

# LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1. Setting the context: turning the spotlight on an unfamiliar reality

### Recommendation No. 1

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec formally and solemnly declare that the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors is a national priority.

That, to this end, the Government of Québec develop an action plan based on the present recommendations of the Committee. That this action plan be periodically reviewed by an interministerial committee that must report to the National Assembly every two years on the implementation of the actions and that this report be examined by the competent committee.

### Recommendation No. 2

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec declare March 4 of each year as the Day Against the Sexual Exploitation of Minors and that it mark, in association with the United Nations, the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30 of each year.

### Recommendation No. 3

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec declare the first week of March each year as the National Week Against the Sexual Exploitation of Minors.

### Recommendation No. 4

The Committee recommends that a world-class research chair be established and financially supported in partnership with UNESCO to study the phenomenon of and responses to the sexual exploitation of minors.

### Recommendation No. 5

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec mandate experts to report on the presence of child pornography on sites linked to companies registered in Québec and the measures put in place to prevent and suppress it.

## 2. Communication and awareness-raising: the need to acknowledge the situation

### Recommendation No. 6

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec develop broad, multi-platform and recurring awareness campaigns aimed at:

- Providing information on the sexual exploitation of minors to the entire population, with specific components aimed at families and young people, community organizations (e.g., youth centres or family centres), social interveners, the restaurant and hotel industry, and organizers of major events
- Reminding the population of the criminal nature of buying sexual services.

### Recommendation No. 7

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec, in partnership with the First Nations and the Inuit, conduct an awareness campaign for visitors entering their territories.

### Recommendation No. 8

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec, in partnership with the First Nations and the Inuit, conduct an awareness campaign targeting Indigenous youth and their communities on the sexual exploitation of minors.

### Recommendation No. 9

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec, with the support of the federal government, conduct an awareness campaign, specifically at the points of entry of airports, ports and border crossings, aimed at all travellers regardless of their status, to remind them of the criminal nature of the purchase of sexual services and human trafficking on Canadian territory.

### Recommendation No. 10

The Committee recommends that the Ministère de l'Éducation include adapted content specific to the prevention and risks of sexual exploitation of minors in sexuality education at the primary and secondary school levels.

The Committee recommends that the following themes be addressed in sexuality education classes, notably consent, respect, self-fulfillment, self-esteem, healthy interpersonal relationships, sexual exploitation, recruitment methods, safe use of social media and information technology.

**Recommendation No. 11**

The Committee recommends that sexuality education classes be taught by trained teachers supported by sexologists or other qualified professionals.

**Recommendation No. 12**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec conduct a vast awareness campaign for children and their parents to make them aware of risks and consequences of using various technologies, applications and social networks as well as to equip them in recognizing high risk situations as it pertains to sexual exploitation online.

**Recommendation No. 13**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec implement a cyber alert system that directly targets persons seeking the sexual services of minors and sites advertising sexual services.

**3. Prevention and training: weaving the safety net****Recommendation No. 14**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec support initiatives aimed at preventing and detecting sexual exploitation of minors in all places frequented by young people.

**Recommendation No. 15**

The Committee recommends, on the basis of locally developed initiatives, the creation and mainstreaming of sexuality education programs directly adapted to young people in youth centres.

**Recommendation No. 16**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec conduct a multilingual information campaign for victims to make them aware of their rights, particularly when they are linked to a crime and are manipulated by it.

**Recommendation No. 17**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec create in partnership with local organizations a single and interactive platform dedicated to the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors within the next year. That this platform offer information and referrals bringing together all the resources for assistance in the area of sexual exploitation of minors throughout Québec.

That, to this end, the Government of Québec inventory all existing educational tools, initiatives and organizations deployed in Québec for prevention and intervention in the area of sexual exploitation of minors.

**Recommendation No. 18**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec create and offer parents, using the single and interactive platform, the necessary tools to raise their awareness, to support and educate them about the issue of sexual exploitation of minors and the safe use of technologies, applications and social networks, as well as to help them in their interventions with their children, starting at an early age.

**Recommendation No. 19**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec implement as soon as possible a mission-based funding formula for community organizations fighting the sexual exploitation of minors rather than on a project-by-project basis. That this funding be increased.

**Recommendation No. 20**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec ensure that an issue table composed of the various players involved in the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors be designated in each administrative region. That the mandate, mission and name of these tables be standardized. That the reality of each region be taken into account in the composition of the tables with the participation of institutional and community stakeholders. That the sharing of information between these tables be established.

The Committee recommends that the mandates of the Prévention Jeunesse program projects be renewed by ensuring recurrent funding and that their scope be broadened throughout Québec.

**Recommendation No. 21**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec standardize an appropriate protocol for sharing personal data and information between social service and police stakeholders with a view to preventing and intervening to protect minors from situations of sexual exploitation.

**Recommendation No. 22**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec improve the initial and ongoing training of workers likely to be involved in cases of sexual exploitation of minors.

