

Human Trafficking



Breaking the Chains

IBVM CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

Summary of Proceedings

**University of St. Michael's College
Brennan Hall, Sam Sorbara Auditorium**

March 24, 2012

INTRODUCTION

The Institute Of The Blessed Virgin Mary Canadian Province (Loretto Sisters) sponsored a conference called ***Human Trafficking: Breaking the Chains*** which took place in Toronto, Ontario, at University of St. Michael's College, Brennan Hall, Sam Sorbara Auditorium, on 24 March 2012 from 8:30 am to 4:15 pm. Over two hundred people attended the conference, coming from diverse backgrounds: high school students, women and men religious, representatives of non-governmental agencies, aboriginal persons, group home workers, etc.

Conference speakers were chosen both for their depth of knowledge and for their ability to develop creative and relevant strategies: **Joy Smith, MP** – Member of Parliament for Kildonan – St. Paul in Manitoba and one of Canada's leading anti-trafficking activists; **Bridget Perrier** – sex-trade survivor, founder of Sex Trade 101 and and pre-law student with the First Nations Technical Institute in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory; **Scott Forbes** – regional representative of International Justice Mission Canada; **Diane Redsky** – Canadian Women's Foundation Project Director of the National Task Force on Human Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada; and **Marty Van Doren** – retired RCMP Superintendent and RCMP Human Trafficking Awareness Coordinator for the Province of Ontario. Elizabeth Davis, RSM served as facilitator for the day.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Evanne Hunter, IBVM, congregational leader of the Loretto Sisters, opened the conference welcoming the participants, the speakers and the facilitator. She noted how fitting it was that the conference should be held on this day, the 2nd United Nations "International Day for the Right to the Truth for Victims of Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims." She spoke about "the horrendous modern form of slave trade that is the trafficking of human persons for profit." She then challenged all present as "the company of passionate experts whom we are counting on to advise us on how to do something to help eliminate the scourge of human trafficking." A copy of Sister Evanne's remarks is attached as Appendix A of this *Summary of Proceedings*.

KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

Joy Smith, MP gave the keynote presentation in two parts. She first described the history of her involvement with the crime of human trafficking including her influence on important changes to the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, her initiation of the study on human trafficking entitled *Turning Outrage into Action* (2007), the unanimous passing of her private member's Motion M-153 to condemn the trafficking of women and children across international borders with a commitment by Parliament to adopt a comprehensive strategy to address this evil, her securing of federal funding to fight trafficking of aboriginal women and children, her proposed National Action Plan to combat human trafficking called *Connecting the Dots* (2010), her introduction of amendments to the Criminal Code creating a new offence for child trafficking with a five year mandatory penalty (near unanimous support was received from the Conservative, Liberal and NDP parties, and the Bill became law) . She continues

to work on additional amendments to the Criminal Code to strengthen the fight against the exploitation of women and children through human trafficking.

In the second part of her presentation, Joy spoke about what all of us can do to work for change. She reminded us that human trafficking is all about money and, therefore, requires an integrated and coordinated response if it is to be ended. She referenced the report *Hidden Abuse - Hidden Crime. The Domestic Trafficking of Children in Canada: The Relationship to Sexual Exploitation, Running Away, and Children at Risk of Harm*. In 2008, National Missing Children Services, RCMP, conducted an exploratory research study to determine if the domestic trafficking of Canadian children exists in Canada and if so, to identify the characteristics, trends, and challenges. This is the first Pan-Canadian study to examine child trafficking as it may be occurring within our provinces, cities, and surrounding areas. This report can be found at website: <http://www.oacas.org/pubs/oacas/journal/2010SpringSummer/abuse.html>. She also noted Benjamin Perrin's book, *Invisible Chains*. In this book, Perrin, a law professor and policy expert, exposes cases of human trafficking, recording in-depth interviews with people on the front lines – police officers, social workers, and the victims themselves – and bringing to light government records released under access-to-information laws.

She advised that there are several actions we can take as ordinary citizens: (i) educate ourselves, (ii) educate others, (iii) write to our political leaders at all government levels, (iv) report all suspicious activities, (v) support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which support victims and survivors of human trafficking, (vi) read the National Action Plan, *Connecting the Dots* (see below for key components) which is now being considered by a number of federal government departments for implementation, (vii) seek changes at the municipal level related to business licenses for brothels and massage parlours, and (viii) challenge local newspapers which run advertisements for prostitutes. Information on how to access resources related to Joy's power point presentation can be found as Appendix B.

