

Parliamentary Pro-Life Caucus



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Niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. says abortion is the civil rights issue of the 21st Century

“This year we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which has been described by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon as ‘the first global statement of what we now take for granted – the inherent dignity and equality of all human beings,’” said Conservative Co-Chair of the Parliamentary Pro-Life Caucus, Maurice Vellacott. “Life is the most basic human right!”

“Canada is the only country in the civilized world with no legal protection for unborn children,” said Liberal Co-Chair Paul Steckle. “This has led not only to over 100,000 abortions a year in this country, but to a significant amount of pain and suffering for women. Where is the dignity and equality in that? If I may quote civil rights activist Dr. King, ‘the pain of abortion has swept across the Canadian nation for far too long.’”

Dr. Alveda King, daughter of civil rights activist Rev. A. D. King, and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is in Ottawa this week to take part in the 2008 March for Life events. She knows only too well the injustice of denying the most basic civil right, the right to life, to any innocent person and sees abortion as the civil rights issue of the 21st Century.

“In my country, black women are three times as likely to have abortions as white women,” says Dr. King. “While African Americans are about 12% of the population, we suffer 36% of the abortions. It’s as devastating as if a plague came into the land and killed one of every four African Americans. I can tell you as a woman who aborted two of her own children, that there is nothing good that comes from abortion.”

Each year, the multi-party Pro-life Caucus holds a press conference in conjunction with the National March for Life, in an act of solidarity with pro-life Canadians. The MPs will be joined this year by Dr. Alveda King on Thursday, May 8, at 1:30 p.m. in the Charles Lynch Press Theatre (room 130-S Centre Block).

Mr. Vellacott noted a parallel between Dr. King’s comments regarding race and the recent controversy in Canada over sex-selective abortions. “Whether the target is black babies, or female babies, or babies with some other characteristic we might screen for, when we single out certain categories of children for destruction, we undermine our commitment to the ideals expressed in the UN Declaration – the dignity and equality of all Canada’s children.”

Mr. Steckle concluded, “Dr. King brings an important message to us today about abortion: like racism, it stems from the flawed view of mankind that some people are not fully human. It is indeed the human rights issue of our time.”

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For additional comment, please contact one or both of the PPLC co-chairs:

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