

Stop Trafficking !

Anti-Human Trafficking Newsletter



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

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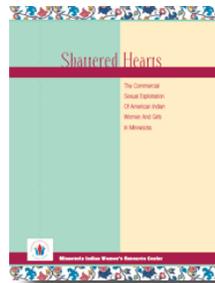
This issue highlights how Canadian legislation is/is not protecting Native women. Actions for the holiday season focus on child slave labor in the chocolate industry.

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Native Amer. & Native Canadian Women Disproportionately Lured by Traffickers



Media reports and studies by women's groups find that sex traffickers are targeting American Indian and Native Canadian women and girls, often from reservations. In many rural areas, American Indian and Native Canadian women and girls comprise the face of prostitution. The *Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center* in Minneapolis released a study in 2009 entitled 'Shattered Hearts,' documenting sex trafficking of American Indian women and girls from the state of Minnesota. Natives Exploited *cont. pg. 2*

Foreign Women Exploited

A British Columbian man was charged in what police said was a \$40,000-a-week business trafficking women from Hong Kong and forcing them into prostitution in Vancouver.

But police could not secure enough evidence for human trafficking charges because of language barriers and the reluctance of some of the women to testify. Hence no one will be charged in connection with the brothels or the suspected trafficking operation.

(http://www.ctvbc.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20101013/bc_human_trafficking_101013/20101013)

From Abuse to Enslavement

Fleeing a violent husband, a 41-year old Native American left her SD reservation for a new life in Minneapolis. She became addicted to drugs and came to rely on her boyfriend, a member of a local street gang, for drugs and companionship. Soon, however, he insisted that she be initiated into his gang, a process involving gang rape by several members.

He also insisted that she must con-



Amnesty International Vigil in Ottawa, Canada honoring missing and/or murdered Native women.

tribute to the gang by trading sex for drugs and money. He routinely drove her to meet 'dates.' "He told me he loves me and that all his friends did the same thing with their girlfriends," she explained. "He said if I really loved him, I would do anything for him."

Social services had taken away her children, when she abandoned them for drugs. "I guess I didn't really care anymore after losing my kids. So it really don't matter if I degraded myself," she said.





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Natives Exploited *cont. from pg. 1*

The trafficking of American and Canadian native women has grown in scope, numbers and attendant violence. According to *'Shattered Hearts,'* police reports from Duluth showed that Indian girls were being lured off reservations, taken onto boats in port, beaten and gang raped. Tribal advocates in SD and MN had also begun raising red flags, reporting that Indian girls were being trafficked into prostitution, pornography and strip shows over state lines and internationally to Mexico. The FBI identified Minneapolis as one of 13 U.S. cities with a high rate of criminal activity involving commercial sexual exploitation.

The *Native Women's Association of Canada* catalogued 520 cases of missing or murdered Native women across Canada. Advocates believe many more cases go unreported. Most victims were under age 30 and involved in prostitution, drug & alcohol abuse, and other risky behaviors. Nearly 90% of Canada's teen prostitutes are Native. Robert Pickton, a self-proclaimed serial killer, admitted murdering 49 women, most of whom were Native Canadian.

Amnesty International of Canada noted in its 2004 *'Stolen Sisters'* report that Native leaders and women's advocates had complained for years that repeated reports of missing Native women were largely ignored by Canadian authorities. Advocates in Canada and the U.S. report that most trafficked victims have histories of sexual abuse. The *Amnesty International's* 2007 report, *'Maze of Injustice,'* found that 1 in 3 American Indian women would be sexually assaulted in her lifetime, the highest rate of any ethnicity. This high rate of rape contributes to the normalization and internalization of sexual victimhood, making Indian women and girls easy prey for traffickers. They are lured into the lifestyle with gifts, shopping trips, alcohol and drugs. The sex trafficking world is incredibly violent. Once that grooming process is over it turns into, "You owe me. I need you to do this for me." Then enslavement happens. (<http://www.dailyonder.com/sex-trafficking-home/2010/10/13/2989>)



Missing Vancouver women.
Most are Native and some may have been Pickton's victims.

Canadian Study of Human Trafficking

The *Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP)*, in its first expansive assessment of human trafficking, revealed that there are currently 36 cases before the criminal courts in Canada and that most victims are Canadian citizens or permanent residents, who are not necessarily recruited from overseas.

