



INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S RIGHTS MANITOBA

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

AGM AGENDA

Eighth Annual General Meeting
INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS - MANITOBA
March 2nd, 2021, 7pm

6:30 p.m.

- Welcome and Introduction of Speaker (Teruni Walaliyadde, IIWR-MB Co-Chair)

6:40 p.m.

- Speaker: Ambassador Jacqueline O'Neill (in conversation with Teruni Walaliyadde, IIWR-MB Co-Chair)
 - Canada's first Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security.
Appointed by the Prime Minister in June 2019, her primary role is to advise Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Defence, and numerous other departments engaged in implementing Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

7:00 p.m.

- Questions

7:15 p.m.

- Thank you to speaker (Teruni Walaliyadde, IIWR-MB Co-Chair)

7:20 p.m.

- Official Meetings
 - Directors Meeting - No 1
 - Business Meeting of Members
 - Directors Meeting - No. 2

8:00 p.m.

- Closing (Sahla Mitchell, IIWR-MB Co-Chair)



2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

Co-Chairs: Teruni Walaliyadde & Sahla Mitchell

Secretary: Christine Williams

Treasurer: Sanjida Ahmed

VICE-PRESIDENTS AND COMMITTEE LEADERS

VP Administration: Fiona Vowell

VP Diversity: Jessica Da Silva

VP Youth: Shayne Wong

Co-Chairs Advocacy: Micaela Crighton & Leah Wilson

Chair Communications: Jessica Botelho-Urbanski

MEMBERS

Elizabeth Aluk

LeAmber Kensley

Renata Meconse

Anita Neville

Florence Okwudili

Darci Todoruk

IIWR-MB appreciates the support from some very special people!

- **Caryn Douglas**, our web mistress, who has not only created and maintained our web site, but has also given us ongoing support for many, many years. As Caryn has taken on a new job, we are looking for a new web master to fill her shoes. If you are interested in volunteering, please email: communication@iiwrmb.ca.
- **Debbie Yeboah and Sylvia de Sousa** (TDS Law) for their probono guidance and support.

Thank you!



CO-CHAIRS REPORT

The Institute for International Women's Rights Manitoba was established in 2013, and is a non-profit organization founded to deliver public education and information-sharing among members and their respective networks to support educational, economic, social, and health opportunities for women and the LGBTQ+ community, locally and globally.

While this may have been a year filled with unprecedented times and setbacks, we have still managed to do much of the work we usually would, such as our **Local to Global** Fundraiser with guest speaker Tanya Talaga and emcee Sheila North. This year the monies raised went toward Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Artbeat Studio, and student bursaries for experiential learning for students registered with the Global College, University of Winnipeg.

Our **16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** campaign is another successful example. We also started a campaign for a **Feminist Response to COVID-19 in Manitoba**, and gathered dozens of signatures for our open letter to the Manitoba Government detailing the necessity of a feminist approach to this pandemic.

Although the 64th session of the **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64)** conference was cancelled in March 2020, the panel titled "Canada's unfinished business: Tomorrow's change makers Beijing +25" was able to present at a local initiative hosted by the IIWR-Mb Youth Council via zoom.

This year was our first year with a dedicated **communications chair and committee**. This committee has been a valuable addition to the IIWR-MB and you may have seen their work in our newsletters and on our social media platform.

This past year we welcomed our first ever **practicum student, Meara House**, from the department of Criminal Justice at the University of Winnipeg.

It really has been quite the year for us!

