



# GUIDE FOR SUPPORTING TRAFFICKED PERSONS

HAMILTON'S ANTI-HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING COALITION (HAHTC)

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# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Backgrounder .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mission Statement.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Steering Committee .....	3
<b>Purpose .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Acknowledgements .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>A Note on Language.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Defining &amp; Understanding Human Trafficking .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Human Trafficking .....</b>	<b>7</b>
International trafficking .....	8
Domestic trafficking .....	8
Labour trafficking, forced labour, or labour exploitation .....	8
Domestic servitude .....	9
Sex trafficking or sexual exploitation .....	9
Forced criminality .....	11
Forced marriage.....	11
Organ trafficking/harvesting.....	12
Traffickers and Pimps.....	13
<b>Legal Framework &amp; Legislation .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Statistics &amp; Trends .....</b>	<b>16</b>
A snapshot of the issue .....	16
In Hamilton .....	18
Intersecting issues and considerations.....	20
<b>Systemic Issues &amp; Vulnerabilities.....</b>	<b>20</b>
Indigenous Women & Girls.....	21
<b>Targeting, Recruiting &amp; Grooming .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Domestic Sex Trafficking.....</b>	<b>25</b>
Emotional Manipulation.....	25
Sexualization.....	29
Isolation.....	30
Indebtedness .....	31
Shame .....	33
Substance use.....	34
Physical force.....	35
Use of technology .....	36
Technology concerns.....	36
<b>International Trafficking: Labour and Sex.....</b>	<b>38</b>
Other mitigating factors & vulnerabilities .....	38
<b>Why do trafficked persons stay? .....</b>	<b>39</b>

<b>Identifying and Engaging with Trafficked Persons</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Safety</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>How to Recognize Human Trafficking</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>Cycle of Abuse</b> .....	<b>43</b>
<b>Trafficked Persons’ and Survivors’ Needs</b> .....	<b>44</b>
Physical Needs.....	44
Documentation.....	44
Medical attention .....	45
Shelter and/or housing.....	45
Financial support .....	45
Psychological and mental health supports.....	46
Addictions recovery .....	46
Legal assistance .....	46
Education.....	48
Job skills or vocational training.....	49
Family reunification and repatriation .....	49
Life skills development.....	49
Spiritual or cultural needs .....	50
Special needs.....	50
<b>Tips for Supporting Survivors</b> .....	<b>51</b>
<b>Tips on Engaging with Trafficked Persons</b> .....	<b>52</b>
Tips for Framing the Conversation* .....	53
<b>Service Provider Sensitivity</b> .....	<b>54</b>
<b>A Note on Policies, Procedures and Practices</b> .....	<b>55</b>
<b>Harm Reduction Approaches</b> .....	<b>56</b>
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>59</b>
<b>Appendix</b> .....	<b>60</b>
1. Glossary of Terms and Vernacular of the Sex Trade.....	60
2. Legal Framework & Legislation .....	65
3. Theory of Change Framework .....	69
4. Stages of Change.....	74
<b>Resources</b> .....	<b>76</b>
Ontario Government’s Strategy to End Human Trafficking.....	76
Helpline Assistance .....	77
Government Documents & Resources .....	77
Indigenous Organizations’ Research .....	78
Resources on Service Provision.....	78
News Articles.....	79
Canadian Women’s Foundation Research on Trafficking.....	79
Videos.....	80
Books.....	81
Articles re: Domotor Case .....	82
Legal Supports in Ontario .....	
Hamilton Human Trafficking Services .....	

# Introduction

## **Backgrounder**

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. Awareness of the prevalence of human trafficking has been steadily growing in Canada and around the world. Globally, the crime takes on many forms including, but not limited to:<sup>1</sup>

- Sex trafficking or sexual exploitation
- Labour trafficking, forced labour, or labour exploitation
- Forced marriage
- Forced criminality
- Child soldiers
- Organ trafficking/harvesting

While traditionally people tend to think of trafficking in just the international context, the Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition is pleased to see that increased effort is being made to highlight the prevalence of trafficking happening in communities across Canada.

In recent years in Hamilton, victim services agencies, multicultural services, sexual assault centres and services, shelter services, law enforcement personnel, grassroots community supports, and other non-governmental organizations have become more cognizant on how to recognize human trafficking. In January 2015, individuals representing these diverse sectors came together for our first meeting of the Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition (further referenced as HAHTC or “the Coalition”). Through training and past experience with trafficked persons or those vulnerable to being trafficked, each participating agency of HAHTC has learned that it is only through a collaborative community response that the unique, complex, and diverse needs of trafficked individuals can be met. Together we have committed to further collaboration so that we can engage with others also serving the needs of this population in order to better serve those affected.

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<sup>1</sup> Stop The Traffik, “Types of Exploitation.” <https://www.stophetraffik.org/about-human-trafficking/types-of-exploitation/>

## **Mission Statement<sup>2</sup>**

The Coalition's mission is to develop partnerships and protocols to identify and assist people who have been human trafficked in the Hamilton region, linking people who have been trafficked to appropriate services and supports. The Coalition works to increase knowledge and awareness of human trafficking, advocates for effective, rights-based responses, and conducts research to identify the scope of human trafficking in the Hamilton area.

## **Steering Committee**

The Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition is committed to the prevention and elimination of **all forms** of Human Trafficking. Through anti-racist, anti-oppressive framework, the Coalition's Steering Committee will engage in initiatives directly linked to the prevention, education and support for trafficked persons.

The priorities of the Coalition's Steering Committee include:

1. Prevention

The Steering Committee is committed to the prevention of Human Trafficking. Through public education and awareness initiatives the working group strives to enhance the communities understanding of human trafficking. Through increased knowledge our goal is to assist the community to better identify and support those at risk of and survivors of human trafficking.

2. Service Delivery & Coordination:

The Steering Committee is committed to reducing barriers and systemic oppression to increase access and availability of services for those at risk or who have experienced trafficking.

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<sup>2</sup> This is the Coalition's mission statement as outlined in their Terms of Reference.

## **Purpose**

This guide is intended to:

1. raise awareness among service providers and frontline workers about the realities of human trafficking;
2. inform service providers and frontline workers on best practices and approaches in engaging with trafficked individuals or populations vulnerable to being trafficked;
3. encourage service providers and frontline workers to consider ways that they may be able to adapt current services, approaches, policies, procedures, and/or protocols to better identify, serve, and meet the needs of trafficked persons; and
4. provide resources and information to help service providers and frontline workers better serve and support those who are, have been, or are at risk of being trafficked.

While we have attempted to develop a toolkit that is as comprehensive as possible, we recognize that one document might not contain all the information you may require to fully understand the issue of human trafficking or support persons who have been trafficked. We consider this document a tool to help you better understand some of the unique challenges and needs of trafficked persons. This toolkit offers ideas and information on how one can begin to support trafficked persons in meeting their varied and complex needs. We understand that, in real life, the individualized support that a person requires cannot be represented by a toolkit; each person and their lived experience is unique.

This is a living document that will continue to be updated annually as new resources and information are made available to the Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking coalition. Suggested updates can be directed to the Chair of the Coalition.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Suggested updates can be directed to [HamiltonHumanTrafficking@gmail.com](mailto:HamiltonHumanTrafficking@gmail.com)



## Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the members of the Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition, both past and present! Their hard work and dedication to this issue has helped inform this toolkit.

Coalition Membership has included, but is not limited to:

- ⇒ Catholic Family Services
- ⇒ Centre de Sante
- ⇒ Children's Aid Society
- ⇒ Community Members
- ⇒ Elizabeth Fry Society
- ⇒ Good Shepherd Women's Services
- ⇒ Good Shepherd Youth Services
- ⇒ Hamilton Aids Network
- ⇒ Hamilton Community Legal Clinic
- ⇒ Hamilton Police Service
- ⇒ Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
- ⇒ Helping Hands Street Mission
- ⇒ Inasmuch House
- ⇒ Interval House
- ⇒ Living Rock Ministries
- ⇒ MAC SAC
- ⇒ Native Women's Centre
- ⇒ Probation & Parole
- ⇒ Restorations Second Stage Homes
- ⇒ SACHA - Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton & Area)
- ⇒ SAVIS
- ⇒ The Salvation Army
- ⇒ Victim Services Hamilton
- ⇒ VWAP (The Victim/Witness Assistance Program)
- ⇒ Waterdown STOP HT
- ⇒ Youth Justice Services
- ⇒ YMCA
- ⇒ YWCA

We especially thank the members of the Coalition's Steering Committee who spent extra energy and time reviewing, editing, and evaluating the toolkit.

- ⇒ Good Shepherd Women's Services
- ⇒ Good Shepherd Youth Services
- ⇒ Hamilton Police Services Victim Services Branch
- ⇒ Native Women's Centre
- ⇒ SACHA - Sexual Assault Centre (Hamilton & Area)
- ⇒ The Salvation Army
- ⇒ YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington/Brantford

Thanks to Jennifer Lucking of Restorations Second Stage Homes who compiled and wrote the content of this document.

The development of this toolkit was made possible with funding provided by the Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office (Ministry of Community and Social Services).

## **A Note on Language**

We recognize that the Coalition is comprised of a variety of individuals, service providers, and groups who have preferences for language and terminology. Effort has been made to use terms that are adopted by the broader anti-human trafficking community, accurately describe the realities of human trafficking in Hamilton, emphasize dignity, and refrain from stigmatizing.

Terms like “trafficked person,” “trafficked individual,” “survivor,” and “person(s) with lived experience,” are used as much as possible. We have made an effort not to use the term “victim” extensively, with the exception of some situations where the term might more accurately describe a situation; for example, when outlining the process of targeting, recruitment, and grooming individuals for trafficking, the term “victim” may be used to better describe the individual’s status within a situation of exploitation.

The Coalition recognizes that trafficking can involve both male and female perpetrators as well as male and female victims. However, when discussing domestic sex trafficking, female pronouns are commonly used (she/her) to reflect the fact that most domestic sex trafficking involves women and girls as trafficked individuals.

We recognize that survivors and persons with lived experience are free to use whatever terminology they feel is best to describe their own experiences and stories.

