



London Diocesan Council
The Catholic Women's League of Canada



To: All Parish Presidents, Community Life Chairpersons

CC: London Diocesan Council

From: Helga Stuermer, Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson

Date: May 2017

Directive # 6

**“See-, I have God for my help, He sustains my soul.”
To you I call, for you will surely hear me o God!**

Dignity and Rights of Persons

As I was pondering with what to start my directive, I came across an email a friend send to me. **North Korea needs our help.** I cried as I read this. A young girl addressed a delegation of young women and men. She needed to raise awareness to the world and shed light on the crises and oppression they are facing. “We are being forgotten”. No human being deserves to be oppressed just because of their birthplace, or being executed for watching a Hollywood movie or speaking out if another person is being unfairly punished. As a 13 year old she and her mother fled her country, but was targeted by the very persons who pledged to help them. Her mother sacrificed herself instead, but she was forced to watch her mother being raped. We need to petition China and governments around the world to put pressure on china not to send the refugees back to North Korea. They rather die, than go back. They often punish families up to 3 generations if caught. We need to speak up and help support refugees of North Korea. Shed light on this and educate ourselves of their plight.

Our participation of sending postcard against human trafficking, Pornography (protect our children) I often write to our government, even Mr. Trudeau himself. You will get answers, and not just form letters. They actually answered my points. So think outside the box. Yes each voice counts. Recently I wrote against legalizing Marijuana, except for medical needs prescribed by a DR. It is crazy to believe as they claim it will help keeping Cannabis away from children by legalizing Marijuana. Really?

To contact Prime Minister Trudeau: <http://pm.gc.ca/eng/contactpm>; to contact a local MP: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/parliamentarians/en/members>; To visit Real Change.ca view platform commitments or direct your policy questions towards the relevant Department or Ministry by reaching the Ministers office. For contact information visit: <http://www.parl.gc.ca/parliamentarians/en/ministries>. To get to know your Cabinet better, Liberal.ca/cabinet/ I also have phone # 1888 542 3725 in case you cannot get answers to your questions. I hope this info will help and encourage you to get involved.

We still need to petition against bill 84, and now support the private member bill 129 this is an amendment to bill 84 (to protect Conscientious Objector's act.) Our Drs. Nurses and other health care professionals should not be forced to participate in medical assistance in dying The bill will be debated on May 18th, 2017, so hurry and let your wishes be known.

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I recently received an email from the provincial community chair. I also had a conversation with her. In her letter she wrote: I quote her and hope this will interest you:

Did you know?

- \$32 billion is made worldwide per year from human trafficking average age 13 ½ years for prostitution.
- There is a direct link between pornography and human trafficking
- \$96 billion is made in pornography each year
- 68 billion daily internet searches for pornography
- In Canada 90% of the victims of human trafficking are Canadians, Indigenous woman and youth are especially vulnerable. 2 web sites for more info:
- :information-thetraffickedhuman.org, and www.rcmpgrc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm.

Social and Economic justice;

The refugees are still on our agenda and need more help to integrate into our society. I have written and talked about woman on the job, and had conversations with various agencies about equal pay for equal job. I feel as long a woman can perform a job same as a man, she should be given the opportunity to do so, provided she really can do it.

At the convention we all listened to Pamela Bryson –Weaver a wonderful speaker about living with Autism Spectrum Disorder. She told me the government is planning to shorten the schooling and treatment that is available to help parents and children to learn and cope with this condition. **This must not happen.** Many children have found the **one thing** they excelled in and this made their life and their parent's life so much better. I purchased a book for my friend whose grandchild has severe Autism. The classes he attends too try to teach him to communicate. He does punch at a handheld tablet computer. The parents are hoping in time he will learn how to use it. It is the only thing of interest for him. So they are hoping the cost cutting will not happen, especially for lower income families.

Developing Countries:

So many countries are struggling with clean water problems. When I visited Africa, I found this is one of the biggest problems. The Rotary clubs are actively helping there by digging wells and teaching the natives how to take care of them. Also Micro banking helps. This is where a loan to persons is given, and a sewing machine or a bike is purchased to start a business. Often after a year or two they are able to pay back the loan and are able to purchase a 2nd machine, and have several woman working for them. Mostly woman are successful in this.

I hope you visited the display room at the convention in Stratford. I had made a display with many pictures from Afrikaans who have been helped by Development and Peace. **Caritas does save lives.** Our Indigenous people are being helped by many organizations. They definitely need our help through donations and collecting clothing and food. Vincent De Paul distributes all the way up to north of 60 to Wales Cove, and many other communities where useful skills are being taught. Hopefully it helps to alleviate suicidal incidents that are such an ongoing problem. I had also right to life at the display and many pamphlets and handouts for the 9 day Spirit novena the value of live versus Euthanasia, info against human trafficking and against child porn.

May the blessings of God the Father the Son and the Holy Spirit be with you all.
Helga Stuermer

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