This report was prepared by the IIWR-Mb Co-Chairs, Teruni Walaliyadde and Sahla Mitchell

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

IIWR financial statement 2020				Totals
Membership				
Student	6	\$5.00	\$ 30.00	
Individual	9	\$25.00	\$ 225.00	
Organization	5	\$50.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 505.00
Donations				
Healthy Eating Active Living			\$ 500.00	
				\$ 2,991.91
local to global			\$ 2,491.91	
Other income				
bank interest			\$ 25.00	
Gross Revenue				\$ 3,496.91
Expenses				
Operating Expenses				
AGM expenses			\$ 200.00	
Canada Post Box rental renewal			\$ 208.95	
Printing	CSW64		\$ 225.00	
				\$ 1,220.19
Administrative Expenses				
Intersect and Bank Charges			\$ 20.00	
IIWR-MB (YOUTH) zoom			\$ 108.20	
Website Domain Renewal			\$ 323.64	\$ 451.84
Zoom Nov 2020-March 2021			\$ 134.40	
accountant fees			\$ 336.00	
Total Expenses				\$ 1,672.03
income				\$ 1,824.88

Assets		
Bank		\$ 10,009.82
High Rate Saving Account		\$ 2,056.22
ACU - GIC		\$ 5,339.79
Global College Bursary		\$ 1,000.00
Cash at hand		\$ 140.00

This financial statement was prepared by the Treasurer, Sanjida Ahmed.

ADVOCACY REPORT

About the 2020 Advocacy Committee

Advocacy Co-Chairs

- ❖ Micaela Crighton & Leah Wilson

Committee Members*

- ❖ Alexandria Kazmerik*
- ❖ Christine Williams
- ❖ Darci Todoruk*
- ❖ Elizabeth Andrea
- ❖ Fiona Vowell*
- ❖ Jessica da Silva
- ❖ Kristyn Anderson*
- ❖ Laila Chebib*
- ❖ Mary Scott
- ❖ Muriel Smith*
- ❖ Nick Catalano
- ❖ Rosemary Kakwanzi-Kezaabu*
- ❖ Sarah Bonner-Proulx*
- ❖ Shayne Wong
- ❖ Teruni Walaliyadde*
- ❖ Tyler Andrade

*Denotes that this member did not serve for the entirety of the year.

2020 was an unprecedented year in a multitude of ways, but it also sparked energy and initiative amongst our Advocacy Committee (AC). We developed partnerships, collaborations, held meetings with government officials, and developed an effective platform to engage and meet regularly as a committee. Despite global setbacks to the achievement of gender equity, the AC strove to build on our 2019 revision and renewal campaign in order to better connect with and support our communities within Manitoba, Canada and abroad.

In response to our 2019 review, the AC also developed new guidelines to reflect our ongoing work and efforts which focused on creating an active and engaged committee. We are also continuing to work on reviewing the language used by IIWR-MB to ensure a more inclusive approach to our work and advocacy. We have found that the new guidelines, along with monthly zoom meetings, have increased engagement and brought about renewed support for our advocacy and activism efforts. Leading to the creation of two major advocacy campaigns and increased capacity to respond to community needs.

The AC and board have encouraged and contributed to the endorsements, events, and campaigns for all of 2020. The work of our Advocacy Committee was notable in the Feminist Response to COVID-19 Campaign, which is ongoing, and our annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. We look forward to continuing our work to advance issues of gender equity and feminism that emphasizes intersectionality, collaboration, and inclusivity. With the continued dedication and drive from our committee, we look forward to continuing with our advocacy efforts on behalf of IIWR-MB into 2021.

The Year in Review

Since the 2019 Annual General Meeting, the Committee has participated in the following advocacy initiatives on behalf of the IIWR-MB:

Endorsements / Initiatives

- ❖ Endorsed Advocating for a Strong Gender Lens on the COVID-19 Pandemic open letter calling on Prime Minister Trudeau to develop a Federal Feminist Response to COVID-19.
- ❖ Endorsed the letter by feminist organizations across Canada to Prime Minister Trudeau and relevant ministers calling for feminist policy making in the context of COVID-19.
- ❖ Signed-on to the open letter Civil Society Recommendations for the Functioning of the Action Coalitions. Calling on the NGO CSW Civil Society Action Coalitions to expand their work in terms of accessibility, inclusivity, collaboration, and open communication. The letter can be viewed by going to: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LtFDj64W9tIxneyiX2EDZW3Mn4Ev-HJvsQshQYs-yZI/edit>.
- ❖ Endorsed Women'sShelters Canada National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Gender-Based Violence. The Action Plan can be read by going to: https://endvaw.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Reissued-Call-NAP-on-VAW.GBV_.pdf.
- ❖ Endorsed Communities not Cuts - Suppress the Virus Manitoba Petition, and encouraged individual sign-ons. The AC supports their ongoing work.
- ❖ Joined Make Poverty History Manitoba as a coalition member and support their ongoing work.
- ❖ Endorsed Migrants Rights Network: Status for All campaign and ongoing efforts.

