



BORYS WRZESNEWSKYJ

Member of Parliament – Etobicoke Centre

News Release • News Release

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

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

When this Bill was originally introduced as Bill C-385, Wrzesnewskyj received praise from law enforcement and victims groups alike.

"Borys, thanks for your effort on hate crime legislation."

Chief Bill Blair, Metro Toronto Police referring to Borys' Private Member's Bill C-385

"The Toronto Police Service supports and applauds your efforts to combat the serious issue of promoting hatred and violence against women. We...look forward to working with you and all members of government in the best interest of public safety."

Bob Clarke, Superintendent Executive Officer, Office of the Chief of Police

Speaking in the House, Wrzesnewskyj said that:

"While religious, racial, ethnic and other minorities have been subjected to hate propaganda and violence; women have been the target of hate too often. By enacting this change to the Criminal Code, Parliament can begin to address the serious issue of misogyny in all of its vile incarnations."

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 several cases which proved to him that there was a real 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 it's ugly head regularly in society. 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."

Wrzesnewskyj concluded by saying that he hoped his colleagues from all sides of the House of Commons would come together to support his initiative:

"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."

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