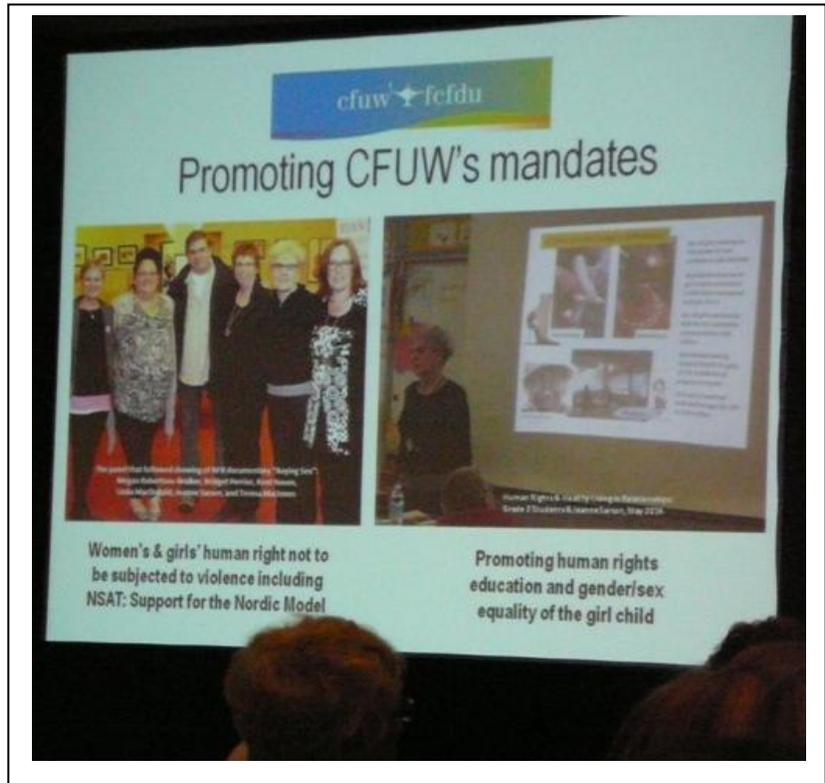




This logo is from the "Business and Plenary Booklet" prepared by CFUW/FCFUDU National Office: for the 2014 AGM www.cfuw.org

Linda and I attended the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of CFUW held June 21-22, 2014, in Waterloo, Ontario. During the Plenary Sessions, Teri Shaw, VP Advocacy, introduced "Advocacy Minutes" as an example of "The Power of Women Working Together". Linda and I had the privilege to present one of the "Advocacy Minutes". In the minutes allotted we shared, with attending CFUW members, two advocacy initiatives as illustrated in this photo.

The initiatives were: (a) a discussion related to prostitution and Bill C-36 and (b) promoting human rights education with Grade 7 students.



Prostitution and Bill C-36

Linda presented points relating to prostitution and Bill C-36. Her points included:

1. Describing the successful showing of the NFB documentary "Buying Sex" which was followed by a panel discussion. Seventy-five youth and adults and all genders attended. Open discussion occurred. Men in the audience spoke of being confused about prostitution being "empowerment" work.
2. Introducing panel members as shown in the above photo: Megan Robertson-Walker of the London Abused Women's Centre; Bridget Perrier, a survivor of prostitution; Kent Nason, documentarian; Linda and me, and Teresa MacInnes, documentarian. Bridget spoke of being pimped and trafficked from Ontario to

Nova Scotia when she was a child of 12 years. She described her ordeals of being tortured by the pimp and by johns. Hence, her ordeals of non-State torture (NST) victimization illustrated the importance of the CFUW policy on the need to criminalized NST.

3. Wearing the T-shirt from the London Abused Women's Centre with its message "I am not for sale" shown here. CFUW members can connect with Megan at the Centre which supports Bill C-36.



4. Connecting with abolitionist women who have survived prostitution who support Bill C-36 because it is transformative in that the Preamble of Bill C-36 addresses the right of persons to dignity, equality, and respect. Prostitution is addressed as violence against women and children and the Bill considers children to be a social class who are vulnerable and in need of special protection.
5. Sharing our two recommendations for Bill C-36 which are:
 - a. Removal of the suggested Section 213 of the proposed Act on "Communicating to provide sexual services for consideration" because if the johns and pimps are penalized for being in areas where children are there is no need to criminalize the women. Children are protected with the double penalty applied to johns and pimps.
 - b. To amend Section 269.1 on Torture of the *Criminal Code of Canada* because it presently only criminalizes State torture. Research and detailed descriptions of non-State torture are described by some women and children who were/are prostituted. By adding non-State torture in this Bill the legal discrimination against exploited women and children who endure such atrocities in prostitution would be removed.

Promoting human rights education with Grade 7 students

Points I shared included:

1. All students received a copy of the United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as shown in this class photo (consents given).
2. Class discussion included how to develop a respectful relationship with Self and others. Other issues related to gender equality, forms of



violence including torture by both State and non-State actors, human trafficking, pornography—torture porn and snuff—and prostitution. Children asked questions, for example, about the three women in Ohio who were kidnapped and tortured for ten years. Because some boys as young as eleven seek out internet images of pornography, discussion included becoming aware that such images are criminal violations of human rights and are not about sex. Frequently boys have sexist attitudes or make jokes about women and girls who are prostituted. The discussion, thus, included insights about pimping and the demand of johns, including how young some children are when victimized. Harms prostituted women and children, predominately the girl child suffer, was also spoken of.

3. Children had the opportunity to participate in a Self awareness exercise to promote their awareness of the harms of emotional and verbal abuse or bullying/cyberbullying can inflict. This exercise also promotes empathy for the student being bullied as well as helps students build a respectful relationship with Self and others.
4. Students evaluate my presentation. I closed by sharing one example of a student's response to the question that asked for their understanding of gender equality. The student's response was that "girls and boys are equal". This is the overall response on all the evaluations.
5. I brief video of the class can be viewed at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XF9K3x0PT28&feature=youtu.be>



Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald, June 21, 2014
Presenting our "Advocacy Minutes"