Joy's *National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking* contains the following key components:

1. **Prosecute Traffickers:** Identify, disrupt and prosecute human trafficking operations with integrated law enforcement Human Trafficking Task Forces to target the most prolific and violent criminal organizations and networks.
2. **Protect Victims:** Ensure victims of human trafficking can access needed governmental and non-governmental services wherever they are identified in Canada.
3. **Prevent the Crime:** Prevention efforts include outreach and education to ensure that the most vulnerable, including at-risk Aboriginal youth and those in child protection, are resistant to tactics of traffickers; ensure temporary foreign workers who are victims benefit from "whistleblower" protection with alternative employment and recovery of unpaid wages.
4. **Confront Demand:** adopt the Nordic model of prostitution [commonly known as the Swedish model] to criminalize the purchase of sex acts, but not those being sold who are instead offered support to exit the exploitation; vigorously enforce Canada's extraterritorial child sex crime offences and prevent convicted child sex offenders from freely travelling abroad.

5. **Cooperation:** Work collaboratively with the provinces, law enforcement, Aboriginal leaders, non-governmental organizations and survivors to implement this plan to end human trafficking in Canada.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: A PERSONAL STORY

Bridget Perrier told her story as a sex-trade survivor, one who has gone on to found *Sex Trade 101: Public Awareness and Education* to promote its members as sex trade experts; front-line workers, speakers, advocates, and activists for the rights of sex trafficking victims and prostitution survivors. This organization offers the public awareness and education on all aspects of the sex trade, in order to eradicate myths and stereotypes about prostitution by replacing them with facts and true stories from women who have been enslaved by this dark and lucrative industry. It gives women the place to have their voices heard.

Bridget entered the sex trade at the age of twelve, was a member of Hell's Angels and worked in brothels in Halifax and Winnipeg. She survived in part because the older girls looked out for her, in part because she was able to read people, and in part because her mother never gave up looking for her and loving her. She has been free of drugs since 1997 and works to ensure that other girls and women do not suffer the life she was forced to live. She is now the mother of three beautiful children and a pre-law student with the First Nations Technical Institute in Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. She says that prostitution is not the world's oldest profession but the world's oldest oppression. Bridget is not silent any more.

In thanking Bridget on behalf of the participants, the facilitator gave her a special gift – one which would be given to all the presenters. It was a donation in the name of the person to the Mennonite Central Committee for the *Giving Project* – a project which provides new income generating opportunities for women in Bangladesh who spin thread on a hand-machine used to experiment with combinations of newly developed fibres including leaves of various plants such as anana and pineapple.

TABLE DISCUSSION AND CONVERSATION WITH JOY SMITH

The participants forwarded questions to Joy Smith. The facilitator grouped the questions and the following points were made by Joy in her response:

- ✓ **Organizations in addition to Government who can be influenced to change** – pharmacies can be influenced by their consumers, i.e., all of us who shop there, to discontinue selling Playboy and other magazines which encourage a culture that supports prostitution. Airlines can do more in terms of identifying adolescents under the age of eighteen who are being transferred from city to city for prostitution. Physicians and other health professionals must be taught in their initial education how to identify the signs of a person who is being trafficked.
- ✓ **Definitions** – Joy clarified the difference between human trafficking and human smuggling with the latter referring to persons being brought into Canada for money while the former refers to selling people within the country for money.

- ✓ **Legalization of prostitution** – Joy stated strongly her opposition to decriminalizing prostitution which, in any jurisdictions where it has happened, has increased persons being trafficked against their will. Nordic countries outpace others in legal action to stem the sex trade by addressing its unnoticed perpetrators – the mainly male purchasers of women and children in prostitution. In 1999, with the approval of over 70% of its surveyed population, Sweden passed groundbreaking legislation that criminalized the buyer of sexual services. Part of a larger Violence Against Women bill, the legislation was based on the foundation that the system of prostitution is a violation of gender equality. Sweden's legislation officially recognizes that it is unacceptable for men to purchase women for sexual exploitation, whether masked as sexual pleasure or "sex work." The law does not target the persons in prostitution. This approach which has proven to be successful is known as the Nordic model.
- ✓ **Availability of research and statistics** – although some research is being done in this country, much more is needed. Perrin's book is the best source of statistics to date. Recent studies show high numbers of persons being trafficked in Ontario and Quebec, more alarming numbers than had first been assumed.
- ✓ **Education in schools** – Joy indicated that the Grade VI level is perhaps the best grade level at which to begin education in this area. The National Action Plan encourages a "Connecting the Dots Day" for schools. The indications that younger and younger children are being targeted support the need for improved education and for attention to this matter in the school curricula.
- ✓ **International dialogue** – more international cooperation is happening. Joy herself has received a United Nations award for her work. The Prime Minister is naming this issue in trade talks with countries like Thailand.
- ✓ **Source of the problem** – Joy cited a number of reasons why this problem continues. It is socially acceptable for men to go to prostitutes, even to initiate their sons into adulthood by doing so. Jokes about prostitutes and prostitution are commonplace. The ultimate source is profit, and the matter will not be addressed until the money supply is cut off, thus the focus on implementation of the Nordic model noted above.
- ✓ **Age limits** – one of the challenges across Canada is the variation in the age of persons included under Child Protection legislation. While provinces like Manitoba include young people up to the age of eighteen years, provinces like Ontario have the age limits set below 16 years. This is another area of legislation where pressure on government is needed.
- ✓ **Encouragement to continue** – Joy strongly reminded the participants that individuals cannot successfully do this work. Instead this is work for organizations, for communities, for networks of persons working together. She herself has begun a foundation, the Joy Smith Foundation, to secure funding which can be used by NGOs for their work. She encouraged the group to see the good work that is being done, to support it and to learn from it. Ultimately, education and awareness are the answers – for persons who are vulnerable to being trafficked and for all of us to ensure that there is an end to this violation of human rights. She called on each one to be vigilant and to be persistent.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Marty Van Doren

