

Canadian Group
Inter-Parliamentary Union



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**Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation
to the Parliamentary Forum on the Occasion of the Vienna
Forum to Fight Human Trafficking**

Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

**Vienna, Austria
12 February 2008**

Report of the Canadian Parliamentary Delegation to the Parliamentary Forum on the Occasion of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking

Organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Parliament of the Republic of Austria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

1. Background

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, a gathering of governmental and nongovernmental organization as well as members of civil society organized by the United Nations, was held from the 13 to 15 February 2008 in the hopes of raising awareness and forging a coalition against human trafficking. The Inter-Parliamentary Union, in association with the Parliament of the Republic of Austria and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), held a one-day Parliamentary Forum on 12 February 2008 as a prelude to the Vienna Forum.

2. Programme for the Parliamentary Forum

The programme for the Parliamentary Forum provided a framework for parliamentarians from 58 countries to share relevant experiences and best practices in the global fight against human trafficking. Among the highlights, a mock trial was staged for the purposes of exposing some of the areas for improvement and identifying recommended practices in dealing with the victims of human trafficking.

3. The Canadian Delegation

Members of national parliaments, expert academics, prominent personalities as well as representatives of civil society organizations took part in the Parliamentary Forum. The following Canadian parliamentarian attended:

- The Honourable Gerard A. Phalen, Senator

4. The Panel

The Panel examined from a parliamentary perspective the root causes of trafficking such as the negative effects of globalization, poverty, conflict, gender inequality and poor governance. Special focus was placed on the so-called three-pronged approach to fight trafficking: prevention, prosecution and protection. It was hosted by Mrs. Barbara Prammer, Speaker of the Austrian National Council, and included the following panellists:

- Mrs. Emma Thompson, Academy Award Winning Actress, UK and Member of UN.GIFT Women's Leadership Council
- Ms. Kristiina Kangaspunta, Chief of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU), UNODC

- Ms. Riikka Puttonen, Crime Prevention Officer AHTU, UNODC
- Mr. Mohammed Mattar, Professor, Johns Hopkins University
- Mrs. Darinka Stantcheva, Member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly
- Mr. Fernando Garcia-Robels, Coordinator of the Section against Trafficking in Persons, OAS
- Ms. Helga Konrad, Ph.D. Former Minister for Women's Issues, Former Special Representative of the OSCE on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Former Member of the Austrian Federal Parliament
- Mr. Andrew Dismore, MP, House of Commons, United Kingdom

The Parliamentary Forum revealed the severity and complexity of the phenomenon of human trafficking. Through various interactive sessions, the panellists pointed out the role of parliamentarians in establishing a comprehensive political and legal environment to aid in combating the problem. Budgetary concerns must also be considered. Given the complexity of the problem, the response should be equally complex.

All told, the Parliamentary Forum provided those in attendance a unique opportunity to learn more about human trafficking and be part of a multiple stakeholder solution to fight the phenomenon.

5. Next Steps

With the debate on the matter of migration and human trafficking due to take place at the 118th IPU Assembly in Cape Town, South Africa in April 2008, the participants see an opportunity to further the debate and foster greater cooperation among parliaments and parliamentarians.

Respectfully submitted,

The Honourable Donald H. Oliver, Q.C., Senator
President, Canadian Group IPU

Travel Costs

ASSOCIATION	Canadian Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
ACTIVITY	Parliamentary Forum on the Occasion of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking
DESTINATION	Vienna, Austria
DATES	February 12, 2008
DELEGATION	
SENATE	The Honourable Gerard A. Phalen
HOUSE OF COMMONS	
STAFF	Mr. Mark D'Amore, Association Secretary
TRANSPORTATION	\$8,250.29
ACCOMMODATION	\$ 949.44
HOSPITALITY	
PER DIEMS	\$ 209.87
OFFICIAL GIFTS	
MISCELLANEOUS/REGISTRATION FEES	
TOTAL	\$9,409.60