Events

- ❖ IIWR-MB AC members attended a number of community demonstrations, protests and events representing IIWR-MB. We have chosen to highlight a few we were more directly involved with.
- ❖ **Senator Marilou McPhedran's Youth Forum (in lieu of the UN Commission on the Status of Women).** In light of the cancellation of CSW, Senator Marilou McPhedran hosted a Youth Forum to encourage youth activism and dialogue. Taking place at the Senate of Canada on March 10th & 11th, 2020, multiple members of the AC participated in the forum.
- ❖ **Canada's Unfinished Business: Tomorrow's Change Makers (rescheduled CSW panel).** Micaela was a panelist representing the AC to discuss the need for a feminist response to COVID-19. The panel was scheduled as a make-up to IIWR-Mb's parallel event initially scheduled for CSW. The event took place Friday, September 18th.

❖ **Community Consultation-Together Against Inequality: GBA+ and a Feminist Response to COVID-19 in Manitoba.** The AC hosted this event as part of an ongoing dialogue sparked from the Feminist Response to COVID-19 campaign about the need for a Gender-Based Analysis+ platform in Manitoba. The event was held via zoom and engaged community members about the unique needs Manitobans have and how they should be reflected in a GBA+ platform.

Campaigns

1) Call for a Feminist Response to COVID-19 in Manitoba

In response to the emergent needs of our communities in wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic and consequential shutdown of many parts of the world, resulting in a direct impact of women, girls and 2LGBTQIA+ folks, the AC launched our call for a Feminist Response to COVID-19 in Manitoba. The campaign garnered attention to the unique needs facing women, girls and 2LGBTQIA+ folks in Manitoba and involved the following actions and initiatives:

- Our Manitoba campaign calling for a feminist response to COVID-19 through our open letter sent to government officials on May 25th, 2020. The letter was endorsed by over 100 individuals and 18 organizations.
- An ongoing letter writing campaign launched May 27th, 2020 with a subsequent op-ed written by Leah and published by CBC on May 31st.
- Meetings with government officials on the need to implement a Feminist Response to COVID-19 to discuss a more equitable and just recovery.
- A social media campaign posting regularly to promote national and international campaigns calling for feminist response to COVID-19 around the world.
- An updated resource list located on our advocacy website with campaigns, initiatives and actions from around the globe for visitors to support and share.
- The above mentioned community consultation in preparation of the submission of a private members bill to implement a GBA+ within Manitoba.

2) 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

The Advocacy Committee successfully ran IIWR-MB's Annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence from November 25 to December 10th, joining with organizations and individuals world-wide working to end gender-based violence in their local, national and international communities. Each day saw an action or event to engage with virtually/on social media.

- Members of the AC collaborated to create a video discussing what the #16Days of Activism means to them.
- Micaela wrote about the significance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and the ongoing need for a feminist response to COVID-19 in Manitoba.
- Amplified SightSavers campaign calling for supporters to send an email to their countries' UN ambassador regarding the appointment of 9 positions to the UN disability committee to see the committee itself to have better representation from women, as well as people with different types of disability and people from lower income countries. The campaign resulted in the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities achieving gender parity for the first time ever, with 11 of the 18 seats being held by women.
- Amplified Canadian Women's Foundation call for individuals to sign and share a letter demanding that the government take the next steps towards a National Action Plan.

