

Non-State Actor Torture in Canada: A Shadow Report

A Response to the Final Report, *Children: The Silenced Citizens*, of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights in Relation to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*

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Table of Contents

Summary of Recommendations ... 4-9

Chapter 1 ... 10-13

Introduction: *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and Torture ~ Articles 19, 37(a), 39

Chapter 2 ... 14-18

Non-State Actor Torture and Human Rights Language ~ Article 4

Chapter 3 ... 19-26

Non-State Actor Torture within Adult-Child Relationships ~ Articles 19, 37(a), 39 and Article 7 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Chapter 4 ... 27-34

Ritual Abuse-Torture and the Right to Freedom of Expression ~ Articles 12, 13

Chapter 5 ... 36-40

Ritual Abuse-Torture and Criminal Harassment/Stalking from the Perspective of the Girl Child ~ Articles 3 and 19

Chapter 6 ... 41-50

Ritual Abuse-Torture ~ Articles 34 to 36, the *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, and the supplemental *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*

Chapter 7 ... 51-53

Ritual Abuse-Torture and Infants ~ Article 3, the Best Interest of the Child and the Report of the Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children

Chapter 8 ... 54-58

Ritual Abuse-Torture, the Girl Child and Reproductive Harms ~ Article 19

Chapter 9 ... 59-71

Article 19 ~ Misopais, Public Input, and Other Recommendations

Summary of Recommendations

We have a professional and personal duty to care for and about children. Civil society has a duty to care for and about all children. This Shadow Report exposes gaps that have not been addressed in the Canadian Standing Senate Committee Final Report, *Children: The Silenced Citizens* and offers solutions that, in our opinion, would help address duty and promote caring so that Canada increasingly becomes a country safe and supportive for all children. To this aim we offer the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATION 1 – Naming (page 13)

- **We recommend directly naming that non-state actor torture exists and is suffered by some child citizens of Canada.**

RECOMMENDATION 2 – A non-state actor torture law (page 18)

- **We recommend that the *Criminal Code* of Canada be amended to include a separate criminalized offence of non-state actor torture.**

RECOMMENDATION 3 – Acts of Terrorization and Horrification (page 21)

- **We recommend that terrorization and horrification be recognized as specific criminal acts intentionally committed against children.**

RECOMMENDATION 4 – Recording Statistics (page 21)

- **We recommend that statistics be kept on terrorization and horrification and be added to the *Family Violence in Canada A Statistical Profile* yearly publication released by Statistics Canada.**

RECOMMENDATION 5 – Forms of Non-State Actor Torture (page 25)

- **We recommend that the various forms of non-state actor torture, including ritual abuse-torture, be recognized as occurring in Canada.**

RECOMMENDATION 6 – Statistics (page 26)

- We recommend that statistics be kept on all forms of non-state actor torture and that non-state actor torture statistics be added to the *Family Violence in Canada A Statistical Profile* yearly publication released by Statistics Canada.

RECOMMENDATION 7 – Recognizing Non-State Actor-Torture Internationally (pages 34)

- We recommend that Canada provide input at the United Nations level to have ritual abuse-torture considered an under-acknowledged human rights violation and an emerging form of non-state actor torture that can be inflicted onto some children.

RECOMMENDATION 8 – Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights (page 35)

- We recommend that the Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights include non-state actor torture, including ritual abuse-torture, in their reports in preparation for Canada's appearances before UN treaty bodies, including but not limited to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and, for example, the UN Committee Against Torture and the Human Rights Council.

RECOMMENDATION 9 – Recognizing Criminal Harassment/Stalking of Children Younger than 15 (page 39)

- We recommend that the federal government take the initiative to inform all appropriate federal-provincial-territorial bodies that legislative, administrative, social and educational measures enacted for the protection of the child recognize that criminal harassment/stalking is a form of violence endured by very young children, younger than 15, and that appropriate

action be taken to protect all children from such violence, including children who endure any form of non-state actor torture.

RECOMMENDATION 10 – Gathering Statistics of Criminal Harassment/Stalking of Children Younger than 15 (page 40)

■ **We recommend that during the investigation of crimes against children younger than 15 years that attention be given to the presence of criminal harassment/stalking and that Statistics Canada add this information to their yearly reports, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*.**

RECOMMENDATION 11 – Ritual Abuse-Torture as a Transnational Organized Crime (page 44)

■ **We recommend that ritual abuse-torture be named and understood to exist as a transnational organized crime committed by some like-minded individuals/families/groups against the humanity of children thus bringing Canada into compliance with the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* and the United Nations *Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and the supplemental *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*.**

RECOMMENDATION 12 – Amending the language in section 279.04 on Exploitation in the Canadian *Criminal Code* (page 47)

■ **We recommend amendments to the language used in section 279.04 which reads ‘... a person exploits another person if they (a) cause them to provide, or offer to provide, labour or a service by engaging in conduct that, in all the circumstances, could reasonably be expected to cause the other person to believe that their safety or the safety of a person known to them would be threatened if they failed to provide, or offer to provide, the labour or service; ...’[emphasis added]. Captive enslaved children (or adults) forced into exploitative states do not provide a service; they are forced to accept being**

harmed – raped, abused, or tortured. We suggest the use of words such as forced labour and forced sexualized exploitation would be more appropriate and respectful in upholding the rights of the child.

RECOMMENDATION 13 – Identifying Human-Animal Cruelty (page 50)

■ **We recommend that during the investigation of reports of violence against children that if human-animal cruelty is present its identification be mandated and this information collected by Statistics Canada for their yearly publication, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*.**

RECOMMENDATION 14 – Traumatization Responses of the Very Young (page 53)

■ **We recommend that education regarding such early victimization occur and knowledge about the traumatization responses of infants and very young children be updated as the research continues to develop such insights.**

RECOMMENDATION 15 – Identifying Reproductive Harms (page 58)

■ **We recommend that it be acknowledged that girls and youth who suffer reproductive harms such as forced impregnations, forced abortions, and forced infanticide for example, that these are identified as gender-based acts of violence that can occur within non-state actor torture victimization.**

RECOMMENDATION 16 – Specialized Services (page 58)

■ **We recommend that specialized services be developed to support recovery from non-state actor torture victimization, including recovery from ritual abuse-torture victimization and traumatization.**

RECOMMENDATION 17 – Declassify Canada’s Human Experimentation Records (page 64)

- We recommend that under the Freedom of Information Act that all governmental records including military records relating to human experimentation be immediately declassified making them publicly available so that persons so harmed can find answers to their childhood victimization histories as part of their recovery process.

RECOMMENDATION 18 – Rejecting the Existing Provisions Perspective (page 68)

- We recommend that for the protection of the child that no perspective, including the existing provisions perspective, should be allowed to be invoked so as to render torture of any kind – state or non-state – invisible.

RECOMMENDATION 19 – Education (page 68)

- We recommend all layers of civil society be educated on human rights and gender equality, the Charter of Rights,¹ and on all forms of violence within relationships including non-state actor torture – ritual abuse-torture.

RECOMMENDATION 20 – National Clearinghouse on Family Violence (page 68)

- We recommend that the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, under the Minister of Health, increase the knowledge disseminated about family violence to include forms of non-state actor torture. Family violence is an endemic public health issue and fits under the mission of Health Canada which is to help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS 21 – (pages 69-70)

- (a) Recognize and name abuse of power as an irreducible element associated with all or most forms of violence and discrimination against children.

¹ Makin, K. (2007, April 13). Teach Charter in schools, top judge says. *The Globe and Mail*, p. A5.

And when perpetrators of violence against children face legal charges abuse of power and trust needs to be included as a criminal act within violent adult/parental/guardianship-child relationships.

- (b) *De-sex* language. The media frequently refers to sexualized violence against the child as *sex-related* using descriptions such as *adults were charged with having oral sex or sexual intercourse with a child*. Even reports such as *The Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, Report of the Secretary-General*, tabled at the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council contains sexualized language with the reference to the rape of a girl child as “forced sexual intercourse” (p. 4). Adults do not have “sexual intercourse” with a child – such violent acts must always be considered a vaginal, anal, oral, finger or object rape or sexualized assault. We suggest that all sectors of Canadian civil society take leadership roles in transforming language that de-sexualizes acts of violence against children.
- (c) Reframe misopaisic language (see pages 58-59) by avoiding words or phrases such as *stop acting like a cry baby, the terrible twos, stop being so juvenile, or stop acting so childish*, which are inherently suggestive of a discriminatory bias and devaluation of children and children’s development.
- (d) Challenge the parental/guardian myths that all parents/guardians are caring, protective, concerned, and value a child as a person with human rights and that the home is the safest place for a child. All parents/guardians are not caring and the home can be one of the most dangerous places for a child as ...

Torture happens in the home.

Chapter 1

Introduction: *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and Torture ~ Articles 19, 37(a), 39

This Shadow Report is our response to the Canadian Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights Report, *Children: The Silenced Citizens*, released in April 2007. It was an authorized study conducted to examine whether Canada has diligently worked to implement its international and national obligations to children as promised when Canada ratified the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.² In the Chair's Forward, it was noted that an Interim Report in 2004 indicated the principles of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* had not been incorporated into Canadian law; as well implementation gaps existed.³

From our point of wisdom, we attend, in our Shadow Report to a gap that has not been previously addressed nor discussed in the Standing Senate Committee's Final Report. We attend to a very particular gap that fails to address the reality of the very specific child citizen population that have been, are, and will be harmed by acts of non-state actor torture. And in so doing we draw attention to several articles of the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child* that makes reference to torture. These articles, by their very presence, are acknowledgments of the horrific reality that children do endure torture. Two such articles are:

Article 37(a) which reads in part:

“No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. ...”

Article 39 which speaks of:

² Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights. (2007, April). *Children: The Silenced Citizens* [Online], p. iii. Available: www.senate-senat.ca/rights-droits.asp.

³ _____. p. ix.

“... [P]hysical and psychological recovery and social reintegration of a child victim of neglect, exploitation, or abuse; torture or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”

We will not restate all other applicable UN instruments as outlined in the Preamble of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. We do, however, draw attention to Article 5 of the UN *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which speaks to the reality that torture is a violation of human rights. And surely there can be no sane and justifiable argument for the torture of a child whether committed by state or non-state actors.

Generally speaking, we support the Standing Senate Committee’s analysis of areas that we are knowledgeable about or are of significant importance to the human rights violation of torture. For example, we support the Standing Senate Committee’s inclusion of bullying as a form of violent victimization under Article 19 of the *Convention*⁴ because bullying behaviors may provide surface insights into graver forms of violence a child might be subjected to in the home.

Article 19 reads:

States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

Just as bullying has been specifically identified as a form of violent victimization under Article 19 of the *Convention*, torture must also be considered as yet another form of violent victimization that is endured by some Canadian children. Bullying can occur in the public sphere of school or within institutional care, or it can occur in the private sphere of the home. Similarly, torture can be inflicted in both the public and private

⁴ _____. pp. 71-74.

spheres. Torture in the public sphere, within state institutions, is referenced in Article 35 when referring to a child being held in detention. Should such an act occur the perpetrators would be considered state-actor torturers. Under the Canadian *Criminal Code*, section 269.1, a state-actor torturer is defined as an “official” referring to peace or public officials, a member of the Canadian Forces, or any such person who exercises these powers inside or outside Canada.⁵

Or, like bullying, torture can occur in the private sphere of the home. And if the torturer is a parent(s), guardian(s), or another person such as a neighbor they are defined as non-state actor torturers.⁶ However, Canada does not have a law that specifically criminalizes acts of non-state actor torture thus non-state actor torturers are not identified as torturers. If criminally charged they are not held responsible for acts of torture. Rather, the Canadian perspective is to minimize acts of non-state actor torture and address such violence under other sections of the Canadian *Criminal Code*, such as assault with a weapon. Such a perspective renders the severity of the human rights violations that children endure invisible. **Such a perspective should not be allowed to be invoked so as to render torture of any kind invisible whether perpetrated in the public or the private sphere.**

Directly Naming

Non-state actor torture must be named directly just as bullying must be named directly if these very different forms of violence against children are to be addressed directly. For instance, the Standing Senate Committee uses very direct and specific language when it describes “a national strategy is needed to combat bullying in Canada ...” (emphasis added). The same explicate language must be used to develop national strategies to prevent all forms of non-state actor torture in Canada. Our goal is very specific. It is to

⁵ Greenspan, E. & Rosenberg, M. (2007). *Martin’s Annual Criminal Code*. Aurora, ON: Canada Law Book Inc.