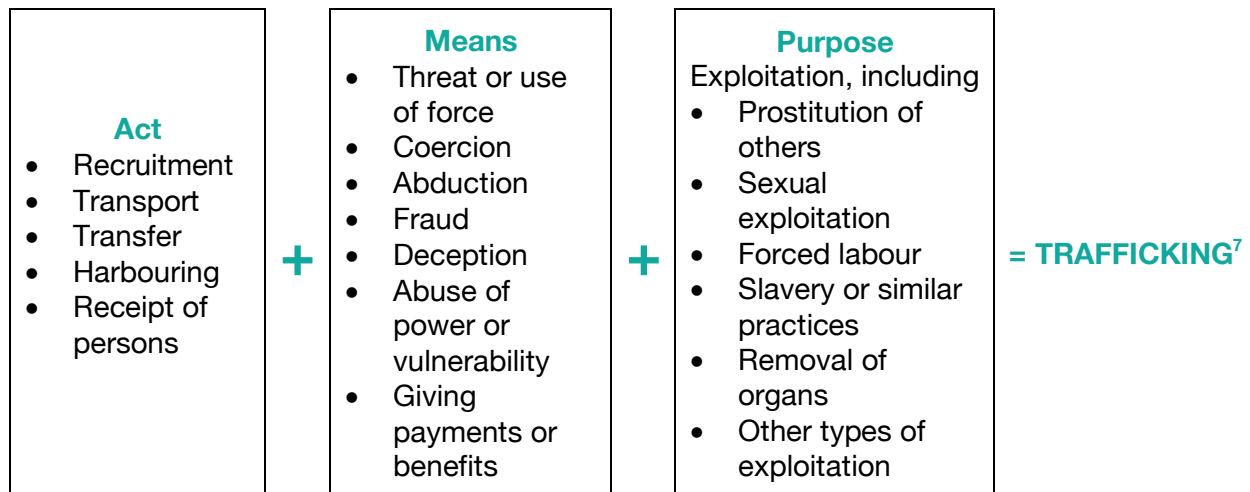
# Defining & Understanding Human Trafficking

## Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is a serious human rights violation with global, national, and regional impact. Often called “modern day slavery,” estimates suggest that 45.8 million people are exploited globally.<sup>4</sup>

“Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring and/or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person, typically through sexual exploitation or forced labour. It is often described as a modern form of slavery.”  
Department of Justice, Government of Canada<sup>5</sup>

The internationally recognized Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines trafficking as “the recruitment transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”<sup>6</sup>



<sup>4</sup> The Global Slavery Index, <https://www.globallslaveryindex.org/findings/>

<sup>5</sup> Government of Canada, Department of Justice, “What is Human Trafficking?”  
<http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/tp/what-quoi.html>

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, “Human Trafficking.”  
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

<sup>7</sup> Chart adapted from United Nations Office on Drugs and Trafficking  
<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/what-is-human-trafficking.html>

## International trafficking

International trafficking occurs when a trafficked person crosses an international border for the purposes of exploitation. The immigration status or documentation of a victim of international trafficking is irrelevant to the crime.

## Domestic trafficking

Domestic trafficking occurs when a trafficked person remains in the country in which they are exploited. Domestic trafficking can occur to foreign nationals within a country; the term domestic trafficking simply refers to situations in which trafficked persons do not cross international borders.

## Labour trafficking, forced labour, or labour exploitation

Labour trafficking refers to trafficking in which someone's labour is exploited for the benefit of their trafficker. Labour trafficking can happen in any setting in which labour can occur and be exploited for another's benefit, but common industries include:

- Construction
- Spas, salons, and esthetic services
- Restaurants
- Hospitality (hotels, etc.)
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Factory work
- Fishing

In some cases, those who experience labour trafficking also face sexual abuse and violence. They may be trafficked in commercial sexual exploitation in addition to labour trafficking, or they may suffer sexual abuse and violence by others in their environment.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS VS FACTS

#### MYTH

Human trafficking always involves the movement of a person across an international border.

#### REALITY

Many of the elements of human trafficking (including recruitment, holding, and exercising control, direction or influence) in the Criminal Code do not imply physical movement. Victims of trafficking in Canada may be foreign nationals who were transported or recruited into Canada; however, most of the cases of human trafficking in Canada have involved Canadian citizens being trafficked within Canadian borders.

SOURCE: [HTTP://BCCPA.ORG/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2017/09/COS-TOOLKIT-FOR-SERVICE-PROVIDERS-ADDRESSING-THE-TRAFFICKING-OF-CHILDREN-AND-YOUTH-FOR-SEXUAL-EXPLOITATION.PDF](http://bccpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/COS-TOOLKIT-FOR-SERVICE-PROVIDERS-ADDRESSING-THE-TRAFFICKING-OF-CHILDREN-AND-YOUTH-FOR-SEXUAL-EXPLOITATION.PDF)

## Domestic servitude

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Domestic servitude is a form of labour trafficking in which someone is exploited within a private household.

“Domestic work is a sector which is particularly vulnerable to exploitation and domestic slavery because of the unique circumstances of working inside a private household combined with a lack of legal protection.”

AntiSlavery.org<sup>8</sup>

Domestic workers can be employed to perform various duties including cooking, cleaning, laundry, childcare, elder care, and running errands. In some cases, domestic workers live in the employer’s home. Trafficking occurs when movement is controlled (e.g. they are not allowed to leave the house), wages are not paid, workers are threatened or abused, identity documents are withheld, contact with family is monitored or controlled, and/or they are forced to work or perform duties outside of the scope of what was previously agreed.

## Sex trafficking or sexual exploitation

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Sex trafficking refers to a trafficking situation in which someone is exploited for the purposes of sex or sexual services. Sex trafficking or sexual exploitation can occur in a variety of settings including:

- Prostitution
- Brothels
- Massage parlours/saunas
- Escort agencies
- Erotic dancing
- Webcam services
- Phone sex lines
- Internet chat rooms
- Pornography
- Mail order brides
- Sex tourism

There are a variety of terms, phrases and vernacular used within the sex trade, especially as it relates to sex trafficking and exploitation. Many of these terms are used within this toolkit to describe trafficking and the experiences trafficked persons face. Please see “Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms and Vernacular of the Sex Trade” for more information.

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<sup>8</sup> Anti-slavery, “Domestic slavery.” “<https://www.antislavery.org/slavery-today/domestic-work-and-slavery/>”

## Sex Trafficking vs. Sex Work

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The Ontario Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office (MCSS) states, “If an adult chooses to engage in consensual, paid sex work on their own terms and is not controlled and exploited by another person, it is not considered human trafficking.”<sup>9</sup> When a person is trafficked for sexual purposes, the trafficked person is exploited by a trafficker or pimp. However, when someone autonomously engages in the sex trade, this can be defined as *sex work* and the individual as a *sex worker*.

While sex work and sex trafficking can have distinct legislative and practical differences, there can be correlations between the two; independent sex workers can be targeted and recruited by pimps and traffickers, and some individuals who have histories of being trafficked engage in independent sex work.

British Columbia’s Children of the Street Society states, “When a minor is involved in the sex trade, they are not a prostitute or sex trade worker but a sexually exploited child or youth. [...] When working with children and youth, the terms sexual exploitation and human trafficking (for sexual exploitation) are often used interchangeably, however, it should be noted that they are two separate *Criminal Code* offences.”<sup>10</sup> Therefore, the term *sexual exploitation* can be used to describe all instances in which youth exchange sexual acts for money, drugs, shelter, food, clothing or anything of monetary value; this term can be used regardless of whether there is a trafficker or pimp or if there are other circumstances which prompt a youth to engage in the sex trade.

The sex trade is nuanced and complex; there are varying perspectives on understanding the sex trade and opinions on legislative approaches to best protect those within it. For the purpose of this toolkit, we will focus on human trafficking of adults and sexual exploitation of youth.

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<sup>9</sup> Ontario Government, Ministry of Community and Social Services, “What is Human Trafficking?” <https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/humanTrafficking/index.aspx#whatis>

<sup>10</sup> Children of the Street Society, “Addressing the Trafficking of Children and Youth for Sexual Exploitation in Canada: A Toolkit for Service Providers.” <http://bccpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/COS-Toolkit-for-Service-Providers-Addressing-the-Trafficking-of-Children-and-Youth-for-Sexual-Exploitation.pdf>

## Forced criminality

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Forced criminality occurs when an individual is forced, coerced or deceived into participating in criminal activity at the benefit of a trafficker or exploiter. Forced criminality often occurs in conjunction with sex trafficking or labour trafficking.

Forced criminal activity can include:<sup>11</sup>

- Drug trade (trafficking, distribution, etc.)
- Begging
- Pick-pocketing
- Bag snatching
- ATM theft
- Fraud (credit card, social welfare, etc.)
- Selling of counterfeit goods

## Forced marriage

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Forced marriage occurs when someone is pressured or forced into marrying someone. Forced marriage can happen internationally and domestically.

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**“In a forced marriage, parents, relatives and community members might use emotional pressure, threats or violence to force someone to marry. The person may also be forced to have sex, or forced to get pregnant. In some cases, people are taken abroad against their will to be married.”**

**Government of Canada<sup>12</sup>**

.....

Service providers in Canada might see cases of forced marriage in various forms:<sup>13</sup>

- ⇒ A person is forced into marriage in a country of origin and then comes to live in Canada with their spouse who is already established here or is newly settling.
- ⇒ A person who was born in Canada or has grown up here is forced into marriage by her family or members of her social circle to a man also already established in Canada.

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<sup>11</sup> Stop The Traffik, “Types of Exploitation.” <https://www.stophetraffik.org/about-human-trafficking/types-of-exploitation/>

<sup>12</sup> Government of Canada, “Forced Marriage.” <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/forced-marriage>

<sup>13</sup> List adapted from Naïma Bendriss’ “Report on the Practice of Forced Marriage in Canada: Interviews with Frontline Workers,” research presented to the Government of Canada’s Department of Justice. [http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/fm-mf/fm\\_eng.pdf](http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/fv-vf/fm-mf/fm_eng.pdf)

- ⇒ A person who was born in Canada or has grown up here who is forced into marriage to a person living in another country; they may leave Canada permanently to live with their spouse in another country, or they may return to Canada to settle with their spouse.
- ⇒ A person who now lives in Canada as a result of fleeing forced marriage in a country of origin (or a third country) and has sought asylum here.

