



3350 South Service Road Burlington Ontario L7N 3M6

Friday November 9, 2018

Karen Vecchio MP
Chair Standing Committee on the Status of Women
6th Floor, 131 Queen Street
House of Commons
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6

Dear Ms. Vecchio:

Re: Housing for Survivors of Human Trafficking

I write on behalf of Advancement of Women Halton (AWH) a coalition of community groups located in the Region of Halton, which seeks to promote the advancement of women by developing and supporting social, political, cultural and economic strategies to achieve gender equality municipally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

One of our members, Alma Arguello, Executive Director of SAVIS of Halton, recently made a presentation to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women. The views expressed in her brief are very specific to the problems experienced in the Halton Region and AWH would like to take this opportunity to support its conclusions.

In the Halton Region, a geographical area that includes Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Georgetown, and Acton, there are minimal housing supports available for women and children who have experienced domestic violence. In fact, there is only one shelter, Halton's Women's Place, that is specific for women and their children seeking refuge from domestic violence.

Because of its location, with a highway running from the US border to Toronto, sex trafficking is a major concern. Halton has become a "major hub" for human trafficking and sexual violence, with most survivors being local underage girls and young women. In the Halton region, trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation regularly occurs in hotels along the highways of the QEW, 401, and 403 corridors.

The Sexual Assault & Violence Intervention Services (SAVIS) of Halton received funding from Status of Women Canada to coordinate the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking pilot project. They identified a need to provide shelter for women escaping sex trafficking but

found that the problem was not a simple one or easy to resolve, since these women have needs that cannot easily be met by Halton Women's Place.

AWH wholeheartedly supports the recommendation that instead of using a domestic violence/ violence against women model, housing supports are also needed to cater directly to the unique and multifaceted experiences of survivors of human trafficking.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tina Agrell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Tina Agrell
Chair, Advancement of Women Halton

CC: The Honourable Karina Gould MP Burlington
Pam Damoff MP Oakville North-Burlington
The Honourable Lisa Raitt MP Milton
John Oliver MP Oakville
The Honourable Michael Chong MP Wellington-Halton Hills