⁶ Amnesty International. (2000, June). *Respect, protect, fulfil Women’s human rights State responsibility for abuses by ‘non-state actors’*. (Product code WM099). London, UK: Author; Bauer, J. & Hèlie, A. (2006). *Documenting women’s rights violations by non-state actors* [Online]. Rights & democracy and women living under Muslin law. Available: www.dd-rd.ca.

address the reality gap that fails to acknowledge and name that some children in Canada endure various forms of non-state actor torture.

RECOMMENDATION 1 – Naming

- **We recommend directly naming that non-state actor torture exists and is suffered by some child citizens of Canada.**

Chapter 2

Non-State Actor Torture and Human Rights Language ~

Article 4

Section 269.1 of the Canadian *Criminal Code*

Canadian law, section 269.1 of the Canadian *Criminal Code* addresses torture committed by state ‘officials’ thus offering legal recourse to a Canadian child who endured such a crime. Canada has demonstrated it will hold state torturers, who are “officials” representative of Canada, legally responsible for the torture of a foreign child in a foreign land. As evidenced when Canada took action against members of the Canadian Airborne Regiment involved in the torture and murder of 16-year-old Somalian Shidane Arone during the regiments 1992-1993 mission to Somalia.⁷

Human Rights Language

Conversely, Canadian children who endure torture by non-state actors, whether parent(s), other kin or non-kin, acquaintances or strangers for example, do not have access to such legal recourse. Even though human rights language written into major international instruments require that the State, Canada in this case, hold individuals responsible for the human rights violations they commit. Human rights language requires States protect human rights by taking action against “*any person, organization or enterprise,*” “*a group or person,*” “*private persons,*” “*individuals, groups of individuals, institutions or non-governmental organizations,*” or an “*organized criminal group*”. Such language is located in United Nations documents such as the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, the *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women*, the *International*

⁷ Wong, C. (2002, July 26). Soldier can be tried in Somali’s death – court. *The Chronicle-Herald The Mail-Star*, p. C19.

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and including the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.⁸

A failure to directly identify the existence of non-state actor torture and hold such torturers criminally responsible, we suggest, does not uphold Article 4 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* which states, in part:

State parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative, and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention ...

UN Committee on the Rights of the Child⁹

We note in the 2003 concluding observations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child that Canada is urged to adopt a right-based national plan of action that is inclusive; that is, that it attends to the rights of **all** children and **especially the most vulnerable of child citizens** (emphasis added, para. 13, 20). We consider children horrifically harmed by state or non-state actor torturers to be specific groups. Specific to our report are the children who have endured non-state actor torture – specifically children who have endured ritual abuse-torture – children whose existence have been and continue to remain invisible; children whose victimization has remained unnamed and children whose ordeals isolate them into a form of invisible discriminatory marginalization. And within this specific group is a sub-population of child citizens who endure ritual abuse-torture, a form of non-state actor torture commonly encountered within the context of family violence or within other adult-child guardian relationships.¹⁰ It

⁸ Bauer, J. & Hélie, A. (2006). *Documenting women's rights violations by non-state actor* [Online], p. 23. Rights & democracy and women living under Muslim law. Available: www.dd-rd.ca.

⁹ Committee on the Rights of the Child. (2003, October 27). *Consideration of reports submitted by states parties under article 44 of the Convention concluding observations: Canada*. (Attached as Appendix E to the Standing Senate Committee Report on Human Rights). [Online], pp. 283-296. Available: www.senate-senat.ca/rights-droits.asp.

¹⁰ Sarson, J. & MacDonald, L. (2007). Ritual abuse-torture in families. In N. A. Jackson (Ed), *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence* (pp. 603-611). New York: Routledge.

is ritual abuse-torture victimization of this specific sub-group that we encountered in 1993 and that we address in this Shadow Report.

Furthermore, in paragraph 25, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommends that Canada appropriately evaluate and objectively implement and integrate a rights based approach in all its legislation, court procedures, judicial and administrative decisions, projects, programmes, and services to ensure that the “best interest of the child” contained in Article 3 of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child*, addresses not only the rights of the individual child but the rights of specific groups of children. The rights of children, who have endured non-state actor torture, including ritual abuse-torture, have not been directly addressed in Canada.

Due Diligence

When children are tortured by non-state actors it is beholding on Canada to accept responsibility for the practice of due diligence to meet its obligations for the implementation of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. Yakin Ertük, Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences wrote that “[u]nder the due diligence obligation, States have a duty to take positive action to prevent and protect women from violence, punish perpetrators of violent acts and compensate victims of violence.” She further noted that due diligence obligations are largely neglected in reference to non-state actors.¹¹ We suggest that such due diligence obligations ought to also extend to Canadian child citizens.

If non-state actor torture in general is not named as a specific crime and human rights violation endured by some Canadian child citizens, due diligence

¹¹ Yakin Ertük. (2006, January 20). *Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective: Violence against women the due diligence standard as a tool for the elimination of violence against women*. Report to the Commission on Human Rights Sixty-second session Item 12 (a) of the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/2006/61).

obligations can be avoided. And there is no “... valid excuse for failing to live up to a nation’s international obligations”¹² to quote the words of the Standing Senate Committee in its discussion on implementation of international law in Canada. Due diligence obligations to all its child citizens, including the child who is bullied or the child who is tortured by non-state actors (see discussion on pages 11-13 of this report), including ritually abused-tortured, is mandated by the *Convention*.

Although international law, including the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, can and is used by Canadian courts and other decision-making bodies, such arguments are persuasive versus obligatory and “...cannot be used as the direct basis for any claim”.¹³ And since there is no law in Canada that directly names and addresses any form of non-state actor torture, children so victimized are without legal recourse to directly name the crime of torture by non-state actors making even the values and principles of the *Convention* relating to such specific acts of torture unavailable to them. Such a position is discriminatory to the child citizen that has been, is, and will endure non-state actor torture – ritual abuse-torture – and fails to uphold their best interest, a principle stipulated in Article 3 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

Therefore, to ensure the rights of this specific group of child citizens it is necessary that the *Criminal Code* of Canada, which is under federal jurisdiction, is amended to address acts of non-state torture to conform to Article 19 of the *Convention* which reads reads:

States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or

¹² Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights. (2007, April). *Children: The Silenced Citizens* [Online], p. 15. Available: www.senate-senat.ca/rights-droits.asp.

¹³ _____. p. 44.

exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

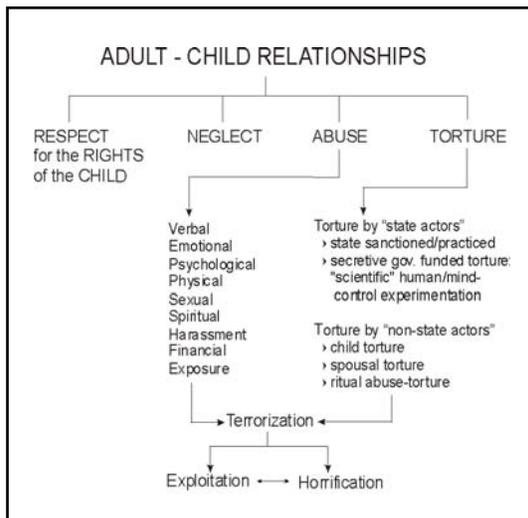
RECOMMENDATION 2 – A non-state actor torture law

- **We recommend that the *Criminal Code* of Canada be amended to include a separate criminalized offence of non-state actor torture.**

Chapter 3

Non-State Actor Torture within Adult-Child Relationships ~ Articles 19, 37(a), 39 and Article 7 of *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*

We wholeheartedly support the discourse of the Standing Senate Committee who repeatedly stated in their report that it was the right of the child to be heard, to participate, and be consulted in matters that affect her or his well being. In order to facilitate all children's voices it is essential to comprehend the oppressive forces of the vast forms of violence that are inflicted onto them. In this Shadow Report we are however, limiting



ourselves to relational non-state actor torture specifically to ritual abuse-torture that occurs within some adult-child family/group relationships.

The accompanying diagram illustrates a relational continuum identifying forms of violence most often referred to in the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*. These are neglect, exploitation, abuses including

sexualized abuse while in the care of adults such as parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any person who has the care of the child as written in Article 19 of the Convention. Torture, both state and non-state, is included on the continuum as referenced in Article 37(a) and Article 39 and which can be included as a form of violence under Article 19. As well, torture and medical or scientific experimentation is identified referencing Article 7 in the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* which reads:

Article 7

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.¹⁴

Terrorization and Horrification

Terrorization and horrification are listed in the diagram of adult-child relationships because both are actions utilized by perpetrators of violence. It is our opinion that terrorization and horrification ought to be identified, under Article 19 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, as acts of violence just as abuse, torture, and exploitation are.

To induce terrorization the perpetrator deliberately uses and/or threatens to use symbolic and actual actions that are abnormal and/or life-threatening; the purpose being to influence the person being victimized to do as is demanded of them by the perpetrator.¹⁵

An attempt by the perpetrator to create a terror response in a child chosen for victimization and is a deliberate action. The intentional infliction of terror causes a series of intense paralyzing emotional and biological responses in the victimized child including a sense of dread that can cause the victimized child to “freeze”. A frozen victim becomes a silent and compliant victim.

Infliction of acts of horrification goes beyond the infliction of acts of terrorization. Horrification inflicting acts exposes the chosen child victim to seeing, hearing, smelling, tasting, feeling, and experiencing ordeals of violence perpetrated without moral restraint. Being tortured, forced to torture others or animals, forced necrophilism, and for example, forced to witness the torture of others are acts that produce

- | |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Horrification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Seems and is beyond<ul style="list-style-type: none">● verbal language● verbal description■ Inflicts<ul style="list-style-type: none">● speechlessness● voicelessness● stuttering■ Produces<ul style="list-style-type: none">● ‘bone marrow’ coldness● shivering● tremors● seizure-like responses |
|---|

¹⁴ United Nations. *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, entry into force 23 March 1976, in accordance with Article 49.

¹⁵ Hanle, D. J. (1989). *Terrorism T.H.E. newest face of warfare* (p. 104). Washington: Pergamon-Brassey’s.

horrification. At least this is our observation as we work to support youth (and others) whose narratives describe such childhood victimization. From our 14 years of witnessing the impact of non-state actor torture, predominately ritual abuse-torture (we have also listened to ordeals of spousal torture), the responses listed in the above box on horrorification can be/are experienced by a victimized child. Their responses ought to be considered normal versus abnormal or pathological. And when a child has endured electric shocking torture, a common form of physical torture reported used by ritual abuse-torturers, this can complicate seizure-like responses, in that, the victimized person's body remembers the seizure responses of electric shocking compounded by the seizure-like responses to remembering horrorification.

RECOMMENDATION 3 – Acts of Terrorization and Horrorification

- **We recommend that terrorization and horrorification be recognized as specific criminal acts intentionally committed against children.**

RECOMMENDATION 4 – Recording Statistics

- **We recommend that statistics be kept on terrorization and horrorification and be added to the *Family Violence in Canada A Statistical Profile* yearly publication released by Statistics Canada.**

Non-State Actor Torture in the Private Sphere

As previously stated, we are including non-state actor torture as a form of relational violence some child citizens endure, just as they endure bullying as a form of relational violence. We are not alone in our knowledge that torture occurs in the private sphere of the family. For example:

1. Amnesty International in their report, *Hidden scandal, secret shame – Torture and ill-treatment of children*, states that there are forms of violence committed against children in the private sphere that amount to torture.¹⁶

¹⁶ Amnesty International. (2000). *Hidden scandal, secret shame Torture and ill-treatment of children* (p. 7). London, UK: Author.

2. Acknowledging the existence of torture in the private sphere occurred in the United States, in the state of Michigan, when the Governor signed legislation that made such acts of torture a criminal offence. Effective March 1, 2006, legislation made it possible for persons who endured such torture to gain access to justice, ending impunity for such torturers. The impetus for creating such legislation occurred because prosecutors were frustrated they were unable to hold a man accused of torturing his blind, diabetic spouse accountable for his acts of torture because no such law was in existence in Michigan at the time.¹⁷ Spousal torture does not only occur in Michigan. We listened to Lynne, a Nova Scotian woman, for the two years it took her to tell and describe the four and one-half years she spent handcuffed to an iron radiator in a windowless room in Ontario. She recounted how she was held captive, enslaved, tortured, and trafficked by her spouse and three other men, forcibly impregnated, forcibly aborted five times, and how in response to the torture and horrification her holistic sense of Self was fractured and she suffered dissociative and out-of-body responses. Coping responses that are always described to us by persons who survive ritual abuse-torture.
3. And this year, in 2007, torture was identified as one form of violence suffered by the girl child and is included as a form of violence suffered by the girl child in the *Agreed Conclusions on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination and Violence against the Girl Child*. As well, it is stated in this paper that all forms of violence against girls, whether these occur in the public or private sphere, within or outside of the family, must be addressed by, for example, strengthening legal frameworks and enacting new laws and policies to prevent, prosecute and punish perpetrators.¹⁸

¹⁷ Watson, H. (2006, January 3). *Governor Granholm signs legislation to strengthen penalties for torture* [Online]. Available: http://www.michigan.gov/gov/0,1607,7-168-23442_21974-133334--,00.html

¹⁸ Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). (2007, 26 February – 9 March). *Agreed conclusions on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child* (pp. 1, para. 14.9a-b). Fifty-first session of the CSW, UN Headquarters, New York City, New York.

