

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE from the UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
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Prime Minister Justin Trudeau calls upon the international community to exercise our collective Responsibility to Protect in Syria

The Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect wholeheartedly welcomes the statement made by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau today regarding the United Nations General Assembly plenary meeting on Syria.

In his statement, Prime Minister Trudeau invoked the Responsibility to Protect: “I encourage other countries to help generate forward momentum on Syria, given UN members have a collective **responsibility to protect** the world’s vulnerable and weak when others cannot or will not.”

The Canadian Centre for R2P applauds Prime Minister Trudeau’s leadership in re-claiming R2P and Canada’s proud tradition in championing global humanitarianism.

Moving forward, we urge the Canadian government to take concrete steps to operationalize R2P in light of the on-going crisis in Syria, by appointing a National R2P focal point, expanding our humanitarian aid programme, and serving as a vocal advocate of responsibility to protect on the international stage.

About R2P:

The Responsibility to Protect principle, coined in 2001 under the leadership of the Canadian government and adopted by 150 heads of states and governments in 2005, states that when a state is unable or unwilling to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing, the international community has the responsibility to do so. Since the outbreak of the conflict in 2011, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been killed and millions have been displaced.

About the CCR2P:

The Canadian Centre for R2P, based at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, is a non-partisan, non-profit, independent research organization dedicated to scholarly engagement and political implementation of the Responsibility to Protect principle. (www.ccr2p.org)

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