



CANADIAN MUSLIM
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
COUNCIL

CMPAC POLICY BRIEF

October 2025



CMPAC Policy Brief: October 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Following the newly announced ceasefire and peace plan, Canada's responsibility does not end with a pause in violence. As a state party to multiple international treaties, Canada is legally and morally obligated to take proactive measures to prevent further atrocities, support accountability for war crimes, and protect displaced civilians.

Canada must now demonstrate leadership by ensuring that this ceasefire holds and translates into justice and relief for Palestinians. That means exerting sustained diplomatic pressure on Israel to end aggression and to withdraw from Gaza, facilitating unrestricted humanitarian and medical access, and fulfilling its duty under the Genocide Convention to prevent and punish acts of genocide. Canada's credibility on the world stage depends on whether its actions, not just its statements, align with international law and human rights standards.

Therefore, CMPAC strongly encourages members of parliament to do the following:

1. Support for the Private Member's Bill – "No More Loopholes Act"
2. Opposition to Bill C-9: The Combatting Hate Act
3. Opposition to Bill C-2 and Bill C-12 - Refugee, Migrant, and Muslim Community Focus

KEY ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Support for the Private Member's Bill – "No More Loopholes Act"

In the wake of the ceasefire, Canada has a critical opportunity to ensure that its own policies do not perpetuate or enable future violence. The No More Loopholes Act closes a long-standing gap in Canada's export control system that allows military goods and dual-use technologies to reach conflict zones indirectly through the U.S. or other intermediaries. By closing this loophole, Parliament can ensure that Canadian arms exports are subject to full oversight, transparency, and risk assessment, preventing Canadian-made weapons from being used in Gaza or elsewhere to commit war crimes or human rights abuses. Supporting this legislation is essential to fulfilling Canada's obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty, the Genocide Convention, and the Rome Statute, and to demonstrating that Canada takes accountability seriously in the post-ceasefire era.

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.

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

Following the ceasefire, Canada must safeguard the rights of those advocating for accountability and humanitarian relief in Gaza. [Bill C-9](#), while framed as combatting hate, introduces vague and overbroad offences, expands police powers, and risks criminalizing peaceful advocacy, particularly affecting Muslim, Palestinian, and other marginalized communities. [CMPAC's analysis](#) finds that the bill undermines the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, threatens freedom of expression and assembly, and could chill lawful dissent precisely when civil society engagement is crucial to uphold international law and human rights.

Recommendations:

- Reject Bill C-9 in its entirety.
- Maintain Attorney General oversight to prevent politicized or selective prosecutions.
- Oppose expanded police powers including new charging discretion, property forfeiture, and surveillance authority.
- Reject creation of duplicative “hate crime” offences, as motivation is already addressed under s.718.2 of the Criminal Code.
- Protect freedom of peaceful assembly by rejecting vague “intimidation” and “obstruction” clauses that could criminalize lawful protest.
- Oppose linking offences to Canada’s Terrorist Entities List, which risks criminalizing symbols, scripture, or cultural expression tied to liberation movements.

3. Opposition to Bill C-2 and Bill C-12 - Refugee, Migrant, and Muslim Community Focus

In the aftermath of the ceasefire, Canada has a responsibility to protect displaced Palestinians and other refugees, ensure family reunification, and uphold international law; yet Bills C-2 and C-12 move in the opposite direction. These bills grant sweeping executive powers to cancel or suspend immigration documents, block refugee hearings, and expand surveillance and information-sharing, disproportionately affecting Muslim, racialized, and refugee communities. Both the bills undermine due process, violate international refugee law, and threaten Canada’s obligations under the principle of non-refoulement.

Rather than facilitating protection for those fleeing persecution, including Palestinians seeking reunification with family members, these bills entrench a securitized, discriminatory immigration regime. Advancing such legislation at this critical moment would contradict Canada’s commitments to human rights, refugee protection, and post-ceasefire humanitarian responsibilities.

Recommendations:

- Oppose Bill C-2 and Bill C-12 in their current forms and call for full withdrawal.
- Slow legislative progress until meaningful consultations with affected communities, including Muslim and refugee-led organizations, are conducted.
- Address discriminatory impacts and ensure oversight, reporting, and accountability mechanisms in any future immigration or border legislation.
- Uphold Canada’s international obligations, including the right to fair asylum proceedings, non-refoulement, and family reunification for displaced persons, particularly Palestinians.

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

- *Arms Embargo Coalition Report*: armsembargonow.ca/report - A joint civil society report dated July 29, 2025 detailing Canada's legal obligations under international law and the urgent need for a two-way arms embargo on Israel.
- 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'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.
- ICLMG - "[Bill C-12's introduction solves none of Bill C-2's problems](#)" - Coalition statement highlighting that Bill C-12 retains the harmful provisions of Bill C-2, continuing to threaten refugee rights and due process.
- Open Media - "[Bill C-12's introduction solves none of Bill C-2's problems](#)" - Analysis noting that the government's rebranded Bill C-12 fails to address the flaws and risks posed by Bill C-2.