Individuals must be over 16 years of age in Canada to get married. It is illegal to take a minor outside of Canada for the purposes of marriage, even if they consent.

In situations where a person is living in Canada but forced into marriage with someone living in another country, they may not be aware of their family's intentions when leaving Canada; they may be under the impression that they are going on a family trip or vacation.

For more information on safety measures or supporting someone who believes they may be at risk of being forced into marriage, please see:

<https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/forced-marriage>.

### Organ trafficking/harvesting

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According to Stop the Traffik, "trafficking in organs involves removing a part of the body, commonly the kidneys and liver, to sell often as an illegal trade. Organs can be taken in a number of ways:

- *Trade* – a victim formally or informally agrees to sell an organ, but are then cheated because they are not paid for the organ, or are paid less than the promised price;
- *Ailments* – a vulnerable person is treated for an ailment, which may or may not exist, and the organs are removed without the victim's knowledge; and
- *Extortion* – a victim may be kidnapped from their family and organs removed without consent."<sup>14</sup>

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS VS FACTS

##### MYTH

Forced marriage is the same as arranged marriages.

##### REALITY

"Forced marriage is not the same as arranged marriage, in which family members may recommend a marriage partner. In this case, both people agree to the union and choose to marry the potential partner."

SOURCE: [HTHTTPS://TRAVEL.GC.CA/ASSISTANCE/EMERGENCY-INFO/FORCED-MARRIAGE](https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/forced-marriage)

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<sup>14</sup> More information about illegal organ trade can be found on the RCMP's webpage: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/gazette/illegal-organ-trade>



## Traffickers and Pimps

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A trafficker is anyone who facilitates or participates in the acts, means or purpose of exploitation of a trafficked individual. Traffickers can include members of organized crime, pimps, family members, individuals who hold power or authority, etc. An American organization Human Rights First outlines the stages of human trafficking as<sup>15</sup>

1. Recruitment/abduction
2. Transfer and transportation to a point of exploitation
3. Exploitation

These stages are helpful in identifying what roles traffickers play in exploiting individuals. Traffickers do not need to participate in each stage of trafficking in order to be considered a trafficker. Especially in systems of international trafficking, a particular trafficker might be responsible for one task such as recruiting a victim in the country of origin, arranging for their transportation, or overseeing their exploitation in the destination country.

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**“The involvement of transnational organized crime groups in human trafficking is part of a growing global trend. Human trafficking generates huge profits for criminal organizations, which often have operations extending from the source to the destination countries. These transnational crime networks also utilize smaller, decentralized criminal groups that may specialize in recruiting, transporting or harbouring victims. Human trafficking is also known to be perpetrated by small family criminal groups who control the entire operation. Individuals working independently also traffic persons for profit/personal gain.”**

**RCMP<sup>16</sup>**

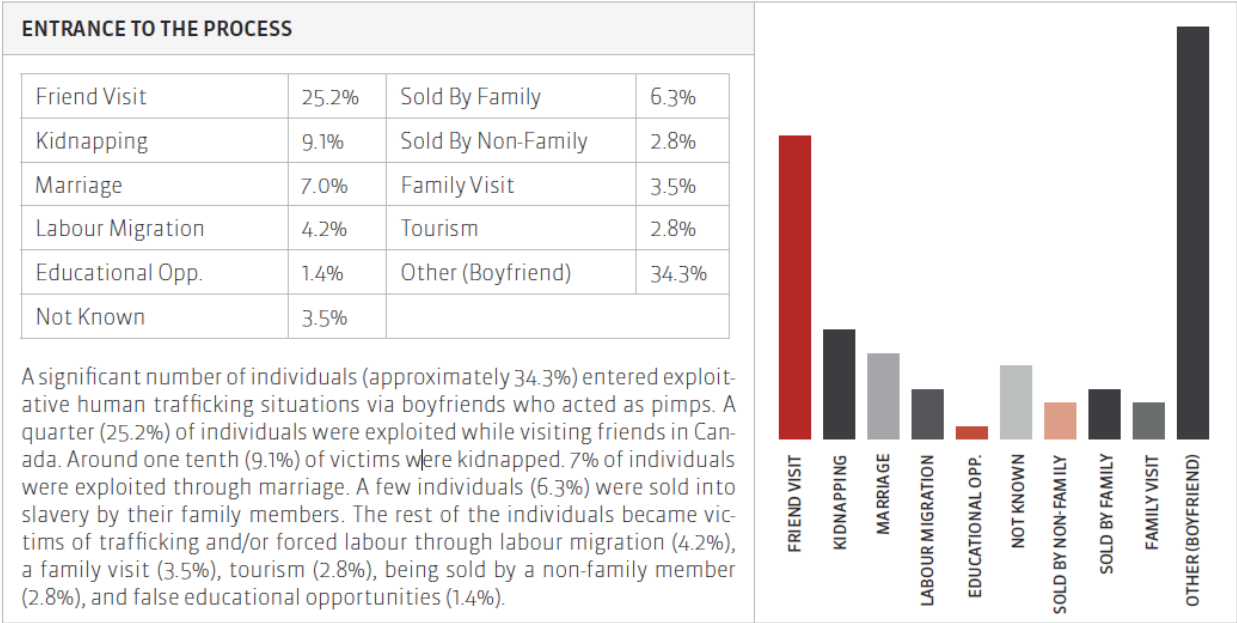
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<sup>15</sup> Human Rights First, “Who Are Human Traffickers?” <https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/who-are-human-traffickers>

<sup>16</sup> RCMP, FAQ: “Who Are The Traffickers?” <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/q-a-trafficking-traite-eng.htm#q4>

A 2014 report published by the Alliance Against Modern Slavery<sup>17</sup> (Gabriele, Sapoznik, Serojtdinov and Williams, 2014) outlined the means of recruitment and by what means trafficked individuals were first introduced to trafficking:



In cases of domestic sex trafficking, traffickers are also known as pimps. Pimps use a variety of methods and techniques to target, recruit, lure and condition or groom victims for a life of exploitation. Unlike international human traffickers, many pimps are involved in all stages of a victim’s trafficked experience (as outlined on the previous page), though a pimp might have other accomplices who assist in various stages like recruitment and transportation. Pimps may act independently or be part of larger crime networks like gangs, the mafia, or other organized crime groups.

There are various “types” of pimps, often typed based on their recruitment and control tactics. For example, a *Romeo Pimp* or *Loverboy Pimp* are those who use emotional manipulation and the façade of being a victim’s “boyfriend” to groom someone for the sex trade. A *Gorilla Pimp* or *Guerilla Pimp* are those who primarily use force and physical abuse to coerce their victims

<sup>17</sup> The report includes the following information on methodology: “In total, the research team received information on 551 cases of human trafficking, oversaw the analysis of 143 cases for which full details were available based on a set questionnaire, and conducted 11 formal interviews on case studies in collaboration with front-line organizations that provide assistance to individuals who have been trafficked to, through, from or within Ontario” (p. 12).  
 Gabriele, F., Sapoznik, K., Serojtdinov, A., & Williams, E. (2014). *The Incidence of Human Trafficking in Ontario: Ontario Coalition Research Initiative*. Published by Alliance Against Modern Slavery. Retrieved from <http://www.allianceagainstm odernslavery.org/sites/default/files/AAMS++Research+Report++2014.compressed.pdf>, March 2015.

into the sex trade. You can find more information on the methods traffickers and exploiters use in the section below “Targeting, Recruiting and Grooming.”

In data collected between 2009 and 2014, Statistics Canada reports that the age of traffickers tend to be between 18-24 years of age (41%) and 25-35 years of age (36%).<sup>18</sup> In Hamilton in 2016, a 16 year old boy was charged with human trafficking.<sup>19</sup>

Statistics Canada also reports that the majority of traffickers tend to be male (83%). Females have been charged with and convicted of human trafficking crimes, both relating to sex trafficking and labour trafficking. While females have been responsible for trafficking others, the role and complicity of their involvement varies. For example, a *Bottom Bitch* (a term referring to a female who is considered the trafficker’s main girl) is one who has earned a trafficker’s trust and is responsible for some of the criminal activity including recruitment, transporting others, collecting money, etc. While the impact of a “Bottom Bitch’s” harm on others should not be ignored, neither should the fact that they are also individuals who face harm and trauma as trafficked individuals.

While other individuals – like family members, trusted authority figures, etc. – can be responsible for trafficking, this toolkit will focus on pimps and non-familial traffickers based on the prevalence of these cases in the Hamilton region.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS VS FACTS

##### MYTH

Human trafficking is the same as human smuggling.

##### REALITY

Global Affairs Canada defines human smuggling as “a business transaction between two willing parties involving movement across border, usually by illegal means. It occurs with the consent of a person(s), and the transaction usually ends upon arrival.” However, those who are smuggled into a country can become victims of trafficking if a consensual transaction turns into a situation of exploitation (e.g. upon arriving at the destination, a person is forced, coerced, or deceived into trafficking).

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.INTERNATIONAL.GC.CA/CRIME/HUMAN-TRAF-PERSONNE.ASPX?LANG=ENG](http://www.international.gc.ca/crime/human-traf-personne.aspx?lang=eng)

<sup>18</sup> Statistics Canada, “Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2014.” <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2016001/article/14641-eng.htm>

<sup>19</sup> *Hamilton Spectator*, “Human trafficking charges laid in Canada.” <https://www.thespec.com/news-story/7035761-human-trafficking-charges-laid-in-hamilton/>

## Legal Framework & Legislation

The *Criminal Code* added sections specifically regarding human trafficking offences (Sections 279.01 to 279.04) only in 2005. In other words, human trafficking has only been recognized as an illegal activity in Canada as defined by the Canadian *Criminal Code* for just over 10 years. As such, convictions are still few, and consequently research and literature on particular aspects of human trafficking in Canada is still fairly limited.

New laws regarding prostitution were enacted in 2014; some of these laws are utilized when law enforcement investigate human trafficking, therefore we have also included a brief overview of these laws to help you better understand the broader scope of legislation around the sex trade. Please see “Appendix 2. Legal Framework & Legislation” for more information about laws and policies relating to human trafficking and the sex trade.

