

A PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS
A CALL TO SUPPORT BILL C-323
(THE INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACT)

We, the undersigned Citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

WHEREAS, it is essential that Canada maintain, promote and enhance its role in the international community as a country committed to uphold human rights and environmental sustainability worldwide;

WHEREAS, many multinational Canadian and foreign corporations face international condemnation for the practice of socially and environmentally destructive practices including: forced displacement of communities, social conflicts, violent disruption of protests against unfair employment practices, poisoned local water sources, destruction of fresh water sources, farmlands and fisheries;

WHEREAS, successive Canadian Governments have not allowed Canadian legislation to keep pace with the new realities of growing needs for international accountability for the victims of international human rights and environmental violations, who lack the legislative and institutional framework to hold the perpetrators accountable;

WHEREAS, Bill C-323 would provide Canada with a unique opportunity to lead the development of responsible international corporate standards;

WHEREAS, Bill C-323 would provide international communities with the option to pursue legal recourse in Canadian federal courts, which would include clear violations of international human and environmental rights such as: degrading treatment, arbitrary arrest, kidnapping, infliction of emotional distress, genocide, war crimes, extrajudicial killing, slavery, torture, unlawful detention;

WHEREAS, Bill C-323 would be a legitimate avenue to remedy human rights abuses, and increase global corporate accountability for human rights violations;

THEREFORE, your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to support Bill C-323, the International Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Act, thereby creating a new civil cause of action that would allow the Canadian Federal Courts to hear and decide claims for violations of international law that occur outside of Canada, and allow non-citizens to sue anyone for violations of basic human, environmental or labour rights when they are committed outside of Canada through the Canadian court system.

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Peter Julian, M.P. for Burnaby—New Westminster
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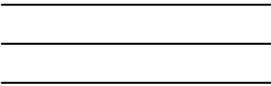
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