Mr. V Ramaano,
Secretary of the Portfolio Committee on Justice and Constitutional Development
Email: vramaano@parliament.gov.za

Dear Mr Ramaano,
I am pleased to be able to write to you at this important time as the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons Bill (B7-2010) moves toward public hearings and consideration by Parliament.

It is good to note that many of the recommendations from civil society which were submitted in response to the 2009 draft of the bill were not only considered but also incorporated into the current version of Bill B7-2010. For that I am very grateful.

Human trafficking has been a universal problem for many years and the concerns about it surfaced quite prominently in our country in the lead-up to and during the 2010 World Cup. The final whistle at Soccer City did not signal the end of this gross violation of human rights. We all realise that the importance of this bill is just as critical now and I am pleased that it is being taken up at this time.

We who are leaders in the faith community strive to uphold the dignity and human rights of all persons, who many of us see as made in the image and likeness of God, our Creator. In so doing, we have a special concern for those who are most vulnerable to abuse and trafficking, especially women and children.

As a Christian leader I am acutely aware of Jesus’ response to women – though it has not always been clearly recognised, he was far ahead of his time in honouring their gifts and abilities as equal to those of men. Similarly, Jesus reminded his followers of the preciousness of children in the sight of God, saying for ‘of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.’

My deep hope is that this bill will in no way be weakened as it makes its way to Parliament and that every effort will be taken to strengthen the bill as it relates especially to children and to trafficking within the borders of South Africa.

I thank you for your commitment and care for the dignity and safety of all the children of God. We will hold the Parliament in our prayers as this process moves forward.

Yours in the service of Christ,