The September 2010 report, which examined human trafficking in Canada from 2005 to 2009, concluded that many human trafficking suspects, who mainly recruit their victims for sexual exploitation, are also linked to major criminal networks involved in conspiracy to commit murder, credit card fraud, mortgage fraud and immigration fraud in Canada and abroad.

The three ethnic communities that are highlighted in the report are Eastern Europeans, Asians, and Africans and the methods of trafficking humans vary depending on their country of origin, says a summary of the report.

Victims include live-in foreign domestic workers who were smuggled into Canada by their employers, Eastern European women recruited by organized crime to work in escort services, African women who were trafficked for sexual exploitation outside of Canada, and workers in bawdy houses run by Asian prostitution rings.

"Control tactics employed by traffickers to retain victims in exploitative situations include social isolation, forcible confinement, withholding identification documents, imposing strict rules, limitation of movement, as well as threats and violence," said a summary of the report.

The RCMP describe the findings as a *"preliminary baseline of human trafficking activities"* that affects Canada both domestically and internationally.

Some of the key findings in the Report include:

- Recent convictions of human trafficking mostly involved victims who were citizens and/or permanent residents



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RCMP Report *cont. from pg. 2*

of Canada trafficked for sexual exploitation. Such sexual exploitation was primarily associated with organized prostitution occurring discreetly behind fronts, such as escort agencies and residential brothels.

- Human trafficking perpetrators usually shared similar ethnicity with their victims and had ethnic ties to source countries for their immigrant workers.
- Suspected transnational trafficking networks are believed to have operators based in source countries to facilitate the recruitment and transport of the victims. Some organizers provided high quality false travel documents for migrants to travel deceptively to Canada.
- Organized crime networks with Eastern European links have been involved in the organized entry of women from former Soviet States into Canada for employment in escort services in the Greater Toronto Area and possibly in massage and escort services in the Montreal area.
- Human trafficking has been identified in bawdy houses operated by Asian prostitution rings. The establishments are discreet and staffed solely by Asian migrants or persons of Asian descent.
- Asian women have been observed to travel inter-provincially between Canadian cities and possibly to the U.S. to prostitute in bawdy houses.
- Major Canadian cities with an established network of Asian organized crime are destinations for migrant sex workers from Asia. Organized crime groups operate multiple bawdy houses across a city and some are be-

lieved to associate with prostitution rings in other cities.

- Investigations found that Asian sex workers are not necessarily recruited from overseas. Most foreign nationals that were found working in bawdy houses had entered Canada legally and looked for sex work after they arrived in Canada.
- Some convicted offenders of domestic human trafficking were found to be affiliated with street gangs known to law enforcement for pimping.
- Domestic human trafficking victims have mostly been recruited through the Internet or by an acquaintance. The victims were groomed, manipulated, and coerced to enter the sex trade.
- African nationals who were identified as victims of human trafficking were trafficked for sexual exploitation outside of and before arriving in Canada.
- Significant human trafficking indicators were identified in some cases involving foreign national domestic workers who were smuggled into Canada by their employers. These live-in domestic workers were controlled, threatened, underpaid, and forced to work by their employers. (<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/RCMP+reveal+domestic+side+human+trafficking/3517525/story.html>)

Will a Change in Canadian Law Help?

An Ontario Canada Superior Court judge ruled in September 2010 that prostitutes should be allowed to freely communicate with customers on the street, conduct their business in their homes or brothels, and hire employees without fear of criminal prosecution.

The ruling, binding only in Ontario, was suspended for 30 days to allow for study of the implications by government officials. A federal justice minister said the government was 'very concerned' and would appeal.

The judge ruled that Criminal Code laws against keeping a brothel, living on the avails of prostitution and communicating for the purpose of prostitution violated women's Charter rights to freedom of expression and security of the person.

The lawyer representing three 'sex workers' argued that these Criminal Code prohibitions prevented prostitutes from working from the safety of their homes and from hiring accountants, drivers and bodyguards who could be charged with living on the avails of prostitution.

The lawyer argued that the decision could allow municipalities in Ontario to follow the lead of other countries, such as Germany, the Netherlands and New Zealand, as well as some states in the U.S. and Australia, that have legalized or regulated prostitution.

