SENATE
COMMITTEES DIRECTORATE

SÉNAT
DIRECTION DES COMITÉS

CANADA

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OTTAWA, Monday, November 2, 2026
(29)

[*English*]

The Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights met this day at 4:02 p.m., in room B45, Senate of Canada Building, the chair, the Honourable Paulette Senior, presiding.

Members of the committee present: The Honourable Senators Arnold, Bernard, Karetak-Lindell, Osler and Senior (5).

Other senators present: The Honourable Senator Miville-Dechêne (1).

Participating in the meeting: Robert Mason and Madalina Chesoi, Analysts, Library of Parliament.

Pursuant to the order of reference adopted by the Senate on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, the committee continued its consideration of Bill S-235, An Act respecting the National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking.

WITNESSES:

BridgeNorth Women's Mentorship & Advocacy Services:

Casandra Diamond, Founder & Anti-Human Trafficking Specialist.

Canadian Women's Foundation:

Karen Campbell, Vice President, Community Initiatives (*by videoconference*).

Women's Shelters Canada:

Anuradha Dugal, Executive Director (*by videoconference*).

Find Ontario Missing Boys:

Shana McCalla, Founder and Director (*by videoconference*).

Durham Family and Cultural Centre:

Debbie Miles-Senior, Executive Director.

As individuals:

Alexandra Ford, Founder of Uprising & The Laughing Survivor and Co-Chair, Human Trafficking Prevention Network of British Columbia (*by videoconference*).

Cassandra Harvey, Executive Director, Harvey Foundation for Justice & Opportunity and Victim's Advocate, Diamond and Diamond Lawyers.

Niyah Winston, Human Trafficking Researcher; Policy Advocate.

Wyndolyn Brown, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Empowerment for Hope Society.

Niyah Winston, Cassandra Harvey and Alexandra Ford each made a statement and answered questions.

At 5:02 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 5:07 p.m., the committee resumed.

Cassandra Diamond, Karen Campbell, and Anuradha Dugal each made a statement and answered questions.

At 5:58 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 6:03 p.m., the committee resumed.

Wyndolyn Borwn, Debbie Miles-Senior and Shana McCalla each made a statement and answered questions.

At 7:04 p.m., the committee suspended.

At 7:07 p.m., pursuant to rule 12-16(1)(d), the committee resumed in camera to consider a draft agenda (future business).

It was agreed that the committee allow the audio recording of the in camera portion of today's meeting, that one copy be kept with the clerk of the committee for consultation by committee members or by the committee analysts, and that the audio recording be destroyed by the clerk when authorized to do so by the Subcommittee on Agenda and Procedure, but no later than at the end of this parliamentary session.

At 7:27 p.m., the committee adjourned to the call of the chair.

ATTEST:

Ericka Paajanen

Clerk of the Committee