



BORYS WRZESNEWSKYJ

Member of Parliament – Etobicoke Centre

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For Immediate Release

May 6, 2009

Liberal MP re-introduces bill to protect women from hate crimes

Ottawa – Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke Centre), seconded by Liberal MP Maria Mina, today re-introduced in the House of Commons his Private Member's Bill that would make it an offence under the Criminal Code to propagate hate against individuals based on their gender.

"Currently, the law states that it is prohibited to propagate hate against an individual because of colour, race, religion, ethnic origin or sexual orientation. However, it is not against the law to propagate hate against individuals because of their gender. By enacting this important improvement to the Criminal Code, Parliament can begin to address the serious issue of promoting hatred and violence against women or men."

Wrzesnewskyj decided to introduce an amendment to the Criminal Code after learning that hate crimes against women were not prohibited by law and after reviewing cases which proved to him the serious and at times lethal consequences of this societal problem.

"From websites dedicated to the propagation of hatred of women, to repulsive t-shirts, to shocking representations of violence disguising as art, to actual violence against and even the murder of women, hatred rears its ugly head regularly in society, said Wrzesnewskyj. Today the hands of our police forces are tied when attempting to deal with this type of hate as the Criminal Code does not prohibit gender based hate crimes in this country."

"To propagate death to Jews is criminal, to propagate death to women is legal; to propagate death to Muslims is criminal, to propagate death to women is legal; to propagate death to gays is criminal, to propagate death to women is legal! What does the current exclusion of gender-women in our hate crimes legislation say to us about the nature of our society?"

This new effort in trying to add women to the groups protected under the Criminal Code hate propaganda law comes after several similar attempts by Mr. Wrzesnewskyj were all deliberately blocked by the Harper Conservative government.

"It is incomprehensible that the Harper Conservatives, who claim to be the 'law and order' party, would vote twice against this amendment, noted Wrzesnewskyj. This time, all parliamentarians have a chance to send a strong message that Canada does not tolerate such crimes.





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Wrzesnewskyj also noted that his initiative had received a wide range of support from several national organizations.

"This amendment has received support from labour movements, school board associations and the majority of members of parliament. As well, this is a tool that can help police departments across Canada to prohibit the promotion of hatred against a vulnerable group in our society. I hope that my colleagues will put their political differences and ideologies aside to protect Canadian women."

-30 -

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