



Conférence religieuse canadienne  
Canadian Religious Conference

## Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) Statement on Human Trafficking

Since 2004, the Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) is committed to work toward the eradication of violence in all its forms including human trafficking. In 2006, the CRC renewed the commitment to further the efforts against human trafficking by encouraging greater support for victims and by deepening critical analysis of the social and ideological context that creates the demand for trafficking. Based on this experience, the CRC states the importance of a comprehensive strategy for addressing this issue.

The Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) is committed to “*continue working toward the eradication of violence in all its forms by: furthering our efforts against human trafficking, encouraging greater support for victims and deepening critical analysis of the social and ideological context that creates the demand for trafficking.*” (CRC Declaration 2006)

Since 2004, the CRC has aligned itself with those religious conferences, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) worldwide who accept the United Nations definition of human trafficking that is found in the 2000 *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons*, especially women and children (Palermo Protocol), supplement to the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

The CRC understands that the problem of human trafficking is a complex system that requires a **comprehensive approach**, one that includes analysis of socio-economic factors, migration policies, and gender relationships. From the perspective of the CRC, it is very important to understand that this complex system has **multiple root causes**. There is not a simple ‘cause and effect’ relationship in the tragedy of human trafficking, but multiple factors interacting to create patterns of dominance and oppression.

The CRC understands that the present model of economic globalization creates **realities** that contribute to the problem of human trafficking, especially:

1. increased restrictions placed on people moving across borders, especially women and children;
2. increased economic inequality between people and nations;
3. increased impoverishment of women and children.

### Promotion of a Comprehensive Strategy

Given the multiple factors and socio-economic patterns that converge to create the tragedy of trafficking

in persons, it is imperative to us that we call the Canadian government to adopt a multi-faceted response. We have identified elements of a comprehensive strategy for addressing this issue and we urge governments to take a more comprehensive approach. The following aspects are included in the holistic approach that the CRC promotes:

1. Addressing the reality that the **need to escape poverty** domestically and internationally is a **common factor** among trafficking survivors.
2. Counteracting the **desire for profit** that motivates traffickers.
3. Addressing the **demand for sexual exploitation**.
4. Addressing the need for **migrant workers' rights** in Canada.
5. Addressing **gender inequality**.
6. Protecting the **human rights** of persons who are **trafficking survivors**.

### Action Commitment

The CRC is active in the fields of prevention of human trafficking and the protection of trafficked persons by:

1. **educating** CRC members and their networks;
2. **sharing** with appropriate governmental and NGO parties our research and our experiences of accompanying people who have been trafficked;
3. **collaborating** with and **supporting** local, provincial, national and global networks, other religious conferences and NGOs who are involved in education, analysis and advocacy of this issue;
4. **organizing meetings** with politicians, and policy analysts in the Canadian government;
5. **holding** federal or provincial elected representatives **accountable**.

### Conclusion

In a global context where systems of oppression threaten the sacredness of all forms of life on our planet, the CRC carries to the heart of the problem of human trafficking a Gospel vision of engaged spirituality. Called to be a prophetic voice in the world and in the Church, the CRC continues in the long line of witnesses who dedicated themselves, often at the cost of their lives, to living deeply the Gospel values that promote dignity and freedom for all. The activities of the CRC relate to the reality of today and look to the Resurrection, which gives hope for transformation.

*Baptized in Christ, consecrated publicly to God in religious life, we are called to be prophetic signs, in the world and in the Church, of life lived radically according to the Gospel, with a particular option for the poor, the oppressed, and those whom society ignores and rejects, whether at home or abroad. Therefore, the "love of Christ urges us" (2 Cor. 5:14) to be in solidarity with the poor, to denounce injustice, to foster a concern for the environment, to work for peace and for the coming of the Reign of God. (CRC Mission Statement, adopted by the 1990 General Assembly.)*

See [www.crc-canada.org](http://www.crc-canada.org) for more information on the CRC's work on human trafficking.