

World Day against Trafficking in Persons

Ottawa, July 30, 2018 – Human trafficking is the world’s fastest growing crime producing profits of upwards of \$150 billion a year of which commercial sexual exploitation of women, girls, boys and young men earns \$99 billion, per the International Labour Organization (ILO). It further estimates that there are well over 21 million trafficked victims who are trapped in modern day slavery.

In Canada, the most prevalent form of human trafficking is sex trafficking. Women between the ages of 18-24 represent the highest percentage of victims, with new immigrants, LGBTQ2S+ youth, Indigenous girls and homeless youth, the most vulnerable. Of the 401 cases the RCMP has identified since 2005, 95 per cent of trafficking victims were from Canada, the majority being teenage girls. Girls are recruited in various ways — at school, on Instagram, at the mall. Many continue to live at home while carrying out sex work at local motels or condominiums.

July 30 is World Day against Trafficking in Persons (TIP). On this day, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) joins others in continuing to advocate for measures to protect women and girls, both in Canada and globally, from this sort of exploitation.

In a brief Submitted to the National Consultation on Human Trafficking in Canada on June 15, 2018, CFUW declared that “To end human trafficking, the government needs to ensure that...vulnerable individuals and victims have ready access to fully resourced services...legal resources...and access to employment and education” and called for a multi-faceted approach to address this complex problem. CFUW recommended that governments adopt and fund multi-year strategies at all governmental levels in the areas of public awareness and prevention, victim support, protecting children and youth at risk, increased research and data collection, training and prosecution. [SEP]

“The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons draws the attention of the world to focus on human trafficking including sexualized human trafficking and to realize that ending this scourge requires the full cooperation of governments at all levels, concerned organizations, and the general public” said Grace Hollett, CFUW National President.

CFUW clubs and members have undertaken many projects to combat human trafficking and its impacts. CFUW clubs from Peterborough, Barrie, London, North Vancouver, Burlington, North Bay, Nelson and District, Southport, Orangeville & District, Orillia, UWC Vancouver and UWC Montreal are among those who have all identified human trafficking as a focus for their work. This has included working with local NGOs who are dealing with the impacts of human trafficking, writing to local politicians, fundraising and promoting awareness of the issue.

Human trafficking is a complex and hidden crime that necessitates greater attention by everyone to ensure the protection of all victims. Through the July 30th World Day against Trafficking in

Persons we hope to increase attention on this issue.

About CFUW

Founded in 1919, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is a self-funded, non-partisan, non-profit, voluntary organization. Close to 8400 CFUW women from across Canada promote women's equality, human rights, justice and peace. CFUW is active in public affairs, working to raise the social, economic and legal status of women and girls and to contribute to education, the environment, peace, justice and human rights. CFUW has special consultative status at the United Nations (ECOSOC) and serves on the Education Committee of the Canadian Sub-Commission to UNESCO.

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