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From: Legislative Assembly of Ontario
Sent: May 12, 2021 7:00 PM
To: Standing Committee on Justice Policy
Cc: Teng, Deborah
Subject: Webform submission: Submission of material 39156

Submitted on Wed, 05/12/2021 - 17:31

Application ID: 39156

Submitted values are:

Bill or item of business: **Bill 251, Combating Human Trafficking Act, 2021**

Choose a topic

Do you know the bill title or business (e.g., pre-budget consultations) you'd like to speak or submit material about?

Yes

Choose an application

Which application would you like to submit?

Submit material only

Add your information

Are you submitting material as an individual or on behalf of an organization?

I am submitting material as an individual

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Paste submission

I would like to suggest that some other important points are taken into account when reviewing Bill 251 . Human trafficking victims must manage overwhelming trauma and overcome insurmountable hurdles while attempting to rebuild their lives. Having a fulsome understanding of human trafficking will ensure that sensitive and informed decisions are made. Any concessions that can be made in their favor, should be made.

Survivor should have debt forgiveness. Traffickers use the names of their victims for purchases, travel and

hotel rooms and often destroy their credit rating. This debt should be expunged so they can have a fair chance to start over.

Survivors must testify against their traffickers in court. This testimony often includes how they fear their trafficker, or the case is weakened. Traffickers are dangerous, often make threats and may have gang affiliation. For this reason, victims should be given the option to give testimony in another secure location. As Victim Services outreach staff support them through this process and every Municipality has a Victim Services office, this would be a safe and reasonable solution.

There should be mandatory curriculum in every Ontario middle school and high school regarding consent and human trafficking.

At the municipal level, Police and every Children's Aid Society should have specialized Human Trafficking units. All staff need mandatory training to properly serve and protect this population.

At the municipal level, all Ontario Works and ODSP offices should have specialized Human Trafficking teams. Without the financial means, victims cannot leave their trafficking situations.

*Durham Region has a Human Trafficking model that includes a partnership between DRPS, Victim Services Durham, Ontario Works and other service providers.

To serve this population, we must provide trauma-informed care that is victim centred and anti-oppressive. We must also consider unconscious bias and promote anti-racism practices.

We must think about human trafficking in the context of human rights. Those who are targeted are marginalized and predominately racialized and Indigenous.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Jocelyn Siciliano