

Annual report 2020-2021

Le Comité d'action contre la traite humaine interne et internationale (CATHII), which can be translated as *the Action Committee against Internal and International Human Trafficking*, is to promote the dignity of all human beings:

- by opposing all forms of violence and/or exploitation related to human trafficking, as defined by the Palermo Protocol*, a protocol signed by Canada;
- by ensuring respect for the rights of victims and survivors, particularly women and children;
- by acting in favour of their protection and support.

Table des matières

A Word from the Chair	1
A Word from the Coordinator	2
Research on the Empowerment of Survivors	3
Networking	4
The CATHII's Advocacy	5
News from the Québec Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons	5
In Consultation	6
CATHII-University at the UN	7
CATHII Solidarity Members	8
CATHII Regular Members	9

A Word from the Chair

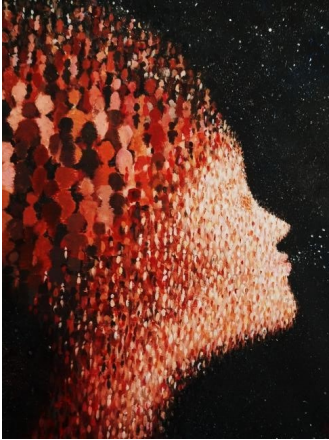
This year, the Board of Directors (BOD) undertook a reflection on the goals of the CATHII and put forward the fact that the CATHII is a committee of members in action. To provide training, research tools and animations to carry out targeted actions, within our measures, to help victims and survivors of trafficking, this is the Board of Directors' main priority towards the members. It is clear that few groups in Quebec, and even in Canada, bring forward the needs of all victims and survivors of trafficking, regardless of the form of trafficking suffered.

Several dossiers carried out by the BOD pertained to employee management:

- pursue the remuneration for the Coordinator of the *Québec Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons* for an additional year, although only partially, given the Coalition's change of status, which is now a non-profit, independent and incorporated organization;
- as proposed by the coordinator, proceed with the recruitment of a self-employed worker, Renaude Grégoire, as a training and advocacy officer, and lead researcher of participatory research on the empowerment of survivors of trafficking. As a result, the BOD has also developed a new working method;
- define a new project lead position, who will ensure the implementation of the second edition of the *CATHII-University at the UN Project*.

* Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. (Source: UN)

A Word from the Chair (continued)



« Women who Stand up and Are One »
Work by IsaBelle Couillard s.g.m.

France Laforge, Coordinator, continues her work at the CATHII and is always on the lookout for dossiers to bring to the attention of the board members.

Another fact to emphasize: it is our pleasure to have welcomed new members this year, a new community, the Sisters of Charity of Quebec, and two individual members.

It is nice to see the CATHII spread its wings so that survivors can, in turn, spread all their vitality and strength. May Life show us the way and give us joy in the effort it takes to get there...

IsaBelle Couillard s.g.m.
Chair of the Board of Directors

A Word from the Coordinator

Another year with a rather special flavour, first with the pandemic that persisted; then, with the energy devoted to moving to new premises and in the steps aimed at ensuring the future of our mission, through a request for recognition as a charitable organization. We should receive a response from the Canada Revenue Agency within the next year.

Beautiful new initiatives introduced during the year have also supported the action and made the mission of the CATHII visible:

- the realization of a project with university students called *CATHII-University at the UN*, in the form of a completely virtual pilot project;
- the recruitment of an external consultant as a research, training and advocacy officer, whose work has enriched the reflection and energized our actions;
- the start of a major shift inspired by the Board of Directors with the aim to put CATHII members back at the heart of the action, especially within our advocacy.

After 17 years of CATHII life, a special General Assembly of members held in June allowed us to strongly reaffirm our mission. As adulthood is not very far, our mission, which is very current, still pushes us forward, to further the fight against trafficking and the support for victims and survivors, here and elsewhere in the French-speaking world.

Happy reading!

France Laforge
Coordinator



Research on the Empowerment of Survivors

Since January 2021, the CATHII has carried out *Participatory research on the empowerment of human trafficking survivors*.



RESEARCH COMPONENT OF THE CATHII

The CATHII conducts research on the causes, mechanisms and developments of human trafficking, and the required practices to support and protect victims and survivors.

Through distribution, this research and the related tools are intended for the general public, organizations and decision-makers, to increase the knowledge on human trafficking and to propose responses adapted to situations of exploitation and to victims of trafficking.

Through this research, the CATHII aims to gain a better understanding of practices that promote the empowerment of trafficked persons. The best practices, but also the obstacles and challenges encountered on the field by interveners from different community sectors. Ultimately, the research will provide resources on this major pillar in the fight against human trafficking.

From January to September 2021, the literature review was carried out for the report on the research status of this matter and particularly on: the concepts expressed post-trafficking, the assessment of survivors on post-trafficking, the best practices and limitations experienced by organizations, and lastly, the issues that still need to be examined.

In June of 2021, a partnership agreement with the diocese of Nicolet allowed the second phase to begin: establish the list of intervening groups with survivors, establish a supervisory research committee and develop the questionnaire for data collection.

