Dear [Name of your Member of Parliament],

I am a member of [NAME] Presbyterian Church in [PLACE]. In June of 2022, there was a report at The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s annual General Assembly regarding global food security. I am writing because I am deeply concerned about food security as a human right.

Global hunger is on the rise. According to the United Nations, “While the global prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity has been slowly on the rise since 2014, the estimated increase in 2020 was equal to that of the previous five years combined. Nearly one in three people in the world (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020—that’s an increase of almost 320 million people in just one year.”[[1]](#footnote-1) We must address these issues driving food insecurity and global hunger. Part of the problem is that food is treated as a commodity rather than a necessity and a human right. Food security exists when all people have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

COVID-19 has exposed the vulnerability of our food systems as disruptions to long supply chains have resulted in food shortages around the world. The war in Ukraine has only further made clear the complexities of global food systems and the ethical dimension of global food insecurity. We know that conflict, climate change, food systems failures, debt, poverty and inequality are key drivers of global hunger with women, children and farmers in the global south experiencing the greatest rates of food insecurity.

Part of the solution to ending global food insecurity is to encourage and support local self-sufficiency (whether it is in the global south or the global north) and to support ecologically sustainable and ethically produced food. Yet, these are only some steps that will help; comprehensive domestic and international policies and strategies are needed, all of them grounded in the understanding that food security is a human right. I urge you to always be guided by that principle as you continue discerning policies and programs to address food insecurity both here in Canada and with our relationships abroad.

I look forward to hearing how we in Canada are working to end world hunger and increase food security, rooted in a human rights framework. Meanwhile, please rest assured of my prayers for your work in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

[Your name]

1. The United Nations, “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021” available at fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en [↑](#footnote-ref-1)