

# BORYS WRZESNEWSKYJ

Member of Parliament – Etobicoke Centre

## News Release



For Immediate Release

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### **Wrzesnewskyj Introduces Motion to Establish a Women, Peace and Security Ambassador**

**Ottawa** –Etobicoke Centre MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj has introduced Private Members’ Motion M-163 calling for the establishment of a Women, Peace and Security Ambassador.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 reaffirmed that global peace and security is only possible if women are involved in every aspect of it. Building upon Canada’s Feminist Foreign Policy and Feminist International Assistance Policy, Motion M-163 calls for the establishment of a Women, Peace and Security Ambassador who will focus on leading the implementation of Canada’s integrated, whole-of-government 2017-2022 Action Plan. This office will be leveraging partners from all government departments, promoting gender equity, the adoption of a gender perspective into peacebuilding and peacekeeping, including greater participation of women in peacekeeping and peacebuilding initiatives, initiating efforts to enhance conflict resolution through education and training initiatives, promoting national programs focused on the prevention of conflict and the empowerment of women and girls and encouraging the development of gender and peace-based initiatives by government and NGO entities.

*“Canada has played an important role in the tradition of peacekeeping, peace-making and peacebuilding. This has included the crafting of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, creating a UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, championing the elimination of anti-personnel land mines (The ‘Ottawa Treaty’), and initiating and advocating for the Responsibility to Protect doctrine. It is time that we build on this rich tradition and establish the office of an Ambassador of Women, Peace and Security. Canada can once again be at the forefront internationally, effectively addressing and building institutions to address violent conflict, gender-based violence and its underlying gender inequality and insecurity,”* stated Wrzesnewskyj.

Wrzesnewskyj’s motion was lauded by Yazidi genocide survivor, human rights activist and the United Nation’s first Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking Nadia Murad Basse.



*“I am very grateful for Mr. Wrzesnewskyj’s initiative. Appointing an Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security will place Canada at the forefront of a safer, more peaceful and just world. It will send a message to vulnerable people around the world, especially women, suffering from war and genocide that they are not alone,”* stated Murad Bassee.

Wrzesnewskyj has long been a champion of gender equality and building a more peaceful world. In 2005, he introduced legislation that took a firm stand against those who glorify and incite violence and hatred against women. This legislation called for the addition of the legal description for gender into existing hate crimes legislation. Concurrently, Wrzesnewskyj has been a long-time advocate for the creation of a Department of Peace. Motion M-163 is the culmination of work and achieves these goals.

*“While Canadians embrace the principle of equality and equality of opportunity, translating this into practice is crucial. Internationally, I have had the gut-wrenching experience of travelling into war and civil war zones, and anarchic warlord-controlled regions. It is impossible to forget the images and to comprehend the human capacity for destruction, death and cruelty. Whether in Darfur, the traditional territories of the Yazidis in Northern Iraq, or most recently in Myanmar; largely it’s men who do the killing and women who bear the suffering,”* said Wrzesnewskyj.

Attached is the full text of Motion M-163 and Mr. Wrzesnewskyj’s statement in the House of Commons on March 1, 2018: <https://www.facebook.com/BorysWrz/videos/10155726860838558/>.