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# *News Release*

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For immediate release  
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**THE SENATE OF CANADA ADOPTS TOUGHER PENALTIES AGAINST THOSE  
WHO TRAFFIC PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS**

OTTAWA- The Senate of Canada, yesterday adopted Bill C-268 an Act to amend the Criminal Code (minimum sentence for offences involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years).

“Yesterday the members of the Senate sent a clear message to traffickers of children, that their heinous and egregious acts will not be tolerated” said Senator Martin, sponsor of Bill C-268 in the Senate. “Minimum sentences will ensure that our law enforcement officials have yet another vital tool in the fight against human trafficking.”

Introduced in the House of Commons by the Member for Kildonan-St. Paul, Joy Smith, Bill C-268 gained bi-partisan support both in the House of Commons and in the Senate. Bill C-268 was drafted with one clear intention to create a separate offence for the traffickers of children in Canada and to ensure that the penalties reflect the gravity of the crime. The bill creates a separate offence for trafficking a person under the age of eighteen years, which will carry mandatory minimum penalties of six years for the aggravated offence where the maximum penalty is life imprisonment, and five years where the maximum penalty is fourteen years imprisonment.

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