However, reports from these jurisdictions have consistently indicated that the legalization of prostitution has not achieved the expected results. (<http://www.lifesitenews.com/ldn/printfriendly.html?articleid=10092905>)

"Legalization (of prostitution) increases trafficking, increases prostitution of children, and increases sex buyers' demands for cheaper or 'unrestricted' sex acts. The poorer a woman is, and the longer she's been in prostitution, the more likely she is to experience violence. The emotional consequences are the same whether prostitution is legal or illegal, and whether it happens in a brothel, a strip club, a massage parlor, or on the street." Melissa Farley PhD, Prostitution Research and Education

(http://www.mercatornet.com/articles/view/the_real_harms_of_prostitution/)



Awareness

Canadian Ruling: Flawed Reasoning

The *Coalition Against Trafficking in Women* (CATW) spoke in opposition to the Ontario Supreme Court's decision to void Canada's anti-prostitution laws so as to provide greater safety for women in prostitution. CATW, the world's first organization to fight human trafficking internationally, added its voice to those of Canadian women's groups and human rights advocates, calling upon the high court to reverse this decision and to legislate against the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. CATW stated, "This decision will put even more women and girls at risk. It is premised on false notions and is seriously at odds with Canada's respected human rights record."

"First, decriminalizing prostitution sends an unmistakable signal to pimps and human traffickers that they are welcome to conduct *'business'* in Canada. This is an especially dangerous message to send at a time when human trafficking is now tied with illegal arms sales as the leading source of criminal earnings in the world. Countries that have legalized prostitution have witnessed a dramatic increase in both the demand for prostitution and the incidence of sex trafficking it fuels."

"Second, prostitution is a practice of sex discrimination that targets girls and women for abuse. It is a social injustice stemming from and perpetuating the world's oldest inequality, that of women. It is also inextricably linked to sex trafficking. Decriminalization of prostitution ignores the underlying social inequalities that give rise to sexual exploitation and is fundamentally at odds with the goal of human equality. The most effective way to address this

injustice is to create the legal, political and social conditions that give women alternatives to prostitution rather than working to keep them in the sex industry."

"Canada should decriminalize the women in prostitution and address the demand for prostitution by penalizing the buyers instead of paving the way for men to purchase women and children. A good place to start would be to adopt the Nordic Model, originated in Sweden, and passed in other countries such as Norway, Iceland, the Philippines and South Korea."

"The Nordic Model is premised on the recognition that prostitution is violence against women. It also recognizes that women and girls are human beings and therefore cannot be bought or sold for commercial sexual exploitation. It criminalizes the sex industry and their customers while decriminalizing those exploited in the sex trade. By criminalizing the purchase of a sexual act, the law identifies and penalizes the agents of the harm inherent in prostitution. It is the only approach that has led to a decline in sex trafficking." (<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ontario-to-traffickers-were-open-for-business-104312808.html>)

Benjamin Perrin, a law professor at the Univ. of British Columbia and author of *'Invisible Chains'* disagreed with the Ontario judge's ruling. The greatest flaw is that the Ontario ruling "does not place the blame for the risks involved in prostitution on the violent johns and traffickers, who are the real cause of physical violence, rape and murder in Canada's sex trade. Countries that legalized prostitution have not succeeded in using elaborate regulations to address these problems."

In the Netherlands, officials shut down vast sections of Amsterdam's red-light district due to infiltration by

organized crime. A 2005 report commissioned by the European Parliament found that legalized prostitution generally results in higher levels of violence against prostituted women. In New Zealand, regulation of the sex trade has not improved conditions in brothels and exploitative contracts continue to be used."

"An alternative has been proven to work. ...Politicians in Sweden declared it was impossible to have true equality in a society that condoned the sexual commodification of economically and racially marginalized women and children."

"The evidence is that the Swedish model is working. Between 1999 and 2003, the number of women being sold for sex in the country dropped by 40%. In July 2010 an independent inquiry by an eminent judge resoundingly endorsed the Swedish model based on its 10-year track record, finding that it had disrupted organized crime, deterred sex-act purchasers, changed public attitudes and cut street-level prostitution in half. The inquiry found no evidence that the problem simply moved indoors, as some skeptics had speculated."