## Statistics & Trends

It is difficult to determine the full scope of trafficking in our country and in the Hamilton region. While statistics and anecdotal accounts have been obtained from various services, organizations, and collaborative groups across the country, there is currently no standard, coordinated system to track the number of those trafficked in Canada.<sup>20</sup> The nature of the crime makes it difficult to determine its prevalence. Those who are trafficked do not typically self-identify as a trafficked person, either because they do not perceive themselves as being exploited (e.g. those who are being trafficked by their “boyfriend” pimp) or they fear serious repercussions if they were to come forward. According to the Canadian Women’s Foundation, “less than 10% of sexual assaults are reported to the police and it’s estimated that women and girls who are trafficked are even less able to report incidents of trafficking.”<sup>21</sup>

### A snapshot of the issue

- ⇒ 95% of human trafficking in Canada is domestic sex trafficking.
- ⇒ 93% of trafficked individuals in Canada are female
- ⇒ Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately represented in sex trafficking.
- ⇒ Minors are especially vulnerable to being trafficked.

That being said, we can rely on federal, provincial and regional research, reports, news stories, and accounts to provide a glimpse of issue.

<sup>20</sup> Canadian Women’s Foundation, “Human Trafficking of Women and Girls: Forced Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation in Canada.”

[http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/TraffickingMessaging\\_FINAL\\_Oct8.pdf](http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/TraffickingMessaging_FINAL_Oct8.pdf)

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/TraffickingMessaging\\_FINAL\\_Oct8.pdf](http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/TraffickingMessaging_FINAL_Oct8.pdf)

In Canada, the majority of trafficked persons are Canadian. The RCMP reports that between 2005-2017, 95% of identified cases of human trafficking were cases of domestic trafficking.<sup>22</sup> The cases identified as domestic trafficking (433) were primarily cases of sexual exploitation while the cases of international trafficking (22) were primarily relating to forced labour.

Youth, especially minors, are particularly vulnerable to being trafficked. The following is a snapshot of data collected on the ages of victims.

Source	Age when first trafficked or at time of case
Canadian Women's Foundation <sup>23</sup>	Average age when first trafficked is 13-14 years of age.
Native Women's Association of Canada <sup>24</sup>	A survey of 13 Indigenous experiential survivors showed 42% were between 9-14 years of age.
Ontario's Ministry of Community and Social Services <sup>25</sup>	"The age of recruitment is as low as 12 or 13."
Ontario Native Women's Association <sup>26</sup>	"The median age of entry into prostitution is 14."
RCMP <sup>27</sup>	Victims are typically between 14-22 years of age.
Statistics Canada <sup>28</sup>	Between 2009-2014, 47% of victims were between the ages of 18-24; 25% were under the age of 18.

Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately represented in the sex trade. According to the Canadian Women's Foundation:<sup>29</sup>

Winnipeg	Vancouver's downtown Eastside	Edmonton
70-80% of exploited children are Aboriginal	40-60% of prostituted women and girls are Aboriginal	60% of those in street prostitution are Aboriginal
10% of Winnipeg residents are Aboriginal	2% of Vancouver's population is Aboriginal	5% of Edmonton's population is Aboriginal

<sup>22</sup> RCMP, Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre. <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>

<sup>23</sup> Barrett, Nicole A. (Commissioned by the Canadian Women's Foundation), "An Assessment of Sex Trafficking." <https://www.canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NB-Nov-14-FINAL-REPORT-Assessment-of-Sex-Trafficking-in-Canada.pdf>

<sup>24</sup> Native Women's Association of Canada, "Boyfriend or Not – Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls in Canada: Report to the Embassy of the United States." [https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014\\_NWAC\\_Boyfriend\\_or\\_Not\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014_NWAC_Boyfriend_or_Not_Report.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Ontario Government, Ministry of Community and Social Services, "What is Human Trafficking?" <https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/humanTrafficking/index.aspx#whatis>

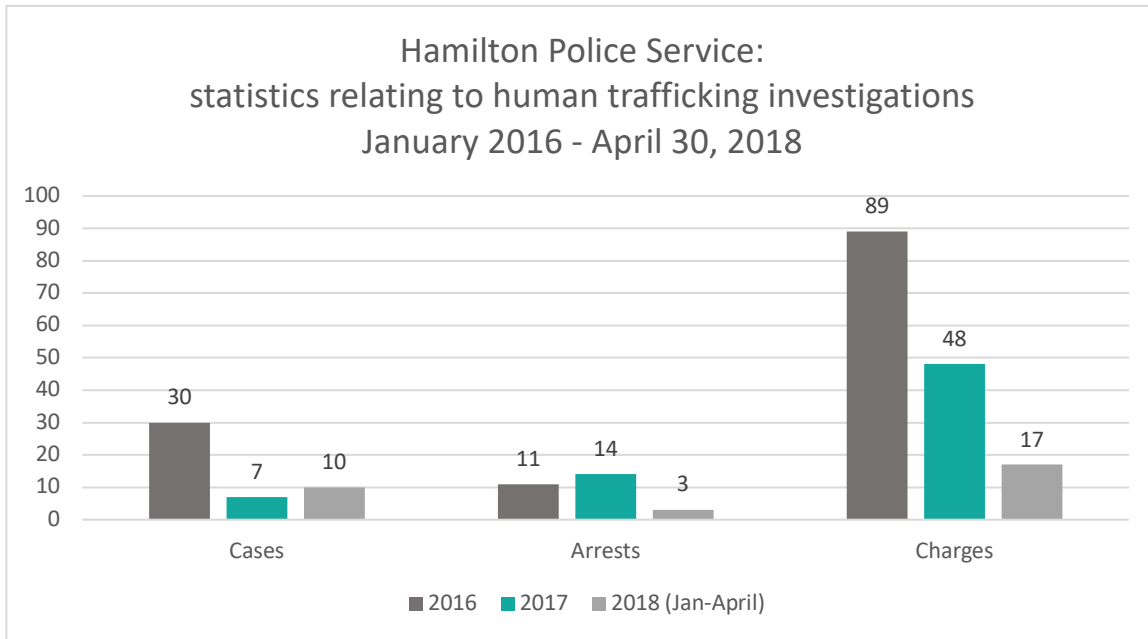
<sup>26</sup> Ontario Native Women's Association, "Sex Trafficking of Indigenous Women in Ontario." <http://www.onwa.ca/upload/documents/report-sex-trafficking-of-indigenous-wom.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> RCMP, "Domestic Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation in Canada." <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/publications/2013/proj-safekeeping-eng.htm>

<sup>28</sup> Statistics Canada, "Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2014." <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2016001/article/14641-eng.htm>

<sup>29</sup> Barrett, Nicole A. (Commissioned by the Canadian Women's Foundation), "An Assessment of Sex Trafficking." <https://www.canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NB-Nov-14-FINAL-REPORT-Assessment-of-Sex-Trafficking-in-Canada.pdf>

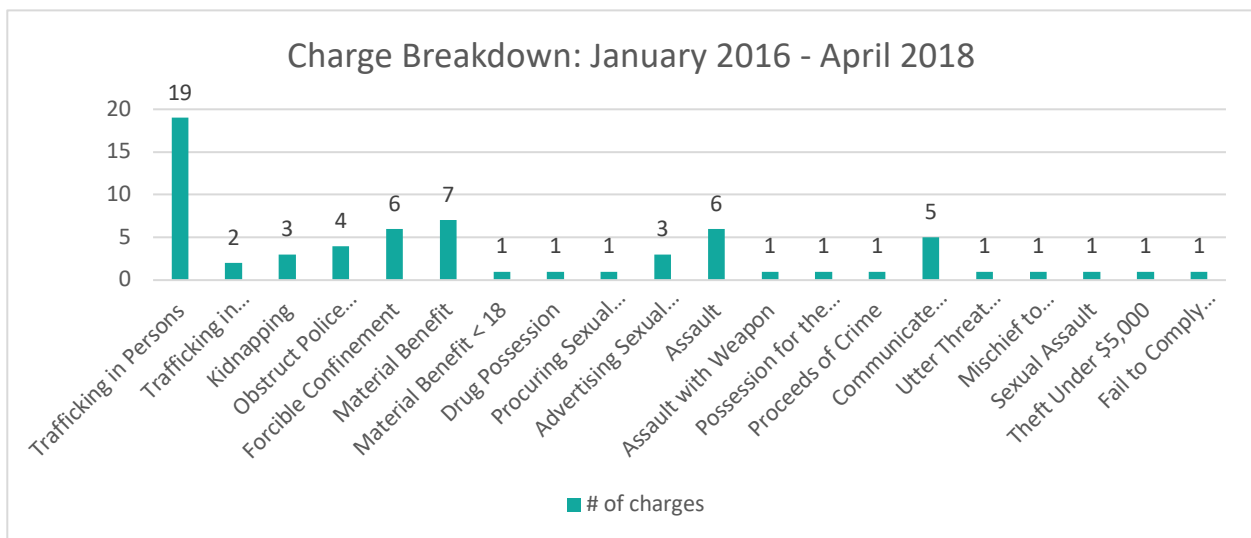
**In Hamilton**



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All cases listed above involved female victims.

In investigating human trafficking, law enforcement often uncovers other criminal activity or chargeable offences including but not limited to these as outlined by Hamilton Police Service:



31

<sup>30</sup> Statistics relating to human trafficking investigations provided by Sergeant Kathy Stewart #3, ISD - Vice & Human Trafficking Unit, Hamilton Police Service.

<sup>31</sup> Statistics relating to charge breakdown provided by Sergeant Kathy Stewart #3, ISD - Vice & Human Trafficking Unit, Hamilton Police Service.

### Hamilton's "Domotor Case"

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Canada's largest case of human trafficking before the courts happened in Hamilton. In 2012, multiple people – many of whom were related to each other in what police has deemed an organized crime family – pled guilty to human trafficking. The case involved over twenty men and one woman trafficked from Hungary to Hamilton where they were kept in deplorable conditions and made to work in in the criminal family's stucco business and other local construction businesses. The victims were also forced to make fraudulent welfare claims and their bank accounts were controlled by their traffickers.

