



For Immediate Release
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Harper government needs comprehensive plan to fight human trafficking

OTTAWA – The Harper government must take stronger action against human trafficking, particularly as Canada prepares to host the world at the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games, the Liberal Women’s Caucus said today.

“There is evidence that high-profile international sporting events are accompanied by increased demand for human trafficking victims for the purposes of sexual exploitation within the host country,” said Liberal Status of Women Critic Anita Neville. “We must do everything we can to ensure that the Vancouver Games do not become a feeding ground for this type of activity.”

Women’s Caucus Chair Maria Minna said while Liberals support Bill C-268 – the private member’s bill that calls for mandatory minimum sentences of five years for human trafficking – the government must go farther.

“Yet again, we have a Conservative member who believes that simply increasing jail times will solve problems,” she said. “It doesn’t. It requires a more comprehensive approach that brings the world’s police forces, prosecutors and social agencies together to work on issues of prosecution, protection of victims and prevention.”

Recently in Vancouver during the Liberal Party’s Biennial Convention, members of the Women’s Caucus met with the *Citizens’ Summit on Human Trafficking at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Games and Beyond* to deliver this same message of support and to back their declaration that calls for, among other things, increased resources from the Conservative government to effectively fight this battle.

“Canadians can be assured that we will continue working to press for federal government action on this matter,” said Ms. Neville.

To read the declaration, please visit:

http://www.oneistoomanysummit.info/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=61&Itemid=41

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