

Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

General Administration

December 8, 2009

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa
K1A 0A2

Dear Mr. Harper:

The world, the media and much of our nation will be focusing on the upcoming Winter Olympics to be held in Vancouver in 2010.

With the excitement of the international competition connected with the Games, there is an also accompanying danger. It is a well known fact that such popular events attract people who exploit others for profit. As a respectful and honorable country, Canada must be on its guard to prevent human trafficking that may occur in connection with the Games.

In November, 2007 the Future Group released its report on the issue of trafficking in human persons and made concrete recommendations to the Federal and BC Governments:


- 1) **detering traffickers and potential commercial sex users though effective public awareness campaigns before, during and after the 2010 Olympics;**
- 2) **disrupting trafficking networks and prosecuting traffickers through a coordinated and pro-active law enforcement response at all levels of government;**
- 3) **preventing human trafficking and enhancing border integrity by identifying victims in transit;**
- 4) **protecting trafficked persons by providing safe housing, counseling, legal aid, temporary residence status, translation and medical assistance.**

I am the leader of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, an organization which includes over 400 Canadian citizens among its membership. Currently, as well as during the last several years, we have been actively engaged in education and action against trafficking in women and children as a modern-day slavery. I would be most interested in knowing how the government has responded to these recommendations of the Future Group and how it will continue to implement them.

This is an opportunity for Canada to show the world its commitment to respect and justice toward all through its efforts to prevent an increase in trafficked persons in Canada during this particular opportunity and to protect those most vulnerable who are being exploited for greed and profit.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,



COVAN/Vancouver

Gospel women in solidarity for liberating action