



Ontario Provincial Council
Of The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Community Life Standing Committee

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To: Diocesan Community Life Standing Committee Chairpersons
From: Wilma Vanderzwaag, Ontario Provincial Council, Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson, Sub Committee Chairs: Mary Hawkley and Margaret Vanmeuwen
cc: Diocesan Presidents, Provincial Officers, National Community Life Standing Committee Chairperson

"We are all broken. That's how the light gets in."

E. Hemingway

Human Trafficking

On April 29, 2017, I attended the Annual Conference of The Waterdown Stop Human Trafficking Committee held at Notre Dame Centre, Burlington with Betty Colaneri, National Community Life Chair. The conference was filled with disturbing facts and information but also gave us hope. Michelle Brock introduced the film she produced with her husband, Jared entitled "Over 18". This film featured the many "players" in the porn industry and how pornography affects Canadians, especially the youth. You can watch the film trailer, over18doc.com/ or contact www.over18doc.com/screening to request a viewing of the film for your council as the film is not available for purchase at this time. Please keep in mind the recommended age for viewing is 16+. If your council is considering a viewing, please invite the feeder high school youth that would benefit as well as all the parishioners. Another film is "Red Light, Green Light" as well as a resource website on human trafficking--hopeforthesoul.com. Greed and power are the root causes for pornography and human trafficking. Pornography is the imagination of a real relationship without the "connection" therefore it is for self gratification only. Pornography leads to a sexually exploitive culture and increases the demand for prostitution and human trafficking. Pornography did a lot of research and development for the internet. They developed "pop-ups" and key holes that progress further on pornographic websites. To keep your computers safe for your children under the age of 18 consider purchasing "KidsWifi" which stops all sites that are not appropriate for their viewing. To learn more about internet safety go to kidswifi.com and thedoorthatsnotlocked.ca. There is also an excellent book "Good Pictures Bad Pictures" that is perfect for reading with your children to begin the conversation about pornography. Attached is a letter to send regarding Motion M47 about the formal study on degradation of men, women and children on the internet. It was passed in December 2016 and once the report comes out meaningful change can begin especially regarding age verification on adult websites. Today over 18 years of age websites can be accessed just by clicking that you are over 18, no verification is required. Send this letter so that

our government knows this is an important issue to us. In 2016 Canada was the third highest pornography consumer per capita in the world. A very sobering statistic. There are things we can all do to help:

- 1) Fortify your children and grandchildren internally and externally. Start a dialogue with your children—take that awkward first step. Cars are a good place to talk as it is easier than face to face. Another fact—60% of students surveyed said they watch pornography in order to learn more about sex.
- 2) Mourn what is happening to our culture and feel sad that this is happening.
- 3) KidsWifi creates a second wireless in your home and filters out all adult websites and also control the times internet can be on.
- 4) No cell phones in the bedroom at night.

The message was clear at this conference—pornography is the dress rehearsal and prostitution is the main act. We fight human trafficking when we work to stop pornography.

Development and Peace

There is a humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, Somalia and northeastern Nigeria. It is estimated that 20 million people are in danger of dying of hunger in the coming months. D&P is working alongside their partners to deliver emergency aid to those in need. Please consider donating to help this crisis and these people that are desperate.

Basic income

Income security can be challenging in an economy where there are structural changes to the labour market. As a three-year pilot project, the government has recently introduced a Basic Income Pilot in three communities: Hamilton, Thunder Bay and Lindsay. Eligible participants aged 18 to 64 earning below a specified amount will receive regular payments. Watch for updates in the news on the progress of this pilot project.

Blessings and peace,

Wilma