

July 23, 2021

Senator Julie Miville-Dechene  
The Senate of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario  
Canada, K1A 0A4

Dear Senator Miville-Dechene,

We are writing to you as the Sexual Exploitation in Canada Working Group, a body of The Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). Its purpose is to lead a shared church response to sexual exploitation, including pornography, as a justice and human rights issue that primarily affects women and children.

Thank you for your service to Canada as a Senator and your steadfast work in pushing forward **Bill S-216** – An Act to enact the Modern Slavery Act and to amend the Customs Tariff. **We are in full support.**

This is the International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour and we know that when children are used for labour they are often vulnerable to sexual exploitation. We therefore commend you in your intent with Bill S-216 to impose reporting obligations on entities involved in production of goods in Canada, as well as the importation of goods produced outside of Canada, produced by persons under 18 years of age. Our hope is that other countries will increase their efforts to eliminate child labour.

On June 12, 2021, the World Day Against Child Labor, the Minister of Labour, Filomena Tassi issued the following statement, “All children have the right to reach their full potential through safe and equitable access to education. However, for many, that is simply not the case. The latest global estimates indicate that 160 million children were engaged in child labour globally at the beginning of 2020 of whom 79 million were in hazardous work. From 2016 to 2020, the number of children in child labor has increased by over 8 million.”

We call on Canada to be a leader by standing up for the elimination of child labour and ensuring that children both at home and abroad enjoy a healthy and safe childhood. We appreciate all your efforts to pass this legislation into action in our country.

Sincerely yours,



Diane Dwarka, Co-Chair  
Sexual Exploitation Working Group



Deb Stanbury, Co-Chair  
Sexual Exploitation Working Group

Cc: Howard Weston, Senator  
Larry Smith, Senator  
Pamela Wallin, Senator

*The CCC, founded in 1944, is a broad and inclusive ecumenical body, now representing 26 member churches including Anglican; Eastern and Roman Catholic; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern and Oriental Orthodox; and Historic Protestant traditions. These member churches represent 13,500 worshipping communities and comprise 85% of the Christians in Canada.*