The Canadian Forensic Nurse Association (formerly Forensic Nurses’ Society of Canada) is in full support of the World Health Organization draft of the *Global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system in addressing interpersonal violence, in particular against women and girl, and against children.*

As a national organization of Forensic Nurses working in the healthcare, corrections, mental health, criminal justice, social services and other forensic fields, we agree that globally violence of all forms, particularly gender-based violence is primarily a healthcare issue and must be made a priority internationally. Furthermore, we recognize the need for a collaborative effort between all fields involved, internal and external to the healthcare system to provide comprehensive health, social and forensic services, especially for the most vulnerable victims, women and children.

It should be recognized that as forensic nurses, we are integral to strengthening the role of the healthcare system in addressing these issues as our work involves just this connection and collaboration between sectors. We are leaders in working within the intersection of healthcare and the legal system. Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners and Forensic Nurses are well organized and supported throughout Canada, the US and many other developed countries and are at the forefront of evidence-based practice and competencies. As such Forensic Nurses are an essential worldwide resource for education, policy development, training and research and thus must be included in any global plan of action.

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