

Human Trafficking for Sexual Purposes

Whereas #1 beginning in 2001 and continuing in 2006, 2012, 2019 and 2020 the National Council of Women of Canada introduced policy focused on preventing Human Trafficking; and

Whereas #2 most victims are trafficked for sexual purposes within Canada between/among Canadian cities, Provinces and Territories; and

Whereas #3 it often takes victims years to escape their traffickers due to physical and psychological manipulation/coercion/exploitation, and at times due to lack of confidence in police and the justice system; and

Whereas #4 not one province or territory in Canada mandates the teaching of students about sex trafficking, and only Ontario specifically names it, even though students are prime targets for predators; and

Whereas #5 Ontario introduced sweeping changes with Bill 251, Ontario Human Trafficking Act, to combat human trafficking which gives police quicker access to information, imposes requirements on businesses that come in contact with suspected victims (e.g. hotels, short term rentals, ride services, etc.) including training for employees, and support the introduction of specially trained Crown Attorneys to more effectively ensure conviction; and

Whereas #6 as indicated by the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking 2019-2024, it is recognized that collaboration and coordination and a whole government approach is necessary to combat this complex issue; therefore be it

RESOLVED #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy support for extension of the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking 2019-2024 that includes public awareness, prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership and requiring a survivor led with survivor input whole government approach to bolster the domestic and international responses; and be it further

RESOLVED #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to ensure perpetuity and extend the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking 2019-2024 that includes public awareness, prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership and requiring a survivor led with survivor input whole government approach to bolster the domestic and international responses; and be it further

RESOLVED #3 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to collaborate and coordinate with the provinces, territories, municipalities and Indigenous peoples to ensure that the National Strategy be adopted to combat human trafficking; and be it further

RESOLVED #4 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge its Provincial Councils to advocate with their governments to introduce legislation to combat human trafficking, and to collaborate with the Government of Canada to ensure that the strategy recognizes inter-jurisdictional and shared responsibility on this issue; and be it further

RESOLVED #5 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge its Provincial Councils to advocate with their governments to ensure that the curriculum for all schools includes information on sex trafficking as a preventive measure based on research that shows an informed student is a protected student.

Femicide as a Distinct Article in the Criminal Code of Canada

Whereas #1 femicide was significantly introduced into the lexicon of terms used to describe the murder of women in Canada at least as far back as 1989 with the murder of fourteen young women students simply because they were women in what has become known as the Montreal Massacre on December 6 of that year; and

Whereas #2 femicide or feminicide, as it is sometimes known, is the most extreme and brutal form of gender-based violence (GBV) and is defined as “intentional murder of women because they are women” and according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) data from 2017, 87,000 women and girls around the world were intentionally killed – more than half (50,000) by intimate partners; and

Whereas #3 according to the World Health Organization (WHO) most causes of femicide are committed by partners or ex-partners and involve abuse in the home, threats or intimidation, sexual violence or situations where women have less power or fewer resources; and

Whereas #4 femicide falls into two categories: intimate partner and non-intimate partner: the first referring to the killing of women by current or former partners, while the latter encapsulates the killing during armed conflict as weapons of war, so-called honour killings, murder because of race or sexuality, those perpetrated by other women acting as agents of patriarchy, and the killing of transgender women; and

Whereas #5 both the Canadian Observatory for Justice and Accountability and Statistics Canada have reported that the killing of women and girls simply because they are women, mostly by men, has increased, including the killing of women by male partners; and

Whereas #6 the Inquest Jury reporting on the killing of three women in Renfrew County, Ontario by a former partner made 86 recommendations including that femicide be identified in the Criminal Code of Canada as a separate offence to draw attention to the serious crime that it is; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that femicide be identified as a separate article in the Criminal Code of Canada in order to identify the intentional killing of women and female children simply because they are women and female children; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to amend the Criminal Code of Canada to identify femicide as a separate article within the Code.

REFRIGERANTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Whereas #1 many hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) used as refrigerants are extreme greenhouse gases that are thousands of times more powerful than CO₂ when it comes to warming the planet; and

Whereas #2 Canada ratified the Kigali Amendment in 2017 to reduce HFC consumption by 85% by 2036; and

Whereas #3 the next planned review of HFC regulations will not happen until 2027-28; and

Whereas #4 emissions of HFC occur due to degradation or faulty maintenance and the product has to be refilled with the same refrigerant; and

Whereas #5 most refrigerants used in Canada today are not environmentally friendly including those in heat pumps; therefore be it

Resolved #1 that the National Council of Women of Canada adopt as policy that all refrigerants used in Canada be environmentally friendly; and be it further

Resolved #2 that the National Council of Women of Canada urge the Government of Canada to:

- a) adjust their review of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) regulations by 2025-2026 so HFCs can be replaced as soon as possible with environmentally friendly refrigerants
- b) strongly enforce the regulations to replace HFCs
- c) ensure the collection, transportation and safe destruction of used HFC refrigerants