

# Community Life

Date: February 19, 2021



Communiqué #20

*Care for Our Common Home*

**TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Community Life**  
**CC: National Executive (for information)**  
**FROM: Marie Rackley, National Chairperson of Community Life**

## Breaking News

My dear League sisters,

I was very excited today to receive the following press release forwarded from National Second Vice-President and Chairperson of Communications Doreen Gowans. For years the League has played an important role in bringing awareness about human trafficking as a growing crime across Canada. Please distribute the information contained within to your diocesan counterparts for circulation to parish councils as soon as possible. Together, members can celebrate February 22<sup>nd</sup> as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

### **National Human Trafficking Awareness Day**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 12, 2021

Human Trafficking is a growing crime across Canada. Despite its devastating impact on some of Canada's most vulnerable people, human trafficking remains very much below the public radar.

For three years the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking has tabled motions urging Parliament to recognize February 22 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. This date commemorates February 22, 2007 when the House of Commons unanimously condemned human trafficking.

Currently there are motions on the Order Paper to recognize February 22 as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day tabled by APPG co-chairs MP Arnold Viersen (CPC) and MP John McKay (LPC), and member MP Heather McPherson (NDP) and jointly seconded by Co-chair MP Andréanne Larouche (BQ).

The APPG is also encouraged by the recent adoption of a motion at the Standing Committee on Status of Women that calls for February 22 to be recognized as the National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

The APPG asks all Members of Parliament to support motions in the House to recognize February 22, 2021 as Canada's first National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

*We recognize that a critical step in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking is to increase public awareness. A national awareness day will help equip Canadians to identify human trafficking and end it in their communities.*

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**For more information, please contact the APPG Co-chairs:**

**Arnold Viersen, MP**

613-996-1783

Arnold.Viersen.a2@parl.gc.ca

**Honourable John McKay, PC, MP**

613-992-1447

John.McKay@parl.gc.ca

**Senator Julie Miville-Dechêne**

613-943-4783

Julie.Miville-Dechene@sen.parl.gc.ca

**Andréanne Larouche, MP**

613-995-2532

Andreanne.Larouche@parl.gc.ca

**Backgrounder:**

- 16 years since Canada added human trafficking offences to the *Criminal Code*.
- 14 years since the House of Commons unanimously adopted a motion to condemn all forms of human trafficking and slavery on February 22, 2007.
- 9 years since former MP Joy Smith first tabled a motion calling for February 22 to be designated a National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.
- February 22 is recognized as Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Ontario and Alberta as well as multiple Canadian cities.
- The United States designated a National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in 2007.

Love and prayers,



Marie Rackley

National Chairperson of Community Life

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National Chairperson: **Marie Rackley**

National Office: C-702 Scotland Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3M 1X5

Telephone: (204) 927-2310

Facsimile: (204) 927-2321

E-mail: info@cwl.ca