The "Domotor Case" was one of Hamilton's earliest cases that highlighted many of the challenges in serving trafficked individuals. Finding safe places for the victims to receive long-term care and support, especially given the fact that all except one were men, was a real challenge. Navigating the legal and court system was difficult since human trafficking was still largely unknown or misunderstood. The majority of the perpetrators were deported following their time served. The whereabouts of one survivor was highlighted by *The Hamilton Spectator*, sadly following his death by suicide. Links to news stories pertaining to the "Domotor case" can be found in the "Resource" section of this toolkit.

Human trafficking can occur *anywhere* labour can be exploited which means trafficking has occurred in urban, suburban and rural locations across the world. Factors that contribute to Hamilton's concerns with human trafficking include:

- Hamilton's proximity to airports (including Toronto Pearson International Airport and John C. Munro Hamilton International Airport).
- Hamilton's location in southern Ontario among other highly populated cities and regions.
- Easy access to a series of highways linking our city to others.
- Hamilton's proximity to Indigenous reserves where women and girls are especially at risk of being targeted and recruited into trafficking.

Given that that the majority of trafficking – not just in Canada, but in the Hamilton region – relates to domestic sex trafficking, the scope of this toolkit will focus on this type of exploitation. However, this toolkit will also provide information on international trafficking and labour trafficking to a degree.



## Systemic Issues & Vulnerabilities

There are various broader, systemic issues that make it possible for human trafficking to flourish.

According to the Canadian Women's Foundation:<sup>32</sup>

- ⇒ "Girls and women who are bought and sold from inside Canada are most often marginalized young girls and women (Aboriginal, racialized, immigrant and abuse survivors).
- ⇒ The anonymity of Internet helps fuel trafficking by creating conditions that enable luring and trafficking of girls and women for the purposes of forced prostitution.
- ⇒ Traffickers in Canada can receive an annual financial gain of \$280,000 for each girl or woman they have trafficked and forced into prostitution.
- ⇒ Traffickers receive a higher financial gain for girls under the age of 18, making vulnerable young girls particularly at risk of being forced into prostitution by traffickers.
- ⇒ Through reports and our consultations with 250 Canadian organizations and 150 survivors of sex trafficking, we have learned that many girls in Canada are first trafficked into forced prostitution when they are 13-years-old."

Those especially vulnerable to being targeted for trafficking include:<sup>33</sup>

- ⇒ Youth in care
- ⇒ Homeless, runaway or transient youth
- ⇒ Indigenous women and girls
- ⇒ LGBTQ+ youth
- ⇒ Youth in search of affection, love, belonging and/or community
- ⇒ Youth who struggle with low self-esteem, bullying, discrimination, poverty, abuse, isolation and other social or family issues
- ⇒ Addiction, mental health issues and developmental disabilities are also risk factors

### Intersecting issues and considerations

- ⇒ Poverty
- ⇒ Childhood sexual abuse
- ⇒ Gender inequality and sexism
- ⇒ Racism
- ⇒ Child welfare and youth in care
- ⇒ Legacy of colonialism and residential schools
- ⇒ Migration and refugees
- ⇒ Economic framing of trafficking: supply and demand

<sup>32</sup> Canadian Women's Foundation, "Human Trafficking of Women and Girls: Forced Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation in Canada."

[http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/TraffickingMessaging\\_FINAL\\_Oct8.pdf](http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/TraffickingMessaging_FINAL_Oct8.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> Ontario Government, Ministry of Community and Social Services, "What is Human Trafficking?"

<https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/humanTrafficking/index.aspx#whatiscs>



## Indigenous Women & Girls

Indigenous women and girls face unique challenges and barriers that increase their vulnerability of being targeted by traffickers.

### Impact of Colonization

According to the Native Women’s Association of Canada, “Colonization refers to the actions, policies, and beliefs that European men put into place when they arrived in Canada.”<sup>34</sup> Colonization in Canada led to the establishment of residential schools where Indigenous children were forcibly removed from families and homes and placed into schools established by the government and run by churches. The impact of these schools, which started in the 1800s until the last one closed in 1996, have lasting effects that intersect with concerns around human trafficking.

Impact of Residential Schools <sup>35</sup>		
Individual	Family	Community & Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• isolation/alienation</li> <li>• shame</li> <li>• anger toward school and parents</li> <li>• self-hatred</li> <li>• internalized racism</li> <li>• fear of authority</li> <li>• low self-esteem</li> <li>• self-destructive behaviours (substance abuse, gambling, alcoholism, suicidal behaviours)</li> <li>• acting aggressively</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unresolved grief</li> <li>• difficulty with parenting effectively</li> <li>• family violence</li> <li>• loss of stories</li> <li>• loss of traditions</li> <li>• loss of identity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss of connectedness with languages, traditions and cultural history</li> <li>• loss of togetherness and collective support</li> <li>• loss of support from Elders</li> <li>• lack of control over land and resources</li> <li>• increased suicide rates</li> <li>• lack of communal raising of children</li> <li>• lack of initiative</li> <li>• dependency on others</li> <li>• communal violence</li> </ul>

<sup>34</sup> Native Women’s Association of Canada, “Our Spirits are NOT for Sale: A Handbook for Helping Sexually Exploited Aboriginal Women and Girls.” <https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Our-Spirits-are-NOT-for-sale-English-web-version.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> According to the Manitoba Trauma Information and Education Centre, “the impact of these disrupted attachments is felt at individual, family and community levels.” Bullet point lists of these impacts are adapted from their website into table form for this document.

**“As a result of colonization, Aboriginal women and girls are facing many issues, including poverty, male violence against women and girls, addiction issues, homelessness, sexism, and inadequately funded services and supports.”**

**Native Women’s Association of Canada<sup>36</sup>**

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Isolation of reserve communities and adjusting to urban centres

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The isolation of reserve communities can act as a contributing factor to trafficking. Indigenous women and girls may find themselves leaving reserves to pursue education or employment in more urban centres. Once arriving in an unfamiliar place, Indigenous women and girls face the culture shock of urban living and are unfamiliar with their surroundings. They may know very few people in their new community and are left under-supported. These are all contributing factors making them more vulnerable to the tactics of pimps and traffickers. Using the lack of employment and education opportunities on reserves to their benefit, pimps and traffickers have been known to lure Indigenous women and girls off reserves into urban centres with the promise of a better life.

**“[...] many Aboriginal women and girls who end up in the sex trade or who are trafficked come from rural upbringings. Either they have moved from the North to the South, or were raised on reserve, and moved to a city at a young age with their family, or left the reserve on their own to seek a better life. In the cities, these women and girls are typically unprepared for the vast change of pace and the urban lifestyle, and are often isolated, with few job prospects or friends. These conditions contribute significantly to their increased vulnerability to being exploited.”**

**Red Willow Consulting Inc.<sup>37</sup>**

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<sup>36</sup> Native Women’s Association of Canada, “Our Spirits are NOT for Sale: A Handbook for Helping Sexually Exploited Aboriginal Women and Girls.” <https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Our-Spirits-are-NOT-for-sale-English-web-version.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Red Willow Consulting Inc., Dr. Yvonne Boyer and Peggy Kampouris (prepared for Public Safety Canada), “Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls.” [http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2015/sp-ps/PS18-8-2014-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/sp-ps/PS18-8-2014-eng.pdf)

## Targeting, Recruiting & Grooming

There are five “disguises” that are useful for better understanding the ways that traffickers manipulate or coerce victims into exploitation:<sup>38</sup>

- ⇒ **Pretender:** someone who pretends to be something s/he is not, such as a boyfriend, a big sister, a father, etc.
- ⇒ **Provider:** someone who offers to take care of an individual’s needs, such as for clothes, food, a place to live, etc or their wants, like cool cell phones, purses, parties, etc.
- ⇒ **Promiser:** someone who promises access to great things, like an amazing job, a glamorous lifestyle, travel, etc.
- ⇒ **Protector:** someone who uses physical power or intimidation to protect (but also control) an individual
- ⇒ **Punisher:** someone who uses violence and threats to control an individual. When the previous disguises have been exhausted, an exploitative person often becomes a Punisher to maintain control.

### Force

- ⇒ Beating/slapping
- ⇒ Beating with objects (bat, tools, chains, belts, hangers, canes, cords, etc.)
- ⇒ Burning
- ⇒ Sexual assault
- ⇒ Rape/gang rape
- ⇒ Confinement/locked in
- ⇒ Torture practices
- ⇒ Seasoning/initiation

### Fraud

- ⇒ False promises
- ⇒ Deceitful enticing and affectionate behavior
- ⇒ Withholding wages
- ⇒ Lying about working conditions
- ⇒ Lying about the promise of “a better life”
- ⇒ Preying on desperation and poverty
- ⇒ Blackmail, extortion

### Coercion

- ⇒ Threats of serious harm or restraint
- ⇒ Threatened abuse of legal process
- ⇒ Intimidation, humiliation
- ⇒ Emotional abuse
- ⇒ Climate of fear
- ⇒ Modeling abusive behavior
- ⇒ Controlling daily life skills
- ⇒ Creating dependency
- ⇒ Establishing quotas

<sup>38</sup> This list is developed by the American non-profit iEmpathize; list taken from <https://www.cnn.com/2016/07/13/opinions/5-disguises-human-trafficker/index.html>

<sup>39</sup> Chart adapted from Polaris Project, <https://www.dcjs.virginia.gov/sites/dcjs.virginia.gov/files/publications/victims/domestic-sex-trafficking-criminal-operations-american-pimp.pdf>

Recruitment, grooming and control methods fall into one or more of the categories of force, fraud or coercion. Traffickers will tend to shift between methods based on the cycle of abuse or what is needed in the moment.

The distinct tactics that exploiters use to manipulate and/or entice individuals into trafficking can vary between international and domestic trafficking. These differences are outlined in the following sections.

