



Kingston Diocesan Council
Legislation Standing Committee
Directive # 3
May 12, 2014

Dear Sisters in the League,

In December 2013, the Supreme Court changed the prostitution laws in Canada. Previously, prostitution was legal but everything around it was illegal. For example, in the past it was against the law

- to communicate for the purposes of prostitution,
- to operate within a brothel, and
- for a third party to make money off of someone who is prostituting.

A group of sex workers challenged these laws, saying that it made the industry dangerous for those selling sex. In December, the Supreme Court ruled in their favour, striking down these three provisions.

In essence, this means that by December 2014

- brothels could be legal across the country.
- a third party will be able to live off the avails of prostitution,
- soliciting will no longer be banned.

Though the Supreme Court has made its decision, they have given Parliament a **one year window** to amend the law if they wish to do so. This means that we have 8 months remaining to rewrite the laws on prostitution altogether, as long as they do not violate the Charter."

Think of it. If the buying of sex is no longer illegal, it seems reasonable to assume more sex trade workers will be in demand. Sex traffickers are more than willing to step in and provide the supply. Pause for a moment here and think of the horrific situation taking place with the young school girls in Nigeria right now. It is not unrealistic to believe that, if not these young girls, but others suffering the same fate, could end up being trafficked here in Canada!

"What can we possibly do to make a difference?" you may ask.

National has brought to our attention, a documentary film called **Red Light/Green Light**. Essentially, two film makers have travelled across ten countries to explore the issue of sex trafficking, attempting to answer the question, "How can we prevent sexual exploitation before it happens in the first place?"

It would be easier for you to go on line and read how we can use this film to make a difference, than for me to re write all that is there. So, please go to the National Website at www.cwl.ca. and follow these steps.

- Click on Archives.
- Click on April 2014.
- Scroll down to the end and click on PAGE 2.
- Click on documentary film Red Light/Green Light.
- As you begin to read, you will see the words "Supreme Court Ruling" highlighted. Click on those words and a page will open, giving you background information on Canada's Prostitution Laws.

After reading that page, go back to the film's Home Page and click on TAKE ACTION. There are seven suggestions as to what we can do. Please read through all seven and decide what you as an individual or as a council can do. Some suggestions are ...

- Sign the online petition
- Encourage others to sign the online petition
- Make copies of the petition and collect signatures at church
- Make copies of the petition and take it to your workplace for signatures
- Host a screening of the film, or
- Work with other councils to host a screening of the film
- Invite other councils to your screening
- Go to a screening you've been invited to

What we do now, each in our own way, in our own little corner of the world, *can have* a global impact. I look forward to reading what will be taking place throughout the diocese with this project.

Margie Royle,
Legislation Chair, Kingston Diocesan