Ritual Abuse-Torture in the Private Sphere

Ritual abuse-torture is a form of non-state actor torture perpetrated in the private sphere and it is a form of relational family or guardianship and group violence.¹⁹ It involves pedophilic parent(s), extended and intergenerational family members, guardian(s), and like-minded adults, who abuse, torture, terrorize, horrify, and traffic their or other children using organizing group ritualisms coded as “rituals and ceremonies”.

We were ‘introduced’ to this form of relational family/group violence in 1993 by a Nova Scotian woman who had remained a captive adult within the ritual abuse-torture family into which she reported she had been born. In the same year, 1993, a national report was released by the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, whose members had been appointed by the federal Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, stating “ritual abuse” and “torture” was reported to be occurring in every region of Canada.²⁰ The narratives of the specific women who spoke to the Panel describing their ritual abuse and torture victimization stated it began in their childhoods, starting when they were infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. In other words, they were describing the pedophilic victimization they suffered as Canadian child citizens. The thematic description of their victimization ordeals are replicated in our research findings and in our supportive work which began in Nova Scotia but become global when we initiated our website www.ritualabusetorture.org. Our website has consistently remained the number one resource on ritual abuse-torture on the Google search engine. To date we have had various levels of global contact and communication with over 500 people, including Canadians, disclosing ritual abuse-torture victimization and traumatization.

Thematic Acts of Violence within Ritual Abuse-Torture Families/Groups

The thematic issues embedded in organized ritual abuse-torture families and like-minded groups have been consistently repetitive whether expressed by Canadians or by persons

¹⁹ Sarson, J. & MacDonald, L. (2007). Ritual abuse-torture in families. In N. A. Jackson (Ed). *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence* (pp. 603-611). NY: Routledge.

²⁰ Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women. (1993). *Changing the landscape: Ending violence ~ Achieving equality* (pp. 45-47). (Cat. No. SW45-1/1993E). Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services Canada.

from other mainly industrialized countries. That is, all or most of the following destructive violent acts are perpetrated against the Canadian child (ren) citizen(s) chosen for victimization:²¹

1. Abuse of all forms
2. Terrorization
3. Human-animal violence, including bestiality
4. Tortures of all forms including physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit including mind-altering drugging, electric shocking, hooding, waterboarding, hanging, caging, deprivations, degradations, dehumanization and humiliations with forced urinary and fecal incontinence, and burning with cigarettes, raped with hot rods, or a hot light bulb inserted into the girl child's vagina, are some examples²²
5. Rampageous pedophilia
6. Necrophilism and pseudo-necrophilism such as rendering a girl unconscious and dead-like then raping her
7. Intentionally planned violent organized family/group gatherings coded as "rituals and ceremonies" which serve as group bonding, solidarity, and like-minded reinforcement and connections for the adult perpetrators
8. Horrification
9. Enforced Self-harming, for instance, forcibly teaching a child to Self-cut or, more destructively, to commit suicide should she ever try to tell; both are conditioned violent insurance tactics used by the perpetrators because teaching a child to Self-cut diverts the victimized child's attention away from remembering and suicide guarantees that as a dead witness she will never tell
10. Exploitation of captive enslaved children into human trafficking, child/adult pornography, drug dealing, or other illegal acts.

²¹ Sarson, J. & MacDonald, L. (2005). *Ritual abuse-torture: The power of naming*. [Online]. Available: <http://www.ritualabusetorture.org/naming.pdf>.

²² _____. (2007). *Ritual abuse-torture Torture that happens in families, guardianships, and in like-minded groups* [Online]. Available: <http://www.ritualabusetorture.org/Torturepamphlet.pdf>.

Basically, the violent thematic actions as re-listed in the accompanying check list box are destructively all encompassing, with pedophilic torture being the violence of choice. Ritual abuse-torturers have aims and purposes which, with our present knowledge, we suggest, are universal based on the testimonial evidence of the victimization narratives we hear in Nova Scotia which are similar to the victimization narratives we hear from across Canada, from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Israel, and Western Europe mainly. We do not know yet whether ritual abuse-torture is a form of relational violence that has its roots in ‘industrialized’ countries just as other countries and cultures have ‘unique’ ways of expressing violence against women and children. Such as “honour” killing, stoning, or female genital mutilation are deeply rooted forms of violence in regions of the Nile Valley and parts of Africa and Asia.

A Check List:

1. Abuses
2. Terrorization
3. Animal-human cruelty
4. Torture
5. Pedophilia
6. Necrophilism
7. Violent group acts
8. Horrification
9. Suicidality, Self-harming
10. Exploitation, slavery, trafficking, drug dealing, etc.

Canada has ignored the 1993 finding of the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women when it listed ritual abuse-torture as an under-acknowledged form of relational violence that required attention. Accompanied on this under-acknowledged list were stalking/criminal harassment, pornography, abuse of trust, and reproductive technologies (pp. 45-53). Although Canada has proceeded to address these other forms of under-acknowledged violence it has been mute about directly naming and addressing ritual abuse-torture or non-state actor torture as indicated in previous chapter discussions. No statistics are recorded because the crime in Canada continues to be invisible.

RECOMMENDATION 5 – Forms of Non-State Actor Torture

- **We recommend that the various forms of non-state actor torture, including ritual abuse-torture, be recognized as occurring in Canada.**

RECOMMENDATION 6 – Statistics

- **We recommend that statistics be kept on all forms of non-state actor torture and that non-state actor torture statistics be added to the *Family Violence in Canada A Statistical Profile* yearly publication released by Statistics Canada.**

Chapter 4

Ritual Abuse-Torture and the Right to Freedom of Expression ~ Articles 12, 13

Articles 12 and 13 of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* are of importance in the identification and exposure of non-state actor torture as a human rights violation and an emerging form of torture.

Article 12 which reads in part that:

State Parties shall assure to the child who is capable of forming his or her views the right to express those views freely in all matters affecting the child, ...
and

Article 13 states in part that:

The child shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice.

Insurmountable Hurdles to Freedom of Expression

Although Articles 12 and 13 provide for the right to freedom of expression such a right is difficult to exercise. A child who is enslaved and captive within a ritual abuse-torture family/group faces almost insurmountable hurdles, such as:

1. Being controlled by their perpetrators
2. Attempting to explain ritual abuse-torture victimization to a society that does not acknowledge its existence would be extremely difficult if not impossible for a child to achieve plus considering research findings that state children who suffer

- sexualized violence seldom have the verbal communication skills to explain the victimization ordeals they endured.²³
3. Confronting socially re-victimizing incidents of denial, rejection, dismissal, told they are liars, and made powerless within an adult-dominated Canada and world when they try to tell others that they are enduring ritual abuse-torture victimization is another hurdle. Although our 14 years of supportive work and research has been mostly with adult women, we have had connection with teens and young women, but regardless of their age all repeatedly tell us how they have been socially re-victimized. And within our present day connections are young women who were still trying to flee their parent(s), extended family perpetrators, and other like-minded adults who make up the organized pedophilic ritual abuse-torture group.
 4. More often than Canadian society wants to acknowledge some adults who are supposed to be professional helpers and carers do abuse their power and perpetrate violence against vulnerable children leaving them further violated and with their trust of authority severely damaged. Repetitive revictimization by ‘professionals’ is a common theme in the narratives of teens and young and older women.

Given these hurdles it is realistic to expect that the freedom of expression of the child citizen who has/is enduring ritual abuse-torture is severely handicapped. Even women and men who have survived ritual abuse-torture struggle to place into language their childhood and adulthood victimization narratives. Thus, to expect that a child being victimized by ritual abuse-torturers to appear before the Standing Senate Committee is unrealistic; at least at this stage in the evolution of a still ignorant or denying civil society. However, adults have/are trusting us with their childhood victimization realities of ritual abuse-torture with the goal that we will share their information in a manner that

²³ Alaggia, R. (2004). *Non-verbal cues often signal child abuse – U. of T. study, 2004* [Online]. Available: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=17971>

keeps them safe but will help to benefit and safeguard the victimized children of today and those at risk in the future.

As activists we have the responsibility to expose insights into ritual abuse-torture victimization in a manner that will encourage a Canadian community, a global community, to be open to hearing the ‘stories’, with a willingness to care, and a commitment to end the present climate of impunity enjoyed by ritual abuse-tortures. Listening and taking action now will begin the prevention strategies required in all sectors of civil society to act to protect this specific population of ‘invisible’ victimized child citizens.

Freedom of Expression

If it is not common knowledge by now it ought to be, children have and do use drawings as a means of communicating and expressing devastations that altered their relationship with them-Self, with their families, and with their communities.²⁴ The Tsunami is one recent example. Children’s drawings depicted their terror and suffering. Because the devastations were visible to the world the reality told in the children’s drawings was not nor could not be denied. Just imagine if it had! Being faced with social and global denial would have caused them over-whelming and life-threatening secondary re-victimization.

As it is now only possible for women and men to speak about their childhood ritual abuse-torture we share their freedoms of expression as representations of the voices of this specific population who were once children. Women and men are the representatives for children’s voices and they inform us that the atrocities of ritual abuse-torture are continuing. As we write, we are in contact with young women who are actively

²⁴ For a present day example of the testimonial value of children’s drawings as evidence read: Grice, A. (2007, August 2). Sudan-Darfur: The Evidence of War Crimes. 500 drawings by children who escaped the violence are to be submitted to the International Criminal Court as proof of war crimes by Sudanese forces. *The Independent* [Online]. Available: <http://news.independent.co.uk:80/world/africa/article2826189.ece>

struggling to exit ritual abuse-torture families/groups and ‘escape’ into the Canadian community that has failed to hear and respond to them.

We realize that male children are also harmed. Most of our knowledge about Canadian boys and their victimization come from women speaking of their male siblings. A consistent theme in the victimization of boy siblings is that they are often conditioned or socialized within ritual abuse-torture families/groups to become dominate, misogynistic male perpetrators.

The right to freedom of expression as written in Article 13 of the *Convention* states children can impart information in various ways including the written word or using art forms. This right is so very important to telling about ritual abuse-torture victimization because the over-whelming horrors endured can often only seem to be expressed via visual images in the form of art work or poetry, for example. On behalf of this specific population of Canadian child citizens we share several art work and poetry expressions below.

“BLOOD BATH” – This first image, entitled “Blood Bath” is by Canadian born Alex,



shared with us in 2004. Alex speaks of being transported by car to violent family/group gathering. Her drawing depicts the hemorrhaging she endured and the horror she felt at seeing her own blood following sexualized torture and humiliation.

The theme of a blood bath is a repetitive one that we see in many drawings that have been submitted to us. Seeing one’s blood generally triggers life-threatening emotional trauma – a terror connected of wondering whether one will bleed to death, alone and discarded like a pile of garbage. We chose to share this drawing

“I worked in child protection and never realized that when a girl was sexually abused she would bleed.”

because we have been told by professionals that they did not realize that a child will bleed/hemorrhage when suffering sexualized violence – abuse or torture. An example of such a discourse is quoted in the accompanying box.

It has also been our observation that medically trained persons are frequently identified as being perpetrators. They have the skill to deal ‘secretly’ with the physical traumas suffered by the victimized child. Another observation is that when outside medical treatment was/is sought the incident was/is treated and often not reported but covered-up or fabricated distortions by the parent(s)/perpetrators were/are left unchallenged by nurses and doctors. Hopefully sharing Alex’s art expression will educate adults about the physical trauma inflicted when a child suffers sexualized torture.

The poem entitled “**HELL**” is a description of a violent pedophilic ritual abuse-torture family/group gathering. This Canadian author tells her story of being taken to the group gathering, her response of terror and horror as she witnessed the killing of a chicken and how she internalized this act of animal cruelty meaning the perpetrators would cut her head off if she did not do as was demanded of her. When telling us her story she said as a child she did not understand that when the head of a chicken is cut off the involuntary nerves of the chicken make it flap and flail around on the ground. And as a child she did not understand that exposing her to the sight of the flailing chicken was the perpetrators’ way of intentionally inflicting an act of terrorization.

