



NOTICE OF MOTION

Request of Federal Government to Petition the Government of Nigeria Regarding Amina Lawal

Moved by: Councillor McConnell

Seconded by: Councillor Shaw

“**WHEREAS** at its meeting held on September 26, 2002, the City of Toronto’s Advisory Committee on the Status of Women adopted a resolution requesting Toronto City Council to add its voice to the people of Toronto and Canada regarding the case of Amina Lawal; and

WHEREAS the people of Toronto have been in the forefront of efforts to create a compassionate society and have demonstrated a long commitment to women’s equality and human rights; and

WHEREAS in March 1883, Toronto City Council supported the founding of the Toronto Women’s Suffrage Association at a meeting held in Council Chambers; and

WHEREAS in 1909, a member of Toronto City Council presented a petition of more than 100,000 signatures to the Premier of Ontario in support of women getting the vote; and

WHEREAS in 1973, the City of Toronto established the Non-Discrimination Policy to protect the civil rights of the people of Toronto; and

WHEREAS in 1973, the City of Toronto established a Mayor’s Task Force on the Status of Women, which brought about major changes in the delivery of municipal services, particularly health care for women and children, day care, employment equity and equal pay; and

WHEREAS in 1979, Toronto City Council established the Constance E. Hamilton Award to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Person's Case which gave women the right to participate in public life; and

WHEREAS, since amalgamation in 1998, Toronto City Council has adopted many policies and programs regarding the achievement of human rights and the elimination of discrimination, harassment, hate activity, racism, sexism, violence, homophobia, homelessness, hunger, illiteracy and barriers to access and participation; and

WHEREAS Amina Lawal, a 30 year-old Muslim woman was sentenced to death by stoning by a Sharia court at Bakori in northern Nigeria, for having a child outside of marriage; and

WHEREAS the sentence on Amina Lawal has provoked a world-wide wave of shock and revulsion; and

WHEREAS the sentence imposed on Amina Lawal constitutes torture and is cruel, inhumane and degrading and runs counter to international human rights standards; and

WHEREAS Toronto City Council takes a leadership role in the fight of all forms of discrimination and is committed to human dignity, social equity, social justice and solidarity; and

WHEREAS Canada is a world leader in addressing human rights injustices; and has been a signatory to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ratified in December, 1981;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Toronto City Council convey to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the concerns of Canadians, and in particular, the people of Toronto regarding these horrific sentences and urge them to use their influence, as world leaders, to petition the government of Nigeria to ensure that the sentence against Amina Lawal is not carried out;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the necessary provisions of Chapter 27 of the City of Toronto Municipal Code be waived to permit introduction and debate of this Notice of Motion at the meeting of Council to be held on October 1, 2 and 3, 2002.”

October 1, 2002

According to Chapter 27 of the Municipal Code, the foregoing Notice of Motion:

Notice was previously given	
Meets Municipal Code provisions and only requires a simple majority to introduce and debate	
Requires two-thirds to waive notice	(v)
Requires two-thirds to re-open	
Should be referred to the Policy and Finance Committee	(v)
Requires two-thirds to waive referral if Council wishes to debate	
Recommendations are time sensitive	