

**News Release: Human Trafficking:
Maria Mourani's Private Member's Bill C-452
Unanimously adopted by the House of Commons
Montreal, November 26, 2013**

- Today, at the 3rd reading, the House of Commons unanimously adopted Bill C-452, the Law amending the Criminal Code (exploitation and human trafficking). This bill was proposed by the Honourable Member for Ahuntsic, Maria Mourani, after having developed it in collaboration with the police and people who work with victims of human trafficking, lawyers who specialize in criminal law and Parliamentary experts.

Bill C-452 amends the *Criminal Code* in order to provide consecutive sentences for offences related to trafficking in persons and create a presumption regarding the exploitation of one person by another. It also adds the offence of trafficking in persons to the list of offences to which the forfeiture of proceeds of crime apply.

It is a rare occurrence that a bill from an opposition member passes all the steps in the House of Commons and will now be studied by the Senate.

“I want to thank all the members of Parliament for their support, as well as all those who shared their skills and put their hearts into serving the needs of the victims of human trafficking. The adoption of this Bill in the House of Commons was also made possible through the support of many women’s groups and the “Conseil du statut de la femme” (Council on the Status of Women). It now remains up to the Senate to do its work as quickly as possible and up to the government to issue the decree to implement it. I am confident that police officers throughout Canada will soon be able to benefit from new tools to effectively combat this scourge which remains a major problem”, stated Maria Mourani.

For Diane Matte from the ‘Concertation des luttes contre l’exploitation sexuelle’ (CLES), “the articles in the *Criminal Code* concerning human trafficking in Canada must make it possible to effectively combat trafficking for sexual exploitation. It is the most widespread means for sustaining the sex industry in all its forms. And so it is imperative to attack this form of violence against women. The Bill introduced by Madame Maria Mourani represents an important step in providing the best legal tools for this fight.”

“I welcome Mme. Maria Mourani’s perseverance. The ‘Conseil du statut de la femme’ (*Council on the Status of Women*) fully agrees with the objectives of this Bill. We firmly believe that it is necessary to protect women from human trafficking and its devastating effects” stated Mme. Julie Miville-Dechêne, President of the ‘Conseil du statut de la femme’.

Here is a list of organizations that supported this bill:

The Conseil du statut de la femme, the Quebec YMCA’s, the Comité d’action contre la traite humaine interne et internationale (CATHII), the Association féminine d’éducation et d’action sociale (AFEAS), the Regroupement québécois des centres d’aide et de lutte contre les agressions à caractère sexuel (RQCALACS), the organization Concertation-Femme, the Concertation des luttes contre l’exploitation sexuelle (CLES), the Association québécoise Plaidoyer-Victimes, the

Collectif de l'Outaouais contre l'exploitation sexuelle (COCES), the Réseau des femmes répondantes pour la condition des femmes and Maison de Marthe.