



BORYS WRZESNEWSKYJ

Member of Parliament – Etobicoke Centre

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

April 18, 2007

Educators and activists to join Wrzesnewskyj at press conference calling for protection of women from hate crimes

Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke Centre) will be making a statement about the introduction of a motion seeking unanimous support at all stages from the House of Commons to pass Bill C-254 that adds women to the groups protected under the *Criminal Code* hate propaganda law.

Joining Wrzesnewskyj will be Toronto anti-violence activist Valerie Smith, Joy Lang of the University of Western Ontario's Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children, and Shannon Hogan of the Ontario Public School Boards Association media violence coalition.

Date: Thursday, April 19, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: Room 130-S Centre Block (Charles Lynch Room)

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Liberal MP to re-introduce motion for unanimous consent to protect women from hate crimes

Ottawa – Liberal MP Borys Wrzesnewskyj (Etobicoke Centre) will introduce a motion on Thursday requesting unanimous support at all stages from the House of Commons to pass his Private Member's Bill, Bill C-254, that adds women to the groups protected under the *Criminal Code* hate propaganda law. Currently, the law only protects those identified by colour, race, religion, ethnic origin, and sexual orientation. This Bill would make it an offence under the *Criminal Code* to propagate hate against individuals based on their gender.

“Canada has some of the strongest hates crimes legislation on the planet, for which we are often lauded, however there is a gaping hole; misogyny and propagation of violence against women are not covered”, said Wrzesnewskyj. ***“This year’s International Women’s Day theme was ‘Ending Violence Against Women: Action for Real Results,’ as well this week we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Let us finally make hate crimes legislation Charter compliant and state unequivocally, legislatively we will provide our judiciary with the tools to address misogyny in all of its vile forms.”***

On May 11, 2005, Mr. Wrzesnewskyj introduced his original Bill C-385 dealing with hate crimes against women and on November 28, 2005, requested unanimous support from all parties at all stages for the bill become law immediately. The motion was defeated. With the new parliament Wrzesnewskyj re-introduced the bill, now known as Bill C-254, on May 19, 2006.

Wrzesnewskyj also stated that it was important to take stock in the advancements towards equality. It is about looking honestly at the continued challenges facing women and finally committing ourselves to overcome those challenges. Passing this Private Member's Bill is one step in the right direction. Another is levelling the playing field for women in politics. ***That is why I support Mr. Dion in setting a target of 33% women candidates for the next election and a target of 50% for the following election and half of Senate appointments to be women.***

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