

Human Trafficking in Canada (Not Yet Reviewed DRAFT)

The Topic

This topic was identified to facilitate learning, theological reflection and common action on the topic of human trafficking in Canada. We want all churches in Canada to be more aware of human trafficking in Canada, advocate together when appropriate, share and develop educational materials, and provide a forum for theological reflection on the topic.

Commission on Justice and Peace members who connect

The current Chair is Jennifer Lucking (RCA), a member of the Commission on Justice and Peace. Colin Grimmond (OCA) drafted the first Program Plan for the Human Trafficking in Canada Working Group. Grant Effer (SA) has been an active member on the group as is former CJP member Jean Bellefeuille (CCCB).

Partner or lead agency/organization

The group has been helped immensely by representatives and members from across the country, including representatives from The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada.

Key objectives and opportunities

The main areas of focus have been theological reflection, education and information sharing, and advocacy. After a series of Forums on the topic (Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa), the group has completed a resource for church use on the topic, a *Leadership and Learning Kit for Churches*. The Bedford Court Decision has created an advocacy opportunity on the topic of prostitution laws in Canada, and the group has prepared a letter and backgrounder for the Minister of Justice. In addition, the group has been calling attention to the issue of missing and murdered indigenous women and children and is following closely developments related to hosting the Pan Am Games and the www.buyingsexisnotasport.ca campaign. The 70th Anniversary Assembly offers an important opportunity for members to meet face-to-face to strategize, grow the group's capacity and sharpen its focus.

So what: desired impact

- Create greater awareness of human trafficking in Canada across member church offices
- Equip church members to reflect theologically, learn about the topic, and take action together
- Contribute to the public policy debate

Communications or engagement strategies

Promotion of the completed resource (web, email, social media): <http://www.councilofchurches.ca/resources/>

Relevant record of previous work

See the main Human Trafficking page with relevant submenus:

<http://www.councilofchurches.ca/social-justice/human-trafficking-in-canada/>

Main policy positions

See the backgrounder on prostitution laws in Canada:

<http://www.councilofchurches.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Backgrounder-Final.pdf>

Finance and budget considerations

In 2012 the CCC received a \$5,000 grant for further work in this area. The CCC maintains a restricted fund with a small amount reserved for contributions to human trafficking work.