

At 12:27 PM 9/15/2004 -0300
To: Florence Levers, Co-ordinator,

Dear Ms. levers,

Thank you for your response to our letter; however, we do not understand what you are meaning by "a horizontal policy mandate and provides leadership in some areas" so would be very appreciative of a further explanation. For example:

1. What do these terms mean?
2. How has the "horizontal mandate" translated into best practice interventions that have addressed the human rights violations that are inflicted by perpetrators of ritual abuse-torture? That have addressed the safety and care of persons so victimized?
3. Where is the evidence that best practice interventions have occurred since 1993, when the original violence against women task force report was done by the Status of Women which disclosed that ritual abuse-torture was being committed against the humanity of a specific population of persons who are captive enslaved women, girls and boys?
4. Where is the documented evidence that shows us and the persons who submitted their signed statements that The Status has maintained a "watching brief" on the specific issue of ritual abuse-torture?
5. Where is the evidence that The Status has addressed the horror of ritual abuse-torture at a national and/or international level? At previous sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women ... are there plans to bring this "new emerging issue and new form of torture" to the 49th Session or to specific committees in Geneva, such as the Committees on violence against women and children, against torture, against contemporary slavery, and trafficking?

We are asking that you provide very concrete examples of the best practice interventions that The Status has taken or is planning to initiate since becoming aware of the horrendous crime of ritual abuse-torture because we are talking about infants, toddlers, children, youth, and captive enslaved women who have endured, who are enduring, or who will endure such destructive human rights violations. We are talking about a Canadian reality. We are speaking about real people.

In our original letter we addressed more than the need for criminal code changes; however, we will not repeat our intervention suggestions as you have our letter to refer back to. And maybe, once we have a clearer insight into the best practice interventions The Status has taken we will know how to proceed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Sarson & Linda MacDonald