Hopefully, the CATHII's research will help to strengthen this major pillar in the fight against trafficking, which is the empowerment of survivors.

Renaude Grégoire

CATHII Member and Lead Researcher

Networking

TRAINING COMPONENT OF THE CATHII

For educational purposes, the CATHII raises awareness and educates on the issue of human trafficking in Quebec, Canada and internationally, through training sessions and other means, offered to the CATHII members and their networks, organizations and groups that request it, and to the general population as well.

MEDIA MONITORING

Throughout the year, members got involved in media monitoring the themes of sexual exploitation and forced labour. This media monitoring was handed to CATHII members and shared with organizations of the *Québec Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons*.



MONTHLY REFLECTIONS

This new activity aimed at boosting our commitment against human trafficking started this year. Various themes linked to trafficking were explored: poverty, violence against women, refugees and climate change, while emphasizing important dates such as February 8, a day dedicated to Josephine Bakhita, Sudanese slave beatified in 1992.

THE CATHII INFO PUBLICATIONS

(February and May 2021)

Made available on the website and to our partners, these two issues addressed several topics: the consequences of prostitution, the impacts of the pandemic on intervening organizations with victims of human trafficking, the challenges of legal protection for survivors of trafficking and the experience within the *CATHII-University at the UN Project*.

THE CATHII MEETINGS AND TRAINING

Regular CATHII meetings were held virtually. Each meeting offered time for training and exchanges between the members. It was a question of equipping ourselves to ensure the better visibility of the CATHII. This year, four regular meetings were held in October, February and April, including the Annual Assembly for Members in December and a Special General Assembly in June for the adoption of a new mission description.

The CATHII's Advocacy



ADVOCACY COMPONENT OF THE CATHII

The CATHII takes the steps to call on decision-makers and politicians in the adoption and application of laws and measures to protect victims and survivors, to support them and to improve the responses to their needs.

A main advocacy campaign

At the beginning of June, a letter sent to the provincial government, opposition parties, ministers concerned and committee members on the *Select Committee on the Sexual Exploitation of Minors* called on the government to adopt a provincial action plan against human trafficking.

This call will persist into the fall of 2021 during a letter signing campaign that specifies the priority areas to roll out in a provincial action plan against human trafficking.

Protocols for the actions of the CATHII

To be able to respond adequately to the requirements dictated by current events, a subcommittee established by the BOD has made it possible to adopt criteria for the choice of actions required in the short- or medium-term and to specify internal function adapted to the CATHII.

News from the Québec Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons

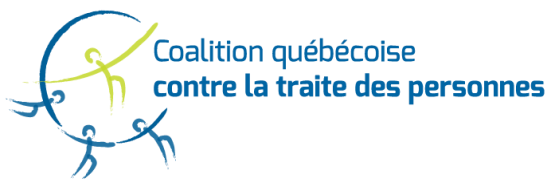
A Year of Transformation

The year 2020-2021 was one of profound changes for the *Québec Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons*, with the success of its transformation into a non-profit, incorporated organization and the establishment of two new work committees: a clinical committee and a strategic committee.

On January 12, 2021, the *Registraire des Entreprises du Québec* issued the letters patent making the Coalition no longer a project within the CATHII, but a full-fledged organization. This achievement made it possible to begin working on fundraising, through requests for discretionary funding from government and other bodies. The next steps will instead focus on funding programs for the mission and by project.

Nelson Tardif

Coordinator

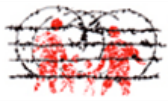


In Consultation

CONSULTATION COMPONENT OF THE CATHII

The CATHII acts at the provincial, national and international level by participating in consultations, bodies, coalitions and networks of provincial, national and international scope.

Collaborations and Partnerships in 2020-2021



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR)

The CATHII participated in the Virtual Forum on Human Trafficking held in April, and intermittently in a few webinars and other activities organized by the CCR.

Participation in *Talitha Kum* – Networks of the Western Hemisphere



For the first year, we participated in the Networks of the Western Hemisphere of *Talitha Kum*, combining 15 networks against human trafficking present in the three Americas. A Prayer Marathon was organized by this network around February 8, the day dedicated to Saint Josephine Bakhita, as well as Way of the Cross with various accents, each station prepared by a different country.

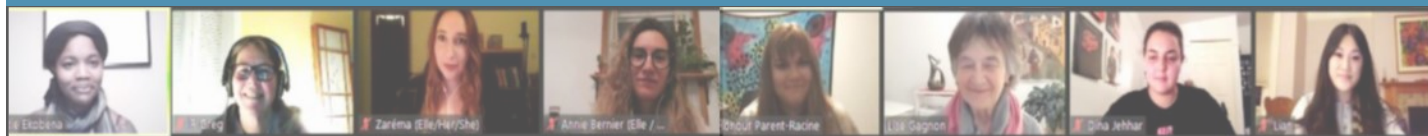
The Coordinator of the CATHII also responded to collaboration requests from *Talitha Kum*, such as participation in a survey by the *Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe* (OSCE) on the vulnerability of immigrant populations, a consultation on the activities for February 8, and other contributions.

