

# **ACTION FOR ALL MEMBERS OF CWL IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA TO PUT AN END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY 2010 OLYMPICS**

At the CWL Provincial executive meeting on September 19-21, 2008 a province-wide initiative was decided.

## ***Goal:***

- To have all members of the province/territory work on a province-wide issue
- Educate members
- Have more impact on government as whole organization in communicating their concerns

## ***Issue:***

National's resolution "End Trafficking by 2010 Olympics"

## **PRAYER**

Lord we give you thanks and praise for our abundance in the Catholic Women's League in Alberta Mackenzie. Send your Holy Spirit upon us as we prepare and work against the heinous crime of trafficking. Give us the courage to become active in the war against human trafficking. Inspire us and guide our efforts as we write, phone, e-mail, petition or communicate in any other way with those who have within their power the ability to prevent this crime against humanity. AMEN

## ***Resources***

- National Resolution – 2008.01 "Preventing Human Trafficking at 2010 Olympics" <[www.cwl.ca/resolutions/2008/2008-01.html](http://www.cwl.ca/resolutions/2008/2008-01.html)>
- The Future Group website: <[www.thefuturegroup.org](http://www.thefuturegroup.org)>
- Canadian Religious Council website: <[crc-canada.org](http://crc-canada.org)>
- Sample letter (attached)
- Information sheet (attached)

## ***Strategy***

- To divide up the calendar month among the 5 diocesan councils
- To encourage all members to pray the prayer
- Each month diocesan council members will communicate (using the above resources) with their government leaders
- Each month government leaders will hear from women all over Alberta requesting that they go into a pro-active mode against trafficking
- Each communication strategy would include questions as well as statements ... like, when do you plan to implement the UN proposal against trafficking that you ratified on such and such a date? When asking questions, there is an expectation for an answer.

***Government of Canada*** (early September 2008)

Prime Minister  
Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper  
Office of the Prime Minister  
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Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2  
Email: [pm@pm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pm.gc.ca)

Minister of Public Safety  
Hon. Stockwell Day  
Email: [Day.S@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Day.S@parl.gc.ca)  
Hon. Minister Day is the lead federal minister in charge of coordinating security matters related to the 2010 games in view of his responsibility for the RCMP.

Leader of the New Democratic Party  
Hon. Jack Layton  
Email: [Layton.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Layton.J@parl.gc.ca)

Hon. Joy Smith  
Member of Parliament – Conservative  
Email: [Smith.J@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Smith.J@parl.gc.ca)

***Members of Parliament***

Mailing Address:  
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Hon. Stéphane Dion  
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Hon. Gilles Duceppe  
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# Facts and Figures on Human Trafficking

## In the World

Human trafficking, especially trafficking in women and children, is everywhere in the world. It is a proven reality.

Each year, between 700,000 and 4 million women and children cross international boundaries as victims of this trafficking. According to the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), 92% of victims of human trafficking are sold into prostitution. Of those, 48% are children. The European Union's Committee on Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities reports that 90% of trafficking victims are sold into prostitution.

Not long ago, on October 24, 2007 to be precise, the police arrested over 20 persons from 7 countries in the hope of dismantling a trafficking network involving nearly 140 children, most of them young Nigerian girls.

We cannot forget the thousands of children used as slaves in the illegal industry, generating about US\$9.5 billion each year. Just think that nearly half the world's chocolate is made from cocoa grown in the Ivory Coast, West Africa, where tens of thousands of children are forced to work on plantations as slaves.

## In Canada

What about Canada, where reports estimate that there are between 8,000 and 16,000 illegal immigrants with profits of this trafficking amounting to \$400 million each year? These victims have come, for example, from orphanages in the Ukraine, from Asia and eastern European countries, from Ethiopia, etc. but they also come from our country and are Canadian citizens.

**On October 24 [2007]** CBC News reported that a police force in the Greater Toronto Area said it was targeting a violent group of pimps from North Preston, near Halifax. Peel Regional Police said the group, called North Preston's Finest, forces young girls from Nova Scotia into stripping and selling sex in clubs around southern Ontario, ordering them to make at least \$1,000 a night and taking all the money. "The problem really comes when the girl doesn't want to do it anymore, and then she's either threatened or her family is threatened or her safety is threatened somehow, so in a sense she is being trafficked," said Det. Randy Cowan, with the Peel vice squad.

The squad has raided many strip clubs and found the same activities in the VIP rooms: naked dancers bumping and grinding in men's laps, some allowing various sex acts. Vice cops routinely look for East Coast addresses in the identification of dancers registered at these clubs. The laws make fighting prostitution difficult, Cowan said, so his unit is targeting the pimps cashing in on the action.

