

Resolution 2014.03

Revoke Passports of Convicted Canadian Pedophiles for Life

Submitted by: Calgary Diocesan Council

Whereas, Canadian convicted pedophiles are travelling outside the country and committing sex crimes on children with little or no repercussions in Canada; and

Whereas, Children from poor families in developing countries are being exploited and used for sex with tourists; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in its 67th Annual Provincial Convention assembled, urge the federal government, through the National Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, to revoke the passport of each convicted Canadian pedophile for life; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada in its 67th Annual Provincial Convention assembled, urge the federal government, through the National Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada, to list the lifetime revocation of each convicted sex-offender's passport and that list be posted or available at every Canadian Border crossing; and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be forwarded to the National Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada for consideration at the 94th Annual National Convention.

BRIEF:

A recent investigative report entitled "Twisted Travelers" by W5, the CTV information program, the *Toronto Star* and the *Miami Herald* newspapers showed that Canadian sex offenders are travelling to developing countries such as Cuba, Mexico, Brazil and the Dominican Republic for purposes of sexual exploitation of children from poor families with little or no repercussions in Canada. (1) The program reported that in 1997 Bill C-27, *Canadian Domestic Law* amended the *Criminal Code* to prohibit child sex tourism. (2) The amendment called the "Prober Amendment" (3) applies to all forms of sexual exploitation. Under s.7 (4.1) of the *Criminal Code* Canadian citizens and permanent residents can be prosecuted in Canada for certain sexual offences committed against children in other countries. (4)

As well the W5 report mentioned that Mark Hecht, a lawyer with the child advocacy organization "Beyond Borders", reported that the authorities in many of the countries where Canadian pedophiles travel are "either uninterested, are under resourced and in some cases they are simply corrupt" resulting in very few arrests. (1) Due to the Border Guards lack of access to the National Sex Offender Registry and Canadian Police Information Centre Database, it is very difficult to prevent Canadian pedophiles from travelling.

The only way to end this exploitation of children in poorer countries from convicted Canadian pedophiles is to revoke the passport of the pedophile, which is permitted according to sections 9 and 10 of the *Canadian Passport Order*. (5) However, since governments change and could revise Sections 9 and 10 of the Canadian Passport Order, we ask that the revocation be for life. A revocation could have a time limit and a judge, jury or minister could fix a 10 or 20 year time limit on that revocation resulting in the pedophile obtaining a passport again during the pedophile's lifetime.

As passports can and are forged, it is important that a computerized list of the names of all convicted pedophiles be updated regularly and available at all border crossings in order to prevent a convicted pedophile from travelling outside of Canada.

DRAFT

WORKS CITED:

1. Malarek, Victor: W5 Chief Investigative Reporter, W5 Investigation "Canadian Pedophiles Travel Abroad for Child Sex", March 15, 2013. Updated March 16, 2013. <http://www.ctvnews.ca/w5/w5-investigation-canadian-pedophiles-travel-abroad-for-child-sex-1.1197763>. Further to this investigation the RCMP report link in W5 investigation homepage Confidential RCMP document entitled "Project Sunrise" outlines the various countries and challenges presented to the involved agencies fighting this crime.
2. Bill C-27, 1997. Canadian Domestic Law. www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=2329459&File=16
3. "Child Sex Tourism" *Beyond Borders*, www.beyondborders.org. Source: www.ecpat.net October 2007
4. Government of Canada. www.travel.gc.ca/travelling/publications/child-crime.
5. Government of Canada. "Refusal of Passports and Revocation", Sections 9 and 10 of the <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SI-81-86/>

ACTION PLANS:

1. Write letters to Members of Parliament, Minister of Justice.
2. Invite a speaker to speak about the emotions of sexual assault.
3. April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, pick a date in April and focus on the child victims.
4. Monitor the government response.
5. Educate members on the issues of child sexual abuse.