

Canadian Delegation to the  
Organization for Security & Cooperation  
in Europe



Délégation du Canada auprès de  
l'Organisation pour la sécurité et la coopération  
en Europe

ENGLISH only

**DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OSCE  
STATEMENT BY FREDERICKA GREGORY, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES  
ON COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS  
739<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE PERMANENT COUNCIL  
13 NOVEMBER 2008**

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada welcomes the 2008 Annual Report OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms. Eva Biaudet. We will be studying it carefully.

As with other countries' experiences, it is difficult to estimate the true extent of human trafficking within Canada or the illicit revenue it generates for criminals. This is due to the clandestine nature of this activity. Other contributing factors include reluctance on the part of victims to come forward, the challenge of distinguishing between human trafficking and migrant smuggling in practice, and inconsistency in reporting on human trafficking.

Canada is no exception to this problem. Our country is believed to be both a transit and destination country for trafficking. Historically, organized crime groups in Canada have been most involved in the trafficking of persons from countries such as China, South Korea, Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Russia and Latin America. We know that trafficking can, and does, occur within our borders. What is certain is that trafficking of human beings is an unacceptable phenomenon and Canada takes it very seriously.

Through the dedicated efforts and excellent work of the OSCE's Special Representative and Co-ordinator and her team, we now have a more comprehensive understanding of the scope of this global trade. Canada supports having a Ministerial Decision in Helsinki on a victim-centered approach to human trafficking. We wish to thank the Finnish Chairman-in-Office for piloting this important invitation.

We now know that this grotesque trade in human life generates billions of dollars in illicit profits each year and that trafficking is amongst the world's most profitable crimes. We also know that a majority of trafficking victims are girls and women under the age of 25.

Because of the myriad components necessary to address this issues, we must continue to develop collaborative and multi-disciplinary responses. Only through efforts which address these different components-- be it health, human rights, criminal justice, or immigration—can we be successful. This is the comprehensive approach that Canada takes and will continue to take, both domestically and abroad.

While we know more about this crime today than we did only a decade ago, we must continue to strengthen our responses. And we believe that such efforts should be guided by the “4Ps”. The prevention of trafficking, the protection of victims, the prosecution of offenders, and the building of partnerships between governments, NGOs, and all stakeholders involved in this effort. Recent Canadian efforts in this regard include:

- developing and delivering training to law enforcement, border and immigration officials at all levels and civil society on the identification of trafficked victims as well as the new trafficking offences;
- supporting various prevention and awareness raising efforts at home and abroad;
- working with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on two projects: the development of model anti-TIP (trafficking in persons) legislation; and the development of advanced training manuals for judges, prosecutors and police officers; and,
- exploring the feasibility of a national data collection framework to increase our understanding of TIP in Canada

To conclude, human trafficking is a global problem which affects all countries. Canada will continue its efforts to combat human trafficking, recognizing that we all, collectively, have some distance to go. We look forward to working with our international partners to address this serious issue.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.