Hell

We walked towards the gate
And what did I see
There were lots of people there
Waiting for me

They looked very strange
With hats on their heads
I wanted to run home
And hide beneath the bed

I saw them kill a chicken
I knew it was dead
It ran around like crazy
But it did not have a head
They laughed at the chicken
And it was plain to see
That I thought I was a chicken
And they were going to do that to me

Hands came out to grab me
And lay me on a board
I was in my black hole
And could not hear a word

I felt their hands upon me
His body cover mine
I felt that I was crazy
My hole couldn’t protect me this time

So I went even further
Into the big black hole
And I knew that I would come
Out one day when I was old

Tied down on a board she tells of how she was group raped and tortured by women and men. She disclosed to us that her father, school teachers, a doctor, and a nurse were part of the ritual abuse-torture group. The ‘black hole’ she refers to is her process of disconnection and dissociation – a normal method of survival and coping when a captive enslaved child is confronted with enduring and surviving acts of ritual abuse-torture.

It is also essential to understand that such acts of violence perpetrated against a developing child causes biological and physiological repercussions. For example, parts of the human brain will atrophy when relational isolation is imposed onto a person thus isolation damages one’s neurobiology.²⁵ Relational isolation is part of the ritual abuse-torturer’s repertoire of violent acts inflicted to intentionally harm and control the child victim. And when the reality of a child is denied, rejected, or they are disbelieved by society they suffer actual social pain that is similar to physical pain²⁶ which causes hurt and impacts negatively on their relational functioning as well as on their biological and physiological functioning. Specific evidence-based interventions are required to re-regulate such neurobiological changes²⁷ that result from ritual abuse-torture victimization.

Terrorization, horrification, and dissociation responses of the child being victimized are states that perpetrators work to achieve and thus watch for, for several reasons. Firstly, it increases the perpetrators’ sense they are gaining power over their chosen victim. Secondly, it provides perpetrators with ‘positive’ feedback that they have gained absolute control over the chosen victim. And thirdly, by attempting to fracture the victimized child’s sense of Self the perpetrators force the child into ‘forgetting’ so they cannot tell or if they do attempt to tell the victimized child’s narrative will be fragmented and thus not believed.

²⁵ Banks, A. & Jordon, J. (2007). The human brain: Hardwired for connections. *Research & Action Report*, 28, 8-11.

²⁶ Naomi I. Eisenberger, N. I., Lieberman, M. D., & Williams, K.D. (2003). Does Rejection Hurt? An fMRI Study of Social Exclusion. *Science*, 302, 290-292.

²⁷ Rick S. & Douglas D. H. (2007). Neurobiological effects of childhood abuse (Abstract). *J Psychosoc Nurs Ment Health Serv*, 45, 47-54.

Aims and Purposes of Ritual Abuse-Torturers

Torturers are understood to have a definite aim and purpose and guilty of committing acts as cruel as to be an offence to human dignity. Ritual abuse-torturers do attempt to destroy the personality of the girl child (all children) they choose to victimize and do have definite aims and purposes for doing what they do, which includes:

1. Inflicting and maintaining absolute power and control over their chosen child victims using terrorization, horrification, and torture so they have an on-going supply of pedophilic captive, enslaved victims
2. Inflicting a life-time of powerlessness on the victimized child so she will become a captive, enslaved woman victim who will become a “breeder” who gives birth and supplies the next generation of pedophilic victims
3. Ensuring they can continue to satisfy their sadistic family/group pleasures
4. Engaging in the outsider pedophilic/adult pornography and sexualized exploitation ‘business’ for financial profit
5. “Schooling” of the girl and boy child to create a co-cultural legacy – the secretive associations between like-minded organized ritual abuse-torture groups locally, nationally, internationally, and transnationally.

Socially and culturally the State and international UN instruments such as the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* allocates much authority to parent(s) and the family as the fundamental group to care for the child within society. As stated on page 14 of this Shadow Report, under the section Human Rights Language, international instruments require that the State, Canada in this case, hold individuals responsible for the human rights violations they commit. This includes holding ritual abuse-torturers responsible for the torture they commit be they parent(s), other kin or non-kin, guardians, or other adults and be they nurse, doctor, social worker, counselor, clergy, volunteer, psychologist, lawyer, politician, teacher, or police for example. We are told, by the women and a few men who tell of surviving ritual abuse-torture, that perpetrating parent(s) or guardians manipulate and use their work positions and their community roles as a

cover. State sanctioned parental-adult authority over a child is a powerful tool of positional oppression that is compounded when combined with work and community roles. Such adult parental power and authority builds a formidable wall of protection for the torturers which a captive enslaved and severely traumatized child must scale in order to attempt to tell. And if perpetrators have community positions of power such as, for example, being clergy, police, or teacher then the child is surrounded and feels trapped by perpetrators.

Ritual abuse and torture, as it was referred to in the Final Report of the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, was reported to be occurring in every region of Canada in 1993.²⁸ This Canadian Panel, funded by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, had a mandate to listen to women's experiences of violence, to examine all forms of violence against women, to document incidence, to seek solutions including prevention, to increase public awareness, and produce other recommendations to create a National Action Plan for the federal government.²⁹ The specific population of women who spoke to the Canadian Panel about enduring ritual abuse-torture spoke of their childhood victimization and traumatization. And their narratives mimic the narratives we share today. Thus, the women who spoke to the Panel were also the voices of the girl child, then and now because, to date, Canada has failed to take action on the knowledge that ritual abuse-torture was reported to be occurring in every region of Canada.

RECOMMENDATION 7 – Recognizing Non-State Actor-Torture Internationally

- **We recommend that Canada provide input at the United Nations level to have ritual abuse-torture considered an under-acknowledged human rights violation and an emerging form of non-state actor torture that can be inflicted onto some children.**

²⁸ Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women. (1993). *Changing the landscape: Ending violence ~ Achieving equality* (pp. 45-47, Final Report). Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services Canada.

²⁹ _____. (1993). *Changing the landscape: Ending violence ~ Achieving equality* (pp. 3-4, Executive Summary/National Action). Ottawa: Minister of Supply and Services Canada.

RECOMMENDATION 8 – Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights

- **We recommend that the Continuing Committee of Officials on Human Rights include non-state actor torture, including ritual abuse-torture, in their reports in preparation for Canada’s appearances before UN treaty bodies, including but not limited to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and, for example, the UN Committee Against Torture and the Human Rights Council.**

Chapter 5

Ritual Abuse-Torture and Criminal Harassment/Stalking from the Perspective of the Girl Child ~ Articles 3 and 19

Ending the previous chapter by expressing that a victimized girl child can be surrounded by ritual abuse-torturers presents a life-threatening situation. A meaning that appears to escape the awareness of adult society, especially as it pertains to the early schooled-aged victimized girl child. A victimized preschool aged girl child may commonly be left in the care of offenders thus their state of captivity is and feels never ending. However, via processes of adaptation it can become normalized. Girl children, we speak of girls who are trapped within ritual abuse-torture families/groups children because we have only one childhood narrative from a Canadian man, are incessant victims of criminal harassment commonly referred to as stalking. Stalking is a crime easily and frequently used against the girl child to keep her controlled and silenced.

Stalking consists of repeated acts carried out over a period of time that causes a victimized person to reasonably fear for their safety or the safety of others known to them.³⁰ And how is stalking and harassment inflicted against the child being victimized by ritual abuse-torturers? A common theme we have noted is that a parent(s) will volunteer at the child's school. The parent will be present during break times, such as in-school lunch time, which reminds the girl child she is being watched. Parent(s) or a like-minded perpetrator-neighbor will attend her basketball game and report the captive child's behavior to her parent(s). She is always in a no-win situation. She realizes her life is always at risk and that she will be "punished" – raped, beaten, burned, or locked in a confined space, for example, because of a concocted excuse that she is never good enough. In ritual abuse-torture families/groups the torturers are constantly seeking 'creative' ways to inflict their acts of dehumanizing brutalities.

³⁰ *Criminal Code* of Canada, s. 264 on criminal harassment.

And ritual abuse-torture families/groups can have code words that, when uttered to the girl child, delivers a threatening meaning. The use of code words is not a new concept. Healthy, caring, and respectful parents use code words as safety cues when attempting to develop street-proofing protective interventions to help prevent their child from going with another adult. For example, the child is instructed to only go with another adult, regardless if they are known or unknown to them, if this adult uses the family code words. Conversely ritual abuse-torture parent(s) can employ the same technique to deliver the message to the girl child that she can never escape. And such a reality is constantly fortified by threats and acts of painful family/group torture.

Statistics Canada

In 2004 Statistics Canada measured stalking via Canada's General Social Survey (GSS) taken from a sample of approximately 24,000 women and men over the age of 15 years.³¹ Utilizing these findings can provide suggestive insights into the reality of why it must be acknowledged that a girl child younger than 15 years can be/is a victim of stalking by members of ritual abuse-torture families/groups. Applicable findings to consider are:

1. More than one in ten females or more than 1.4 million females over the age of 15 reported being stalked in the preceding five years in such a manner that they feared for their life or the life of another person they knew. Ritual abuse-torturers frequently threaten to harm another child if the chosen girl victim does not comply with their demands. Such threats are also a way that a fleeing young adult is pulled back into the family/group as we were recently told by a young Canadian woman.
2. Most stalked victims know their stalker. A girl child knows her immediate intimate ritual abuse-torturers and many others by sight.
3. One-fifth of female respondents stated the stalking continued for more than a year. And extended periods of stalking occur within intimate victim-offender relationships including neighbors and other relatives. For the school-aged child

³¹ Statistics Canada. (2005). *Family violence in Canada: A statistical profile 2005* (pp. 33-47, Catalogue no. 85-224-XIE). Ottawa, ON: Author.

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- being stalked by ritual abuse-torturers, stalking can continue for the total number of years she remains in school. And the stalker can be her parent(s), other relatives or a like-minded neighbor.
4. Fearing for their life was expressed by almost one third of stalked victims and such constant fear is suggested to be the root cause of intense psychological stress manifested as difficulties with activities of daily living such as sleeping, eating, and living freely. Depressiveness feelings can become severe. Ritual abuse-torturers perpetrated this state of constant fear and terror in an attempt to secure a state of entrapment and enslavement for the girl child (ren) they choose to victimize.
 5. Generally younger people are reluctant to report being stalked as less than one quarter of those aged 15-to-17 reported to police, 22% of these non-reporters were female. Similarly most young children being victimized are reluctant to report, including those enduring ritual abuse-torture, because of their vulnerability, their dependency on their parent(s) or guardians, and for example, their forced sense of being held responsible for the break-up of the family unit.
 6. Some reasons that stalked persons did not report to police that are reasonable to suggest applying to ritual abuse-torture and stalking are:
 - a. Fear of the perpetrator(s),
 - b. Believing the police could not do anything, would not help, or because the victimized person did not want to get involved with the police; we are told that some police are ritual abuse-torturers and women tell us that they now understand that some perpetrators dressed up as police in order to deliver the message to them when they were victimized children, that the police were not safe; thus both realities isolated the child from trusting and seeking protective services, and
 - c. Because the person being stalked did not want the stalker to be arrested or jailed, did not want anyone to find out, and feared publicity; we are told, for example, ritual abuse-torturers condition the chosen girl child(ren) they victimize never to tell on “the family”, condition her to Self-harm versus

tell on the family, condition her to think that no one will believe her even if she tried to tell, or that she will be considered crazy if she tries to tell and “locked in a mental hospital, drugged, and spend the rest of her life weaving baskets.” This is the experiential quote of one Canadian woman who as a victimized Canadian child was repeatedly told this statement as her parents and others drove her past mental illness institutions.

Predation is a common violent pleasure and entertainment action as well as an intentional act of terrorization employed by ritual abuse-torturers. Therefore, to ensure that her life-threatening risks are more fully understood by systems created to support and protect her and other children we make the following recommendations under the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* Articles:

Article 3 “... the best interest of the child ...”, and

Article 19 which reads:

States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

RECOMMENDATION 9 – Recognizing Criminal Harassment/Stalking of Children Younger than 15

- **We recommend that the federal government take the initiative to inform all appropriate federal-provincial-territorial bodies that legislative, administrative, social and educational measures enacted for the protection of the child recognize that criminal harassment/stalking is a form of violence endured by very young children, younger than 15, and that appropriate action is taken to protect all children from such violence, including children who endure any form of non-state actor torture.**

RECOMMENDATION 10 – Gathering Statistics of Criminal Harassment/Stalking of Children Younger than 15

- **We recommend that during the investigation of crimes against children younger than 15 years that attention be given to the presence of criminal harassment/stalking and that Statistics Canada add this information to their yearly reports, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*.**

Chapter 6

Ritual Abuse-Torture ~ Articles 34 to 36, the *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography*, the *UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*, and supplemental *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*

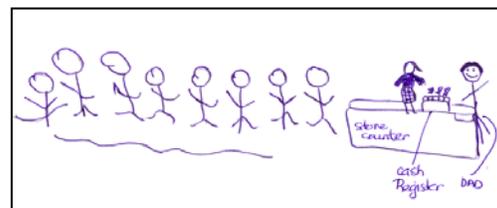
We note the Standing Senate Committee refers in their report to the UN Study on Violence Against Children (p. 81) and the insight that children who endure sexualized violence in their homes are more likely to run away. To this fact we add the knowledge that children who endure ritual abuse-torture attempt to run away or escape at very early ages, before they are even in school, even before the age of three. And to this disclosure we add that children this young will also attempt suicide that ritual abuse-torture parent(s) or guardians will disguise as an “accident”. Accidents such are running out in front of a car, falling out of a high window, or drowning or near-drowning, for example. The narratives of younger and older Canadian women, when speaking of their childhood ritual abuse-torture ordeals, reveals their feelings of constant fear that they would be killed within their environment of ritual abuse-torture family/group.