Marty presented an overview of human trafficking from a law enforcement perspective reiterating Sister Evanne's comment that slavery is modern-day slavery. He defined human trafficking: Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation or harbouring of people for the purpose of exploitation through the use of force, coercion, fraud, deception or threats against the victim or someone they know. He outlined for the group the four stages in better understanding this terrible reality in our world: recruitment, transportation, isolation and control. He reminded us that victims of human trafficking rarely self identify. Therefore, recognition of human trafficking is difficult due to the nature of the environment victims are placed in – they are often hidden in plain view.

Marty told us an uncomfortable truth: victims are often considered nothing more than a commodity by their traffickers, and are treated accordingly. The philosophy of the human trafficker is to fully control their victims, which in turn allows the trafficker to exploit them for profit. He then gave a number of valuable websites for further information and for practical steps all of us can take to bring this crime to an end. He also made available a number of information pamphlets to help raise our awareness of this crime. A more detailed summary of Marty's remarks including the websites can be found in Appendix C.

Diane Redsky

Diane began with the poignant words of a woman who is a victim of human trafficking, "just try hard not to give up on us like everyone else in the world has." She then described human trafficking as modern day slavery, a violation of human rights, one of the worst forms of violence against women and an emerging issue that has been occurring in Canada for many years. She told the group that Canada is a source, transit, and destination country. Within Canada, the majority of victims are women and girls, particularly Aboriginal women and girls. In fact, seventy-nine percent of global trafficking is into the sex trade, and, of that number, 80% are women and girls. Domestic victims are Canadian citizens, the majority of whom are marginalized women and girls who have been sexually exploited at a young age (as young as 10 years). There is an over-representation of Aboriginal women and girls as well as homeless youth and children in the child welfare system. There is an increasing demand for younger and younger girls.

She informed us that the root causes of human trafficking are gender inequality and violence against women, higher poverty rates for women, global economic conditions, conflict and war, an increase on the demand side, profitability for traffickers, the emergence of organized crime/gang involvement and networks, all rooted in racism /sexism /classism. She encouraged us to educate ourselves about human trafficking in Canada and within our provinces, read the book *Invisible Chains* by Benjamin Perrin, access British Columbia's *Office to Combat Trafficking* on-line training, help the heroes working on the front lines, and follow the work of the Canadian Women's Foundation National Task Force. She concluded again with the voice of a woman who knew the experience of human trafficking: "My advice would be

to really listen to us, to what we are saying because deep down we really do not want to be here, it's hard to give up everything and everyone that you know, everything you have come to believe in, so just try hard not to give up on us like everyone else in the world has." A copy of Diane's power point presentation can be found in Appendix D (in a separate attachment).

Scott Forbes

Scott's organization, the International Justice Mission of Canada which is a Christian human rights agency against violent injustice, addresses the international dimension of human trafficking. His ministry is rooted in a belief in a God who is just and loving (in Isaiah 1:17, God tells us "to learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow" while in Proverbs 21:15, we read, "When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous, but dismay to evildoers."). He spoke about the stages of the work of the IJM's ministry: rescue of victims and reduction of their pain and suffering, accountability for perpetrators of this injustice, aftercare for victims, and fundamental change in society.

Using powerful videos, Scott helped us see the persons and hear the voices of those who have suffered this violent injustice. He said that, to end the injustice, we must do two things: (i) speak the truth using real evidence, and (ii) use the power of prayer, the power of our money and the power of the rule of law to persistently seek an end to human trafficking.