Polls in Sweden have suggested that between 71% and 81% of the public supports the ban on purchasing sex. A 2010 survey suggested that only 25% of Swedish men and only 7% of Swedish women want the law repealed." (<http://www.sydsvenskan.se/opinion/huvudledare/article254231.ece>)

"Research shows that abuse, poverty, substance abuse, homelessness and violence are major factors in someone's ending up in prostitution."

"If there's any positive side effect of the Ontario court's decision, Canada should commit to the abolition of sexual exploitation." (<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/opinions/swedens-fix-jail-the-johns/article1735817?service=mobile>)



Awareness

Legalizing Prostitution Makes No Sense

If prostitution were a freely chosen job:

- It is unlikely that the average age of entry into that workforce would be 14.
- It is unlikely that between 67 to 90% of those in this 'chosen' field would have told researchers in Portland that they were victims of incest.
- It is unlikely that 82% of the women in a recent Vancouver study would have reported being sexually abused as children by at least four perpetrators, or that 95% would have said that they wanted out.
- Why, if this really were a choice, are so many in this 'work' poor, under-educated immigrants or members of minority groups?
- Finally, if this really is a job we'd want our sisters, mothers, daughters and friends doing, could someone please explain why so many prostituted women need drugs or alcohol to get through the day and why so many who have left the job are diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder?

Selling sex is dehumanizing and soul-destroying to most of the people who do it. That is not a moral judgment; it is a fact.

Yet an Ontario judge struck down key sections of Canada's prostitution laws and effectively legalized brothels. The judge ruled current laws were unconstitutional and contrary to the guarantees of liberty and security. Legalizing brothels, she said, would keep prostitutes safer.

Janine Benedet, associate professor of law at the Univ. of British Columbia, disagreed with the high court's ruling, stating at most the decision might change it from "*an extremely dangerous job to a very dangerous job.*" Lawyer Clea Brown called it "*naive, disingenuous and dangerous to frame prostitution only in terms of safety, choice and individual autonomy.*" Prostitution, she said, is a violation of human rights and a barrier to equality that pits women and children (the majority of sex-trade workers) against men, who are the main purchasers. Brown helped draft the motion passed this summer by the *Canadian Federation of University Women* that called on the Canadian government to adopt what is called the '*Nordic model*,' which decriminalizes prostitution while criminalizing those who use it. The *Federation* received no response.

Recently, the federal government promised to appeal the Ontario ruling. It would be smarter and a lot cheaper to rewrite the law based on the advice of a majority of Canada's women's groups. Those groups include the *Native Women's Association of Canada*, the *Aboriginal Women's Action Network*, *Asian Women Coalition Ending Prostitution*, *South Asian Women Against Male Violence*, *Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter*, the *Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centers*, and two groups representing women who left prostitution. These groups do not want harm reduction; they want harm elimination — abolition.

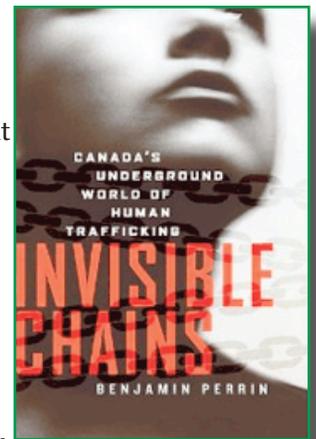
Canada's — and particularly Vancouver's — record on ensuring the safety of sex workers is appalling and change is desperately needed. But moving prostitutes indoors is no solution. Far from emancipating them from the yoke of a bad law and the heavy hands of pimps and madams, it turns organized criminals into business people. It signals to men and boys that now it is okay to buy sexual services, which is almost certain to increase demand. And, chillingly, legalization provides a false assurance to sex workers that if a customer turns violent, police will get there in time to help.

(Excerpted from Daphne Bramham, of the Vancouver Sun <http://www.vancouversun.com/mobile/iphone/story.html?id=3630155>)

'Invisible Chains'

Invisible Chains: Canada's Underground World of Human Trafficking is the first book ever published to expose the issue of human trafficking in Canada. The book, which appeared in book stores in October 2010, is based on a three-year investigation into the problem. It documents cases reported by police, provincial officials, immigration, and non-governmental organizations as well as accounts from victims and their families. It also evaluates Canada's response and makes specific recommendations to government, police and average Canadians.

