



### **Submission in Support of Motion EX24.11**

As an anti-human trafficking organization, the Collaborative Network to End Exploitation (CNEE) echoes the concerns by Councillor Wong-Tam about Bill 251, Combating Human Trafficking Act, 202, expressed in the motion EX24.11 to the Executive Committee of the Toronto City Council.

The stated purpose of this bill is to combat human trafficking and provide support for survivors. However, the legislation is focused on a law enforcement approach which oftentimes is ineffective in addressing human trafficking. Expanding the surveillance and punitive powers of law enforcement will adversely affect Asian, Indigenous, Black and racialized communities, especially migrants, youth, women, and sex workers at risk: communities already subjected to increased racial profiling and arrests.

Human trafficking is a complex issue that results in grave human rights violations. Any new legislation to tackle this phenomenon effectively should address the social, economic, and cultural factors which make people targets for traffickers. Root causes such as social exclusion, precarious immigration status, homelessness, poverty, gender inequality, lack of education, lack of good job opportunities, racism and colonialism need to be addressed at the systemic level. Comprehensive anti-human trafficking legislation must attend to these issues.

Granting police and specially appointed inspectors unfettered powers to enter and inspect any place without warrant or notice runs counter to the human rights framework that must be taken to address this crime. Moreover, it has the potential to produce more violence and invasion of privacy.

We are joining Councillor Wong-Tam in her appeal to the Ontario government to amend Bill 251 and immediately consult with all affected communities to ensure that any legislation will be rooted in human rights and respect for the dignity of every person. We trust that the City Council will ensure that the human rights of all residents of Toronto are respected and their concerns addressed.

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