

Joint Submission to call : Stop the Bill 251
Stopping Ford's Covert Expansion of Policing
Date: June 1, 2021
Submission to City of Toronto

Over 80 organizations and 1500 individuals have signed & the statement as well as committed to stand in solidarity and fight against Bill 251: &

Ontarians watched in disbelief and horror as Premier Doug Ford exploited the deadly third wave of COVID-19 to reinstate the racist and reprehensible practice of carding. Many have sprung into action to resist. But outside of public scrutiny, Premier Ford continues to expand policing powers in Ontario in other ways.

Ontario's Bill 251 is named the Combating Human Trafficking Act, but this law will do nothing to prevent human trafficking. Bill 251 will only expand police powers to racially profile all residents while targeting sex workers. Because the law is framed as being about "protection" and "combating human trafficking" Bill 251 has thus far escaped scrutiny despite its dangerous and far-reaching consequences.

Bill 251 gives unchecked power to police and a new cadre of "inspectors" — including the ability to conduct sweeping surveillance with no oversight. This will put more Black, Indigenous and racialized communities, especially migrants, youth, women and sex workers at risk. These powers include:

1. The power of the government to appoint provincial inspectors for the purposes of this law, who "may, without a warrant or notice, and at any time, enter and inspect any place" to determine compliance with the law and its regulations (regulations will be created once the law has passed).
2. Unfettered powers for these inspectors to examine, demand, remove or copy any "thing that is or may be relevant to the inspection".
3. The power to "question a person on any matter that is or may be relevant to the inspection, including questioning a person separate from others." Non-compliance is a punishable offence, subject to a fine of \$50,000 or \$100,000 for an individual or corporation, respectively, violating protections against self-incrimination.
4. Hotels and other rentals (including possibly AirBnBs) are required to record all guest information. This information must be shared with the police if demanded, potentially without any court order.
5. Expanded power for law enforcement and child protection workers to detain youth under

the age of 18 (including 16-17 year olds) under this Act “for their protection” and force them to receive social services.

6. Sex workers are being targeted by law enforcement and making it more difficult to work safely.

These additional law enforcement powers reinforce the conflation of sex work and human trafficking, and in doing so allows police to further criminalize sex workers and surveil and harass communities associated with sex work. Our communities have spoken out against the harms of criminalization and demand the decriminalization of our work. In Ontario and across the country, people increasingly support the call to #DefundThePolice and #AbolishingPolice, yet this bill does exactly the opposite, expanding the budget as well as the scope of policing. This bill is a step in the wrong direction and allows police, inspectors and social workers to target, surveil and forcibly detain us under the guise of claiming to “protect” and “rescue” us.

Add your name to this statement:

“We call on all Ontario provincial political parties and Members of Provincial Parliament to reject Bill 251. We call on Ontario to stop the expansion of policing, defund police services, and redirect resources towards marginalized communities. We further call on Ontario to adopt a human rights-based approach to human trafficking that centers labour rights, migrant rights, and sex workers’ rights and addresses the numerous structural barriers including poverty, precarious immigration status, and lack of access to affordable housing, health and social services that contribute to the risks of human trafficking.”

For more information:

Joint submission from HIV Legal Network & Butterfly

<http://www.hivlegallnetwork.ca/site/joint-submission-on-bill-251-combating-human-trafficking-act-2021/?lang=en> !

No Pride in Policing Coalition (NPPC) Statement on Bill 251

<https://noprideinpolicing.ca/bill251/>

ANSWERS

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

African Sex Workers Alliance

AQUA (Asian Queer Alliance)

Asociación Civil Cambio y Acción

Asociación de mujeres ts liquidambar

BAYSWAN

Butterfly (Asian and Migrant Sex Workers Support Network)

Canadian Alliance for Sex Work Law Reform

CAYR Community Connections

Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity

Chinese Canadian Collective
Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter
Coalition of Student Employee Unions
Collaborative Community Solutions
Communities Against Criminalization
Community Justice Collective
CSSP Legal Clinic
Decent Work and Health Network
Decriminalize Sex Work
Doctors for Defunding Police
Empower Foundation
Families of Sisters in Spirit (FSIS)
FCJ REFUGEE CENTRE
Filipinas of HamOnt
False Creek Pure Den
Freedom United
Friends of Chinatown Toronto
Gay Men's Sexual Health Alliance
Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women Canada
Good For Her
Graduate Employees Organization at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Hamilton Asian Alliance
Hamilton & District Labour Council
Harm Reduction Hawaii
Harmony House
Health Providers Against Poverty
HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario
HIV Legal Network
Hollaback! Ottawa
Indigenous Primary Health Care Council
Justice for Migrant Workers
Kensington market tenant network
LAEN- The Latinx, Afro-Latin-America, Abya Yala Education Network
Latinx, Afro-Latin-America, Abya Yala Education Network
Le PIaMP
LEFÖ - Beratung, Bildung und Begleitung für Migrantinnen
London Children's Connection
Minneapolis SSDP
Migrante Ontario
Moms Stop The Harm
Museum Professionals of Colour
New Harlem Productions
No One Is Illegal
Ontario Coalition Against Poverty
OCASI - Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants
No Pride in Policing Coalition

North York Women's Shelter !
OHIP for All !
Ottawa Coalition to End Violence Against Women !
Parkdale Community Legal Services !
Pride Toronto !
Projet L.U.N.E. !
Poverty Kills 2020 !
POWER (Prostitutes of Ottawa-Gatineau Work Educate Resist) !
Punch Up Collective !
Queer Ontario !
Queer Sex Workers Initiative for Refugees !
Queerit !
Rittenhouse: A New Vision !
Radical Access Mapping Project !
SAFETY Ottawa !
Sanctuary Students Solidarity & Support Collective !
Sex Professionals of Canada (SPOC) !
Sex Workers' Action Network of Waterloo Region !
Sex Workers of Winnipeg Action Coalition !
SWIM (Sex Workers Industrial Movement) !
Sistering !
South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario !
South Riverdale Community Health Centre !
St James Infirmary !
Stella, l'amie de Maimie !
Sudbury Workers Education and Advocacy Centre !
SURK Toronto !
SWAN Waterloo !
SWAP Hamilton !
SWOP BEHIND BARS !
Talk Future Canada !
Tea Base !
The Bike Brigade !
The Biking Lawyer LLP !
The Leap !
The People's Pantry !
Toronto Prisoners Rights Project !
Toronto Street Nurses Network !
Trans Pride Toronto !
University of Toronto Law Union !
Utsopi, Belgium !
WomanACT !
Whose Corner Is It Anyway !

Contact : !

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