

Human Trafficking Awareness Week

OCTOBER 16th - OCTOBER 20th 2023

This is a two tiered 'Awareness Event' request

- ❖ 1. On behalf of the Catholic Women's League of St. Padre Pio Parish in Kleinburg, I am respectfully requesting that the City of Vaughan Council proclaim October 16th to October 20th as Human Trafficking Awareness Week. We intend to promote awareness within our parishes, schools and community about the different aspects of child exploitation and the trafficking of migrant workers
- ❖ 2. Secondly, a formal request was submitted to the Clerk's Office on behalf of The Parish of St. Padre Pio, to request a Flag Raising at the City of Vaughan offices on Sunday, Oct 15th from 2p to 3pm. We have the approval and support of the Archdiocese of Toronto for this request so I am respectfully requesting the Flag Raising with this presentation.

This summer, members of our council were able to see the film, The “Sound of Freedom”

Although, we thought we were educated on the child pornography and trafficking issues, we weren’t prepared for the hard truth that this movie revealed. The “Sound of Freedom” lit a fire in our hearts to do something.



WHITE RIBBON AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY

- ▶ **Before 2008, the age for sexual consent in Canada was 14 which meant that Canada had become a tourist destination for young teens, if that 14 year old consented.**
- ▶ **The Catholic Women's League of Canada embraced a campaign called "White Ribbon Against Pornography" and the City of Vaughan had the foresight to recognize the importance of awareness and internet safety for our children.**
- ▶ **York Regional Police began presenting to our schools**

- ▶ In 2008, the age for sexual consent was raised to 16
- ▶ Fast forward 20 years and you'll find that one section of the age of consent law in Canada specifies that a 12 or 13 year old can consent to sexual activity with a partner as long as the partner is **less than two years older** *and* there is no relationship of trust, authority or dependency or any other exploitation of the young person. 12 and 13 year olds?

The greatest consumer of child pornography in the world is the United States.



Canada is 3rd

- ▶ It is more lucrative to sell a child than sell drugs because children can be sold more than once.

Our Action Plan

- Youth speaking to youth to make them aware of online luring and the dangers of sharing intimate pictures.
- More awareness presentations in the classrooms and to parents and caregivers
- Pamphlets and dialoguing
- Donations through fundraising to charities like One Child



ONE CHILD EXPLOITED IS ONE CHILD TOO MANY.

'Salty Dawg' Pub Night Fundraiser

Friday, Oct. 20th 6 to 9p

- ▶ That's right, a Catholic Church raising money for a charity raffle in a pub!



FLAG RAISING SUNDAY, OCT. 15th 2 TO 3PM

The Flag was designed by CWL members of the parish of St. Ann's in Saskatoon.

- ❖ The Flag has a definite Indigenous representation.
- ❖ The darkened fingertips represent the darkness of human trafficking
- ❖ The primarily brown and black hands of our migrant labourers are also represented.
- ❖ The message is clear



SMUDGING THE FLAG

