From: Booklore

To: <u>sanderson@dufferincounty.ca</u>

Cc: <u>Jennifer Willoughby</u>

Subject: proclamation for Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Date:Monday, January 24, 2022 12:04:04 PMAttachments:CrvNot 2022 press release final.pdf

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Good morning Steve and Jennifer,

Steve I'm following up on our phone conversation and my role in CryNot. CryNot is a volunteer-driven group interested in spreading awareness and education about the threat of human trafficking in Dufferin-Caledon. In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Day, CryNot is hosting a live webinar on February 22 from 7-8pm. It will be a factual presentation about sex trafficking and six panel members ranging from community and victim service groups and law enforcement to a member of a victim's family will answer questions. I'm attaching my press release for more information.

In recognition of Human Trafficking Awareness Day we are asking if a proclamation declaring Human Trafficking Awareness Day, Feb 22 in the town of Shelburne can come from either you or Mayor Mills. I've already sent a request for Warden Mills to sign a proclamation for Dufferin County.

Jennifer, could you take a photo of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor signing and email it to me please? Since this is such an important issue we would like to see our website filled with photos showing support from our Mayors and Deputy Mayors. I can send a copy of some of the proclamations from last year if needed.

Many thanks,

Nancy Frater/CryNot

For Immediate Release

Fight Human Trafficking: Tune Into a Live Interactive Webinar National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, February 22, 2022

Humiliation; Abuse; Violence; Terrifying Threats; Separation from Family and Friends! It's not what a young person signs up for but it's what happens when young girls and boys are trafficked into the world's commercial sex trade. It's the human tragedy behind human trafficking and it's happening in our homes, our schools and our Dufferin-Caledon community.

A year ago, the Rotary Club of Orangeville and Compass Community Church formed a volunteer-driven group called CryNot (Compass Rotary Youth – No Trafficking) to raise awareness and promote education about the threat of human trafficking in our area. Bob Burnside who initially spearheaded CryNot suggests that "The first thing in addressing human trafficking is to realize that it exists, its origins and its symptoms and the devastating results."

We know that young people in Dufferin-Caledon are being lured into sex trafficking through manipulation by predators, promises of love, affection and gifts, provision of drugs and alcohol, threats and violence. In recognition of **Human Trafficking Awareness Day** CryNot is planning **Q&A**, a live, free interactive webinar on February 22, 7-8pm. Six professionals ranging from community and victim service groups and law enforcement to a victim's family member will answer questions regarding the risks, signs and prevention of this sinister crime. Their input places a human face on what is a billion dollar business based on the coercion of vulnerable youth. **Registration is required** and is accessed via the CryNot website crynot.ca

During the pandemic, exploitation has moved online making it easier for predators to contact and groom at-risk youth, some as young as 12 or 13 years old. According to current CryNot Chair, Jim Kerr, "Police inform us that there are over 6000 unique advertisements for sex services every day in the digital realm and many are related to sex trafficking. The whole scope of the tragedy is frankly shocking."

The prevention of sex trafficking requires a total community effort. Join the webinar, explore the website crynot.ca, and request a group presentation. If you suspect someone is being trafficked or you need help contact:

Caledon-Dufferin Victim Services 1-888-742-2658 or 1-888-743-6496

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline 1-833-900-1010

The crime of sexual exploitation is likened to modern day slavery. As one of our board members says "Being trafficked has been described as "hell on earth." By creating awareness CryNot hopes to spare young people in our community from falling victim to predators."

Proclamation:

Whereas, National Human Trafficking Awareness day was established on February 22, 2007, in the House of Commons to encourage Canadians to raise awareness of the magnitude of modern day slavery in Canada and abroad and to take steps to combat human trafficking; and

Whereas, between 2009 to 2018, the police reported 1,708 incidents of human trafficking in Canada; and

Whereas, between 2018 to 2019, Dufferin Child Victim Services were made aware of 22 victims of human trafficking, with seven being youth under the age of 18;

and Whereas, CRYNOT.ca (Compass Rotary Youth-No Trafficking) is a volunteerdriven group comprised of the Rotary Club of Orangeville and Compass Community Church to raise awareness to the concern of human trafficking in the Dufferin Caledon community;

Whereas, the mission of Cry Not is to reduce and eliminate human trafficking by raising awareness, foster collaboration among like groups and organizations, equip adults with connections and resources available to defeat the threat of human trafficking, and to create and maintain digital information;

Now Therefore, I, Mayor Wade Mills, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2022, as "National Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Day" in the Town of Shelburne.