The Québec Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons

The *Québec Coalition Against Trafficking in Persons* remains an essential partner for the CATHII. Throughout the year, the CATHII has actively participated in the coordination and meetings of the Coalition.

Since the Coalition has been a full-fledged organization since January, the CATHII will no longer continue its involvement in the coordination committee. However, we will remain an active member of the Coalition.

CATHII-University at the UN Project

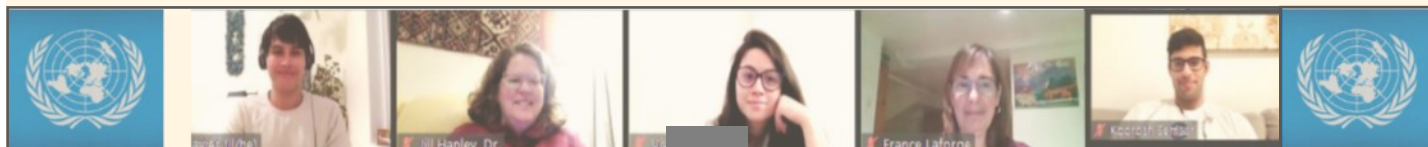


In the winter of 2020, Élodie Ekobena and Lise Gagnon s.n.j.m, both CATHII members, implemented the *CATHII-University at the UN Project*, to “transmit” to university students the CATHII’s commitment to support the victims and survivors of trafficking and the conviction that action must be taken to counter the exploitation of people here and elsewhere.

Therefore, eight university students were recruited and took part in training courses on human trafficking, with the view to participate in sessions, workshops and other events offered as part of the 65th session of the *United Nations Commission on the Status of Women*.

This pilot project, which was in its first edition, also proved to be rich and stimulating for the members of the supporting committee. The new initiative for 2021-2022: the CATHII is renewing this project and wishes to hire a part-time project lead as of autumn of 2021.

Élodie Ekobena and Lise Gagnon s.n.j.m.
CATHII Members



CATHII Solidarity Members

Carmelite Missionaries of Montreal
Sisters of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (Province)
Congregation of the Missionaries of Mariannahill
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (Canada)
Fédération des Monastères des Augustines de la Miséricorde de Jésus
Daughters of Jesus of Trois-Rivières
Daughters of Providence
Daughters of Mary of the Assumption
Daughters of Saint Paul
Filles de Sainte-Marie de la Présentation
Filles Réparatrices du Divin-Cœur
Franciscan Missionaries of Immaculate Conception
Capuchins of Quebec
Dominican Sisters of the Trinity
Monastic Fraternities of the Sisters of Jerusalem
Marianists of Saint-Anselme
Missionaries of the Holy Spirit
Missionary Oblate Sisters of St. Boniface
Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré
Little Sisters of St. Francis
Little Franciscans of Mary
Religious of Jesus and Mary
Religious Hospitallers of Saint Joseph
Religious of Saint-Vincent-de-Paul
Servants of Our Lady Queen Of the Clergy
Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary
The Daughters of the Heart of Mary
Society of Foreign Missions
Sisters of Presentation of Mary of Quebec
Sisters of Charity of Saint-Louis
Sisters of Notre-Dame-Auxiliatrice
Sisters of Our Lady of Bon-Conseil of Chicoutimi

Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Soeurs de Sainte-Chrétienne
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of Saint Joan of Arc
Sisters of Saint Martha of Saint-Hyacinthe
Sisters of Saint Francis of Assisi
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Saint-Hyacinthe
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Saint-Vallier
Sisters of Saint Paul of Chartres
Sisters of the Good Shepherd of Quebec
Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Angels
Missionary Sisters of Christ the King

Sister Mariette Milot s.a.s.v



We note the recent passing of Sister Mariette Milot of the Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

Her many commitments are commendable, including her involvement in making the CATHII visible in the dioceses of Nicolet and of Trois-Rivières.

Sister Mariette passed away on October 4, 2021.

CATHII Regular Members

Compagnie de Jésus (Jesuit Province of Canada)
Canadian Religious Conference
Congrégation de Notre-Dame
Sisters of Providence
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (Generalate)
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary (Provincialate)
Mercy International Family
Institut Notre-Dame du Bon-Conseil of Montreal
L'Association des Religieuses pour les Droits des Femmes
Les Oblates Franciscaines de Saint-Joseph
Sisters of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin
Grey Nuns of Montreal
Ursulines of the Canadian Union
Réseau des Répondantes Diocésaines à la Condition des Femmes
Renaude Grégoire, Individual Member
Rita Gagné o.s.u., Individual Member
Service Intercommunautaire d'Animation Franciscaine (SIAF)
Sisters of Charity of Quebec
Sisters of the Holy Cross
Sisters of Saint-Joseph of Saint-Vallier
Sisters of the Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa
Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of the Apostles



CATHII – February 2022

All rights reserved

Coordination: France Laforge

Layout: France Parent

Translation: gracefully offered by Congrégation de Notre-Dame

Copyright-free photos and images taken from the website <https://pixabay.com/fr/>