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**“The differences in recruitment varies between domestic human trafficking and international human trafficking, and an understanding of the Canadian context is critical for providing necessary awareness and educational tools for prevention in this country. [...] In Ontario, a victim enticed into the sex trade is most likely to be trafficked as a result of a pimp masquerading as a romantic partner over any other methods including kidnapping, marriage, or being sold by family. [...] Canadian victims are lured into sexual exploitation by masquerading as a romantic partner at a much higher rate than international victims.”**

**Jennifer Lucking<sup>40</sup>**

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<sup>40</sup> Adapted from “Getting Into ‘The Game’: Domestic Sex Trafficking in Canada, male pimps and the social construction of their female victims,” Jennifer Lucking.

## Domestic Sex Trafficking

Domestic sex trafficking in Canada and the United States is also commonly referred to as “The Game” or “The Life.” In “The Game,” pimps and traffickers use a variety of methodical tactics and strategies to target, recruit and groom a victim for sexual exploitation. These methods include:<sup>41</sup>

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| ⇒ Emotional manipulation | ⇒ Shame             |
| ⇒ Sexualization          | ⇒ Substance use     |
| ⇒ Isolation              | ⇒ Physical force    |
| ⇒ Indebtedness           | ⇒ Use of technology |

Pimps and traffickers in “The Game” often get their cues from other pimps who provide instruction in various formats including “pimp manuals” (both published and informally provided online), videos, online forums, etc. Included in these instructions are widely accepted practices and rules.

## Emotional Manipulation

The most common domestic sex trafficking recruitment strategy is emotional manipulation, a technique used by “Romeo Pimps” who make contact with a targeted person, befriends her, earns her trust, and manipulates their relationship in order to traffic her.

.....

**Pimps and traffickers often rely on manipulating emotions and relationships because “[n]ot only are the girls unlikely to turn on their pimps, whom they ‘love,’ but they are also easier to manipulate and control than women who fear their pimps...”<sup>42</sup>**

.....

<sup>41</sup> The following sections on emotional manipulation, sexualization, isolation, indebtedness, shame, substance abuse, physical force, and use of technology are all adapted with permission from Jennifer Lucking’s Master’s research entitled “Getting Into ‘The Game’: Domestic sex trafficking in Canada, male pimps and the social construction of their female victims.” For more information or permission to copy, you can email Jennifer at [Jennifer@RestorationsCanada.org](mailto:Jennifer@RestorationsCanada.org)

<sup>42</sup> Kennedy, M.A., Klein, C., Bristowe, J.T.K., Cooper, B.S., & Yuille, J.C. (2007). Routes of Recruitment: Pimps’ Techniques and Other Circumstances That Lead to Street Prostitution. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 15(2), 1-19.

Traffickers and pimps target individuals in a wide range of places including but not limited to:

- ⇒ Online
- ⇒ Malls/shopping centres
- ⇒ Hotel parties
- ⇒ Coffee shops
- ⇒ Restaurants
- ⇒ Parks
- ⇒ Recreation centers
- ⇒ Beauty salons
- ⇒ Schools/colleges/universities
- ⇒ Libraries
- ⇒ Amusement parks
- ⇒ Laundromats
- ⇒ Group homes and youth shelters
- ⇒ Public transit terminals
- ⇒ Through friends and acquaintances

Once connection has been established, a trafficker will take time to learn as much as possible about the targeted individual: likes and dislikes, insecurities, stability/instability of home life, support system, history of trauma or abuse, hopes, dreams and future plans.

Traffickers manipulate affection, love and belonging to establish a connection with the targeted individual. Traffickers spend an incredible amount of time focused on a targeted individual, leading the individual to believe that no one has ever loved, cared for, or supported them as much as they have. A trafficker's objective is to "sell her the dream" – a dream that establishes the trafficker as a permanent fixture in the target's future, and a dream that can be called upon in the future to manipulate and coerce.

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**“Most of these girls, like I said, they’re broken. It’s not hard. You just have to answer their call. And you get in there. You find the crack. Like, some are drugs, some are just... they need to hear ‘I love you.’ [...] It’s the illusion, be there for them, tell them what they want to hear [...] I’ll be here to take care of you, at the end of the night you’re home with me. Every girl has that fantasy wedding and that house with the pink fence. You sell it to her. And she’ll do it. You just sold her a dream.”**

**Pimp<sup>43</sup>**

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<sup>43</sup> Carville, Olivia (for the *Toronto Star*), Beaten, Branded, Bought and Sold investigation <http://projects.thestar.com/human-sex-trafficking-ontario-canada/>

Trafficked persons will often identify pimps as their “boyfriends” rather than their “pimp” or trafficker.” Some trafficked individuals may not even be familiar with the term “human trafficking.” The denial associated with identifying their “boyfriends” as an exploiter has been compared to behaviours exhibited by victims of domestic violence. In his book on trafficking in Canada, Benjamin Perrin comments that in both domestic abuse and the pimp/victim relationship, “victims nourish the hope that if only they love their abuser enough, he will change.”<sup>44</sup>

The psychological behaviours of a victim are also very similar to Stockholm Syndrome, a condition often present “in typical pimp and prostitute relationships where the women/girls believed they were romantically involved with their abuser.”<sup>45</sup> The RCMP recognizes that victims who present similar symptoms to Stockholm Syndrome rarely identify their boyfriend as a trafficker and do not typically identify themselves as victims of exploitation. Trafficked individuals rarely self-identify as being trafficked because of these established trauma bonds with their exploiter.

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**“Some women would never label the man who turned them out as a pimp; to them he is the man they love and they believe that they are showing their love to him by earning money for him.”**

**Kennedy et al., 2007<sup>46</sup>**

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Once pimps establish an emotional connection with a victim, the “grooming” process begins and can take on a variety of forms including but not limited to:

- ⇒ Providing gifts
- ⇒ Going on expensive dates and trips
- ⇒ Planning for a future together that could include marriage, purchasing a house, having children, going back to school, etc.
- ⇒ Providing compliments on her appearances, qualities, etc.

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<sup>44</sup> Perrin, B. (2010). *Invisible Chains: Canada’s Underground World of Human Trafficking*. Toronto, ON: Penguin Books Ltd., p. 115.

<sup>45</sup> Royal Canadian Mounted Police Criminal Intelligence. (March 2010). *Human Trafficking in Canada*. Unclassified ed. Ottawa, ON: Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

<sup>46</sup> Kennedy, M.A., Klein, C., Bristowe, J.T.K., Cooper, B.S., & Yuille, J.C. (2007). Routes of Recruitment: Pimps’ Techniques and Other Circumstances That Lead to Street Prostitution. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 15(2), 1-19.

In order to emotionally manipulate the relationship, pimps play to the vulnerabilities exhibited by the victim; these actions can include playing their romantic game, vocalizing love and affection, bestowing gifts on the female, and manipulating childhood wounds or previous traumas. Using deception and manipulation to play to the victims' emotions, pimps will engage in what is believed to be "normal" romantic relationship behaviours (taking her to restaurants, buying her clothing, etc.).

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"He progressively led up to the fact that that's what he wanted. You know, he didn't come out that night when I met him and tell me, 'This is what I am. This is what you need to do' ... I think they really feel like they have to gain your trust before they can dump something like that on you. We spent a lot of time together. I mean... we would go out to eat, go to the movies, and we did, you know, normal couple things. But ... in my head I'm just thinking it's just normal couple things, but he's thinking that he's winning... that he's gonna win and I'm gonna end up doing what he wanted. And he was right."

#### Survivor<sup>47</sup>

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This grooming process is very similar to grooming strategies employed by sexual predators in which victims who crave attention, validation, belonging, and acceptance are befriended and manipulated by a sexual predator's actions where they may bestow gifts, pay special listening attention, and spend time with a potential victim.

The time between initial contact (between pimp and his target) and "turning her out" can range from mere hours to a couple of months depending on the situation, vulnerabilities, needs of the targeted person, and persuasiveness of the trafficker.

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<sup>47</sup> Williamson, C., & Cluse-Tolar, T. (2002). Pimp-Controlled Prostitution: Still an Integral Part of Street Life. *Violence Against Women*, 8(9), 1074-1092.



## Sexualization

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The sexual relationship between the targeted person and pimp during this time of emotional manipulation is also strategic in an effort to groom the victim for the sex trade. A pimp will intentionally transition a normal, sexual relationship to a relationship of rawness and violence in order to condition a victim to a lifestyle of prostitution.

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“You’ll start to dress her, think for her, own her. If you and your victim are sexually active, slow it down. After sex, take her shopping for one item. Hair and/or nails is fine. She’ll develop a feeling of accomplishment. The shopping after a month will be replaced with cash. The love making turns into raw sex. She’ll start to crave the intimacy and be willing to get back into your good graces. After you have broken her spirit, she has no sense of self value. Now pimp, put a price tag on the item you have manufactured”  
Mickey Royal (pimp)<sup>48</sup>,

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To ease this transition, pimps will often provide the victim with gifts and then, over time, money after sex to promote a sense that her sexuality is something to be exchanged or sold. Over time, pimps will introduce sexual activities that may be beyond the victim’s initial comfort level in order to desensitize her notions of what she perceives to be appropriate or comfortable sexual actions. The pimp may then bring the victim to events where she is encouraged to engage in sexual acts with an audience of or participation with strangers, usually friends of the pimp. By introducing others into the sexual relationship, the pimp thereby “destroys the monogamous relationship based on trust.”<sup>49</sup>

Violent, non-consensual acts like “gang bangs” and rape can also be coordinated by the pimp to degrade, humiliate, traumatize and desensitize the victim.

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<sup>48</sup> Royal, M., Foote, S., & Freeman, C. (2000). *The Pimp Game: Instructional Guide*. Los Angeles, CA: Sharif Publishing.

This is one of many “pimp manuals” written by pimps to provide instruction on “The Game.”

<sup>49</sup> Perrin, B. (2010). *Invisible Chains: Canada’s Underground World of Human Trafficking*. Toronto, ON: Penguin Books Ltd., p. 62.

## Isolation

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Over time, a trafficker will develop ways to isolate a victim.

### Geographic isolation

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While forced movement and relocation is not a necessary component of human trafficking (e.g. trafficked persons can be trafficked without crossing regional, provincial, or international borders), many traffickers use this tactic to exert control over their victim by creating geographical distance between a victim and her family, friends, loved ones and existing support systems. Moving a trafficked person to an unfamiliar location also results in disorientation; as such, she will be unaware of the local services that may be available to assist her. Regular movement between cities prevents a trafficked person from being able to establish connections in any one location and causes the trafficked person to become even more reliant on the trafficker for the basic necessities of life (shelter, food, etc.). This transient lifestyle also makes it difficult for victims to remain connected to loved ones.