- IIWR-MB Advocacy Committee participated in the call for written submissions regarding Canada's proposed Feminist Foreign Policy. The written submission was sent to Global Affairs Canada can be found by going to: <https://iiwrmb.ca/feminist-foreign-policy/>. The video submission were published on our social media.
- Giving Tuesday aligned with World AIDS Day this year and we published an interview with Mike Payne, Executive Director at Nine Circles Community Health Centre, about the significance of World AIDS Day and the need for public health education.
- Amplified Canadian Labour Congress letter-writing campaign calling for the Canadian Government to help end sexual harassment and violence which drew from the 16 Days Campaigns three key demands to governments including to Ratify ILO Convention 190 and C189 on Violence and Harassment in the World of Work and to take steps to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination in the world of work.
- Amplified the Migrants Rights - Status for All campaign on social media.
- For International Day of Persons with Disabilities day we supported Barrier Free MB in their call for the province to create a plan to prevent ableism in the health system if it becomes overwhelmed due to Covid-19.
- Collaborated with Shameless Circle in a "takeover" from them of our social media to discuss cyber violence.
- Zachary Fortin wrote an article about understanding the intersections of Gender Based Violence and the LGBTQ2IA+ community in the #COVID19 Pandemic.
- For the Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women former Grand Chief Shelia North wrote an article about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and Two-Spirit.
- Community organizer, author and public speaker, Michael Redhead Champagne wrote an article about 6 Things Men and Boys Can Do to Stop Gender-Based Violence.
- For Human Rights Day Leah wrote an article about the work of community in responding to the pandemic and why GBA+ is a first step to support our communities.

Our advocacy committee strives to be responsive and inclusive of all communities and voices in our work to ensure the rights of women, girls and gender-diverse folks in Manitoba. 2020 presented challenges but also opportunities to embrace advocacy efforts that emphasize justice, peace, joy, love and importantly, equality. We look forward to ongoing efforts in 2021 to further our mission, vision, and advocate for peace, justice and equality.

This report was prepared by the Advocacy Co-Chairs, Micaela Crighton and Leah Wilson, on behalf of the Advocacy Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

This past year marked IIWR-MB's first with a dedicated communications chair and committee. It was an eventful learning experience, to say the least, especially with the added challenge of doing everything virtually during a pandemic!

Many IIWR-MB members, including members of the communications committee, have been incredibly supportive. Those committee members included Caryn Douglas, who created and maintained our website over several years. A special shout-out to Caryn as the website – iiwrmb.ca – has been a fundamental communications tool and platform for our members. Thank you, Caryn! As Caryn has taken on a new job, we are looking for a new web master to fill her shoes. If you are interested in volunteering, please email: communication@iiwrmb.ca.

Thank you also to committee members Mary Scott, Renata Meconse, Shayne Wong-Bloomfield and Micaela Crighton, who helped with many tasks throughout the year, including social media, campaigns, newsletters, event planning, and media relations. Communications has a role in supporting all of the work IIWR-MB does and these members were key to making that happen.

Finally, thank you to Meara House, our practicum student, who has been supporting communications since October. If you have seen a cool graphic on our social media recently, chances are good that Meara had a hand in making it. Thank you for your passion and dedication, Meara.

Cheers to a great year and – fingers crossed – an easier 12 months ahead for everyone.

This report was prepared by the Communications Chair, Jessica Botelho-Urbanski.

YOUTH REPORT

2020 marked the launch of the Youth Council for IIWR-MB with 12 members over its inaugural year. The Council is open to young members of IIWR-Mb between the ages of 16 and 30. It aims to provide a safe space for young people to engage in the human rights topics while fostering youth engagement in the wider institution.