CONVERSATION BETWEEN PANELISTS AND AUDIENCE

Bridget, Marty, Diane and Scott then sat as a panel in conversation with members of the audience. Among the questions asked and answered were the following:

- ✓ **Males as victims of human trafficking** – from existing data we can conclude that about 20% of victims are males and slightly fewer than half of that number are aboriginal men and boys. These cases tend to be addressed under different legislation than those in which the victims are women. Dr. Sue McIntyre from the University of Calgary has written a report (2005) entitled *Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men*. It can be found at the website: www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/childintervention/undertheradar.pdf.
- ✓ **Stolen Sisters** – A report from Amnesty International entitled *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* highlights the stories of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls which have taken place over a period of three decades. Longstanding patterns of social and economic inequity continue to drive aboriginal women and girls into situations like the sex trade where the risk to their lives is that much greater. This report can be found at website: <http://www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters/amr2000304.pdf>. A one-hour television documentary based on the report can be accessed at website: www.stolensisters.com.
- ✓ **Power of money and voices** – the participants were reminded that they have power as those who hold money: as consumers, they can challenge shops which sell products that glorify

- pimps, prostitution and the sex trade; as donors, they can give money to organizations working against human trafficking. They can use their voices to work together in communities and groups to help change our culture which allows such human rights violations to continue.
- ✓ **Need for rehabilitation services** – it was noted that enforcing legislation against human trafficking is an important and an essential step but only one step in ending the violations of human trafficking. There must be services for survivors of human trafficking: aftercare, counseling, life skills, safe and affordable places to live, etc. Affordable housing was an issue identified by several audience members as needing to have stronger government support.
 - ✓ **Available artistic resources** – Corrections Canada has funded the production of a DVD entitled *Not Every Sentence Ends With a Period*, a video hearing the voices of women who have been in prison and now seek a better, safer life. This video was directed by Ms. Gerry Rogers. The title was created by one of the women in the video, Ms. Catherine Ryan. One woman in that video said, “I need freedom from myself. Cockroaches do not go to some of the places that I go.” Catherine Cunningham-Huston has written *The Walk*, a play directed by Natalie Fraser-Purdy and performed at the Ottawa Fringe Festival. This is a description: “A neurotic writer, a quirky nun, and an out-of-work film director discover that writing a play about sex trafficking is no cakewalk! They are haunted by the stories of the trafficked women. Then there’s the Nigerian Celestine, a sex slave for eight years in Italy, now struggling to raise her infant son in Canada.”
 - ✓ **Resources in downtown Toronto** – it was noted that there are several organizations active in downtown Toronto to support women and girls who seek a safe place even for a few hours or want to find exit strategies: the Salvation Army, Youth Unlimited, Covenant House. It was noted that it can take a woman up to seven times before she can safely leave the pimp who controls her.
 - ✓ **Men Becoming Involved** – one of the men in the audience called on men to become more involved in ending human trafficking. It was noted that, although men are primarily the controllers of human trafficking and the consumers of the sex trade, there are good men who do not abuse women, who work in police organizations, who are educating other men about what they must be doing. Two positive examples given were: (i) MAST (Men Against the Sex Trade) in London ON and (ii) Truck drivers Against Human Trafficking.
 - ✓ **Role of Young People** – the presence of a number of high school students in the audience, male and female, was an encouraging sign. One student spoke of the need for a collective voice for action and for change.
 - ✓ **Collective Action** – a number of people spoke of the need not only to work as individuals but, even more, to work as groups, as communities. Examples were given including support for amended legislation and support for vulnerable families. One specific action identified was the commitment to protest should the Ontario Superior Court of Justice rule that it is no longer illegal to pimp, solicit a prostitute or run a brothel, in effect, decriminalizing prostitution (a ruling expected on Monday, March 26, 2012).

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS IN THE STRUGGLE TO BRING HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA TO AN END

The facilitator gathered the following actions which had been suggested by the presenters and by participants in the audience for all of us can consider in our efforts to end human trafficking in Canada:

