



RESPONSE TO PETITION

Prepare in English and French marking 'Original Text' or 'Translation'

PETITION No.: **421-02925**

BY: **Ms. PAUZÉ (REPENTIGNY)**

DATE: **NOVEMBER 20, 2018**

PRINT NAME OF SIGNATORY: **THE HONOURABLE DAVID LAMETTI**

Response by the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada

SIGNATURE

Minister or Parliamentary Secretary

SUBJECT

Human trafficking

ORIGINAL TEXT

REPLY

The Government is committed to addressing trafficking in persons, including by ensuring the availability of the tools necessary to investigate and prosecute this crime. That is why, through Bill C-75, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Youth Criminal Justice Act and other Acts and to make consequential amendments to other Acts*, which was introduced on March 29, 2018, our Government is taking steps to bring into force all proposed reforms in Bill C-452, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (exploitation and trafficking in persons)*, except for its mandatory consecutive sentencing provision, because it raises concerns under section 12 of the *Charter* (cruel and unusual punishment).

Once in force, the amendments would help prosecutors prove one of the elements of the trafficking offence – that the accused exercised control or influence over the movements of a victim – by proving that the accused lived with or was habitually in the company of the victim. This would make the offence easier to prove and would reduce the likelihood that victims of trafficking would have to testify in court. It would also put the onus on a convicted offender to prove that their property is not proceeds of crime in certain circumstances. This would make it easier for the state to seize the proceeds of this very serious crime.

The Government remains committed to strengthening criminal law responses to trafficking in persons, including by working in partnership with criminal justice professionals and civil society to prevent instances of trafficking in persons, protect victims and prosecute offenders.