trade Treaty*, and the *UN Charter*, Canada is obligated to act; by ensuring the ceasefire is upheld, facilitating humanitarian relief, and supporting accountability for war crimes and genocide. However, current federal actions present contradictions. *Bill C-9* threatens civil liberties - restricting freedom of expression, chilling political advocacy, and creating heightened risks for faith-based communities whose events, gatherings, and symbols could be mischaracterized under the Bill's new offences. The *Gaza TRV Family Reunification Program* continues to fail thousands of displaced Palestinians. At the same time, the *Private Member's Bill – "No More Loopholes Act"* offers a critical opportunity to close loopholes in Canada's export-control regime and prevent Canadian-made weapons from contributing to ongoing violations.

CMPAC calls on Members of Parliament to:

- **Reject Bill C-9**, protecting freedom of expression, religion, and peaceful assembly.
- **Support and second the "No More Loopholes Act"**, closing export-control gaps and upholding Canada's international obligations.
- **Fix the Gaza TRV Reunification Program**, ensuring safe and timely family reunification.

KEY ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Opposition to Bill C-9: The Combatting Hate Act**

In the post-ceasefire period, Canada must protect the right to advocate for justice in Gaza and hold perpetrators accountable. [Bill C-9](#), framed as protecting communities from hate, expands Criminal Code offences in ways that threaten Charter-protected freedoms of expression, religion, association, and peaceful assembly. CMPAC's [initial analysis](#) and [secondary analysis of committee proceedings](#) shows that vague provisions could criminalize lawful speech, peaceful protest, or religious instruction, particularly affecting Muslim, Palestinian, and other

faith communities. Broad language on “properties primarily used by identifiable groups” and unclear application to digital religious speech, such as online sermons, duas/supplications, and webinars, further endangers faith-based expression. Other concerns include the removal of Attorney General oversight, expanded police powers (discretionary charging, property forfeiture, surveillance), and a new “hate crime” offence duplicating existing law. Vague “intimidation” and “obstruction” provisions could misinterpret peaceful advocacy as criminal.

Recommendations:

- **Publicly reject Bill C-9 in its entirety.**
- Reject removal of AG oversight and expanded police authority provisions. Reject the extension to other properties beyond places of worship and reject the offence associated with religious symbols.
- Oppose extension to Properties “primarily used in part or in full” by Identifiable Groups: May turn schools, universities, and cultural/ religious centres into effectively restricted protest zones.
- Oppose linking offences to Canada’s Terrorist Entities List, which risks criminalizing symbols, scripture, or cultural expression tied to liberation movements and Islamic scripture.
- Advocate for explicit legal clarifications to protect religious freedoms, including: Maintaining the good-faith religious-text defence under section 319(3)(b) for all faith communities & Ensuring that online and digital religious speech, such as streamed sermons, publications, or webinars, is not criminalized.

2. Support for the Private Member’s Bill – “No More Loopholes Act”

In the wake of the ceasefire, Canada has an opportunity to prevent its policies from enabling further violence. The No More Loopholes Act closes a long-standing gap that allows Canadian military goods to reach conflict zones indirectly through the U.S. or other intermediaries. Closing this loophole ensures full oversight, transparency, and risk assessment, preventing Canadian-made weapons from contributing to war crimes or human rights abuses. Supporting this legislation is crucial for Canada to uphold its obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty, the Genocide Convention, and the Rome Statute, and to demonstrate accountability in the post-ceasefire period.

Recommendations:

- Support and second the [No More Loopholes Act](#) to ensure all Canadian military exports are subject to rigorous oversight and public reporting.
- Cancel all existing arms export permits to Israel and close loopholes allowing indirect transfers via the U.S., and publish full permit details for transparency.
- Enforce a complete two-way arms embargo on Israel consistent with Canada’s obligations under international law.
- Strengthen enforcement and reporting mechanisms to guarantee Act’s effective implementation and parliamentary accountability.

3. Gaza Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) Family Reunification Program

Nearly two years after its launch, the Gaza TRV program continues to fail its humanitarian purpose. Over 5,200 Palestinians remain stranded in Gaza and Egypt, including 3,700 in Gaza and 1,000 in Egypt without status, healthcare, or education. Fewer than 900 have arrived in Canada, almost all through self-arranged evacuation, and an estimated 500 applicants have died awaiting processing. Excessive security screening, intrusive biometrics, and family separation at the border create an inhumane process. Minimal engagement from IRCC and the Prime Minister's Office, along with no public reporting, undermines accountability. CMPAC demands that the program be transformed into a rights-based humanitarian initiative that prioritizes family reunification and safe passage. Urgent action, transparency, and political commitment are required to uphold Canada's obligations under international law and protect vulnerable civilians.

Recommendations:

- Urge IRCC to expand and expedite TRV processing for Gaza and Egypt applicants.
- Simplify or waive excessive security and biometric requirements.
- Ensure full family unity at the border.
- Require public reporting on applications, decisions, and arrivals.
- Secure a public commitment from the Prime Minister and relevant ministers to act.
- Engage with CMPAC and coalition partners to monitor implementation and accountability.

UPDATES & RESOURCES

Humanitarian Updates: UN OCHA [Gaza Humanitarian Situation Updates](#): Regular United Nations reporting on humanitarian access, casualties, displacement, and critical needs in Gaza.

Further Resources

- CMPAC's [Analysis and Position on the Combatting Hate Act \(Bill C-9\)](#) - Comprehensive review outlining how Bill C-9 threatens Charter-protected freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly while disproportionately impacting Muslim and pro-Palestinian advocacy.
- ICLMG's "[Bill C-9, the Combatting Hate Act, risks criminalizing dissent and must be withdrawn](#)" - A coalition statement warning that Bill C-9's vague provisions could suppress legitimate political expression and advocacy.
- ICLMG's "[Withdraw Bill C-9, the Combatting Hate Act, as it risks criminalizing dissent!](#)" - A follow-up appeal calling on Parliament to abandon Bill C-9 and engage affected communities before advancing similar legislation.
- CCLA - "[Civil Society Groups Demand Federal Government Rethink Bill C-9](#)" - Joint statement urging the government to reconsider Bill C-9 due to its broad overreach and chilling effect on peaceful protest.
- Canadian Constitution Foundation - "[Liberal hate crimes bill raises free speech concerns](#)" - Legal commentary emphasizing that Bill C-9 could unduly restrict lawful expression and expand police powers beyond constitutional limits.
- Amnesty Canada – "[Joint Letter: Gaza Family Reunification Temporary Resident Visa](#)" - Public letter to the Canadian government calling for urgent action to reunite Palestinian families under the TRV program.
- Amnesty Canada – "[Fix the TRV Program: Reunite Gazans Now](#)" - Advocacy guide outlining steps for Canadian citizens and MPs to support the Gaza TRV family reunification program.
- CJPME: [No More Loopholes Act](#) - Background and updates on the federal private member's bill that closes loopholes allowing human rights violators to enter and operate in Canada.
- [CMPAC Secondary Analysis of Bill C-9](#): Focused issues for faith-based communities and emerging concerns from committee proceedings