- ✓ Increase awareness and education for ourselves and for others
- ✓ Encourage high school students and teachers to influence school programs and curricula to increase awareness
- ✓ Introduce “Connecting the Dots Day” for schools
- ✓ Write to and work with our political leaders to influence policy at all government levels (federal, provincial, territorial and municipal)
- ✓ Support the Nordic Model for legislation to penalize purchasers in the sex trade
- ✓ Challenge the provincial variation in the age of persons included under Child Protection legislation (advocate for 18 years in every province and territory)
- ✓ Seek changes at the municipal level related to licensing of business licenses for brothels and massage parlours
- ✓ Express our commitment to protest the Ontario Superior Court of Justice ruling that it is no longer illegal to pimp, solicit a prostitute or run a brothel, in effect, decriminalizing prostitution
- ✓ Strengthen programs for aftercare and rehabilitation and affordable housing for survivors
- ✓ Support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which support victims and survivors of human trafficking
- ✓ Help the heroes working on the front lines
- ✓ Follow the work of the Canadian Women’s Foundation National Task Force
- ✓ As consumers, challenge shops which sell products that glorify pimps, prostitution and the sex trade (e.g., pharmacies can be influenced to discontinue selling Playboy and other magazines which encourage a culture that supports prostitution; airlines and hotels can do more in terms of identifying adolescents under the age of eighteen who are being transferred from city to city for prostitution; challenge local newspapers which run advertisements for prostitutes)
- ✓ Encourage universities to ensure that physicians and other health professionals are taught in their initial education how to identify the signs of a person who is being trafficked
- ✓ As donors, give money to organizations working against human trafficking
- ✓ Support the efforts of organizations such as the Salvation Army, Youth Unlimited, Covenant House, MAST (Men Against the Sex Trade) in London ON and Truck Drivers Against Human Trafficking
- ✓ Provide an integrated, coordinated response with organizations, communities, networks of persons working together
- ✓ Report all suspicious activities
- ✓ Speak the truth using real evidence
- ✓ Strengthen gender equality
- ✓ Decrease vulnerabilities of women and children
- ✓ Change society by changing images which support prostitution and the sex trade
- ✓ Work together in communities and groups to help change our culture which allows such human rights violations to continue
- ✓ Use the power of prayer, the power of our money and the power of the rule of law

Included below as well are written resources available to support us in these actions:

- ✓ Benjamin Perrin, *Invisible Chains*, Viking Canada, 2010
- ✓ National Action Plan, *Connecting the Dots* [www.joysmith.ca]
- ✓ Canadian Women's Foundation – *National Task Force on Human Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada*
- ✓ BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons new on-line training curriculum: www.pssq.gov.bc.ca/octip
- ✓ *Hidden Abuse - Hidden Crime. Report on the Domestic Trafficking of Children in Canada: The Relationship to Sexual Exploitation, Running Away, and Children at Risk of Harm* [<http://www.oacas.org/pubs/oacas/journal/2010SpringSummer/abuse.html>]
- ✓ Sue McIntyre, *Under the Radar: The Sexual Exploitation of Young Men* [www.child.alberta.ca/home/documents/childintervention/undertheradar.pdf]
- ✓ *Sex Trade 101: Public Awareness and Education* [www.sextrade101.com]
- ✓ Amnesty International, *Stolen Sisters: A Human Rights Response to Discrimination and Violence Against Indigenous Women in Canada* [<http://www.amnesty.ca/stolensisters/amr2000304.pdf>]
- ✓ One-hour television documentary, *Stolen Sisters* [www.stolensisters.com]
- ✓ Corrections Canada, DVD, *Not Every Sentence Ends With a Period*
- ✓ Catherine Cunningham-Huston, *The Walk*, a play directed by Natalie Fraser-Purdy and performed at the Ottawa Fringe Festival
- ✓ RCMP: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca
- ✓ RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>
- ✓ CIC TRP Guidelines: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english//resources/manuals/ip/ip01-eng.pdf>
- ✓ Status of Women Canada: www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/index-eng.html
- ✓ United Nations Webpage: www.un.org
- ✓ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: www.unodc.org
- ✓ US Department Of Justice: www.usdoj.gov
- ✓ US Department of State: www.state.gov
- ✓ Parliament of Canada: www.parl.gc.ca
- ✓ The *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report* is the U.S. Government's principal diplomatic tool to engage foreign governments on human trafficking. It is also the world's most comprehensive resource of governmental anti-human trafficking efforts: <http://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/>.
- ✓ A new website enables one to access one's 'slavery' footprint by answering some simple questions about one's everyday choices: www.slaveryfootprint.org
- ✓ The Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center provides prayer services related to ending human trafficking: www.ipjc.org
- ✓ The Loretto website www.ibvm.ca contains some valuable articles and links relating to the human trafficking conference.

SUMMARY AND CLOSING COMMENTS

The facilitator summarized the key points of the day's work:

