

# 2015-2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Founded in 2004, CATHII's objective is to fight human trafficking, particularly of women and children. Its role is to study and select strategies to address human trafficking. Its efforts include awareness raising, education and promoting fair solutions that respect the rights of victims of human trafficking, particularly women and children.

## **2015-2016 Board of Directors**

Francine Cabana (CRC): Chair  
Huguette Matte (SIAF): Deputy Chair  
Bineta Ba (CND): Treasurer  
Claudette Bastien, SNJM: Secretary  
Lorette Langlais, SBC: Director

## **Regular employees**

Sylvie Gagnon: CATHII Coordinator  
Winnie Eloundou: Coordinator for the Coalition québécoise contre la traite des personnes

## **Contract employees:**

Suzanne Lafontaine: Bookkeeping  
Marc Simard: IT support  
Umberto Cirrito: Graphic design

## **Volunteers:**

Béline Marineau: Twitter feed  
Laurie Laplante: CATHII study presentation tools



## **A word from the Chair**

*The year 2015-2016 was filled with a wide variety of events and activities at the CATHII, as this annual report reflects. Some members had to leave us for different reasons, but new people came on board, demonstrating the vitality of the CATHII.*

*All of the challenges from this year are important and will continue to play themselves out. However, I would like to address two points. Replacing Claudette Bastien as chair during the year, I was struck by the focus and dedication of members of the Board of Directors in wholeheartedly supporting the work of Sylvie, our permanent employee. They are to be congratulated.*

*The other thing that made an impact on me was the meeting of February 25, 2016, when an exhibition gave us a chance to “meet” some ten women who have fought slavery and human trafficking. It showed us that with courage and commitment, women can accomplish a great deal. These pioneers encourage us to continue in our efforts and join them in their fight. It is something our own pioneers, Lise and Céline, have understood.*

*To my great regret, I had to resign as chair of the CATHII at the end of this year of activities. But I will continue to hold the importance of the CATHII's efforts close to my heart.*

Yours in solidarity,  
**Francine Cabana**

# 2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS



## **Improve services to victims of human trafficking**

This is a priority issue for the CATHII. The CATHII coordinates the Coalition québécoise contre la traite des personnes, which it created. Stakeholders from some 40 organizations come together so that victims of human trafficking can seamlessly receive the services they need: housing, physical and mental health care, legal advice regarding immigration status, support for legal action against traffickers, information about rights, support for social reinsertion and more.

This year, stakeholders took part in presentations on how to fight the sexual exploitation of women,

compensation for victims of criminal acts, services offered by the Crime Victims Assistance Centre, the Mobilis model, which is a partnership between the Centre jeunesse de la Montérégie and the region's police services, and the Montréal Women's Y's youth project.

Meetings were also held to discuss cases of human trafficking and work together on finding solutions to problems.



## **Getting better training to take more effective action**

The CATHII has been a partner in a training project entitled Fighting the Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking for Prostitution of Women, with the Université du Québec à Montréal's Service aux collectivités, the Quebec Coalition of Sexual Assault Centres and the Concertation des luttes contre l'exploitation sexuelle. The project trained trainers, who in turn offered training to 580 people across Quebec.

The members of the CATHII conducted a simulation of the Universal Periodic Review on Canada's performance with respect to its human trafficking commitments made to the United Nations. This involved

starting to prepare for Canada's next review, which will take place in 2018 and in which the CATHII hopes to participate.

In February, members of the CATHII attended a presentation of the CATHII study Frontline Responses to Human Trafficking in Canada: Coordinating Services for Victims.

At the request of the Réseau des répondantes diocésaines à la condition des femmes and the Table de pastorale sociale du diocèse de Nicolet, the CATHII provided training on human trafficking.

# 2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS



## Better understanding human trafficking

A study was conducted by the CATHII in partnership with McGill University's School of Social Work. Working with the professor Jill Hanley, Jesse Beatson, a student in psychiatry who wants to work with victims of forced labour, completed an inventory of all cases of forced labour in Canada as mentioned in the court registers, newspaper articles and specialized research. What emerges from this portrait is that very few complaints are laid about forced labour and that the fear of being deported prevents people from bringing accusations against employers. In fact, all victims had



a precarious immigration status. And few organizations are interested in the issue of forced labour.

## Raising public awareness

One way the CATHII raised public awareness was to be a partner for the "Buying Sex is not a Sport" campaign initiated by the Phare des Affranchi(e)s that ran during the Grand Prix du Canada, which takes place in June in Montreal and attracts throngs of visitors.

This campaign received a great deal of media attention. For the first time, the Government of Québec joined the campaign. Women in the sex industry are at greater risk of becoming victims of trafficking for prostitution.

