



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-00554**

BY: **MRS. WAGANTALL (YORKTON-MELVILLE)**

DATE: **SEPTEMBER 19, 2016**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE JODY WILSON-RAYBOULD**

Response by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Unborn children

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government condemns all forms of violence against women, including against pregnant women, and the Government recognizes that those who perpetrate violence against others, particularly against those more vulnerable to violence, including pregnant women, must be held accountable for their crimes.

Existing criminal law, including comprehensive assault and homicide offences, protect all women, including pregnant women, against violent acts. Moreover, case law shows that courts consider abusing a pregnant women in committing an offence to be an aggravating factor and severe sentences are handed down in these cases.

The Government believes that gender-based violence has no place in our society, and we are committed to developing and implementing a comprehensive federal strategy against gender-based violence. Canada's approach includes prevention, support for victims and criminal justice responses.