

## Legislation

Events in the last quarter have demonstrated the influence that our Catholic community has on the legal fabric in our country. Two important pieces of legislation being considered by the House of Commons have been advocated for and supported by Catholic organizations.

The CWL has been a strong supporter of Bill 268. This bill would amend the Criminal Code to include a minimum punishment of imprisonment for a term of five years for offences involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years. Bill 268 has gone through second reading in the House of Commons and is now before the Justice and Human Rights Committee. A petition in support of this legislation can be found at

[http://www.joysmith.ca/index.asp?ID=76&cat\\_ID=1&sub\\_ID=398](http://www.joysmith.ca/index.asp?ID=76&cat_ID=1&sub_ID=398).

Bill C300 promotes environmental best practices and respect for international human rights by Canadian corporation involved in mining, oil and gas activities in developing countries. The Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace has advocated of this kind of legislation for some time. Bill C 300 has passed second reading in the House of Commons and is now before the Foreign Affairs and International Development Committee. Additional information can be found at <http://www.johnmckaymp.on.ca/newslist.asp?category=1014>.