As early as the late 1990s, the Chinese and Vietnamese mafia expanded their operations in brothels in Toronto and recruited young girls from Southeast Asia. The young women who were prey to this trafficking were purchased for \$8,000 or less and sold to their procurers for \$15,000.

In every large town in Canada, how many young girls have been sexually exploited by street gang members?

A raid by police of these brothels in **2006** revealed that this particular procurement ring was providing between 30 and 40 young girls to about 15 brothels in Toronto on a quarterly basis, as reported by MP Joy Smith in her December 7 speech in Parliament.

In Prince Rupert, BC, a woman is kidnapped off the street and lost to the brothels of Southeast Asia. A young girl is lured by the promise of 'the good life' from a small town to turn tricks in a Vancouver apartment. A would-be refugee flees deplorable conditions overseas and finds a worse world of sadistic sexual slavery. These are not the fictional plots of weekend made-for-TV movies, but the grim world of human sexual trafficking. "Human trafficking is already happening right here in Rupert," said Capt. Nancy Sheils.

**The Daily News, July 2007:** Three weeks into a cross-Canada manhunt for three Nova Scotia men wanted for a brutal gang sex assault, there are hints the men are involved in a prostitution ring forcing young women into the sex trade and moving them from Nova Scotia to Ontario. Halifax Regional Police are on the lookout for Spencer Sinclair Thompson, 22, Anthony Roberts, 22, and Ernest Downey, 21, after a 19-year-old Nova Scotia woman was gang raped in Mississauga, Ontario, last month.

In the early 1990s, a large pimping ring running girls from the Halifax area to Montreal, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Ottawa, Calgary, Victoria B.C. and New York City was broken up by police in Ontario.

For more information, you may visit the Canadian Council for Refugees website: [www.ccrweb.ca/traffick.html](http://www.ccrweb.ca/traffick.html) and [www.ccrweb.ca/trafficking/home.htm](http://www.ccrweb.ca/trafficking/home.htm).

The Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) website: [www.crc-canada.org](http://www.crc-canada.org) also proposes many sites you may like to visit. Click on Links in the brown bar at the top of the site.

For those who prefer reading a magazine, *New Internationalist*, September, 2007, Issue # 404, could be an excellent complement to this fact-finding exercise.

- Jean Bellefeuille, JPIC National Portfolio Director <[jbellefeuille@crc-canada.org](mailto:jbellefeuille@crc-canada.org)>

## SAMPLE LETTER

Dear ...

Olympics 2010 is rapidly approaching and international sporting events often attract people who exploit others for profit. Canada must continue to take action to avoid an increase of human trafficking during this upcoming sporting event in Vancouver/Whistler, BC.

In November, 2007, the Future Group released a report entitled **Faster, Higher, Stronger: Preventing Human Trafficking at the 2010 Olympics** ([www.thefuturegroup.org](http://www.thefuturegroup.org)). This report highlights how human trafficking increased both in 2006 Germany FIFA World Cup and the 2004 Athens Olympics. Vancouver is already a destination and transit city for human trafficking due to its location, the immigration laws, the demand, and the presence of organized crime. To ensure the existing problem is not exacerbated during the 2010 Olympics, I urge the Federal and BC Governments to implement the following recommendations of the Future Group:

- 1) **deterring traffickers and potential commercial sex users through effective public awareness campaigns before, during and after the 2010 Olympics;**
- 2) **disrupting trafficking networks and prosecuting traffickers through a coordinated and pro-active law enforcement response at all levels of government;**
- 3) **preventing human trafficking and enhancing border integrity by identifying victims in transit;**
- 4) **protecting trafficked persons by providing safe housing, counselling, legal aid, temporary residence status, translation and medical assistance.**

2010 is an opportunity for Canada to model to the world that Canadians are against exploitation, especially that of women and children. Do not let the Olympics be an opportunity for traffickers to make great profits by increasing slavery within our country.

Although the Government has taken some significant steps against human trafficking in Canada, much more needs to be done to eradicate this modern-day slavery. It is critical that our government give immediate attention to the Palermo Protocol (UN Trafficking Protocol), which Canada signed, ratified and committed to assist victims of human trafficking, focusing specifically on prevention, protection and services for victims.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. I hope as all eyes are focused on Canada during the Olympic Games in 2010, the international community will know that Canada is living up to its international commitment to work to **prevent** an increase in trafficked persons in Canada and working collaboratively to **protect** those most vulnerable who are being exploited for greed and profit.

Sincerely,

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