**Acheter du sexe n'est pas un sport.**  
Au Canada c'est criminel.

**Buying sex is not a sport.**  
In Canada it's criminal.

Initiative de Phare des Affranchi(e)s  
En collaboration avec le Y des Femmes de Montréal, le CLES et le gouvernement du QUÉBEC

Québec  
LES FEMMES DE MONTRÉAL  
CLES  
Québec

# 2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS



## Show solidarity with aboriginal women

CATHII members participated in:

- In October 2015, the World March of Women in the form of the Caravane de solidarité in Trois-Rivières. The theme was “Marching until our bodies, our world and our lands are free.” The CATHII developed a tool that allowed older nuns to take part by entering their name on a pennant. The pennants were brought to the Walk.
- Two vigils in Montreal that attracted attention to missing, murdered and sexually assaulted aboriginal women.
- A letter of support was sent to the Val-d’Or Native Friendship Centre following the revelations made by the TV show *Enquête*.



# 2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS



## Prevention among teens

The CATHII is a partner (working committee and strategic actions committee) on the Montréal Women's Y project called Let's Work Together, which studies the institutional roadblocks that prevent girls and young women age 14 to 25 from breaking free of sexual exploitation and the places they frequent. It offers an appropriate response to the problem. The other goal of the

project is to mobilize partners to create institutional change in schools and communities, to fight the sexual exploitation of young girls.

The CATHII gave a training session on sexual exploitation to students at École Durocher St-Lambert.



## Mobilizing for victims' rights

With the Front de défense des non-syndiqués' committee on migrant work, representations were made in December 2015 to the Office of the Prime Minister of Canada, Justin Trudeau, to improve temporary foreign worker programs to truly enable foreign workers to change employers. He was presented a cartoon with this message (illustration left).

# 2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS



## Celebrate defenders of victims' rights

During the CATHII meeting on February 25, 2016, an exhibition presented some 10 faces of women who have fought slavery and human trafficking from material developed by the memorial of the abolition of slavery in Nantes, France. It was also a chance to pay tribute to two pioneer CATHII facilitators, Céline Dubé CND and Lise Gagnon SNJM.



## Working as part of a network

The CATHII has kept up ties with the Talitha Kum network of religious communities against human trafficking around the world, Franciscans International and the Canadian Council for Refugees, which has a national project on human trafficking.



# 2015-2016 HIGHLIGHTS



## Providing information about human trafficking

Issues of our newsletter, CATHII Info, came out in fall 2015 and spring 2016. They are available on our website.

CATHII's website is a source of information for the general public and for people who work in the fight against human trafficking. You can find all of CATHII's publications and calls to action at [www.cathii.org](http://www.cathii.org).

The Twitter feed features news about human trafficking around the world.

A monthly newsletter is sent to members of the Coalition québécoise contre la traite des personnes to provide information about activities, publications and news about human trafficking.



# CATHII MEMBERS



## Regular members

Association des religieuses pour les droits des femmes (ARDF)  
Canadian Religious Conference  
Congregation of Notre Dame  
Congregation of SNJM (general)  
Congregation of SNJM (province)  
Congregation of Sisters of Saint Anne  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd  
Daughters of Wisdom of Canada  
Franciscan Oblates of St. Joseph  
Province of Canada of Daughters of Jesus  
Réseau des répondantes diocésaines à la condition des femmes  
Service Intercommunautaire d'animation Franciscaine (SIAF)  
Sisters of Our Lady of Apostles  
Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin  
Sisters of the Holy Cross  
Society of Jesus French Canada Province  
Ursulines of the Canadian Union



## Communities in solidarity

Antonian Sisters of Mary Queen of the Clergy	Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph
Capucins	Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary
Daughters Mary of the Assumption	Shepherd Sisters of Quebec
Daughters of Saint Paul	Sisters of Charity - Common Congregational Fund
Dominican Sisters of the Trinity	Sisters of Charity of Saint-Louis
Filles Réparatrices du Divin-Coeur	Sisters of Charity of Ottawa
Foreign Mission Society	Sisters of Notre-Dame-Auxiliatrice
Good Servants of Our Lady Queen of the Clergy	Sisters of Our Lady of Good Counsel of Chicoutimi
Holy Family of Bordeaux	Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Institut Notre-Dame du Bon-Conseil de Montréal	Sisters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
Little Franciscans of Mary	Sisters of Presentation of Mary
Little Sisters of the Holy Family	Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi
Misericordia Sisters of Montreal	Sisters of Saint-Joseph of Saint-Vallier
Missionary Sisters of Christ the King	Sisters of the Holy Cross
Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Angels	Sisters of the Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Missionary Oblate Sisters of St. Boniface	Society of Helpers
Ordre de Prémontré	The Grey Nuns of Montreal