



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

September 15, 2016

Hon. Stephane Dion  
Minister of Global Affairs  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ont. K1A0A6

Dear Minister,

We write to you today to bring your attention to a group of 3,000 volunteer rescue workers operating across Syria known as the White Helmets. In regions devastated by years of civil war, these unarmed and impartial volunteers risk their lives to help others, without prejudice. Over 60,000 lives have been saved in Syria by the White Helmets since their formation in late 2013.

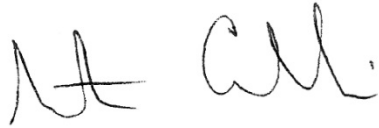
The past five years have brought suffering and horror upon the Syrian people. Today, we seek to recognize those who respond to that suffering and horror with bravery, selflessness, and kindness.

Our late friend, Jo Cox, a Member of Parliament from the United Kingdom and an unshakeable defender of human rights around the world, was an ardent supporter of the White Helmets. Before her death in June of this year, she began what has become an international campaign to nominate the White Helmets for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Today, we are joining with hundreds of organizations and parliamentarians around the world in offering our unreserved support for the nomination of the White Helmets for the Nobel Peace Prize. We call on the Government of Canada to make their nomination an international priority as well.

Canada has a proud and longstanding commitment to human rights, humanitarianism, and international peacekeeping. It is surely our place to recognize the selflessness, bravery, and fundamental commitment to human dignity of these brave women and men.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Nathan Cullen in black ink.

Nathan Cullen  
MP Skeena--Bulkley Valley

Handwritten signature of Hélène Laverdière in black ink.

Hélène Laverdière  
MP Laurier--Sainte-Marie