Trafficking within Ritual Abuse-Torture Families/Groups

Trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation is considered a form of modern day slavery that encompasses a state of captivity. From our perspective, human trafficking and transportation within ritual abuse-torture families/groups involves at least five different modes of trafficking. These need to be identified so a captive child’s plight and narrative will be understood. These modes of trafficking are:

1. “PARTY TIMES” – organized ‘invitations’ to the home of a family/group member to participate in group pedophilic torture of a girl child by forcing the girl child chosen for victimization into the basement “torture room”, for example.³² “Party time”, “meeting time”, “a family gathering”, or “it’s time to go home” are examples of coded language that a victimized child is forcedly taught to use and respond to. These terms are used by ritual abuse-torturers to disguise their organized violence from outsiders.
2. OTHER SITES – ritual abuse-torture families/groups organize their violent sadistic gatherings in other locations such as warehouses, private offices, barns, studios, institutions, cabins, cottages, RV’s, or in the out-of-doors and transport the chosen child victim – “the chosen one” – by car, truck, plane, train, including using the parent’s vehicle.
3. LINKAGES – organized transportation of the girl child (children) to like-minded families/groups regionally, nationally, or transnationally.
4. WORKING THE STREET – forced into ‘youth prostitution’ because the physical development of her (his) body makes her (him) no longer marketable to pedophiles.
5. “OUTSIDER EXPLOITATION” – pedophilic trafficking to the demand of outsiders as described in the following narrative and accompanied drawing entitled “**BEING RENTED OUT**”. This depicts toddlerhood trafficking ordeals which this Canadian woman states began when she was about age two. She says:

My father owned a store and he and my mother would dress me up and sit me on the counter of their store and



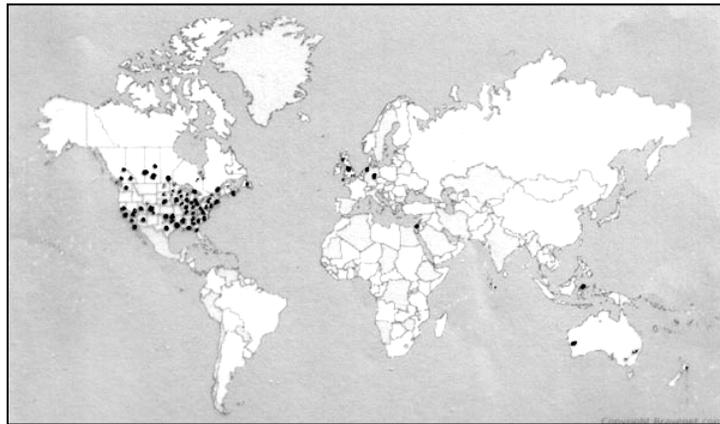
³² The reality that parents traffic their girl child within the boundaries of their home is known within Canadian society. For an example read Steed, J. (1995). *Our Little Secret Confronting Child Sexual Abuse in Canada* (p. 64). Toronto: Random House. Steed writes of a father who drank and watched pornographic movies in his basement with his friends and forced his six-year-old daughter, whom he trained to mimic porn stars, to satisfy their pedophilic urges. This father was a human trafficker involved in the pedophilic human trafficking of his daughter within his own home.

rent me out to the ladies and the men who came to rent me. I can still hear my father saying to them, 'Bring her back when you're done.'³³

Tracking the Ritual Abuse-Torturers Trafficking Patterns.

In April 2003 we began recording the trafficking patterns of ritual abuse-torture families/groups. Persons who visit our website (www.ritualabusetorture.org) can Self-report on our global map,³⁴ shown below, that in their opinion they have endured ritual abuse-torture (RAT). They can mark an icon on this map indicating the original site where their victimization began. They can also submit additional comments and information. This specific map represents 123 persons who placed them-Selves on our map between April 23, 2003 and May 1, 2004. To date, over 300 persons, including Canadians, have marked their icons on the global map.

Of the 121 persons who Self-identified as survivors and who placed them-Selves on this map, 108 (87.8%) indicated destination countries they were trafficked to. These included, for example, Canada and other countries such as Australia, Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Paradise Islands, Bahamas, United Kingdom, United States, and Wales. And for a gendered perspective, based on the names given, most of the victimized persons' names were suggestive of being female (97). Eight were suggestive of males,



³³ Sarson, J. & MacDonald, L. (2004). Human trafficking & ritual abuse-torture [Online]. Available: <http://www.ritualabusetorture.org/humantrafficking.pdf>; _____ . (in press). Ritual Abuse-Torture Families/Groups: Local to Global Pedophilic Violence, Human Trafficking, and *Misopais*. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma*.

³⁴ Bravenet.com Guestmap.

the gender of 16 persons are unknown. Two of the 123 icons were from supportive carers.

The global pattern of ritual abuse-torture victimization illustrated on this specific map has remained fairly consistent when charting the patterns of the other 175 plus persons who have placed icons on our map. We appreciate that there are barriers to this process, language being one as our website is in English. Another would be access to technology. However, at present we have to wonder whether ritual abuse-torture is a form of violence with roots in western or ‘industrialized’ countries, just as ‘stoning’ for example is a form of violence located in the Asian-African socio-cultural region.

Ritual abuse-torture needs to be recognized as a most destructive breach of trust and abuse of power as ritual abuse-torturers are the very persons, families, guardians, or adults on whom the child is dependent within parental/guardian/adult-child relationships. Their psychopathic destruction on the growth, development, safety, and worldview of the victimized girl and boy child is immeasurable. And such destruction is made even more complex when a child is forced to adapt to the normalization of being exploited and trafficked.

RECOMMENDATION 11 – Ritual Abuse-Torture as a Transnational Organized Crime

- **We recommend that ritual abuse-torture is named and understood to exist as a transnational organized crime committed by some like-minded individuals/families/groups against the humanity of children thus bringing Canada into compliance with the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography* and the *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime* and the supplemental *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*.**

Pedophilic Pornography

Some facts about pedophilic pornography:

- 90% of pedophilic pornography recovered by the Sex Crimes Unit of the Toronto Police is made in Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and other ‘first-world’ countries³⁵
- Much pornography is inter-familial and homemade pornography is one source of the pornography seized by police³⁶
- Infants are victims as police have seized pedophilic pornography showing the victimization of a baby with its umbilical cord still attached, infants covered with ejaculate, toddlers being orally raped³⁷, infants in diapers being victimized,³⁸ and a six-month-old baby being raped³⁹
- Torture and bondage is involved in 20% of the pedophilic pornography viewed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Child Exploitation Unit in Ottawa according to supervisor Earla-Kim McColl⁴⁰
- Children as young as three are being forced into acts of bondage and bestiality⁴¹

These facts give weight to the narratives we hear of how ritual abuse-torturers objectify animals, babies, toddlers, girls, boys, youth, and captive enslaved women to make pedophilic/adult pornography including torture and snuff pornography. Canadian women tell us that, as children, they witnessed babies being victimized within ritual abuse-torture families/groups and that they themselves were also such young victims. At one time women were discredited for revealing infant victimization within the context of ritual abuse-torture families/groups because civil society did not believe such realities existed.

³⁵ Lamberti, R. (2002, December 17). Teen facing kiddie porn charges Toronto cops make use of new law. *Toronto Sun*.

³⁶ Gooderham, M. & Laghi, B. (1996, December 14). Tracking high-tech pedophiles. *The Globe and Mail*;
Lamberti, R. (2002, December 17). Teen facing kiddie porn charges Toronto cops make use of new law. *Toronto Sun*.

³⁷ Dimanno, R. (2003, January 17). A tough child porn law doesn't stem a rising tide. *The Star*.

³⁸ The Canadian Press. (1966, December 11). Porn included kids in diapers. Scientist charged after police raid Defence Department. *The Chronicle-Herald*.

³⁹ Smith, G. (2003, January 17). Grim images haunt porn police. *The Globe and Mail*.

⁴⁰ *CTV News*. (2006, July 26).

⁴¹ McIntyre, M. (2007, June 21). Court mulls jail time for online child abusers. *Winnipeg Free Press* [Online]. Available: <http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/story/3992599p-4607997c.html>

However, as the police reveal their recovery of horrendous torture, exploitation, and trafficking involved in the manufacture of pornographic materials social denial is no longer an option.

Forced participation in the making and viewing of pedophilic and adult pornography is another violent theme of sexualized victimization common to childhood ritual abuse-torture narratives. As well, we are told that pornography is used as a “teaching” tool. Victimized children are told that such films will show them how to “do it right”. The thematic issue of manufacturing and using pornography as a teaching and training tool is not new as it was discussed in a court trial as a topic of conversation that a man, convicted of pedophilia, had with the victimized girl.⁴²

Exploitation – Section 279.04 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada

In section 279.04 of the *Criminal Code* of Canada the words ‘provide, or offer to provide ... a service’ are used when making reference to the exploitations forced onto exploited persons. It must be recognized that the so-called client-perpetrators to whom ‘a service is being provided’ are committing rape, abuse, torture, and life-threatening acts against the exploited child who is being held enslaved; brutalities that violate their human and legal rights as persons. Using the words ‘provide a service’ disregard and disrespect for the rights of the child. We ask that these terms of reference in regard to exploitation in the *Criminal Code* be rewritten in a respectful manner and in a language that recognizes (a) the state of captivity, and enslavement, or confinement inflicted onto the exploited children, (b) that acts of abuse and torture can be and are inflicted onto the girl child by both the traffickers and by the client-perpetrators, (c) that brutalities of torture causes pervasive emotional and psychological states of fear, terror, and horrification, and (d) that the victimized child faces life-threatening risks when so enslaved and exploited. And for a child born into or taken into a ritual abuse-torture family/group being exploited and tortured is an ever present reality.

⁴² Lightstone, M. (2004, July 15). Pimp gets 7-year sentence Halifax man sexually assaulted 15-year-old hearing-impaired girl. *The Chronicle Herald*, pp. A1-A2.

RECOMMENDATION 12 – Amending language in section 279.04 on Exploitation in the Canadian *Criminal Code*

■ We recommend amendments to the language used in section 279.04 which reads ‘... a person exploits another person if they (a) cause them to provide, or offer to provide, labour or a service by engaging in conduct that, in all the circumstances, could reasonably be expected to cause the other person to believe that their safety or the safety of a person known to them would be threatened if they failed to provide, or offer to provide, the labour or service; ...’[emphasis added]. Captive enslaved children (or adults) forced into exploitative states do not provide a service; they are forced to accept being harmed – raped, abused, or tortured. We suggest the use of words such as forced labour and forced sexualized exploitation would be more appropriate and respectful in upholding the rights of the child.

Child-Animal Cruelty

There is a significant connection between violence against animals and violence against children, especially as it pertains to pets⁴³ with an incidence ratio of three in ten animal abusers hurting people, most often children and partners.⁴⁴ Backtracking somewhat into the factual knowledge that within partner, adult-to-adult, domestic violence one of the common tactics of the person attempting to exert power and control over their partner is to threaten or actually harm others within the family including pets. Such as occurred when a lower Sackville man assaulted a former girlfriend and killed her two pet kittens to hurt her and control her.⁴⁵ Pesticide is a term used when pets are purposefully killed in this manner.⁴⁶ Some women decide not to leave a violent spousal relationship because they

⁴³ Butler, C. & Lagoni, L. (1995, July/August). Animal, child, or partner abuse: What if you suspect the worse?. *Perspectives*, 36-42.

⁴⁴ Petrovski, L. (1997/1998, December/January). The silent link. *Trends Magazine*, 6-11.

