



Canada has over 200 000 Iranian-Canadians living and working here - folks who play active roles in their communities and are active Canadian citizens. Our campaign understands that the absence of a Canadian diplomatic mission in Iran has impact many negatively, and has left many Canadians visiting in Iran vulnerable and without access to consular services in times of need. This is something I will immediately address as leader of Canada's NDP.

The conflict and human rights issues in the Middle East broadly demand a principled approach based on peace and justice. Many, including the Canadian Labour Congress and Amnesty International, have shown their support for the hunger strikers who are opposing inhumane conditions in key Middle Eastern regions. As someone who is completing a PhD in Peace and Conflict studies, it is clear to me that one must speak out in the face of injustice, whether here at home or abroad. Canada must return to its traditional role, supporting a balanced position and a just peace in the Middle East.

Re-engaging in diplomatic relations with Iran is critical to not only working toward a just peace in the Middle East, but also in supporting the well being of Iranian-Canadians and their families in Iran. I believe we need to lead globally, and address nuclear non-proliferation and state stability with diplomacy.

Here in Canada, I am committed to Racial Justice that will address and ameliorate racism and xenophobia by addressing root causes of discrimination and oppression, and by opposing domestic and international policies that seek to further divide us. By re-engaging in diplomatic relations with Iran, Canada can lead in making life better for Iranian-Canadian communities, better protect Canadians visiting Iran, and improve our economic relationships.