That the various targeted employment groups include, among others:

- Workers in the health and social services network (including pre-hospital services)
- Front-line staff in Indigenous communities
- Pharmacists
- All teaching staff and team members at the primary and secondary levels
- The judiciary of the Criminal and Penal Division and of the Youth Division
- Prosecutors in criminal and penal prosecutions as well as in municipal courts
- Police and civilian personnel in police organizations
- Other youth workers (recreational organizations, etc.)
- Correctional and probation officers.

That the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux ensure that all professionals working with young people are aware of the obligation to denounce situations at risk of sexual exploitation under the Youth Protection Act.

That the content of the training be developed in partnership between the regional tables and the Research Chair.

**Recommendation No. 23**

The Committee recommends that the École nationale de police du Québec develop and disseminate training on assisting victims of sexual exploitation of minors in the judicial process.

**Recommendation No. 24**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec create a seal «No to the sexual exploitation of minors» and promote it throughout Québec, notably in partnership with the hotel industry, festivals, major events and the passenger transportation industry.

That the seal be available to all businesses and that its acquisition be based on conditions that include mandatory training of personnel regarding the detection of the sexual exploitation of minors and the posting of advertising in the business that raises awareness of the sexual exploitation of minors.

**Recommendation No. 25**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec impose on online rental platforms, hotel establishments, owners of tourist accommodations, erotic massage parlours and saunas the obligation to prominently post signs pointing out the criminal nature of the purchase of sexual services.

**Recommendation No. 26**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec require online rental platforms, hotel establishments, owners of tourist accommodations, erotic massage parlours and saunas to visibly display contact information to report a crime of sexual exploitation of minors.

**Recommendation No. 27**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec make subsidies or other tax incentives for major events, represented by the Regroupement des événements majeurs internationaux, conditional on the implementation of measures to raise awareness, train their staff and prevent the sexual exploitation of minors.

That training on the sexual exploitation of minors be eligible as a training expense for businesses subject to the Act to Promote Workforce Skills Development and Recognition (1% Act).

That this demonstration of concrete actions (e.g. public awareness) against the sexual exploitation of minors be developed in conjunction with the regional issue table and that it be validated by the Research Chair.

That promoters be required to submit a report outlining the measures put in place to combat the sexual exploitation of minors.

## 4. Law enforcement: the victim at the centre of our actions

### Recommendation No. 28

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec formally request that the federal government make the Order in Council allowing the coming into force of the provision authorizing the imposition of consecutive sentences for traffickers in persons under the age of eighteen.

### Recommendation No. 29

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec ask the federal government to propose amendments to the Criminal Code in order to add all crimes related to procuring to the list of activities covered by the forfeiture of proceeds of crime.

### Recommendation No. 30

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec ask the Government of Canada to propose amendments to the Criminal Code in order to reduce the pressure on victims by removing the preliminary inquiry stage in charges of sexual exploitation of minors and human trafficking.

### Recommendation No. 31

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec ensure that convicted client abusers are registered in the National Sex Offender Registry.

### Recommendation No. 32

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec remind hotel establishments, owners of tourist accommodations, erotic massage parlours and saunas of their obligation to report any situation at risk of sexual exploitation of minors.

### Recommendation No. 33

The Committee recommends that the Ministère de la Justice examine the possibility of amending the Civil Code of Québec in order to grant victims of sexual exploitation an imprescriptible recourse for damages against a hotel establishment that failed to act or alert the police when it knew or ought to have known that a minor was being sexually exploited there.

### Recommendation No. 34

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec exercise its leadership at federal-provincial-territorial meetings and within the Council of the Federation to ensure greater collaboration between the provinces in the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors, in the harmonization of the various youth protection laws and in interprovincial interventions.

**Recommendation No. 35**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec ask the federal government to propose amendments to update the definitions of «place», «public place» and «any place» in the Criminal Code definitions to include private or public cyberspace.

**Recommendation No. 36**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec develop, with the support of the Union des municipalités du Québec and the Fédération québécoise des municipalités, a provincial strategy aimed at identifying municipal regulations related to the sex industry, particularly with respect to the granting of permits, and standardizing them in order to be more effective in the fight against the sexual exploitation of minors in all municipalities and boroughs.

**Recommendation No. 37**

The Committee recommends that the Ministère de la Sécurité publique increase the human and financial resources of the Équipe intégrée de lutte contre le proxénétisme and add regional (satellite) teams with a priority mandate to carry out operations targeting client abusers.

**Recommendation No. 38**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec create the position of coordinating prosecutor to be assigned to the Équipe intégrée de lutte contre le proxénétisme in order to facilitate the coordination of prosecutions related to cases involving the commercialization of sexual services of minors.

**Recommendation No. 39**

The Committee recommends that the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions designate prosecutors for sexual exploitation cases in the regions to ensure expertise and consistency in the handling of cases within the justice system.



