



The Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial  
Council  
Community Life

Communique # 9



70 YEARS  
UNIVERSAL  
DECLARATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
#STANDUP4HUMANRIGHTS



**DATE:** November 30, 2018  
**TO:** Diocesan Chairpersons of Community Life  
**CC:** Provincial Executive (for information)  
**CC:** National Chairperson of Community Life (for information)  
**FROM:** Sr. Susan Scott CAF, Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Chairperson of Community Life

Ladies, my apologies for missing out on notifying you about the annual “*International Day to End Violence Against Women*” but I was in recovery mode having had knee replacement surgery. I am healing well and a couple of days ago, got permission to drive again. I’m including a link with many resources that you can use at any time for as you know too well, this is an ongoing issue that is both local and global in scope. [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#). If you have access to an LCD projector, laptop and screen, you can show one or more of the videos. Likewise, there are many printed resources that you can use to help educate your members around this issue.

In a similar vein, I recently became aware of a very good site “Buying Sex is a Crime” “*We are a diverse and experienced group of individuals and organizations that have worked to end the sexual exploitation of men, women, and children for many years. Based on the data that 92% of individuals in prostitution are not there by choice<sup>1</sup>, we believe that prostitution is a result of systemic inequality perpetuated by poverty, gender inequality, racial discrimination, violence, patriarchy, and a history of colonization.*” In 1999, Sweden passed a law which prohibits the purchase of sex but not the selling of sex. The sellers of sex are helped to transition from prostitution. With education and enforcement, the law acts as a deterrent to the buyers of sex. This law has become known as the Swedish or Nordic Model, and has been adopted by a growing number of countries including Norway, Iceland, France, and Ireland. **Canada adopted the Nordic Model in 2014, but both enforcement and transitioning efforts have been minimal.** There is a direct link between prostitution and human trafficking, hence the importance of charging the abuser, not the abused!

It has been seventy years since the passing the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, in which Canada played a significant role in the person of **John Humphrey**. In 1946 he became director of the United Nations Division on Human Rights, and Eleanor Roosevelt was named the United States representative to the UN's Commission on Human Rights. He was an obscure Canadian law professor. She was the world's most celebrated woman.

For two years, they collaborated in the creation of one of the modern world's great documents, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948. Here is a link to the home page where you will find a wealth of information – including women who helped shape the document which is the is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages! [UN Declaration on Human Rights 2018](#).

Great news about Development & peace – We would like to invite you to a meeting with on **Sunday, December 9th from 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm** at the Pastoral Center (8421 - 101 Avenue NW, Edmonton, in the Assembly Hall) Archbishop Smith would like to meet with the members to update you and discuss the situation with the partners and the funds, as well as to provide a time where you can ask questions and share your perspectives. We hope you can join us! As well, National has decided to forward funds collected to D & P for 2018.

May the Christ who is among us, fill you, your homes and loved ones, with Advent peace, joy and love,  
Sr. Susan Scott