⁴⁵ Hayes, B. (2001, December 13). Man who killed kittens, abused girlfriend gets house arrest. *The Mail-Star The Chronicle-Herald*, p. A5.

⁴⁶ Kurst-Swanger, K. (2007). Animal abuse: The link to family violence. In N. A. Jackson (Ed), *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence* (pp. 22-29). NY: Routledge.

fear for their pet's safety⁴⁷ which is why some safe houses for women and their children are attempting to accommodate pets.

Violence against pets can involve torture, killing, and horrification when children are witnesses to these various degrees of animal cruelty.⁴⁸ For example, as a child one woman spoke to us of how her father forced her to watch as he burned her pet rabbits alive. At the same time he threatened that if she told about the ritual abuse-torture she too would be burned alive. In addition to this infliction of terrorization and horrification, she was told that it was her fault that the rabbits were being burned because she was bad. The purpose of such mind-spirit torture is to force the child into extreme isolation. The child decides never to take the risk to become attached to or care about another pet, toy, or friend for fear that her caring would bring harm to the friend, toy, or pet. Such extreme isolation reinforces the state of captivity in which a child is immersed, thus providing an environment of impunity for the ritual abuse-torturer. The reality that children are forced to witness such acts of torture and horror is not new. For instance, the narrative of "Andrea" being forced to watch her father throw kittens into a roaring furnace was recorded in a 1986 article.⁴⁹ Intentional animal cruelty has long been considered an indicator of relational violence and danger.⁵⁰

It ought to be a requirement that when assessing violence against children that the possibility of child-animal violence is also considered. Not only can there be forced witnessing of and the forced participation in physical cruelty of a pet or other animal, a child can also be subjected to an environment of zoosadism – seeing the pleasures ritual abuse-torturers derive from the torturing or killing of animals and the pleasures derived

⁴⁷ Vestergom, M. & Potvin, K. (2004, September). These arms of mine. *Homemakers*, 31-34.

⁴⁸ Ascione, F. & Arkow, P. (1999). *Child abuse, domestic violence, and animal cruelty*. Lafayette, ID: Purdue University Press; Associated Press. (2001, March 12). Pets sometimes hit by crossfire when human relationships fail. *The Chronicle Herald The Mail Star*, p. C8.

⁴⁹ Lockwood, R. & Hodge, G. R. (1986). The tangled web of animal abuse: The link between cruelty to animals and human violence. *The Humane Society News*.

⁵⁰ Department of Justice Canada. (1998). *Crimes against animals A consultation paper*. Ottawa, ON: Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada.

from forcing the child to participate in bestiality.⁵¹ Based on the previous facts stated above regarding pedophilic pornography, as well as the knowledge about the inter-connectiveness between human and animal violence, the reality is that adults/parents/guardians do enforce bestiality to children,⁵² and that pornography including bestiality is used by adults for their perverted pleasure. This knowledge requires that civil society develop a conscious awareness of child-animal violence if children are to be protected.

Within ritual abuse-torture family/groups bestiality and zoosadism are common themes in the narratives of persons disclosing to us. In the home pet dogs are easily accessible, on farms, in barns, larger animals such as horses, become victimized along with the child. In 1993 when we began hearing the narratives of ritual abuse-torture, disclosures of horrific degrading and terrifying human-animal violence were not believed. Today headlines such as, *Authorities seize child porn, bestiality DVDs* tell civil society there are legitimate grounds to believe because these DVDs confiscated by police show bestiality involving dogs and horses and young children.⁵³

Under the following Article of the *Convention on the Rights of the Child*,

Article 3 “... the best interest of the child ...”, and

Article 19 which reads:

States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

⁵¹ Kurst-Swanger, K. (2007). Animal abuse: The link to family violence. In N. A. Jackson (Ed), *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence* (pp. 22-29). NY: Routledge.

⁵² Blais, T. (no date). City man gets 20 months for bizarre case. *Edmonton Sun* (Downloaded February 3, 2003).

⁵³ CP. (2004, September 23). Authorities seize child porn, bestiality DVDs. *The Chronicle Herald*.

We make the following recommendations based on the reality that there is a significant link between animal cruelty and violence against children that requires social recognition:

RECOMMENDATION 13 – Identifying Human-Animal Cruelty

- **We recommend that during the investigation of reports of violence against children that if human-animal cruelty is present its identification be mandated and this information collected by Statistics Canada for their yearly publication, *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile*.**

Chapter 7

Ritual Abuse-Torture and Infants ~ Article 3, the Best Interest of the Child and the Report of the Independent Expert for the United Nations Study on Violence Against Children

Respectful of the study submitted by Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, the independent expert for the United Nations, to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly, pursuant to resolution 60/231, who states that the study should serve as a turning point to end adult justification for violence against children, we are compelled, knowing what we do, to draw attention to the extreme vulnerabilities of infants. On page 39 of the recommendations of this report, section 3, in care and justice systems, paragraph 112 (a) it is stated that “Family-based care options should be favoured in all cases and should be the only option for infants and very young children.” We must disagree with this recommendation based on the fact that the youth and women and men who speak to us generally narrate that their own victimization started when they were infants or very young children. In addition, youth and women’s narratives speak of being the witness to the ritual abuse-torture of infants when they were children. For example, one Canadian woman says she witnessed the eyes of infants being taped shut before they became victims of male oral rape within the ritual abuse-torture family/group. Given the existence that infant victimization can happen in the home makes such homes a most dangerous place for some infants and very young children thus family-based care is not a safe option.

Additionally, based on the knowledge exposed by police about the degrees of abuse or torture suffered by infants during the making of infant pornography and the fact that homemade pornography is a reality, civil society must become more knowledgeable in assessing the victimization of infants and studying and understanding infant traumatization responses. One early research findings suggests that the capacity of

children within the age of 7 to 15 months “to encode and retain meaningful internal representations of the salient elements of a traumatic experience may be present as early as 7 months of age and do not depend on the achievement of language fluency. The developmental implications of early trauma, particularly if it is severe, appear to be significant.”⁵⁴ Such preliminary suggestions related to infant trauma responses are not new to us because, as nurses, we have observed the fear and terror responses children as young as infants can have to medical interventions. And from our work related to ritual abuse-torture healing, the traumatization responses are extremely severe tracing back to the age of when the person was first victimized as an infant or very young child.

And, to ensure that the best interest of the child are kept in mind, every day media reminds Canadians about harms suffered by infants and very young children in their homes and when under the care of their parent(s) or guardians. For example, we read that a “22-year-old man sexually assaulted his two-year-old daughter so brutally she needed two surgeries to repair her internal injuries.”⁵⁵ The repeated rape of another child, a 4-year-old Montreal girl, by her father was first uncovered in photos by authorities in Switzerland.⁵⁶ Another father found guilty of the sexualized assault of his daughter of approximately nine months of age and the oral rape of his stepson, of about age five, provides evidence that both infants and very young children, and both young girls and boys are vulnerable to victimization in their homes;⁵⁷ further evidence that family-based care must not be recommended as the only caring option for infants and very young children.

⁵⁴ Gaensbauer, T. J. (1995). Trauma in the preverbal period. Symptoms, memories, and developmental impact (abstract). *Psychoanalytic Study of the Child*, 50, 122-49.

⁵⁵ Kleiss, K. (2007, June 21). Child abuser sobs at sentencing hearing Crown wants 14 years for man's brutal sexual assault of two-year-old daughter. *Edmonton Journal* [Online]. Available: <http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=c423b6dc-e3c3-4a8d-8538-2ce7f31108f1&k=35843>.

⁵⁶ Hanes, A. (2006, March 17). A childhood in hell Images of their tiny faces and abused bodies circulate freely on the Internet. But of the hundreds of thousands of known victims, only a handful have been found and rescued. *The Gazette* [Online]. Available: <http://www.canada.com/montrealgazette/news/story.html?id=4b76faa8-17e4-47d2-bce3-5e881a887ff8&k=78072>.

⁵⁷ Barlow, E. (2007, March 29). Infant and stepson, victims. *Sun Media* [Online]. Available: <http://www.edmontonsun.com/News/Edmonton/2007/03/29/pf-3861436.html>.

RECOMMENDATION 14 – Traumatization Responses of the Very Young

- **We recommend that education regarding such early victimization occur and knowledge about the traumatization responses of infants and very young children is updated as the research continues to develop such insights.**

Chapter 8

Ritual Abuse-Torture, the Girl Child and Reproductive

Harms ~ Article 19

We note on page 52 of the Standing Senate Committee Report the statement that it received very little information from a gendered perspective. In response to this gap we share some of our participatory research findings regarding reproductive harms inflicted, within the context of ritual abuse-torture families/groups, against “the humanity of the enslaved girl child because of her gender and her body’s reproductive functionality ... [which] ... increase her vulnerability to the harms that will be inflicted upon her.”⁵⁸

Since 1993, when we were first introduced to the reality and atrocities of ritual abuse-torture victimization, we have repeatedly been told about forced impregnations, forced abortions, and induced forced deliveries, and sadistic raping by the perpetrators during and following the forced abortions and labor and delivery ordeals. Women have also shared the trauma of being young girls and experiencing fear during spontaneous abortions which, at the time, because of their age, they did not understand what was happening to them. And their fear was made more complex because they could not ask for help. One Canadian woman describing such a childhood experience to us stated:

I had two pregnancies when I was still a child and I remember being so scared. At the time I didn’t know, didn’t understand what was happening to me. I didn’t know I was having a miscarriage, all I knew was I had stomach pains. I was very confused. I didn’t know what to do when the stomach pains and bleeding started so I ran into the woods and hid behind a huge tree. I was bleeding and pieces of

⁵⁸ Sarson, J. & MacDonald, L. (2007). *The emerging issue of ritual abuse-torture: Foeticide and infanticide in the private sphere of family and guardian relationships*. Paper submitted to the Working Group on the Girl Child, NGO Committee on the Status of Women – Geneva Conference of NGOs with Consultative Status with the United Nations (CONGO) in response to their report entitled *A Girl’s Right to Life Female Foeticide and Girl Infanticide*.

stuff were coming out of me. I now understand the blood and tissue was the miscarriage but at the time I didn't know. I was terrified. I buried it under the huge tree. I went home and was beaten.⁵⁹

Ongoing Reproductive Harms

Although the above narrative was spoken of by a Canadian woman in her fifties, the reality that we and civil society need to confront is that ritual abuse-torture is a cycle of ongoing intergenerational family/guardianship/ adult-child violence. And as with other forms of relational violence within the domestic sphere such cycles do not stop unless interventions are in place to confront the perpetrators and to educate the children that the ordeals they are enduring constitute criminal violence and are not normal adult-child relationships as the perpetrators forcibly condition them to believe.

The ongoingness of ritual abuse-torture reproductive harms including infanticide is described below by "AC", a young Canadian woman presently in her early 20s. "AC" was five years old when the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* was adopted by the UN General Assembly on November 20, 1989. She was still only eight years old when the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women released their final report detailing ritual abuse-torture in Canada. Today, in 2007, Canada has still not seen it necessary to directly address the human rights violations of intergenerational ritual abuse-torture she speaks of being born into and is presently attempting to exit. She writes in 2007:

I remembered this weekend what really happened, and it wasn't a miscarriage. I was pregnant for about 7 months I think Before a ... meeting [a code word for violent family/group gatherings] ... they gave me something that made me have the baby. I don't know if it was alive when it was born or not, but they did so many things to that baby at the meeting that I know it wasn't alive when I went home that night. I did see it long enough to know that it was a boy. I don't

⁵⁹ Carrie's (not her real name) story as told to us during our Nova Scotian "kitchen table" participatory research project in 1998.

remember any crying, so maybe he wasn't alive at all... I hope not... I feel like I am going to die. I think this is the worst thing that they could have done to me. I love babies. This isn't fair, WHY DO THEY DO THINGS LIKE THIS??? How is it even humanly possible to hurt someone else so much.... I don't understand. That baby should have had a chance to live. I know this world sucks, and he would have been raised in the [family] ... and I wouldn't have been able to take care of him. But he should have been allowed to have a life where he wasn't abused or murdered... It's not fair and when I think about it I feel like I'm going to die... I was thinking about suicide a lot this weekend. I have just been feeling so tired of all this shit I feel so horrible all the time it seems.

“AC” goes on to say:

The frustration, isolation and hopelessness that I have dealt with, because of the refusal of most agencies and professionals to try and assist me, has at times been almost too much to bear. I have been left so many times contemplating suicide, because it seemed there was absolutely no help or understanding for me in this society. ... I have been a victim of ritual abuse-torture my entire life, and even now (though I am a full grown adult) struggle daily with resisting further victimization

“AC” states she tried on various occasions to give a full report to the police. On these occasions she states she was not believed or told there would probably be no evidence. She also reports being treated as if she was crazy. Such acts of social rejection as spoken of earlier (see page 32) add to and intensified “AC’s” suffering. Beginning in 2001, as a 17 year old youth, she became increasingly over-whelmed by her sufferings and on-going victimizations. Her suffering was expressed as emotional depressiveness and suicidality and required numerous hospitalizations between the years of 2001-2005. When she attempted to tell the hospital staff about the horrific realities she had and was enduring she reports they too did not believe her.

