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**CFUW Calls for Prostitution Debate That Ends Violence**

OTTAWA, October, 1, 2010 – The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is hopeful that the Ontario Court’s ruling on the unconstitutionality of Canada’s existing prostitution laws can provide an opportunity for our law makers to find solutions that will work to make women safer.

While we abhor the circumstances that result in too many women and girls being prostituted or trafficked we cannot accept those who seek to criminalize and otherwise punish women.

Violence and exploitation must stop; however, punishing women is not the solution. CFUW does not support the legalization models, but calls for pragmatic solutions that echo the CFUW resolution on human trafficking and prostituted persons that was passed at the federation’s Annual General Meeting this July.

The resolution calls for the Government of Canada to amend the Criminal Code of Canada which currently prohibits the public purchasing of sexual services, to also prohibit the purchasing of sexual services wherever it occurs, including the media, internet and other technological tools, and to impose criminal sanctions on the purchasers of sexual services. To amend the Criminal Code of Canada so that it no longer criminalizes prostituted persons; and for provincial, territorial and municipal governments to provide essential support services and funding to enable prostituted persons to earn a living free from prostitution. This resolution was encouraged by the Swedish model that has reduced prostitution in Sweden over the past decade.

“Women need solutions and to be free from violence and exploitation. Our resolution helps protect women by no longer criminalizing their situation and giving them the social support to regain control of their lives free from prostitution and the violence or trafficking associated with it,” said Rose Beatty, CFUW Past-President and part of the group who developed the resolution. “We need to put forward solutions that help women, CFUW intends to use this development to put forward our case.”

CFUW urges the Government to take this opportunity and find solutions that stop the violence.