Changing locations also serves to better protect the trafficker who will use constant movement to avoid suspicion from local law enforcement or those around the establishment where sexual services are being provided

### Relational isolation

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By isolating a trafficked person geographically, relational isolation tends to happen naturally as outlined above. However, during this time a trafficker is also intentionally driving wedges between the trafficked person and whatever support system they may have. A trafficker will employ excellent listening and investigative skills to identify any insecurities the trafficked person may have regarding her social network; the trafficker will listen to her stories, ask questions, and learn from social media posts.

A trafficker will make comments and statements that will cause the trafficked person to doubt the love and support they may receive from family members, friends, service providers, etc. (For example: “No one will ever love you as much as I do.”)

If loved ones express concern about a victim’s relationship with a trafficker, he might use that to his advantage too. (For example: “Your friends are just jealous that we are together. If your friends really cared for you, they would be happy for you.”)

## Indebtedness

“Manipulation through indebtedness can take on two forms: first, the perceived obligation the victim feels towards the pimp after he has bestowed gifts and dates, and second the accrued financial debt that the pimp has often convinced the victim she owes him.”

Jennifer Lucking

The following examples provide insight into how traffickers and pimps use indebtedness to manipulate individuals into exploitation.

A pimp leads a victim into believing they are in a genuine friendship or romantic relationship. He provides her with expensive gifts, clothing, vacations, dates, drugs, etc.

The pimp encourages the victim to share her dreams and plans for the future with him.

The pimp proposes the sex trade as a viable option to make money. Or he tells her that he has come into financial trouble and suggests ways that she might be able to help him out of it, namely engaging in the sex trade.

**Believing that it will only be a short period of time** she agrees.

Knowing how much money has been spent on her, she feels a **sense of obligation** to pay him back.

Believing that a **"good girlfriend" would do anything** to help her boyfriend, she agrees.

Being told that a lot of money has been spent on her and that **she "owes him,"** she is forced to pay him back.

Although a trafficked person might be told that engaging in the sex trade is only temporary (in order to pay off debt, achieve their dreams, etc.), in reality traffickers will always find ways to keep the person indebted. A pimp may impose an “exit fee” and tell the trafficked person they must pay a certain amount of money if they would like to leave the sex trade. These exit fees

are usually arbitrary and unachievable amounts that the victim is never able to pay. Enforcement of this debt repayment may also be achieved through physical force or the threat of violence. In this sense, the indebtedness is maintained not through emotional attachment, but a method established and maintained by fear. (See the section below on “Physical force” for more information.)

In other cases, a pimp will frame the sex trade as a lucrative career option to a vulnerable female, in particular those who are economically struggling and socially isolated. With the promise or idea of making a lot of money she may be lured into the sex trade, a decision heavily manipulated by a pimp. In many cases, those first promised financial compensation over time discover that they are not allowed to keep the majority or any of their earnings once they start to provide sexual services.

#### HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS VS FACTS

##### MYTH

If the trafficked person consented to be in their initial situation or was informed about what type of labor they would be doing or that commercial sex would be involved, then it cannot be human trafficking or against their will because they “knew better.”

##### REALITY

Initial consent to commercial sex or a labor setting prior to acts of force, fraud, or coercion (or if the victim is a minor in a sex trafficking situation) is not relevant to the crime, nor is payment.

SOURCE:  
[HTTPS://HUMANTRAFFICKINGHOTLINE.ORG/WHAT-HUMAN-TRAFFICKING/MYTHS-MISCONCEPTIONS](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions)

## Shame

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Once a trafficked person has been “turned out,” many traffickers use shame as a method of control. Traffickers will convince the trafficked person that their family and friends would be upset or shamed to discover how they were deceived and their sexual acts. By using threat of exposure to loved ones, pimps are able to convince victims that they are unable to leave or seek help.

.....

**“The combination of having their hearts broken, the shame of having been prostituted, and fear of the pimp [keep] young women on the streets and afraid to ask for help.”**

**Kennedy et al., 2007<sup>50</sup>**

.....

Traffickers will often keep physical evidence of a trafficked persons’ activities, like compromising photos or videos, and threaten to release this on social media.

Tattooing is also used as a way to exert control and demonstrate a pimp’s power. Pimps will either ask or force a trafficked person to get this tattoo, usually on a visible location on the body or lower back. Typically, tattoos are of nicknames or signifiers of the pimp (e.g. a crown which is a common symbol for a pimp). In this sense, trafficked persons often feel “branded” by their exploiter; they also face a permanent reminder of their experiences unless the tattoo is removed or covered.

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<sup>50</sup> Kennedy, M.A., Klein, C., Bristowe, J.T.K., Cooper, B.S., & Yuille, J.C. (2007). Routes of Recruitment: Pimps’ Techniques and Other Circumstances That Lead to Street Prostitution. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 15(2), 1-19.

## **Substance use**

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Attitudes towards drugs varies depending on the trafficker. Some pimps suggest that drugs not be given to trafficked individuals since it has negative health effects that could be detrimental to their “business.” However, some traffickers and pimps use drugs and alcohol as a method of manipulation and control (see above section on “Indebtedness”).

Traffickers may also use trafficked persons to sell and distribute drugs. This strategy further marginalizes and criminalizes the trafficked person; a trafficker uses this as leverage and tells the trafficked person that there is now incriminating evidence if they were ever to seek help from law enforcement.

In some cases, a trafficked person who has no or little prior history of substance abuse issues relies on substances as a mechanism to cope with the traumas of their exploitation. A dependency on the substances – and therefore the trafficker – is created, providing the trafficker with another way to control the individual.

Individuals with existing addictions are vulnerable to traffickers who use the existing addiction to establish dependency. Some dealers will tell trafficked persons that the only way they could continue to receive drugs is to sleep with men in return for their drugs. This method is used to normalize the act of selling sexual services in return for drugs or money. By maintaining a dependency on drugs, trafficked persons become reliant on their dealer who essentially becomes their pimp. Given the power of drug addictions, compliance is relatively easy to attain.

## Physical force

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Once a trafficked person has been substantially manipulated by the exploiter and immersed in trafficking, traffickers are more willing to use physical force or the threat of physical force as a tool to maintain control. Violence is a method used by Romeo pimps more typically to *maintain* control rather than an initial recruitment method. Gorilla (or Guerilla) pimps are the exception and are known to use physical force and violence in their initial contact with targeted individuals, physically forcing them into human trafficking. The RCMP recognizes that force can be a factor in recruitment, but their report<sup>51</sup> outlines that force is typically utilized in instances where females first entered into the sex trade by manipulated “consent” and then became trafficked “when they were prevented to leave when conditions and circumstances changed.”<sup>52</sup>

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**“While some trafficked victims may have initially consented to work in the sex industry, their victimization occurred when the conditions associated with their involvement changed such that they were compelled to provide their services through threats, intimidation and violence.”**

**RCMP<sup>53</sup>**

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In some cases, a trafficker relies more on the *threat* of physical force or will threaten the trafficked person’s family and friends with harm. These threats are taken seriously by the trafficked individual, especially if the trafficker has demonstrated physical abuse on others in their presence.

Pimps exert their control through violent physical force as a way to keep their victims in a state of anxiety and turmoil. For more information on physical force as one phase in the cycle of abuse, see the section below on “Why do trafficked persons stay?”

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<sup>51</sup> The report provides information and intelligence gathered from 132 human trafficking specific cases and at least 100 human trafficking related cases from 2007 and April 2013.

<sup>52</sup> Royal Canadian Mounted Police Criminal Intelligence. (March 2010). *Human Trafficking in Canada*. Unclassified ed. Ottawa, ON: Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (p. 20)

<sup>53</sup> Royal Canadian Mounted Police Criminal Intelligence. (March 2010). *Human Trafficking in Canada*. Unclassified ed. Ottawa, ON: Royal Canadian Mounted Police. (p. 21)

## Use of technology

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Technology is used to recruit targeted victims, learn about their lives, establish relationships, exert control, and facilitate the selling of sexual services. The RCMP identifies internet technology as a key recruitment tool in making first contact with targets, typically through social media and networking websites (e.g. dating sites).<sup>54</sup> Online communication also allows pimps to connect with targeted victims who may live in more rural or remote locations. After establishing an online relationship an individual located in isolated communities, pimps are persuasive in their ability to convince targets to meet with them in an urban centre.<sup>55</sup>

### Technology concerns

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#### ⇒ Anonymity and false identity

- Traffickers and pimps can pretend to be anyone – younger than they actually are, a false persona, etc. – when engaging with a targeted victim online.

#### ⇒ GPS & Location Tracking:

- Traffickers can easily pinpoint the location of those they target online if privacy and location settings are not secured.
- Traffickers and pimps often feel comfortable leaving a victim at a hotel or other location alone because they can track their location through their phone and various apps.

#### ⇒ Apps

- Apps (like Snapchat) provide opportunities for messages and pictures to be sent and then automatically deleted once viewed by the recipient. This has led to growing concerns around sexting and cyberbullying.
- Seemingly safe apps or apps used for specific purposes (e.g. dating sites) are being utilized by traffickers and pimps to target potential victims.
- Icon-hiding apps are used by youth to hide questionable apps from parents and guardians.

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<sup>54</sup> Royal Canadian Mounted Police Criminal Intelligence. (March 2010). *Human Trafficking in Canada*. Unclassified ed. Ottawa, ON: Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

<sup>55</sup> Sethi, A. (2007). Domestic Sex Trafficking of Aboriginal Girls in Canada: Issues and Implications. *First Peoples Child & Family Review* 3(3), 57-71.



Many pimps use websites to advertise trafficked persons' services. These sites feature ads that describe what sexual services are available, a general location, and contact information. Often terms or code words are used to describe sexual activities, age of advertised person, or status as an independent sex worker or trafficked person. However, even if an ad emphasizes that the advertised person is an "independent," this often cannot be verified since traffickers typically make a trafficked person list this in their ad.