In 2020 the Youth Council:

- Participated in the Youth Forum organized through the office of Senator Marilou McPhedran and the Canadian Council of Young Feminists from March 9th -10th, 2020 in Ottawa, Ontario.
- Hosted games nights aimed at providing fun activities and an opportunity for young people to socialize during the COVID-19 lockdown. Games included trivia and virtual Pictionary. It was encouraged that all participants make a small donation which the Youth Council gave to women's shelters in Winnipeg.
- Hosted the panel "Canada's Unfinished Business: Tomorrow's Change Makers" on September 18th, 2020. This panel was originally organized for the 64th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women which was to take place in New York in March of 2020 but was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers included Winter Dawn Lipscombe (Treaty #3 Youth Executive), Teruni Walaliyadde (SEED Winnipeg), Sara Usman (Shameless Circle), Micaela Crighton (IIWR-Mb), and Renata Meconse (First Nations Health & Social Secretariat of Manitoba) as the moderator. The event included opening remarks from Sheila North (University College of the North).
- Launched a social media campaign to celebrate the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security from October 26th-31st. It included facts, resources and information on WPS both domestically and internationally.
- Hosted the panel 'Leaders Today: Young Women Speak Peace & Security in Manitoba' to celebrate the 5th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. The event featured young individuals whose work has had an effect and influence in Manitoba. Speakers included Anne Campbell (formerly the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders), Winter Dawn Lipscombe (Treaty #3 Youth Executive Council), Sanjida Ahmed (IIWR-Mb), Kakeka Thundersky (Land Defender), and Shayne Wong (IIWR-Mb).

This report was prepared by the Vice President of Youth, Shayne Wong.



**YOUTH
COUNCIL**

VP Youth & Local Initiatives
**The Institute for International
Women's Rights- Manitoba**
971 Corydon Avenue, PO Box 273
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3M 0Y0 Canada

PRACTICUM STUDENT REPORT

I was given the opportunity to work with IIWR-MB through a Criminal Justice field placement course at the University of Winnipeg, and it has been a truly wonderful and educational experience! During my time at IIWR-MB I've gained knowledge in a wide range of areas, such as social media management, website management, effective campaigning, event planning, budget management, and many more.

I've been working primarily in communications and advocacy, but I am looking forward to branching out more in the upcoming months, as I have chosen to stay on with IIWR-MB as a board member when my semester ends!

This report was prepared by IIWR-MB's first ever Practicum Student, Meara House.



Local to Global 2020
All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward
With Tanya Talaga, and emcee Sheila North

Final Report: For a number of years, a small but energetic and committed group of women (and allies) have worked to put on a community event in Winnipeg called “Local to Global”, focusing on different themes, but always through a gender lens. Initially as part of the Canadian Committee for UNIFEM, later as part of the Canadian Committee for UN Women, and now as the Institute for International Women’s Rights - Manitoba (IIWR-MB), it has been an opportunity to bring the community together, to learn about the challenges women face in many parts of the world, including right here in Canada, and to raise funds for projects supporting gender equality and eliminating violence against women.

Initially planned for April 14, 2020, the Local to Global was held with much success on October 1, 2020. IIWR-MB was pleased to welcome guests to the 11th bi-annual Local to Global fundraiser as a webinar. Keynote speaker Tanya Talaga spoke about All Our Relations: Finding the Path Forward with emcee Sheila North. Musician Dawn Marie Chartrand also performed. Sadie North opened with a welcoming prayer.

A special thank you to all who attended and helped raise funds for Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, Artbeat Studio and Global Citizenship Scholarships!



For those who missed the special event, or want to see it again, you can do that by going to the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/InstituteInternationalWomensRightsManitoba/videos/800505987159221>

In total, \$13,741 was raised, with \$3,750 being distributed to three organizations: Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre (for youth leadership); Artbeat Studio (to support mental health) and Global College, University of Winnipeg (Global Citizenship Scholarships).

Special thanks to the Organizing and Fund Raising Committees: Sahla Mitchell (Chair), Jessica Botelho-Urbanski, Mary Scott, Christine Williams, Teruni Walaliyadde, Kristyn Anderson, Sanjida Amhed, Renata Meconse, Anita Neville, Roxane Gratton, Muriel Smith, Hilary Taylor, and Jo Wright. Thanks too to Grace Van Mil, who helped us out behind the scenes the evening of the event as a co-host.