1. Human trafficking is modern day slavery. Marginalized women and children are being purchased by educated men.
2. Persons being trafficked are real people – women, girls and boys whose voices must be heard as we work to bring this horror to an end. The most vulnerable women and children are identified and targeted. Our society is accountable for reducing the vulnerabilities of persons which allow human trafficking to continue.
3. Human trafficking is based on control, exploitation and profit and is rooted in racism, sexism and classism.
4. This is a matter both domestic and international. While many might have thought it is primarily international in nature and related to human smuggling, in fact most human trafficking in Canada is domestic – Canadian women and children being trafficked to Canadian men.
5. This modern slavery has not been brought to an end because of ignorance of the issue by so many Canadians and complicity by so many others. The sex trade is highly organized and integrated and brings in much money for those who control it. The response, therefore, must also be highly organized and integrated if we are to be successful in bringing this form of slavery to an end.
6. New legislation is needed but is slow in coming and still fails to target the persons buying the sex services thus keeping the sex trade in business.
7. Actions to end this crime include increasing awareness and education, strengthening of gender equality, decreasing vulnerabilities of women and children, working to change and strengthen legislation, working to influence hotels, airlines and businesses which sometimes inadvertently support human trafficking either through ignorance or complicity; strengthening education for health professionals, strengthening programs for aftercare and rehabilitation and affordable housing for survivors, and changing society by changing images which support prostitution and the sex trade.
8. Many resources are available to assist in increasing awareness and education.
9. The success of efforts to end human trafficking lies in creating partnerships, in collaboration among organizations.

The facilitator indicated that a *Summary of the Proceedings* of the day would be circulated via e-mail to all the participants within the next ten days. On behalf of the participants, she expressed gratitude to Sister Evanne Hunter and the Loretto Sisters who had initiated and subsidized the event, Ms. Eunice Huff who had done most of the typing and provided administrative support, the *Body Shop*® for the favours on the tables, St. Michael's College for the space, Scarboro Missions for the file folders, and the Coordinating Committee who had organized and presented the event (Maria Lanthier, IBVM, Pat Grant, IBVM, Anne Murray IBVM and Ms. Claudette Wingell, IBVM Associate). Sister Maria Lanthier then thanked Sister Elizabeth for facilitating the day.

Sister Elizabeth concluded the proceedings by encouraging each one of us to leave here committed to at least one new action which he or she would undertake to add to the efforts of all those determined to end the slavery of human trafficking. She then read for the group the following poem to summarize where all of us are as we join our God in making our world safer and more peaceful for all:

To Weavers Everywhere

God sits weeping
The beautiful creation tapestry
She wove with such joy
Is mutilated, torn into shreds,
Reduced to rags,
Its beauty fragmented by force.

God sits weeping.
But look!
She is gathering up the shreds
To weave something new.

She gathers
The rags of hard work
Attempts at advocacy,
Initiatives for peace,
Protests against injustice,
All the seemingly little and weak
Words and deeds offered
Sacrificially
In hope, in faith, in love.

And look!
She is weaving them all
With golden threads of Jubilation
Into a new tapestry,
A creation richer, more beautiful
Than the old one was!

And She invites us
Not only to keep offering her the
Shreds and rags of our suffering
And our work,

But even more -
To take our place beside Her
At the Jubilee Loom,
And weave with her
The tapestry of the New Creation

Marcienne Rienstra

APPENDIX A

Setting the context for the Workshop on Trafficking Evanne Hunter IBVM

March 24, 2012

On behalf of the organizing Committee I wish you good morning. I also welcome you and thank you for responding to IBVM's invitation to this Conference.

How fitting it is that we should be here on this day, the 2nd United Nations "International Day for the Right to the Truth for Victims of Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims". In proclaiming this new UN day last year, Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations, also instituted "Romero Day" as he paid tribute to the Salvadoran Archbishop, Oscar Arnulfo Romero, who was shot dead at the altar during Mass at the behest of pro government Armed Forces on March 24, 1980, an act clearly intended to silence an ardent opponent of repression.

Today's Conference is the fruit of a Gathering of more than a hundred IBVMs and lay colleagues in mission in Toronto last May. One of the aims of that Gathering was reflection on our experience in the light of the reality in which we live and work in about 40 countries on all five continents. This reflection, in the true Ignatian tradition, resulted in discernment about how to be what God wants us to be and the world needs us to be wherever we live and engage in ministry as the Loretto family.

For a religious congregation, like the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary or as we are commonly known, the Loretto Sisters, the charism of the founder is "an experience of the Spirit" transmitted to the disciples to be lived, safeguarded, deepened, and constantly developed.

This charism of the founder does two things: it gives a religious community that dynamism which defines it – often called its particular spirit – and it provides for the future a certain "constancy of orientation" that allows for continual revitalization and change.

For our founder, Mary Ward, the empowerment of women through education was the particular emphasis of the ministry of the new religious congregation she founded in 1609. A gradual evolution from formal education meant that her followers engaged in "education in all its forms" as required by circumstances of time and place ... still aimed primarily at ensuring that "women in time to come will do much" to quote Mary Ward herself.

At last summer's IBVM Gathering it became quickly evident that the forces conspiring against women in today's world are appalling. In spite of a plethora of international instruments including the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women or CEDAW, UNIFEM, the Commission on the Status of Women and legislation in many nation states, implementation of these agreements is weak.

