



The Kingston Diocesan Council of The Catholic Women's League of Canada

Community Life

Care for our Common Home

Directive #4

Pages: 3

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To: Parish Council Community Life Chairs

From: Bernadette Veitch, Diocesan Community Life Chair

CC: Diocesan Executive, Provincial Community Life Chair

Attachment: Development and Peace Information

"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice."

(Nelson Mandela)

Canada Summer Job Programme 2019

In December 2018, the Federal Government announced it was removing the attestation requiring applicants to endorse *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* and other choices attributed as Charter Rights, including abortion. In the application's articles of agreement, a shorter attestation states, "Any funding under the Canada Summer Job Programme will not be used to undermine or restrict the exercise of rights legally protected in Canada". The League is a strong organization that expresses its concern for the people of Canada. Members' voices made a difference. The attestation's change is no doubt thanks to an effective public outcry. Job well done ladies!

Dignity and Rights of Persons: Human Trafficking

According to a 2016 Statistics Canada report, Canadian Police Services reported 340 incidents of human trafficking with the most serious violations involving another offence, usually prostitution.

Sex trafficking occurs when someone uses force, fraud or coercion to cause a commercial sex act, such as prostitution, pornography or sexual performance, in exchange for items of value including money, drugs, shelter, food or clothes with an adult or a minor. Victims are most often young women and children found through social networks, home neighborhoods, clubs or bars, the internet and schools. Due to social stigma or misinformation, victims can be unidentified and may be silenced by fear, control of the trafficker, or misidentified by treating only surface issues. Sex trafficked children may instead be treated for drug abuse, alcohol abuse, domestic violence, delinquency, teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases or provided abortions.

In December 2014, the Federal Government moved forward in a positive direction by adopting the *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act*, which focuses on the demand side of prostitution by criminalizing the buyers and profiteers, holding them accountable for their actions, while decriminalizing prostituted persons at the same time. The law also encourages prostituted persons to exit prostitution and seek help to live a fulfilling life. To date the law has been minimally enforced across Canada and is being reviewed by the current government with a view to possibly abrogate it.

The upcoming 2019 Federal Election provides a critical moment for education and advocacy. Canadians need to be made aware that any movement to legalize or decriminalize the buying of prostitution will only further marginalize youth and women (especially Indigenous and refugees), while increasing prostitution and human trafficking in the country.

Pope Francis states, ***"Human trafficking is a crime against humanity. We must unite our efforts to free victims and stop this crime that's become ever more aggressive, that threatens not just individuals, but the foundational values of society."***

Development and Peace Share Lent Campaign



This year, the picture chosen is of a young Rohingya refugee living in the Kutupalong refugee camp in the district of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh. With a population of around 610,000 people, it is the largest refugee camp in the world.

You will find information on the Share Lent 2019 Campaign in your file, if you have any questions about the Campaign you can speak to Sr. Helen Russel or Jan Sosiak, who are here today.

Homelessness

Thank you to all the Councils for their donations of socks, warm toques, mittens and peanut butter and crackers, to shelters and groups over the winter months. We remember our brothers and sisters in prayer during these very cold winter days and nights. You can find more information and pictures on the CWL Diocesan Facebook page.

Prayer for the Homeless in the Cold Weather:

God of compassion, Your love for humanity was revealed in Jesus, whose earthly life began in the poverty of a stable and ended in the pain and isolation of the cross. We pray before you for those who are homeless and cold especially in the bitter winter weather. Father, how thankful we are that we have place that is cold home. We truly pray for all those suffering and sleeping on the streets, especially Father for children, who are so weak and vulnerable. Father make a way for them and draw them near, comfort them in spirit and bless those who work to provide them with shelter, food and friendship. In the name of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Respectfully submitted.