

Statement of Support for the Canada-led Talks

[The Global Campaign for Peace & Justice in Cameroon](#) welcomes and celebrates the announcement by Canada that it was asked to serve as a facilitator of peace talks to attempt to peacefully resolve the ‘Anglophone Crisis.’ This conflict has caused untold suffering since late 2016.

We urge all parties to meet this challenge for peace and justice with vigour, compassion, and patience as true statesmen and stateswomen do. After all, “War is only a cowardly escape from the problems of peace” (Thomas Mann).

We encourage the parties and Cameroonians of good faith to vigorously pursue the goals of this process, which are to reach a peaceful, political solution to the violent crisis plaguing the English-speaking regions of the land, and to address the legitimate grievances of the population.

We call on the Government of Cameroon to renew its commitment to the Canada process. The killings, lawlessness, destruction, and impunity that prevail in the conflict zones have only spawned more violence and insecurity. The gathering of representatives from different sides in Canada was a monumental step, and we applaud all involved. For talks to succeed, all parties must come to the table ready to negotiate and compromise, for the sake of the people. In this vein, the Cameroonian government’s solidarity with the Canada process is vital.

We recognize that peace and justice are the essential outcomes this process needs to succeed. Justice will make peace sustainable. A Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission, as called for by Cameroonian organizations, including REDHAC and CHRDA, should be integrated into the results of the peace talks. The experiences of countries such as Rwanda, South Africa, and Canada itself attest to the necessity of a mechanism to foster healing and reparations.

It is imperative that nonviolent civil-society figures, women, youth, religious, and traditional leaders who have worked tirelessly for peace and an end to this conflict be included, as they will bring along the voices of refugees and IDPs, children out of school for years, those arbitrarily detained and tortured, the maimed and traumatized, women who have faced disproportionate consequences, families whose homes, markets, and farms were burned and looted, and those who lost family members and loved ones. These leaders will be important representatives and legitimate links to civilians who have lived through over 2,300 days of war, trauma, and fear.

The success of talks cannot come too soon for those living in conflict because “the suffering is too much,” as so many have said. May the path to peace that began in Cameroon, was supported in Canada these past months, and is now endorsed by Pope Francis, the USA, and UK, grow hope in a desolate situation and give all a reason to celebrate a peaceful and just resolution.

The Global Campaign for Peace & Justice in Cameroon / L’Action mondiale pour la paix et la justice au Cameroun



“My younger brother was kidnapped on his way back from school. His finger was chopped off even after paying ransom.”

#EndAnglophoneCrisis



“Our market was burned to ashes. We lost all that we had worked so for. Heartbroken do not know how to continue, no support.”

#EndAnglophoneCrisis