The prevalence of gender based violence is vividly evident in the continuing reporting of such horrific practices as female genital mutilation, honour killing, dowry death, bride burning, child marriages, widow cleansing and acid burning to name just some. The feminization of poverty is well recognized. It is almost unthinkable that rape is seen as an effective weapon of war and that girls are prized as child soldiers. The painful experience of children bearing children has tragic consequences for both the short and long term. The effect of gender based violence is a significant factor in the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As if this litany of human rights violations were not enough we must add the horrendous modern form of slave trade that is the trafficking of human persons for profit. Sadly, this travesty is not solely the domain of powerful criminal organizations with international reach. It is also promoted by sports organizations, global companies and some government agencies that have no qualms about importing women to service males during gatherings such as the Olympics, the World Cup, political party conventions, R and R for military servicemen and even UN Peacekeepers and NGO respondents to international disasters. This is the dark side of globalization that treats persons as commodities.

Each Province Group at our Gathering last May was asked to move beyond reflection to some action as a result of our being together. As Canadians we decided to organize a Conference on Trafficking as our response. Maria Lanthier, Pat Grant and Anne Murray IBVM with Associate Claudette Wingell offered to take on the task. So here we are!

We were fortunate to have among us last May our own Sister Imelda Poole of the English Province who is totally immersed in the struggle to end Human Trafficking in Albania. Our hope was that Imelda would be with us today but that was not possible. Anne Kelly, our Australian IBVM NGO representative at the UN, was able to bring one of Imelda's colleagues to the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN in New York recently and Anne is with us today as are Jean Okroi and Arlene Ashack, IBVMs from the USA.

So ... here we are, almost 200 strong, in the company of passionate experts whom we are counting on to advise us on how to do something to help eliminate the scourge of human trafficking. As IBVMs we want to do as Mary Ward did, to empower women in our day to raise themselves out of the poverty and oppression that makes them vulnerable to sexual violence that has physical, psychological and generational consequences.

IBVM is committed to the implementation of the UN Millennium Declaration which tells us that there will be no peace without security, no security without development and no development without respect for human life. We know that no strategy is more effective for development than the empowerment of women. We believe that each child that is born is precious and that a phrase I read recently in the newspaper is true: "there is a little girl out there who will suffer if we do not do something."

We are aware of the gravity of the problem; we know that it is real even in our own backyard; we hope today to find out what we can do to help remove this blight on our society and break the chains of bondage for vulnerable women.

Finally, I read in the new issue of the Catholic Register that MP Joy Smith's Bill C-310 which will have a significant impact in Canada and abroad won the rare victory of unanimous consent across party lines in the House of Commons so I am pleased that we can celebrate that with her today.

We are delighted to have as our Conference Moderator, the highly skilled General Leader of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland, Elizabeth Davis. Elizabeth was actually with us as a presenter at our May Gathering. She is a champion of women, a common-sensical human being and an experienced facilitator. Her ability to listen and distill information is unparalleled. She is as steeped in the spirit of Mary Ward as any IBVM. Her background in the fields of both education and healthcare gives her a unique perspective on the experiences of women. At the end of every Conference or Workshop or Seminar that she chairs or facilitates she receives multiple invitations to do another one. In spite of having lived with us for several years she overlooks our foibles and is willing to respond positively whenever we ask her to do something for us as IBVM. We are blessed that she was free this weekend and I am sure you will learn today that all I say about her is true! I am proud to present Elizabeth Davis who will lead us and guide us through our proceedings today. Please welcome Sister Elizabeth Davis!

APPENDIX B

RESOURCES RELATED TO JOY SMITH'S PRESENTATION

Go to Joy Smith's web site to examine the Human Trafficking KIT which is useful for high school assemblies and other groups to whom you may be speaking.

www.joysmith.ca/

- click on "human trafficking"
- click on "RESOURCES" This page lists the **CD and KIT**.

Included in the kit are the following:

- i. Power Point presentation
- ii. Canadian Human Trafficking reports
- iii. International Human Trafficking reports
- iv. Federal Trafficking legislation
- v. The proposed **National Action Plan** to combat human trafficking
- vi. A Petition (which you can circulate)

How to order the kit: Send your e-mail request to: joy.smitha2@parl.gc.ca

APPENDIX C



March 27, 2012

Marty Van Doren
Human Trafficking Awareness Coordinator
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Breaking The Chains
St. Michael's College
March 24, 2012

Human Trafficking Awareness

This correspondence is provided as an overview of human trafficking from a law enforcement perspective. It is intended for information purposes only and does not encourage intervention by non-law enforcement personnel. Should an incident of human trafficking be suspected, it should be reported to the police service of jurisdiction.