The author, Benjamin Perrin, is an assistant professor at the University of British Columbia, Faculty of Law, and a leading expert on human traf-



ficking. As a senior policy adviser and a witness before several Parliamentary committees, he has advised the Canadian government on this issue. He also worked overseas with victims and assisted in the prosecution of child sex offenders as executive director of *The Future Group*, a non-governmental organization that he founded in 2000 to combat human trafficking. In 2009, Perrin was honored by Hillary Clinton and the U.S. State Department as a '*hero acting to end modern-day slavery*' — the first Canadian to be recognized by this award.



Advocacy

Chocolate & Child Slave Labor

In time for Thanksgiving and the December holidays most people are preparing to buy an American favorite, *chocolate*. This season is also an opportunity for wise consumers to pressure American chocolate manufacturers to stop profiting from child slave labor.

Two major reports in September 2010 highlighted the prevalence of egregious child labor, forced labor and trafficking abuses in the cocoa sector in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana from where Hershey, the largest U.S. chocolate company, sources much of its cocoa. There is strong evidence that Hershey tolerates child slave labor in its chocolate production.

The *Payson Center for International Development* at Tulane University released a report on *'Oversight of Public and Private Initiatives to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Cocoa Sector in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana'*. The report underscored the lack of progress that was being made by voluntary programs adopted by the cocoa industry to address the problems of child and forced labor in West Africa. The report identified the ongoing exploitation of labor rights in the cocoa sector, including the worst forms of child labor, forced labor and trafficking.

New research related to the trafficking of young workers from Burkina Faso and Mali found that:

- Côte d'Ivoire is the predominant destination for trafficked and migrant cocoa workers.
- The overwhelming majority of respondents moved to cocoa farms without their natural parents or guardians.
- Virtually all respondents experienced the worst forms of child labor including verbal, physical and sexual harassment and restrictions of their freedom of movement.
- Virtually all respondents performed hazardous work including land clearing and burning, carrying heavy loads, spraying pesticides, and using machetes, among other dangerous activities.

A second report, *'Time to Raise the Bar: the Real Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report for the Hershey Company'* (issued by *Global Exchange, Green America, International Labor Rights Forum, and Oasis USA*), found that Hershey lacked transparency and traceability in its cocoa sourcing and lacked meaningful programs to address labor violations in the cocoa-growing communities of West Africa. As the dominant chocolate company in the US, the report called on Hershey to *'Raise the Bar'* and adopt Fair Trade Certification for its best selling bar by 2012, and all of its top selling chocolate products by 2022."

For ways to get involved, see *'Raise the Bar'* on pg. 7.



CA Law Will Help Monitor Slave Labor in the Supply Chain

Signed into law in October 2010 the CA *'Transparency in Supply Chains Act'* of 2010 (SB 657) requires retail sellers and manufacturers operating in California with over \$100 million in worldwide gross receipts to publicly disclose their efforts to eradicate slavery and human trafficking from their direct supply chains. The law will apply to just over 3,000 companies that represent approximately 87% of economic activity.

Starting in January 2012, businesses subject to this bill must report how they ensure that their supply chain is not tainted by human trafficking.

The U.S. State Department's *Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons* found the majority of human trafficking in the world takes the form of forced labor. The *International Labor Organization* (ILO) has stated that for every one person forced into the sex trade nine others are forced to work. Many of these victims are found in agriculture and mining and their labor is found in many of the products that we purchase and rely on every day — coffee, chocolate, clothes, electronics, even the brake pads in our cars.

We all have a role to play in supporting solutions. ...We need *media outlets* to set aside their fear of losing advertising revenue and articulate how businesses can use their supply chains as a map to illuminate the worst areas of poverty in the world where slavery and trafficking take hold.

Investors can influence corporate governance and social responsibility practices, providing incentives to companies to place human rights at the heart of their strategies.