And this is the ongoing reality that happens when and because the Canadian government has failed to acknowledge ritual abuse-torture as a human rights violation and an emerging form of non-state actor torture that was first identified by the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women in 1993. If for example, Canada had begun, in 1993, interventions in response to the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women disclosure that “ritual abuse” and “torture” were reported to be occurring in every region of Canada, “AC” was only eight years old. If Canadian civil society had been made aware that non-state actor torture, specifically ritual abuse-torture, was a form of violence that occurred in Canadian families we suggest “AC’s” cry for help would have been better understood when, as a little girl, she ran away from home in an attempt to escape. And later as a youth, police and other protective services hopefully would have had the educational awareness and knowledge to believe and investigate “AC’s” disclosure that she was enduring ritual abuse-torture. And when in hospital “AC” hopefully would have been believed and received the specialized care and support torture victimization recovery demands.

At present, because of the reluctance of many layers of government, “AC” and all other Canadian children victimized by ritual abuse-torturers goes unrecognized. And the destructiveness of the torturers is being passed on to the next generation. Because escaping becomes impossible for many, they become the next generation of perpetrators, the next pedophile, the next human trafficker, and possibly the next serial killer. They become the next generation of captive enslaved women victims, the next suicide victim, the next school drop out, the next run away street child, the next drug addicted person, or the next victim of a pimp. And for those who do succeed to get through school, to go on to be educated, many will suffer emotional over-whelmingness and Self-harming behaviors that can require hospitalization, many require medications that are costly, and many will be on disability or stress leave because their ability to cope frequently breaks down.

As harassment and stalking and the organized criminality of ritual abuse-torturers gives rise to repeated victimization, without socio-cultural understanding of their plight they see legal and police protection as useless in meeting their needs. And some victimized youth (and adults) will run breaking all family/group contact, they will get out, change their name, and find success but because of ongoing fear that they will be found they remain silent. However, many are trusting us with their voices, helping us to break this silence so that today's children born into ritual abuse-torture families/groups will not be abandoned and forced to be another generation of silenced citizens.

Referring to Article 19 which reads:

States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

RECOMMENDATION 15 – Identifying Reproductive Harms

- **We recommend that it be acknowledged that girls and youth who suffer reproductive harms such as forced impregnations, forced abortions, and forced infanticide for example, that these are identified as gender-based acts of violence that can occur within non-state actor torture victimization.**

RECOMMENDATION 16 – Specialized Services

- **We recommend that specialized services be developed to support recovery from non-state actor torture victimization, including recovery from ritual abuse-torture victimization and traumatization.**

Chapter 9

Article 19 ~ *Misopais*, Public Input, and Other Recommendations

Article 19 of the *Convention On the Rights of the Child* which reads in part that measures are required “... to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child” acknowledges that child citizens suffer many forms of violence. It also gives room for emerging forms of violence to be named and recognized, which is the basis for this *Shadow Report*.

The Ritual Abuse-Torturer and Misopais

Coming to terms with the reality that there are ritual abuse-torturers within Canadian families and like-minded groups raises the question: How can adults inflict such atrocities? We theorize there is and has been a centuries old collective socio-cultural attitude that has devalued and disregarded the rights of children as persons. And the devaluation and disregard of children is comparable to misogynistic attitudes that devalue women and underlines violence and discrimination against women globally. We named this attitude *misopais*. Taken from the Greek language, we coined the word *misopais*, *miso* referring to hatred and *pais* referring to children.⁶⁰

Attitudes remain invisible unless openly brought into socio-cultural discourse. From hate-based attitudes such as racism, classism, misogyny, or *misopais*, flows acts based on the disregard, devaluation, objectification, ownership, dehumanization, and animalization for

⁶⁰ Sarson, J. & MacDonald, L. (in press). Ritual Abuse-Torture Families/Groups: Local to Global Pedophilic Violence, Human Trafficking, and *Misopais*. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment, and Trauma*.

‘the other’. We use the term animalization because many of the persons who have endured ritual abuse-torture speak of feeling like an animal or feeling non-human. The complex reality that exists within ritual abuse-torture families/groups is that ‘the other’ is children generally but also specifically the perpetrator’s children. This complexity is universal when considering violence against children because the misopaisic ‘norm’ is that the harm endured by children most frequently occurs in the home perpetrated by family members or others known to the child. Ritual abuse-torturers misopaisic attitudes are destructively expressed in acts of enslaving brutality – abuse, torture, terrorization, horrification, and trafficking – that for most victimized girls and boys (but not all) begins in infancy or early toddlerhood. Perpetrators have extreme levels of superiority because, to date, they function with impunity.⁶¹

We suggest misopaisic attitudes underline all forms of violence and discrimination against the child citizen. However, the girl child suffers exponentially because of her gender – she experiences both misopaisic and misogynistic attitudes that contribute to the relational violence and discrimination she specifically endures.⁶² Within ritual abuse-torture families/groups both misopaisic and misogynistic attitudes are expressed and accepted by both male and female perpetrators. This may be one reason we have been repeatedly told that women ritual abuse-torturers are more violent or perceived as experiencing more pleasure from torturing than the male perpetrators. It could well be that having endured both misopaisic and misogynistic attitudes impact on female perpetrator’s expressions of anger and violence.

Ritual Abuse-Torturers and Spillover Violence Against Children

As just stated, our opinion is that misopaisic attitudes underline all forms of violence and discrimination against children generally. Below we draw attention

⁶¹ Sarson, J. & MacDonald, L. (2007). *Fact sheet Misopaisic attitudes as a contributing factor in the discrimination and violence against the girl child specifically in relation to ritual abuse-torture victimization*. Paper presented as resource for side panel presentation entitled, *Human trafficking and non-state actor torture of the girl child within the context of ritual abuse-torture*, Fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations Headquarters, New York City, NY, March 5, 2007. [Online]. Available: <http://www.ritualabusertorture.org/misopais.pdf>.

⁶² Ibid.

to some other forms of violence that intersect with the violence committed within ritual abuse-torture families/groups. We discuss these briefly only to further expose the inter-relatedness between ritual abuse-torture families/groups and other groups engaged in forms of spillover violence against children. These spillovers are:

1. Spillover violence of pre and post military training and/or armed conflict.

Research suggests that there is spillover violence into military families when troops are in training to fight.⁶³ There is also spillover post conflict violence such as indicated in the trial of a Canadian Forces peacekeeper who was acquitted of sexually assaulting a 13-year-old girl in Manitoba on the grounds he suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder brought on by the horrors he saw in Bosnia in 1994.⁶⁴ This being so gives support to the childhood narratives of some of the Canadian women victimized by ritual abuse-torturers. Their narratives suggests pre and post spillover violence related to military training and conflict experiences were present. For instance, the torture tactics used by some ritual abuse-torturers suggested knowledge gained in the military, a consequence of military experiences, or were the perpetrator's verbalization that their torture acts were influenced by their military training. We suggest spillover pre and post conflict violence compounds the brutality of the relational violence that occurs against the child within ritual abuse-torture families, guardianships, or groups.⁶⁵

2. Spillover violence in connection to other criminal groups. Examining the common themes of the Canadian women's and youth's narratives of their childhoods within ritual abuse-torture families/groups reveals that such families/groups were/are involved not only in human trafficking but in drug and

⁶³ Mines, S. (2007). Military families, domestic violence within. In N.A. Jackson (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Domestic Violence* (pp. 487-492). New York: Routledge.

⁶⁴ CBC. (2006, June 22). Ex-soldier found not guilty of sex assault on Manitoba girl [Online]. Available: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/story/2006/06/22/soldier-not-guilty.html>.

⁶⁵ Sarson, J. & MacDonald, L. (in print). Ritual abuse-torture: Torture in the private sphere and connections to post conflict gender-based violence. *Voices* Newsletter of the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace.

gun trafficking and even money laundering. Connections to biker gangs, pedophilic trafficking rings, and other transnational criminal activities are suggested. Such criminal inter-connectiveness is realistic based on the 2005 Criminal Intelligence Service Canada (CISC) report which states traffickers are generally involved in other forms of criminal activities such as drug trafficking, and violence and intimidation are their main tools. This description fits the narratives we listen to nationally and globally.

3. Spillover violence in connection to human experimentation scientists.

Canada's history of using and abusing vulnerable children is not one to be proud of. Media stories record, for example, that Cree and Ojibwa aboriginal children were subjected to electric shocking before an audience of 'officials'.⁶⁶ The Duplessis Orphan's records reveal they were victims of powerful debilitating drug experimentations beginning in the 1940's and Dr. Ewen Cameron's name showed up in many of their records.⁶⁷ Ewen Cameron conducted inhuman mind-control 'psychic driving' experiments on unknowing patients at Montreal's Allan Memorial Institute of McGill University, beginning in the post conflict era of the 1950s.⁶⁸ The Canadian government and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) provided funds for such post cold war mind-control experimentation. So damaging were these experimentations that in 1994, the Canadian federal government awarded 77 Canadians who were experimented into 'a childlike state' \$100,000.00 each.⁶⁹ Government payouts did not stop as Janine Huard received her settlement a few weeks ago.⁷⁰

⁶⁶ Moon, P. (1996, October 19). Hundreds of Cree and Ojibwa children violated. *The Globe and Mail*; _____. (1996, October 21). School's electric chair haunts natives. *The Globe and Mail*.

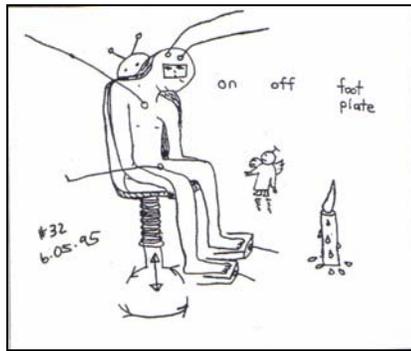
⁶⁷ Hahn, C. & Munro, M. (2004, February 23). Committed and abused: Were Quebec's orphans used as guinea pigs? Freedom [Online]. Available: <http://www.freedommag.org/english/canada/vol004i1/page12.htm>.

⁶⁸ Weinstein, H. (1988). *A father, a son and the CIA*. Toronto: James Lorimer & Company.

⁶⁹ Moore, D. (2007, January 8). Ex-patient to tell of pills, shocks, brainwashing. *The Globe and Mail*, p. A9.

⁷⁰ Moore, D. (2007, July 16). Study to probe Cold War psychiatric research. Montreal found itself an unlikely hub of activity in 1950s, becoming a 'medical mecca' for experiments [Online], Available: <http://www.thestar.com/printArticle/236315>.

In some of the Canadian women's narratives of childhood ritual abuse-torture there appears themes that their parent(s) also trafficked them, for financial or other material gain, to 'scientists' who engaged in torture-based physical, sexualized, and mind-control experimentation in Canada. There were frequent thematic indications of Canadian military involvement. For one Canadian woman, Mary (a pseudonym), Ewen Cameron was the first doctor she remembers being trafficked to as a child to be subjected to human experimentation. Taken by her



father, Mary has spoken out many times about her life-time struggle to overcome the devastating impact of the torture-based human experimentations she was subjected to.⁷¹ She, as others have, uses drawings in an attempt to explain the unexplainable. For example, in this drawing sent to us by Mary she explains that the

experimentation involved being forced to sit in a chair with electrodes attached to various parts of her body and her feet on foot pedals hooked to electrical outlets. To help her survive she connects with a tiny guardian angel whose existence she inserts into some of her drawing narratives.

Mary is not alone in her attempt to tell of surviving human experimentation



ordeals. Another Canadian woman sent us this drawing narrative in 2004 describing it as “a drawing of me, as a little girl. I can't capture the terror, the horror, or trauma in this drawing. I am surrounded by blood. I feel the pain everyday.” A second drawing narrative was one of horrification. She spoke of how she was forced into a cage that was attached to the ceiling; becoming a child witness to infanticidal human experimentation involving the dismemberment of a male infant she calls Samuel. She says, “I can still hear his screams.”

⁷¹ Bronskill, J. (1997, September 13). Playhouse of Horrors. They believe they were young guinea pigs in military mind-control experiments during the Cold War. The war is long ended, but their torment lives on. *The Hamilton Spectator*.

