Dear Member of Parliament,

I am a member of NAME Presbyterian Church in PLACE. I am writing with regard to gun violence in Canada.

The roots of gun violence are complex. That complexity often leads people to pursue gun control and regulation as a means to reduce gun violence. My church—The Presbyterian Church in Canada—has affirmed the value of gun control and regulation, but there is increasing evidence that significant changes to society are also needed to address the root causes of gun violence.

The pathway to safer streets – including less gun violence – requires addressing social issues: racism, misogyny, economic and social marginalization, isolation and poverty. Safety, health and wellness within communities are inextricably linked. There is a critical need to understand and address the risk factors for gun violence including examining ways in which misogyny, racism and economic insecurity contribute to gun violence and prioritizing funding for social programs aimed at ending racism, misogyny and economic marginalization and poverty. The harms of gun violence on communities is part of an ongoing cycle.

Canada needs its elected officials to work to together and provide leadership in cultivating justice, ending all forms of oppression, and attending to the needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable to foster their full inclusion. The importance of this work simply cannot be overstated: this pathway alone will help bring Canadian communities the safety, health and wellness that everyone needs.

Questions for your MP:

* Have you assessed the roles that racism, misogyny, economic and social marginalization, isolation or poverty play in contributing to violence in the community?
* How can you work with community partners to assess what factors might contribute to racism and poverty in the riding, and how they might be systemically addressed?

Sincerely,