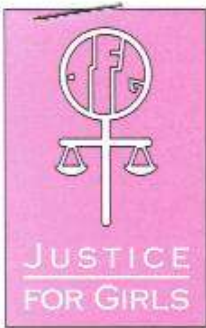


November 22, 2010



Crown Counsel Office – Chilliwack
Ministry of Attorney General
300-46093 Yale Road
Chilliwack, BC
V2P 2L8

Via Fax: 604-795-8429

606-825 Granville Street

Vancouver, BC

V6Z 1K9

Tel: 604.689.7887

Fax: 604.689.5600

Email: justiceforgirls@justiceforgirls.org

www.justiceforgirls.org

Dear Madam or Sir:

Re: Procuring Charge against 14 Year Old Chilliwack Girl

Justice for Girls is an 11 year old non-profit organization and registered charity whose core purpose is to advocate for social and economic equality and freedom from male violence for teenage girls (under 19) who live in poverty. More specifically, our mandate is to: (a) promote the equality and human rights of young women in poverty both individually and systemically, (b) increase young women's access to justice and procedural fairness in both criminal justice and child welfare processes, (c) advocate for services that meet the specific needs of young women in poverty. Our work often involves advocating for teenage girls who are sexually abused through prostitution.

We are disturbed by media reports that the Chilliwack RCMP recently recommended charges against a 14 year old girl for procuring under Section 212 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* and are thoroughly dismayed that the Crown then approved these charges. In approving procuring charges against a teenage girl who was/is herself being abused through commercial sexual exploitation, the Crown is violating a well established consensus in Canada, and internationally, that teen girls in prostitution are victims of child sexual abuse and therefore should not be treated as criminals.

It is well documented that teen girls who are exploited in prostitution sometimes wind up recruiting other girls. Part of the abuse of prostitution is that girls are turned against each other, most often by pimps, and made to pull other teen girls into male sexual violence and exploitation. When teen girls are recruiting other girls, there is always a backdrop of other sexual abuse, male violence and coercion. In many cases, girls will not expose the abusive adult men who control the sex industry out of fear for their lives. For these reasons, the young women are in need of support and intervention, not criminal prosecution. We would be happy to assist.

Justice for Girls implores Chilliwack Crown counsel to drop the procuring charges against the 14 year old Chilliwack girl and instead focus Crown attention on criminally prosecuting the adult men who are inevitably behind the exploitation of this group of teen girls in Chilliwack. I would be pleased to speak with you about the concerns highlighted in this letter, and can be reached at (604) 689-7887.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Annabel Webb".

Annabel Webb, Founder/Advocate