



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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The Right Honourable Stephen Harper
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Langevin Block
Ottawa ON K1A 0A2

October 26, 2011

Dear Prime Minister Stephen Harper,

On behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), I am writing to urge the Government of Canada to provide resources for the protection of victims of sexual exploitation.

Laws calling for harsh penalties are an insufficient response to the violence of exploitation. When victims are seeking to escape from danger, vulnerable people need access to, and eligibility for, a variety of social services. These services include safe, affordable housing, health care, employment referrals, language training and counselling.

In addition, I urge the Government of Canada to provide law enforcement resources for the prosecution and rehabilitation of offenders who engage in human trafficking. Without adequate resources for prosecution and rehabilitation, society will fail to protect people at risk.

Calls to address the tragedy and devastation of human trafficking have come from a variety of sources, including women's groups across Canada, the Canadian Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation and the United Nations. In September, 2011, our National Church Council affirmed the importance of opposing exploitation, and asked me to share these concerns with you and your government.

While no one solution can solve this complex problem, the Canadian Government's role in providing resources is an essential ingredient in supporting and protecting some of the world's most vulnerable persons.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

cc: The Hon. Nycole Turmel, Interim Leader of the Official Opposition
The Hon. Bob Rae, Leader, Liberal Party
The Hon. Louis Plamondon, chef parlementaire par intérim
The Hon. Elizabeth May, Leader, Green Party
The Hon. Rona Ambrose, Minister for Status of Women
The Hon. Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development
The Hon. Vic Toews, Minister of Public Safety
The Hon. François Boivin, NDP Critic for Status of Women
The Hon. Marjolaine Boutin-Sweet, NDP Critic for Skills
The Hon. Marie-Claude Morin, NDP Critic for Housing
The Hon. Jasbir Sandhu, NDP Critic for Public Safety
The Hon. Judy Sgro, Liberal Critic for Status of Women
The Hon. Rodger Cuzner, Liberal Critic for Human Resources and Skills Development
The Hon. Francis Scarpaleggia, Liberal Critic for Public Safety
The Hon. Irwin Cotler, Liberal Critic for Justice and Human Rights
The Hon. Maria Mourani, porte-parole condition féminine et justice et des droits de la personne
The Hon. Jean-François Fortin, porte-parole ressources humaines et développement social
Rebecca Harrison, Green Critic for Status of Women
Vanessa Long, Green Critic for Social Services
Ellen Michelson, Green Critic for Peace and Security
Joe Foster, Green Critic for Human Rights
ELCIC National Church Council