

The logo for 'VOICE FOR THE SILENT' is displayed in white, uppercase letters on a dark rectangular background. The words 'VOICE' and 'SILENT' are larger, with 'FOR THE' in smaller text centered between them.

VOICE^{FOR}_{THE} SILENT

- Combatting Human Trafficking -

Canadian Human Trafficking Bills

Human trafficking is a pressing issue in Canada, affecting thousands of vulnerable individuals each year. As a survivor and advocate, I am committed to pushing for legislative changes that provide **stronger protections for victims, harsher penalties for traffickers, and expanded support services for survivors**. Below is an in-depth explanation of four key bills that aim to combat trafficking and exploitation in Canada.

Bill S-210 – Protecting Children from Online Exploitation Act

Purpose:

Bill S-210 seeks to protect minors from exposure to sexually explicit content online by requiring strict age verification measures on adult websites and platforms that host explicit content.

Key Provisions:

- **Mandatory age verification for users attempting to access pornographic material online.**
- **Prevention of minors' exposure to explicit content that could contribute to grooming and exploitation.**
- **Increased accountability for platforms hosting sexually explicit material, ensuring they comply with strict verification policies.**

Why It's Important:

- **Online platforms are a common recruitment tool for traffickers. Many victims are first contacted through social media or exposed to exploitative content that normalizes coercion.**
 - **Exposure to pornographic material at a young age increases vulnerability to grooming and exploitation.**
 - **Strengthening online safety laws can prevent traffickers from luring minors into exploitation.**
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Bill C-270 – Stopping Internet Sexual Exploitation (SISE) Act

Purpose:

Bill C-270 aims to combat the non-consensual sharing of intimate images and prevent traffickers from using explicit content as a form of coercion and control.

Key Provisions:

- **Requires written, express consent before uploading or sharing intimate images.**
- **Gives victims the legal right to demand immediate removal of their images from online platforms.**
- **Holds websites accountable for failing to remove non-consensual content in a timely manner.**

Why It's Important:

- **Traffickers often use explicit images to blackmail victims into continued exploitation.**

- Many survivors struggle for years to get non-consensual images removed, suffering ongoing trauma.
 - The bill ensures survivors can reclaim their dignity and control over their digital footprint.
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Bill C-308 – Strengthening Financial Support for Survivors of Human Trafficking Act

Purpose:

Bill C-308 ensures that survivors of human trafficking have access to long-term financial support, enabling them to escape exploitation and rebuild their lives with housing, job training, and social services.

Key Provisions:

- Expands financial aid programs specifically for trafficking survivors.
- Ensures survivors have access to stable housing, career training, and trauma recovery services.
- Supports long-term economic independence, reducing the risk of re-exploitation.

Why It's Important:

- Many survivors escape with no financial resources, making them vulnerable to homelessness and re-trafficking.
 - Economic stability is one of the biggest factors in preventing survivors from returning to dangerous situations.
 - This bill recognizes that financial aid is just as important as legal support in a survivor's recovery journey.
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Bill S-263 – Strengthening Laws Against Human Trafficking

Purpose:

Bill S-263 enhances Canada's legal framework to better prosecute traffickers and hold those who enable trafficking accountable.

Key Provisions:

- Increases penalties for human trafficking-related crimes, ensuring traffickers face harsher consequences.
- Expands legal definitions to hold traffickers, enablers, and facilitators accountable.
- Provides law enforcement and prosecutors with stronger tools to investigate trafficking networks.

Why It's Important:

- Many traffickers escape justice due to loopholes in current laws.
- Some businesses knowingly benefit from human trafficking but evade responsibility.
- This bill sends a clear message that trafficking will not be tolerated and that those profiting from it will face serious legal consequences.

Why These Bills Matter Together

Each of these bills targets a different part of the human trafficking issue:

- S-210 prevents online recruitment and grooming.
- C-270 protects survivors from digital sexual exploitation.
- C-308 ensures survivors get financial support to rebuild their lives.
- S-263 strengthens legal consequences for traffickers.

Call to Action:

Supporting these bills is essential to making real progress in protecting survivors, preventing exploitation, and ensuring traffickers face justice. I urge policymakers, advocates, and community members to push for these changes and demand action.

Together, we can create a Canada where survivors are supported, traffickers are held accountable, and communities are safer for everyone.

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