

A Call to Candidates: Info & Actions to Curb Sexual Exploitation

Sexual exploitation is an urgent issue that must be combatted with robust strategies. There are many ways that MP's can be involved to promote the wellbeing & safety of Canadians. **Will you consider acting to curb sexual exploitation?**

Please work to uphold & enforce *PCEPA*

The *Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA)* outlines Canada's prostitution laws which were inspired by Sweden's successful "Equality Model". In recognition of prostitution's inherent exploitation, violence, and gender inequality, *PCEPA* shifts criminal liability from those selling their own sexual services to sex buyers and pimps. Some groups want to legalize prostitution, even though countries who do so perpetuate its harms. ***PCEPA* could be reviewed by parliament soon.**

PCEPA Information Page

<https://defenddignity.ca/pcepa-mp/>

The above link includes:

- 6-minute video of 4 survivors from across Canada, a Manitoba crown attorney, and Director of a Prostitution Diversion Program in Winnipeg, MB
- Nanos Research Poll of Canadians' views on prostitution & *PCEPA*
- Why "End Demand" is the correct approach to prostitution

Summary of the Swedish government's 10-year review of their prostitution laws (the model *PCEPA* follows)

<https://www.government.se/articles/2011/03/evaluation-of-the-prohibition-of-the-purchase-of-sexual-services/>

Excerpts from report: "The evaluation shows that the prohibition of the purchase of sexual services has had the intended effect and is an important instrument in preventing and combating prostitution and human trafficking for sexual purposes."

"There has been a marked change in attitude to the purchase of sexual services that coincides with making it a criminal offence to purchase sex. There is now strong support for the prohibition of purchasing sexual services in Sweden. The prohibition has proved to act as a deterrent to sex purchasers. The Inquiry could find no indication that criminalisation has had a negative effect on people exploited through prostitution."

Germany New Zealand: A Comparison in Prostitution Laws 2002-2017

<https://catwinternational.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Germany-New-Zealand-A-Comparison-in-Prostitution-Law-FINAL.pdf>

Data from 15 years of legalized prostitution (Germany) & fully decriminalized prostitution (New Zealand). Excerpt from the report:

“Both countries frame people in prostitution as independent agents, failing to recognize systemic vulnerabilities, often borne of histories of childhood abuse, child sex trafficking, and other trauma, that create barriers to reporting abusers and exploiters even in adulthood. Earnings are low and few people have contracts for myriad reasons, including prostitution-related stigma, fear of exploitation and third-party evasion of responsibility. Holiday, sick pay, maternal leave, pensions, and other benefits remain hypothetical. They experience significant abuse and violence (further evidenced by "workplace advice" on how to avoid vaginal pain, rape, and murder), frequently leading to long-term ill-health, PTSD, and addiction. Exit support is lacking or non-existent for those who want it. Both countries view undocumented migrants as "illegal workers," not likely sex trafficking victims deserving of state protection, and frequently deport them.”

Please work to address online sexual exploitation

Implement Ethic committee's Recommendations to Reduce Illegal Content

Illegal content such as Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), non-consensually shared images, & rape are being distributed & monetized by popular pornography sites. A list of recent news articles about this issue can be found here: <https://justicedefensefund.org/#newsroom>

The Ethics committee recently studied this issue & submitted a report of key recommendations for the federal government to act on:

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/ETHI/Reports/RP11148202/ethirp03/ethirp03-e.pdf>

There are many urgent actions outlined – such as requiring sites to obtain proof of age & consent of all individuals depicted before hosting pornographic content.

Protect Youth from Pornography Exposure

Research shows the harmful impact pornography exposure has on young people. A selection of academic studies can be found here: <https://www.echildhood.org/statement>

The Senate studied a bill to protect youth from pornography exposure (<https://www.parl.ca/LegisInfo/BillDetails.aspx?Language=E&billId=10873545>). In June, it was approved and sent to the House of Commons for the next stage of the legislative process.

More efforts to protect young people should be initiated and supported.