**Recommendation No. 40**

In order to put the minor victim at the centre of interventions, to facilitate coordination and the sharing of expertise, the Committee recommends that the following be added to the Équipe intégrée de lutte contre le proxénétisme:

- An interprovincial liaison officer
- One or more Indigenous police service members
- A designated coordinating prosecutor
- Crime victim support centres
- Les Survivantes program of the Service de police de la Ville de Montréal.

And that the Équipe act in partnership with the stakeholders of the regional issue tables and that a link be established with the Research Chair.

**Recommendation No. 41**

The Committee recommends that the Ministère de la Sécurité publique, in partnership with the First Nations and the Inuit, assess ways to better equip Indigenous police forces in dealing with issues related to the sexual exploitation of minors.

**Recommendation No. 42**

The Committee recommends that human and financial resources be increased in order to strengthen the teams specialized in the analysis of new technologies and social media and that these resources support the Équipe intégrée de lutte contre le proxénétisme in its investigations.

**Recommendation No. 43**

The Committee recommends that the Minister of Justice develop policies and measures to immunize victims of sexual exploitation from prosecution when they file a complaint against a procurer or client abuser and that they receive complete information on their rights.

**Recommendation No. 44**

The Committee recommends that police services increase joint patrols, involving both police and psychosocial workers, or use a victim-centred «community policing» approach to promote effective operations, ensure the safety of victims and strengthen the confidence of marginalized people in the authorities.

**Recommendation No. 45**

The Committee recommends that measures be extended throughout Québec to facilitate victims' testimony in court and to provide them with support and accompaniment, for example by preparing them to testify.

**Recommendation No. 46**

The Committee recommends that the Ministère de la Justice fund and develop, in collaboration with the Director of Criminal and Penal Prosecutions and the Research Chair, a unique alternative measures program in Québec that focuses on intervention and awareness aimed at reducing the demand for the purchase of sexual services. The program must exclude clients of sexual services of minors, repeat offenders and those who have already benefited from it.

That this program include the following elements: a voluntary contribution from offenders, training and follow-up with an organization that offers psychosocial assistance to offenders.

**5. Reconstruction and rehabilitation: breaking the cycle of exploitation****Recommendation No. 47**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec propose amendments to the Individual and Family Assistance Act in order to, among other things:

- Grant social assistance to minor victims of sexual exploitation and to persons without status
- Reduce the time it takes to obtain a first cheque
- Ensure the allowance is in line with the true cost of living
- Exclude earnings from the crime victims compensation program from the income calculation used to determine the amount of social assistance benefits
- Modify the investigation process in cases of fraud due to undeclared income from prostitution (by excluding the procurer)
- Recognize sexual exploitation as severely limiting a person's capacity for employment
- Take regional realities into account in the allocation of financial resources.

**Recommendation No. 48**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec review the social assistance files of sexually exploited persons who have been investigated for fraud committed by a procurer or because of the earnings from prostitution and, if necessary, cancel their debts and the repayment of interest.

**Recommendation No. 49**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec establish a special program for exiting prostitution, the purpose of which would be to provide financial assistance to all victims in the process of rebuilding their lives, including income, access to physical and psychological health services and housing, while taking into account regional specificities. That this program be simple in terms of eligibility criteria.

**Recommendation No. 50**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec propose amendments to the Crime Victims Compensation Act to add procuring and human trafficking to the list of crimes compensated, to recognize victims of sexual exploitation of minors, to abolish the limitation period, even if the crime was committed elsewhere in Canada.

**Recommendation No. 51**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec make care and psychological support available to victims of sexual exploitation of minors as soon as required, reimbursed by the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec, and that access to this care continue after reaching the age of majority.

**Recommendation No. 52**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec prohibit the mixing of clienteles in youth centres in order to optimize the recovery of victims of sexual exploitation.

**Recommendation No. 53**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec create throughout its territory specific and highly secure housing facilities with psychosocial and educational services to protect, care for and contribute to the social reintegration of victims of sexual exploitation.

**Recommendation No. 54**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec create a dedicated fund to support initiatives aimed at providing shelter for victims of sexual exploitation of minors. That this fund be maintained by, among other things, all of the money seized in cases of sexual exploitation of minors and the voluntary contributions of persons convicted of purchasing sexual services.

**Recommendation No. 55**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec propose legislative amendments that would have the effect of forcing providers and all Web platforms (existing, past and future) to delete and dereference information about victims of sexual exploitation and to work closely with police services.

**Recommendation No. 56**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec set up specialized assistance and support teams for parents whose child is a victim of sexual exploitation.

**Recommendation No. 57**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec make available rehabilitation programs that specifically target client abusers and procurers in order to prevent recidivism.

**Recommendation No. 58**

The Committee recommends that the Government of Québec, as adopted in a unanimous motion of the National Assembly, table as soon as possible its new action plan for the health and well-being of women. That this plan put forward measures contributing to a sustainable exit from situations of sexual exploitation.