

Constitution, Rules, and Regulations of the All-Party Parliamentary Group to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

1. NAME

The All-Party Parliamentary Group to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking is hereby created. Its purpose, composition and operation shall be explained in detail in the present statutes. It will from hereon be referred to as the “End Modern Slavery Group.”

2. DEFINITIONS

The End Modern Slavery Group recognizes the complexity of the term “modern slavery” and its interchangeable use with the term “human trafficking.” Definitions are as follows:

“Modern slavery” or “human trafficking” is the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing, harbouring, or exercising control, direction or influence over a person for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation. A person exploits another person if he/she uses threats, force, or other forms of coercion, deception, or abuse of a position of trust, power or authority to make someone provide labor or services they would not otherwise provide. Human trafficking/modern slavery can take many forms, including sex trafficking, forced labour, debt bondage, domestic servitude, forced marriage, recruitment and use of child soldiers and organ trafficking. Further definitions include:

1. “Sex trafficking” is a commercial sex act induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age.
2. “Forced Labour” is work or service that is extorted from someone under the menace of any penalty and work or service that the person has not offered voluntarily.
3. “Debt bondage” occurs when a person is forced to work to pay off a debt. They are tricked into working for little or no pay, with no control over their debt. Most or all of the money they earn goes to pay off their loan. The value of their work becomes invariably greater than the original sum of money borrowed. They face coercion, violence, intimidation if they try to leave.
4. “Domestic servitude” is a special category of labor trafficking where the victims are domestic workers such as maids, servants, housekeepers, child-care givers, those caring for the elderly, the ill, and the infirm.
5. “Recruitment and use of child soldiers” are any children under the age of 18 who are recruited by a state or non-state armed group and used as fighters, cooks, suicide bombers, human shields, messengers, spies, or for sexual purposes.

3. PURPOSE

The End Modern Slavery Group shall:

1. Ensure that the government of Canada does all that it can to prevent and protect civilian populations from modern slavery, increase prosecution of traffickers, and build partnerships with various organizations;

2. Increase the flow of information and analysis to Parliamentarians about modern slavery;
3. Promote understanding of the importance of long-term approaches to the prevention of slavery; and
4. Engage in communication and collaboration with like-minded bodies in civil society and other Parliaments in order to:
 - a) Exchange information about strategies for the prevention of modern slavery;
 - b) Work in conjunction with the United Nations Special Advisor to Fight Human Trafficking, the International Criminal Court, and other organizations working in the field of slavery prevention.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The End Modern Slavery Group shall be composed of members of the Senate and the House of Commons who have expressed the intention of joining the Group and have paid the annual dues of twenty dollars per member (\$20) at the beginning of the fiscal year.

5. WORKING YEAR

The working year of the End Modern Slavery Group shall correspond to its fiscal year, that is, April 1 to March 31.

6. END MODERN SLAVERY GROUP

The Group shall function through the General Assembly and the Executive Committee.

7. GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The End Modern Slavery Group shall meet at least once every fiscal year. The Executive Committee, or a third of the members of the End Modern Slavery Group, may call a meeting of the General Assembly upon giving one week's notice in writing to all members.

8. FUNCTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The functions of the General Assembly shall be the following:

1. To elect the members of the Executive Committee;
2. To debate and ratify draft programs proposed by the Executive Committee;
3. To debate and ratify financial and administrative reports prepared by the End Modern Slavery Group;
4. To amend, where necessary, the Group statutes by a two-third majority vote of the members present;
5. To make suggestions and adopt resolutions in accordance with the purpose of the Group;
6. To dissolve the Group, if necessary, by a two-third majority of the members present.

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee has up to four (4) Co-Chairs, elected for the life of the Parliament, one (1) from each official party in Parliament.
2. The outgoing Chair shall be an ex-officio member of the executive if he or she remains a member of the End Modern Slavery Group;
3. The Speakers of Senate and the House of Commons shall be ex officio honorary chairs of the End Modern Slavery Group;
4. Calling of meetings: The Co-Chairs may call a meeting of the Executive;
5. Quorum: the presence of (3) Executive Committee members shall constitute a quorum.
6. Should a party not wish to sit on the Executive, the Co-Chair position allocated to that party will go unfilled.

10. FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Day-to-day administration: To ensure management of the Group by directing activities and implementing the decisions of the General Assembly;
2. Planning: To establish the agenda for Group meetings in accordance with the Group's aims;
3. Meetings: To convene and ensure the smooth running of Group meetings;
4. Liaison: To maintain relations with Canadian stakeholders and counterparts in other Parliaments;
5. Organization: To prepare and coordinate the activities of the All-Party Parliamentary Group to End Modern Slavery;
6. Replacement: In case of death, inability to act, loss of parliamentary status or resignation of an Executive Committee member, to appoint a replacement who shall remain in office until the expiration of his/her predecessor's term;
7. Budget:
 - a) To establish the budget needed to carry out the annual program of the Group
 - b) To manage the budget, as approved by the General Assembly;
8. Activity and financial reports: To table activity and financial reports at least once every working year before the General Assembly for discussion and approval;
9. To inform Parliament of the Group activities in accordance with prevailing practices;

10. The Executive Committee shall take any other initiative in accordance with the Group's aims.

11. DISSOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT

In the event of a dissolution of Parliament, the Executive Committee in office at that time shall carry on the affairs of the End Modern Slavery Group until a new Executive Committee is elected as soon as practicable after a general election.

12. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1. The signing officer of the End Modern Slavery Group shall be a Co- Chair or, in his or her absence or impossibility to act, one other parliamentarian assigned by the Executive Committee.
2. A financial statement of the End Modern Slavery Group shall be presented to the Executive Committee at its regular meetings.

13. DELEGATE SELECTION PROCEDURE

1. The membership shall be notified of each opportunity to represent the End Modern Slavery Group at any conference, convention, parliamentary or other meeting in Canada or abroad.
2. Members shall be provided with an application form and the deadline for submission and will be selected according to the procedure contained in paragraph 14 (e).
3. The Executive Committee shall decide the allocation of available places amongst recognized Parties on the basis of 30 % to the Senate and 70 % to the House of Commons and with regard to party representation in each House.
4. One of the Co-Chairs shall lead the delegation.
5. The Executive Secretary shall make a list of applicants and shall submit it to the Whips of all parties.
6. All members shall be advised of the delegates and alternates chosen.
7. All delegates and alternates selected shall be advised that, as a condition of participation, they must agree to take a full part in briefings and give the time required to prepare themselves to make a contribution at the meetings.