IA medallion was given to Tanya Talaga in appreciation for her generous gift of support for the event, along with a card, specially prepared by Renata Meconse. We thank Clayton Sandy for the generous donation of the beautiful piece prepared by Nichole.

Thank you to our Sponsors

Champions (\$1,000 or more)

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Muriel Smith

The Winnipeg Foundation

Partner (\$500 or more)

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Alison and Robert Darling
Anita Neville
Senator Marilou McPhedran
Jo Wright
Charlene Urbanski
Angeline Rivard

This report was prepared by Mary Scott, founder and former co-chair of IIWR-MB.

IIWR-MB Local to Global financial statement 2020			
Revenue			
Item	Cost	Amount	Total
McNally tickets - regular	\$35.00	5	\$175.00
Eventbrite - payment 1	2020-11-02		\$1,255.00
Eventbrite - payment 2	2020-10-07		\$3,071.34
Cash Tickets sold		unknown	\$150.00
Subtotal			\$4,651.34
IIWR-MB Donations			\$3,250.00
U of Wpg Foundations			\$7,000.00
Revenue Subtotal			\$14,901.34
Expenses			
Item	Cost	Taxes	Total
Honorarium for MC & Elder			\$150.00
Zoom webinar			\$253.12
Books for donors			\$128.84
Printing			\$338.24
Online advertising - FB/IG			\$39.23
Entertainment			\$250.00
Expenses Subtotal			\$1,159.43
NET PROFIT			\$13,741.91

U of Winnipeg Foundation Donations		IIWR-MB Donations	
Donor	Amount	Donor	Amount
George Chapman	\$100.00	ACU	\$500.00
Hill Sokalski Walsh Olson LLP	\$1,000.00	Terumi Kuwada	\$50.00
Fran Pollard	\$250.00	Deborah gray	\$500.00
Muriel Smith	\$940.00	Charles Coffey	\$2,000.00
Bruce and Andrea Henderson	\$500.00	Susan Scott	\$200.00
Douglas Pollard, kristie pearson	\$250.00		
Rosemary Vodrey	\$250.00		
Mary and Richard Scott	\$1,000.00		
Gail Asper	\$1,000.00		
H.Dianne Cooper	\$110.00		
The winnipeg foundation	\$1,000.00		
Alison and Robert Darling	\$100.00		
Jean and Dennis Giguere	\$250.00		
Hilary Taylor	\$50.00		
Anita Neveille	\$100.00		
Josephine Wright	\$100.00		
Total	\$7,000.00		\$3,250.00
Subtotal of all donations			\$10,250.00

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

Date/Time: March 8th, 2021, 6-7pm

Join the IIWR-MB as we celebrate an inclusive International Women's Day on March 8th via Zoom. The title of our panel event is: **Reproductive Health in Manitoba: Integrity, Access & Inclusivity**. Panelists to be announced!

Register by going to: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZloc-ihpzooHt24E8PP7V7tPsnzO5SkOatj?fbclid=IwAR14S27-bkWiuHUYUyp_fWe0UW7pNeFGkghZmjl-Uz-OHognSRtEf_noGQ](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZloc-ihpzooHt24E8PP7V7tPsnzO5SkOatj?fbclid=IwAR14S27-bkWiuHUYUyp_fWe0UW7pNeFGkghZmjl-Uz-OHognSRtEf_noGQ).

MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

Date/Time: March 14-26, 2021, All Day

From March 14th to March 26th, there are many events taking place virtually at the United Nations during the 65th meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women. You can participate as an Advocate, and attend many virtual events.

To register as an Advocate, go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ngo-csw65-forum-advocate-registration-tickets-137312871495>. Once you are registered, you will have access to the schedule for all the Parallel Events, and informal sessions.

Note, **IIWR-MB event is scheduled for March 17, Wednesday, 5:30 pm (CST)**. We invite you to register for the event, as an advocate, now -231 MMIWG2S Calls for Justice: Implementing Actions and Moving Forward.

CONNECT WITH US

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