

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <[Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca)>

Date: Tue, May 12, 2020 at 2:56 PM

Subject: RE: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

To: <[presncwc@gmail.com](mailto:presncwc@gmail.com)>

Dear Patricia,

Thank you for writing about the proposed National Human Trafficking Awareness Day. I apologize for the delay in my response.

I completely agree with your suggestion. The trade in human misery known as “human trafficking” is vile and must end. Too many people become involved in the sex trade due to human trafficking. We are systematically failing the most marginal in our society who are groomed for, and drawn into the sex trade due to poverty or insecurity. Finding and liberating those held under conditions of indentured servitude is a priority.

More resources, education, and support are needed to gain a clear picture of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Canada. We need to step up social programs for those who have, essentially, been enslaved.

A good way to start is with your proposed national day of awareness. I will certainly raise your suggestion with the government. Thank you again for writing, and for speaking out about this important and complex issue.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth May, O.C.

Member of Parliament

Saanich-Gulf Islands

Parliamentary Leader of the Green Party of Canada

**From:** President National Council of Women of Canada <[presncwc@gmail.com](mailto:presncwc@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** February 19, 2020 5:03 PM

**To:** Viersen, Arnold - Assistant 2 <[Arnold.Viersen.A2@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Arnold.Viersen.A2@parl.gc.ca)>

**Cc:** Rodriguez, Pablo - Député <[Pablo.Rodriguez@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Pablo.Rodriguez@parl.gc.ca)>; Bergen, Candice - M.P. <[candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca)>; Therrien, Alain - Député <[Alain.Therrien@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Alain.Therrien@parl.gc.ca)>; McPherson, Heather - M.P. <[Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Heather.McPherson@parl.gc.ca)>; May, Elizabeth - M.P. <[Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca)>; Gold, Marc :Sen <[Marc.Gold@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marc.Gold@sen.parl.gc.ca)>; Plett, Donald :Sen <[don.plett@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:don.plett@sen.parl.gc.ca)>; Woo, Yuen Pau :Sen <[YuenPau.Woo@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:YuenPau.Woo@sen.parl.gc.ca)>; Tannas, Scott :Sen <[scott.tannas@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:scott.tannas@sen.parl.gc.ca)>

**Subject:** National Human Trafficking Awareness Day



February 19, 2020

Dear Mr. Viesen

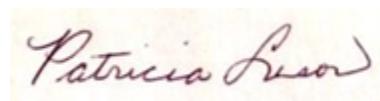
For the past 127 years, the National Council of Women of Canada (NCWC) has worked to improve the quality of life in Canada through education and advocacy. The NCWC is a non-governmental organization (NGO) currently composed of Local Councils in cities from Halifax to Vancouver, Provincial Councils in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia, along with several Nationally Organized Societies. We represent thousands of women from across Canada, and we are the voice for those who have neither the courage nor the strength to do so for themselves.

I am writing to you today to underscore the firm commitment of the NCWC to ending all forms of human trafficking in Canada and beyond. We have long had policies urging the government to provide sustainable funding for specialized online forensic tools and policing resources to curb, dismantle, and expose illegal practices and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable and prosecuted for human trafficking of children both here in Canada and internationally.

We have also urged the Government to initiate public wide education programs to alert Canadians and those in the social services sector as to the indicators that suggest abuse, including, but not limited to, the abuse of children via the internet. The parliamentary motion to establish February 22<sup>nd</sup> as Canada's National Human Trafficking Awareness Day will help support achieving this goal. The focus will lend itself to further engaging Canadians with vital information related to human trafficking and help facilitate the ability of the public at large to challenge this crime that exploits and commodifies the vulnerable.

Therefore, we strongly encourage all House and Senate Leaders to come together in unity to unanimously consent to this very important motion as soon as Parliament resumes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, written in dark ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Patricia Leson".

Patricia Leson, President

National Council of Women of Canada

- C: Pablo Rodriguez, Liberal House Leader [Pablo.Rodriguez@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Pablo.Rodriguez@parl.gc.ca)
- Candice Bergen, Conservative House Leader [candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca)
- Alain Therrien Bloc Quebecois Party, House Leader [Alain.Therrien@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Alain.Therrien@parl.gc.ca)
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- Scott Tannas, Interim Leader, CSG Senate [scott.tannas@sen.parl.gc.ca](mailto:scott.tannas@sen.parl.gc.ca)