

**PREAMBLE:** This letter mentions that we had included a copy of our visual presentation made to Dr. Katherine Covell, although the copy was included it is not included here.

Also, at the time of writing this letter we did not know about the terms state and non-state actors in regard to identifying perpetrators. The term we used - non-political torture, refers to non-state actors, human rights terminology we learned in 2004 and now use in all our writings.

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June 01, 2001

**To: Jean Augustine, M.P., Chair**  
Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development  
Room 433 West Block, House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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We are forwarding you a copy of our response to the, *BACKGROUND PAPER: Review of the World Summit on Children, May 2001*, which we sent to various representatives to the World Summit on Children.

Additionally, since you have never heard from us before we are also forwarding a copy of a visual presentation we made to Dr. Katherine Covell, Canadian Coalition for the Rights of Children, UCCB Children's Rights Centre, University College of Cape Breton. In this presentation we expressed our concerns about the invisibility of the realities of child torture. Since Parliamentarians can play an important part in focussing attention on the protection of children and their rights we encourage you to take the 10 or 15 minutes it would take to consider the information we have outlined.

Respectfully submitted

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June 01, 2001

**To:**  
**Representative to the World Summit on Children**

Hello, we are back again! For some of you this letter will constitute our second contact, for others, you have heard from us even more than twice; however, for a few of you this letter will represent our first connection. This correspondence is our response to the:

*BACKGROUND PAPER: Review of the World Summit on Children, May 2001*  
Office of Jean Augustine, M.P., Chair  
Canadian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Our goals remain as focussed as in our previous correspondence. These are:

1. We are asking you **to include the prevention of all forms of child torture** in the "Plan of Action" of the revised draft entitled, *A World Fit for Children*.
2. We are asking you to do this by **clearly spelling out the words "the prevention of child torture"** in the "Plan for Action" goal identified as, "Protecting against abuse, exploitation and violence".
3. We are asking you to do as the draft document imperative states, "leave no child behind" by **identifying the experiences of the tortured child as--political torture, "everyday" torture, and ritual abuse-torture (RAT)** which is generally multi-generational with some adults/groups being the manufacturers and suppliers of pedophilic pornography, and/or who are involved in the pedophilic "off-street" versus "on-street" trafficking and sexploitation of infants, toddlers, children, and youth inter-provincially or trans-nationally, and/or who may be connected with organized crime.
4. We are asking you to include **all forms of child torture** in your Third Substantive Session so the full reality of violence against The Child will not have to wait for the next World Summit--will not have to wait another ten years--will not have to wait another day--before finally being **moved out of the imprisonment of social silence**.

As we continue with our work and research about the experiences of RAT we have repeatedly had the privilege of being entrusted with listening while women told of being gang raped by ritual abuse-torturers when they were still in diapers. These are not easy experiences for them to talk

about nor for us to listen to, however, persons so victimized need to be listened to, deserve to be listened to. And, they need Canadian society to acknowledge the atrocities committed against their personhood just as we now know that is what the Holocaust survivors and the POW's required of Canadians and of peoples from many nations. So, it is now a well known fact that a failure of a society to acknowledge crimes against humanity--crimes of torture--causes very painful secondary re-victimization for persons so victimized. This is also the reality for the persons we have spoken with who were child victims of pedophilic-practising ritual abuse-torturer family/groups.

How can words ever adequately express the grievous suffering or speak of the chaotic and destructive dis-organization of the child's sense-of-Self experienced when these most hideous of crimes are committed against their Selfhood? But eight years ago, in 1993, The Final Report of The Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, *Changing the Landscape: Ending Violence--Achieving Equality*, took the reality of RAT out of social silence by alerting Canadians that ritual abuse-[torture] was reported in every Canadian province. They also asked Canadians take action. Ironically, 1993 was the same year a person asked us for help in exiting a destructive RAT family/group into which they had been born. Were we prepared for the reality we faced? We were not! This is why we repeat our offer that you contact us if you require support and/or if we can be of assistance for we might presume you too may not feel adequately prepared to address all the realities of child torture.

In summary, we are asking you **to very clearly name the reality of all forms of child torture--political torture, "everyday" torture, and ritual abuse-torture--under your goal of protecting children against abuse, exploitation and violence** at your Third Substantive Session. Do you have any idea what such clear naming will mean to the Canadian child and to other children of the world? It will be as if the world has finally embraced them--respecting them as persons worthy of having their experiences of torture acknowledged. And, reflecting the final sentence of the Background Paper we close by saying: The tortured children of the world are counting on you and on us!

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Sarson, RN, BScN, MEd & Linda MacDonald, RN, BN, MEd