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Canadian Psychological Association presents \$10,000 donation to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to help aid with the Crisis in the Congo

The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is proud to announce a financial donation to the African Institute on Gender-Based Violence and Counselling, which is administered by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This donation follows from a commitment the CPA Board had made years earlier to the study and remediation of political warfare.

As acknowledged by the Canadian government and other authorities, there is grave concern about the targeted use of sexual violence against women as a weapon of warfare in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This violence leaves women with enduring physical injuries and permanent disability, HIV infection, and profound psychological trauma such as *Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)*, *depression*, and *suicide*.

“The CPA was shocked to learn about the brutal sexual violence against women that is taking place and wanted to help. Understandably, the women and children who survive these brutal attacks often face psychological trauma related to the attack itself and to the permanent physical disability that often results” said Dr. Karen Cohen, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA).

“Survivors who fail to receive appropriate mental health treatment can suffer these effects for years. It is CPA’s hope that this donation will help train counselors and deliver care to women and children who have experienced such unimaginable cruelty,” Dr. Cohen added.

“This generous donation of \$10,000 will be used to deliver urgently needed counseling to women and families so that they get the help they need to deal with the devastation caused by the warfare and sexual violence in that region. Psychological support is absolutely critical for women to recover from and be able to reintegrate into society,” said Stephen Lewis, Board Chair of the Stephen Lewis Foundation in Canada.

About the Stephen Lewis Foundation

The Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) supports community-based organizations that are turning the tide of HIV/AIDS in Africa. They provide care to women who are ill and struggling to survive; assist orphans and other AIDS-affected children; reach heroic grandmothers who almost single-handedly care for their orphan grandchildren; and sustain associations of people living

with HIV and AIDS. Since 2003, SLF has supported more than 700 community-level initiatives in 15 sub-Saharan countries. To learn more, visit www.stephenlewisfoundation.org

About the Canadian Psychological Association

The Canadian Psychological Association is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. With over 6600 members and affiliates, CPA is Canada's largest professional association for psychology.

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