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June 14, 2012

Senator Bob Runciman
Chair of the Senate Committee
351 East Block
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

Dear Mr. Runciman,

The CRCVC is writing to express our support for Bill C-310, an *Act to Amend the Definition of Exploitation*. As you are aware the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime (CRCVC) was established in 1993 to help give victims a voice within the Canadian justice system. At the CRCVC we believe in advocating for individuals that are marginalized within Canadian society including victims of human trafficking. Human trafficking and exploitation are serious criminal acts that transgress border crossings and it is imperative that the *Canadian Criminal Code* is reflective of this without delay.

The current definition regarding offences in relation to trafficking in persons and exploitation within the *Criminal Code* lacks sufficient wording and does not provide significant guidance for the courts when prosecuting offenders of these heinous crimes. It is the CRCVC's belief that clear and specific wording must be established, as per the wording within Bill C-310. When offenders of human trafficking and exploitation are not adequately prosecuted it allows for these individuals to expand their network and continue to victimize and exploit women, children and men across the globe. For these reasons it is critical for Bill C-310 to proceed through the Senate Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs without amendment. Any amendments would require Bill C-310 to go back to the House of Commons, impeding its passage until late fall.

It is imperative that we, as Canadians, realize the effects of human trafficking and understand that this is a crime that has no borders. Preventing these acts and protecting at-risk individuals must be at the forefront of our policies, laws and legislation. In addition, we need to be educated and aware that these types of crimes will continue to be committed on and off Canadian soil. It must be stated within legislation that Canadian citizens will not be exempted from prosecution if they commit these atrocious crimes outside of Canadian borders by applying international jurisdiction. Canada is a country that is at the forefront of the world stage, and as a nation, we need to show that crimes against humanity will be prosecuted at Canadian standards. Bill C-310, as it is currently written, has the full support of the Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of Crime.

Sincerely,

Heidi Illingworth
Executive Director