Consumers can support businesses that are creating better practices and are working to eliminate slave labor in their supply chains. (Excerpted from: gov.ca.gov/index.php?/speech/16215/)



Action

'Raise the Bar'

Some actions you can take to help push elimination of child slave labor in the chocolate industry include:

- Use the new 'Get Child Labor Out of Your Chocolates' Scorecard to shop for chocolate online. Among the 'A' ranked alternatives to Hershey chocolate are *Alter Eco*, *Coco-Zen*, *Divine*, *Equal Exchange*, *Shama*, *Sjaak's*, *Sweet Earth Organic* and *Theo Chocolate*, all of which are Fair Trade. All of Hershey's competitors have some form of labor certification for their chocolate, leaving Hershey as the only company on the list without one.
- Confused by what all of those certification symbols mean? The Scorecard includes a short overview of the most widely used labels and explains what they mean. Find the Scorecard at: <http://www.greenamericatoday.org/pdf/2010ChocolateScorecard.PDF>
- Shop for Fair Trade chocolate locally. You can find dozens of locations around the U.S. at: <http://www.greenamericatoday.org/programs/fairtrade/products/wheretobuy.cfm#chocolate>
- Help raise awareness by holding a screening in your home of "The Dark Side of Chocolate." Filmmakers traveled to cocoa farms in Côte d'Ivoire; what they found was 'dark'. Few improvements have been made on the ground and egregious labor rights abuses continue, years after major chocolate companies committed to ending this exploitation. For information about how to get involved: <http://www.greenamericatoday.org/programs/fairtrade/MovieScreening.cfm>
- Take Green America's new action targeting Hershey. Don't just avoid Hershey chocolates; let this company know what you think. To send your message to Hershey's executive, go to: <http://www.greenamerica.org/takeaction/hershey/>
- Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. You'll find all the background information that you need for your letter to the editor by downloading the 'Time to Raise the Bar' report here. <http://www.greenamerica.org/programs/fairtrade/whatyoucando/2010Hershey.cfm>

"While Hershey pays its CEO \$8 million annually, they are doing little to end the practice of forced child labor in cocoa-growing regions, where many children are not paid and are abused.

Parents who become aware of the concerns regarding Hershey chocolate and abusive child labor may feel powerless to do anything about it. Hershey is hoping parents will just throw up their hands and go along as they always have.

Our message is simple: 'Buy Fair Trade and you can be sure that you are not putting child slave labor into your child's hands when they eat chocolate.'"

CSR Director, Green America

**Toll-Free 24/7 Hotline
National Human Trafficking
Resource Center
1.888.3737.888**

Informative Web Sites: (Each contains information related to human trafficking)

'Shattered Hearts'

http://www.miwrc.org/shattered_hearts_full_report-web_version.pdf

'Stolen Sisters'

<http://www.uregina.ca/resolve/PDFs/Stolen%20Sisters.pdf>

'Invisible Chains'

<http://www.endmoderndayslavery.ca/invisible-chains-2/>

U.S. Attorney General's Report of U.S. Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons for fiscal year 2009

<http://www.justice.gov/ag/annual-reports/tr2009/agreporhumantrafficking2009.pdf>

'Oversight of Public & Private Initiatives to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Cocoa Sector in Côte d'Ivoire & Ghana'

<http://childlabor-payson.org>

'Time to Raise the Bar: the Real Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Report for the Hershey Company'

<http://www.greenamerica.org/pdf/HersheyReport.pdf>

"Abolishing Prostitution: the Swedish Solution - An Interview with Gunilla Ekberg"

by Rain and Thunder Collective.
action.web.ca/home/catw/.../R%26T_Interview_with_Gunilla_Ekberg.pdf

Canadian Action Alert: End Modern Day Slavery

<http://www.endmoderndayslavery.ca/>

'Connecting the Dots' Petition

(Found on the website of Joy Smith, member of Parliament/Manitoba.)

<http://www.joysmith.ca>

(Go to: Human Trafficking -> National Action Plan -> Petitions)

**Write to
your member of Parliament**
requesting that Canada adopt the
Nordic model.

Stop Trafficking! is dedicated exclusively to fostering an exchange of information among religious congregations, their friends and collaborating organizations, working to eliminate all forms of trafficking of human beings.

Use the following web address to access back issues of *Stop Trafficking!* <http://www.stopenslavement.org/index.html>

To contribute information, or make requests to be on the mailing list, please contact: jeansds2010@yahoo.com

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