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation or harbouring of people for the purpose of exploitation through the use of force, coercion, fraud, deception or threats against the victim or someone they know. Victims of human trafficking are forced into prostitution, labour, or some other form of servitude. It is a violation of human rights and is often referred to as modern-day slavery. Human trafficking occurs on both an international and domestic scale. It can be driven by individual enterprise or by organized crime groups. The clandestine nature of human trafficking makes it difficult to identify victims and to ascertain the extent of the problem in Canada.

In June 2002, the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act (IRPA)* criminalized human trafficking. In November 2005, amendments to the *Criminal Code* (Section 279.01-04) were made to address human trafficking, more specifically, the issue of exploitation. The *Criminal Code* amendments apply to both international and domestic human trafficking.

Recognition of human trafficking is difficult due to the nature of the environment victims are placed in – they are often hidden in plain view. In other words, victims are often reluctant to allow themselves to be identified as exploited by human trafficking. A victim's position is understandable if you take into account their plight and treatment.

Victims are often considered nothing more than a commodity by their traffickers, and are treated accordingly. The force and brutality regularly present in this environment can begin at the onset as human trafficking victims are routinely subjected to physical, emotional and sexual abuse. Victims and their families can also be subject to threats and intimidation. As a control mechanism international victims may be stripped of their identification, are unable to speak either official language and have a genuine fear for the police/authorities - dependent on their experiences from their native countries. A combination of these factors also presents challenges when law enforcement seeks the support of victims by testifying against offenders. The philosophy of the human trafficker is to fully control their victims, which in turn allows the trafficker to exploit them for profit.

The RCMP completed a "National Threat Assessment" in the fall of 2010. The threat assessment assesses the situation in Canada, identifies criminal organizations involved in human trafficking and highlights high risk areas. The "National Threat assessment" can be accessed through the RCMP website: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca

In order to identify a human trafficking victim it is often necessary to look beyond the obvious. There a number of indicators that would trigger the further examination of a potential human trafficking situation. Indicators could include one or more of the following:

General Indicators of human trafficking

- Being escorted/watched – evidence of control
- Lack of language
- Not speaking on own behalf
- No passport or other forms of identification or documentation (pay cash)
- Limited knowledge about how to get around in a community
- Live on or near work premises under extreme security measures
- Lack of private space/personal possessions/financial records
- Frequently moved by the traffickers

Physical Indicators of human trafficking

- Injuries/bruises from beating or weapons
- Signs of torture (e.g. cigarette burns)
- Brands or scarring indicating ownership
- Signs of malnourishment
- Body language/facial expressions (fear, intimidation)

Human trafficking victims in Canada can be found (list not all inclusive):

Sexual Exploitation

- Nightclubs
- Modeling studios
- Massage Parlors
- Hospitals/Shelters

Summary of Proceedings

**IBVM Conference on Human Trafficking: Breaking the Chains
24 March 2012
Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

Escort Services
Adult bookstores (advertisements)
The Internet
Private residences
Fraudulent adoption/guardianship

Forced Labour

Non-unionized industries / Sweatshops
Restaurants
Commercial agriculture
Private Residence / Forced Marriage
Construction sites
Fraudulent adoption/guardianship

There are a number of considerations that can potentially identify a human trafficking victim.

Does the person have freedom of movement?
Has the person been physically/sexually abused?
Has the person or their family been threatened?
Was identification or documentation taken from the person?
Has the person been paid for his/her work or services? How much?
How many hours does the person work a day?
What are the living conditions?
Has the person paid any money in advance to come here?
How did the person find out about the job?

There are also a number of reference sites that you may find of assistance:

RCMP: www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca
RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>
CIC TRP Guidelines: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english//resources/manuals/ip/ip01-eng.pdf>
Status of Women Canada: www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/index-eng.html
United Nations Webpage – www.un.org
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – www.unodc.org
US Department Of Justice – www.usdoj.gov
US Department of State – www.state.gov
Parliament of Canada – www.parl.gc.ca
BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons new on-line training curriculum: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip

I trust this information will provide you with some insight in relation to the human trafficking situation both in Canada and globally.

Regards, Marty Van Doren, Human Trafficking Awareness Coordinator, RCMP "O" Division

APPENDIX D

DIANE REDSKY'S POWER POINT PRESENTATION (as a separate attachment)

APPENDIX E

PRAYER FOR AN END TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING

God of the Vulnerable

God of the vulnerable
Of women, children and men
Hunted
Exploited
Sold
Into a trade denying the human
dignity with which you clothe and
embrace all people.
Hear our prayer, O God.
Heal the traffickers.
Free and protect the women,
children and men caught in the web
of human trafficking.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Rosemary Albon, IBVM