When such drawing narratives are dismissed it is a violation of their dignity and a rejection of research findings that attests to the difficulties they would have had as victimized Canadian children to attempt to verbally explain the atrocities they were suffering. It is only in later adult years that they can begin to develop an understanding of their life-threatening ordeals and have language to suggest what they endured.

We have also been told by women from the U.S., who endured ritual abuse-torture in childhood, that during this period they were trafficked into Canada and subjected to torture-based physical, sexualized, and mind-control human experimentation ordeals that were part of experimentations related to the project MK-Ultra. Cameron's work was connected to this CIA MK-Ultra project.⁷² And again, we hear of Canadian military and CIA connections.

Vulnerable children may still not be safe. A 2004 media article indicated that it was still not clear how many Canadians are recruited into clinical trials and whether recruitment practices are ethical and sound.⁷³ Such an environment continues to offer exploitative individuals, families/groups opportunities to harm and torture children thus, in our opinion, children's histories as subjects of human experimentation torture in Canada, whether state, non-state, or a combination of state/non-state must be exposed. Children's protection from such victimization atrocities and crimes against their humanity is paramount.

RECOMMENDATION 17 – Declassify Canada's Human Experimentation Records

■ **We recommend that under the Freedom of Information Act that all governmental records including military records relating to human experimentation be immediately declassified making them publicly available so that persons so harmed can find answers to their childhood victimization histories as part of their recovery process.**

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ Munro, M. (2004, February 23). Doctors pressured to recruit patients. *CanWest News Service*.

Children's Commissioner

We agree with the Standing Senate Committee's recommendation 20 regarding the establishment of an independent Children's Commissioner as a place and person to whom child citizens could turn. From our point of view, if Canada had had such a person we could have drawn attention to the ritual abuse-torture of children when the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women, in 1993, first exposed such a reality. And when we were made aware, in that same year of 1993, that ritual abuse-torture existed as a form of non-state actor torture occurring in Canada it would have been a place where "AC" as a youth could have hopefully turned and been heard. And hopefully the Children's Commissioner would have advocated for the elimination of all forms of non-state actor torture such as the ritual abuse-torture of children.

The Oppression of Public Input

The Standing Senate Committee wrote of various reasons why the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* is being ineffectively applied in the Canadian context, lack of or the increased need for public input being one. There is another side to public input that needs to be mentioned and that is the oppression of public input. To concretize the complexities attached to attempting to provide public input we will briefly outline our experiences of attempting to have the Canadian governmental systems hear and respond to the fact that relational non-state actor torture, including ritual abuse-torture, occurs within Canadian relationships.

Since the 1990s we have been attempting to expose that non-state actor torture is committed against Canadians. Particular to this *Shadow Report* are the children who are victimized within the context of organized ritual abuse-torture families/groups. In 1999 we participated in a provincial consultation related to the *National Children's Agenda, Nova Scotians Respond. A Report on the 1999*

*Consultation Process*⁷⁴ and succeeded in having ‘torture’ named as a form of child victimization in this provincial report (p. 11). This report was forwarded to Ottawa to provide grass roots insights on the federal development of the document *A Canada Fit for Children*.⁷⁵ On reading *A Canada Fit for Children* torture was not mentioned as a form of violence endured by children. Thus, the reality that forms of non-state actor torture happen in Canada was made invisible when Canada submitted its report to the UN Special Session on Children.

Besides participating in community consultation meetings we have written many activism letters stating that non-state actor torture – ritual abuse-torture – happens in Canada. We have sent letters to Senator Landon Pearson when she was Advisor on Children’s Rights to The Minister of Foreign Affairs, to federal Ministers of Justice, and to the Office of The Minister Responsible to the Status of Women. Their various responses included no response, that the issue was the responsibility of others, or stated the existing provisions within the Canadian *Criminal Code* perspective. In 2001 we wrote to various representatives to the World Summit on Children and did not receive replies. We contacted Senator Dallaire’s office in February, 2006, who was a member of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights and author of the report to which our Shadow Report addresses. We were told that “Senator Dallaire appreciates your efforts in this area. However, the senator will concentrate his work on the following issues: -conflict resolution/UN -child soldiers -the Commercial sexual exploitation of children.”⁷⁶ We were unable to gain the opportunity to provoke awareness that forms of non-state actor torture, particularly ritual abuse-torture, involves the commercial exploitation of children thus unsuccessful to have the Standing Senate Committee hear our representation of/for the voices of the Canadian citizens who as children were and

⁷⁴ Department of Community Services. (2000). *National Children’s Agenda, Nova Scotians Respond. A Report on the 1999 Consultation Process*. Halifax, NS, Canada: Author.

⁷⁵ Government of Canada. (2004, April). *A Canada Fit for Children*. (Catalogue No. SD13-4/2004E). Ottawa: Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada.

⁷⁶ Ghattas, S. (Personal e-mail communication with Policy Advisor/conseillère en politiques Office of the LGen the Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire, Senator/ Cabinet du Lgén l'honorable Roméo A. Dallaire, sénateur, Wednesday, February 01, 2006 5:15 PM)

continue to be so harmed and so silenced. However, our Member of Parliament, Mr. Bill Casey, has taken our information forward and received an existing provisions response from the present Minister of Justice the Honourable Rob Nicholson.

Evoking Existing Provisions Arguments Minimizes Non-State Actor Torture

Torture can encapsulate abuse but acts of abuse do not encapsulate torture. To intuitively discern the difference we pose the following situation. Although a person should never be placed in a position to have to choose between being tortured versus abused, however, if they were we suggest a person would chose abuse versus torture. Some acts of violence are just so horrific that they need to be identified as acts of torture.⁷⁷

The existing provisions perspective suggests that ritual abuse-torture can be dealt with under various sections in the *Criminal Code* such as a sexual assault, assault with a weapon and bestiality for example. Such a perspective renders torture by non-state actors invisible, it minimizes the severity of the horrification, essential specialized services required to support recovery from mind-altering and personality fracturing torture victimization will continue to be non-existent. If non-state actor torture, specific to our report ritual abuse-torture, is not specifically named the police will not fully understand the crime that requires investigation, the protective services victimized persons require will be inappropriate, and the complexities of explaining ‘life’ within ritual abuse-torture families/groups will be misunderstood. And without directly being named the ignorance of civil society will support what children are repeatedly told by ritual abuse-torturers, “don’t tell but if you do no one will believe you.”

Ritual abuse-torturers use acts of physical, sexualized, and mind-spirit torture consciously and methodically, with the intent to destroy or fracture the personality of the children they choose for victimization, to torture them into a state of non-personhood, into

⁷⁷ Von Kintzel, C. (2007, June 3). Authors: Some assaults bad enough to be called torture. *The Chronicle Herald*, p. A4.

believing they are an “it”, an animal, or ‘a nobody”, and to enslave and hold them captive within the co-culture of such like-minded families/groups. No perpetrator can be held responsible for the crime of ritual abuse-torture or other forms of non-state actor torture in Canada because no such law has been defined. In other words there is no specific crime without a specific law.⁷⁸ And no such perpetrator will be charged tomorrow unless non-state actor torture, in all its forms, is criminalized. And no child’s attempt to tell will be understood unless ritual abuse-torturers and their existence is studied and exposed as a unique family/group of organized criminal perpetrators. Torture and specific to this Shadow Report ritual abuse-torture by non-state actors will continue to be deemed non-existent if the existing provision perspective is maintained. **We suggest that no perspective should be allowed to be invoked that will render torture of any kind – state or non-state – invisible.**

RECOMMENDATION 18 – Rejecting the Existing Provisions Perspective

- **We recommend that for the protection of the child that no perspective, including the existing provisions perspective, should be allowed to be invoked so as to render torture of any kind – state or non-state – invisible.**

RECOMMENDATION 19 – Education

- **We recommend all layers of civil society be educated on human rights and gender equality, the Charter of Rights,⁷⁹ and on all forms of violence within relationships including non-state actor torture – ritual abuse-torture.**

RECOMMENDATION 20 – National Clearinghouse on Family Violence

- **We recommend that the National Clearinghouse on Family Violence, under the Minister of Health, increase the knowledge disseminated about family**

⁷⁸ Lundström, J. (2007, February 14). “With intention to destroy?” *Rape as Genocide under International Criminal Law The case of Bangladesh* (p. 18). Paper written for Global Human Rights Defence. Sweden: Lund University.

⁷⁹ Makin, K. (2007, April 13). Teach Charter in schools, top judge says. *The Globe and Mail*, p. A5.

violence to include forms of non-state actor torture. Family violence is an endemic public health issue and fits under the mission of Health Canada which is to help the people of Canada maintain and improve their health.

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS 21 –

- (a) Recognize and name abuse of power as an irreducible element associated with all or most forms of violence and discrimination against children. And when perpetrators of violence against children face legal charges abuse of power and trust needs to be included as a criminal act within violent adult/parental/guardianship-child relationships.**
- (b) *De-sex* language. The media and civil society frequently refers to sexualized violence against the child as *sex-related* using descriptions such as *adults were charged with having oral sex or sexual intercourse with a child*. Even reports such as *The Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, Report of the Secretary-General*, tabled at the fifty-first session of the Economic and Social Council contains sexualized language with the reference to the rape of a girl child as “forced sexual intercourse” (p. 4). Adults do not have “sexual intercourse” with a child – it is always vaginal, anal, oral, finger or object rape or assault. We suggest that all sectors of Canadian civil society take a leadership role in transforming language that de-sexualizes acts of violence against children.**
- (c) Reframe misopaisic language (see pages 58-59) by avoiding words or phrases such as *stop acting like a cry baby, the terrible twos, stop being so juvenile, or stop acting so childish*, which are inherently suggestive of a discriminatory bias and devaluation of children and children’s development.**

(d) Challenge the parental/guardian myths that all parents/guardians are caring, protective, concerned, and value a child as a person with human rights and that the home is the safest place for a child. All parents/guardians are not caring and the home can be one of the most dangerous places for a child.

Without appropriate naming and laws, all sectors of civil society will remain ignorant to the plight of children enslaved within ritual abuse-torture families/groups. Education is necessary for prevention and effective interventions. Children must be continuously taught what pedophilic violence, torture, and trafficking is, that it is criminal and if victimized that they are not at fault.⁸⁰ Education that truthfully informs creates a civil society capable of listening to the ways in which victimized children tell that they are being harmed and opens civil society to the reality that some families in Canada (and around the world) are dangerous places for children.⁸¹

⁸⁰ United Kingdom researchers learned some young people experienced violence in their homes but did not understand this treatment was harmful or violent (Cawson, P., Wattam, C., Brooker, S., & Kelly, G. (2000). *Child maltreatment in the United Kingdom: A study of the prevalence of child abuse and neglect*. (London: NSPCC).

⁸¹ When living in a violent home children are more likely to be violently harmed by family members than by anyone else (Amnesty International. (2000). *Hidden scandal, secret shame: Torture and ill-treatment of children* (p. 13). (From UNICEF International Child Development Centre, Florence, Italy, in *Innocent Digest, 2*, Children and Violence). London, UK: Author). Around the world researchers in Australia and elsewhere say that a child who is harmed by one form of violence in the family is also likely to be harmed by other forms of violence (Mullen, P. E. & Fleming, J. (1998, Autumn). Long-term effects of child sexual abuse. *Issues in Child Abuse Prevention*, 9). And when children live in a home where they see, hear, and feel violence, it is called being exposed to family violence; this causes them harm. They often have the same feelings and difficulties as children who have been directly harmed and hurt by the violent acts of their parents (National Clearinghouse on Family Violence. (1999). *A handbook for health and social service providers and educators on children exposed to woman abuse/family violence*. Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada).

In the United States, some researchers found parents were responsible for 81 percent of the harm and violence children suffered (Administration for Children and Families Summary. (2002). *Child maltreatment 2002*. Washington, DC).

Some police reports suggested, within Canadian families, children were harmed either by a parent or someone the child knew (Canadian Center for Justice Statistics. (2004). *Family Violence in Canada: A statistical profile 2004* (pp. 16-20). Ottawa: Statistics Canada). Another Canadian research study showed that when children were harmed 93 percent reported being harmed by a family member or relative (Trocmé, N. & Wolfe, D. (2001). *Child maltreatment in Canada: Canadian incident study of reported child abuse and neglect*. Ottawa: Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada).

The specific population of Canadian child citizens, and later as adult citizens, who have/are enduring ritual abuse-torture remain oppressed, marginalized, and discriminated against as they have not been given a place of equality on the human rights violations agenda. The failure to protect them and their rights continues to be passed on to the next generation of infants, toddlers, school-aged children, and youth. The reality is such families in Canada (and around the world) are dangerous places for children and it must not be ignored that

TORTURE HAPPENS IN THE HOME.