One of the most popular sites for advertising sexual services was Backpage.com. This site was shut down by FBI in spring 2018, but other sites have become utilized in its absence.

## International Trafficking: Labour and Sex

While romantic or friendly relationships can be manipulated and used against targeted victims of international human trafficking into Canada, the factors leading to vulnerability and recruitment are starkly different than domestic sex trafficking. Recruitment is primarily driven by economic need and promise of “a better life.” Typically, individuals are promised good paying jobs, opportunity to travel and see the world, and enough funds to send back to and support family in the country of origin.

### Other mitigating factors & vulnerabilities

- ⇒ Political instability, war and conflict
- ⇒ Economics and poverty
- ⇒ Limited access to education
- ⇒ Gender inequality
- ⇒ Forced migration

Once recruited in their country of origin and then brought to Canada, a trafficker will take their passports, isolate them and threaten to harm their family or tell their family the truth about the victim’s work conditions. This threat to tell family members and friends plays on the shame a victim feels in being deceived. Debt is often used as a method of control as well; traffickers will claim that a trafficked person owes a certain amount of money to repay travel and other costs, or the trafficker will set an “exit fee” much like in domestic sex trafficking.

International trafficked persons face various obstacles and barriers that prevent them from escaping their traffickers. These can include:

- ⇒ Lack of English to communicate to others their situation or needs
- ⇒ No identification or travel documents
- ⇒ Fear
  - Of repercussions of trafficker, either toward them or family members and friends
  - Of law enforcement if these are not trusted individuals in country of origin or if traffickers have said that the trafficked individual will “get in trouble” with authorities because of their immigration status or criminal activity
- ⇒ Shame
- ⇒ Belief that they will be able to pay of their “debt” to the trafficker and their circumstances will improve
- ⇒ Threats by the trafficker that any immigration or visa sponsorship will be withdrawn if they leave

### **Why do trafficked persons stay?**

Some trafficked individuals have access to cell phones, remain in communication with friends and family, and are not physically restrained. So, why do trafficked persons stay with their exploiter?

- ⇒ Feelings of love and affection for exploiter
- ⇒ Belief that their circumstances will change if they try a little harder
- ⇒ Fear for personal safety of themselves or loved ones
- ⇒ Shame
- ⇒ Lack of understanding demonstrated by community supports/personal experience with failed systems
- ⇒ Fear of the unknown future
- ⇒ Dependency on exploiter and lifestyle is difficult to leave (e.g. regular beauty salon appointments, knowledge of how much money is being made even if they do not get to keep it, etc.)

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**“After a period of time trafficked persons naturally fall into a state of learned helplessness. They feel compelled to follow the rules because they can see no way out of their situation and they fear the consequences of trying to leave. This can be due to a combination of personal shame, threats, violence, with a continuous lack of control, all leading to an overall feeling of helplessness. For those who do decide to leave, it often takes an average of seven attempts to successfully exit their situation of exploitation.”**

**Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking’s  
*Client Centered Support Model***

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# Identifying and Engaging with Trafficked Persons

## Safety

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“Providing assistance to trafficked persons is an inherently risky business and no security system, no matter how sophisticated and well equipped, can completely eliminate the element of risk. The capacity of the traffickers to retaliate against victims who have managed to escape and/or have testified against them is well documented. Therefore, the risk posed to trafficking victims by their exploiters cannot be overstated.”

The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking<sup>56</sup>

The Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition does not present itself as an expert group in risk assessment and safety planning, so we encourage service providers to rely on their training and organization’s support to conduct any safety assessment and planning. However, we hope that this toolkit will have provided in-depth knowledge regarding the realities of human trafficking so that you can perform your job with a better understanding of trafficked persons’ unique needs and challenges.

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<sup>56</sup> The International Organization for Migration, “The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking.” [http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom\\_handbook\\_assistance.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_handbook_assistance.pdf)

## **How to Recognize Human Trafficking**

The following are indicators that may assist service providers in recognizing instances human trafficking.<sup>57</sup> Please note that these indicators alone do not prove that an individual has been trafficked or sexually exploited, but rather are signs of potential trafficking or that the individual is in the process of being recruited for the purpose of trafficking.

A person being trafficked may:

- Be unaware of local surroundings even though they have been in the area for an extended period of time; may claim to be ‘just visiting’ (ask the individual if they know where the nearest grocery store, hospital, or other landmarks are – if they’re unaware, they’ve likely had their movements restricted).
- Show evidence of control, intimidation, or abnormal psychological fear; excessive concern about displeasing partner.
- Not be able to move or leave job; have strict rules they have to follow that seem unreasonable.
- Have tattoos that act as ‘branding’ from the trafficker.
- Be dressed in inappropriate clothing for the context or the weather.
- Be unable to speak for themselves; an accompanying person speaks or translates for them.
- Uses slang terms and lingo from within the sex work subculture. (See Appendix 1. Glossary or Terms and Vernacular of the Sex Trade).
- Suddenly have expensive clothes, purses, shoes, hair and nail services, etc. that are outside of their own financial reach. May also have hotel room key-cards even though they’re under-aged.
- Not be permitted access to a phone (alternatively, they may have 2-3 cellphones used for contact with clients and trafficker).
- Have their ID and money held by someone else, or they may have a fake ID that lists them as older than they are.
- Be moved by trafficker, often from strip club to strip club or hotel to hotel, so that they don’t make friends.

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<sup>57</sup> This list is taken from (with thanks to!) the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking who also relied on other sources including the Halton Regional Police Services, Elizabeth Fry Society, Walk With Me (Timea Nagy), Roos-Remillard Consulting Services, Candian Council for Refugees, and the Waterloo Region Anti-Trafficking Coalition in the development of this list.

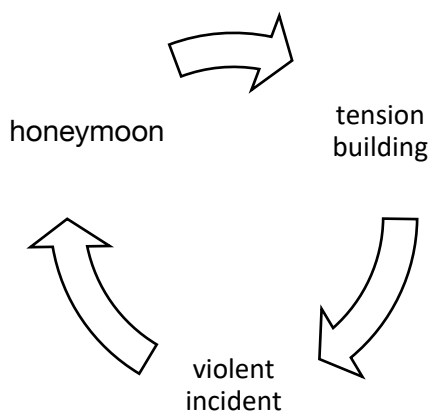
- Won't be allowed to hang out with friends or family; may not be allowed to contact friends or family.
- Have bruises or show other signs of abuse or malnourishment; denial of basic needs.
- Have experienced acts of violence or threats against themselves/friends/family/pets (or threat of informing others of their activities) – they may be punished for discussing their activities with outsiders.
- Be forced to work when they are sick, injured, or especially when on their period – they may not be given appropriate medical care when needed.
- Be forced or encouraged to engage in other criminal activities (taking and selling drugs, recruiting other girls).
- Be frequently accompanied by their trafficker; they aren't allowed to move freely, or must regularly "check in."
- Be unlikely to self-identify as a trafficked person; may not appear to need social services because they have a place to live, food to eat, medical care, etc.
- Have been taught to distrust outsiders, especially law enforcement. They have a sense of fear and distrust toward the government and police (i.e. fear of deportation in international cases).
- Feel better in their current situation than where they came from, even if they are being exploited.
- Feel a dependency on their trafficker; often individuals feel trapped because they are 'in love' with their 'boyfriend' and don't want to leave him, and so they continue being exploited.
- Be completely unaware of their rights or may have been intentionally misinformed about their rights in Canada.
- Have signed a contract they didn't understand, or have been purposefully misinformed about the nature of a job (i.e., they were hired to be an exotic dancer, but they're now expected to perform sexual acts that they didn't agree to).
- Feel that they have to 'pay back' someone for a perceived 'debt' - gifts, clothes, drugs, money, accommodations, etc.
- Indicate that they are an independent sex worker, but that they have a nightly "quota" they have to meet, or a "manager"/"daddy"/"pimp."
- Have their money from their independent sex work withheld, or are forced to accept drugs, less money, or other services in return for sex work that they didn't agree to.

Service providers visiting a location of suspected trafficked persons may encounter the following:

- Location may be a hotel/motel, or an apartment or condo that isn't owned by the individual.
- Lack of decent or normal furnishings and few personal effects – trafficked persons often don't have clothes hung in the closet or pictures on the wall – there won't be normal signs of a real relationship or establishment in the residence.
- One, two, or more girls in one apartment/condo (they may say they're roommates or students) with hardly any furniture beyond mattresses.
- Lots of Kleenex, paper towels, baby wipes, and creams.
- Hardly any food in the fridge or lots of take-out containers.
- Individuals won't have ID on them, or it will be all together with one person. That person will be working for the trafficker or be the trafficker themselves. If the suspected trafficked person has their ID, it will likely be only a photocopy.
- The suspected trafficked person may say "I live with my boyfriend" or "I am visiting my cousin/uncle, etc."

### Cycle of Abuse

This cycle of abuse in trafficking is comparable to the cycle of violence in domestic violence or intimate partner violence:<sup>58</sup>



- **Tension building** where victims will feel like they are walking on eggshells while the trafficker is on the brink of exploding;
- a **violent incident** occurs; this could be physical, verbal, sexual, or emotional;
- the **honeymoon** phase where the trafficker will “make it up” to the victim by buying her expensive items, taking her on dates, and often having sex with her.
- **Cycle repeats.**

<sup>58</sup> Timea's Cause, *Mindset of a Human Trafficked Victim: First Aid Guide for Service Providers*.  
<https://www.timeascause.com>

## **Trafficked Persons' and Survivors' Needs**

Trafficked persons and survivors require services and supports that are varied and complex. These needs can include but are not limited to:

- ⇒ Physical Needs (food, clothing, etc.)
- ⇒ Documentation
- ⇒ Medical attention
- ⇒ Shelter and/or housing
- ⇒ Financial support
- ⇒ Psychological and mental health supports
- ⇒ Addictions recovery
- ⇒ Legal assistance
- ⇒ Education
- ⇒ Job skills or vocational training
- ⇒ Family reunification
- ⇒ Life skills development
- ⇒ Spiritual or cultural needs
- ⇒ Special needs specific to youth and international persons (child welfare, immigration, etc.)

In order to address the comprehensive needs of a trafficked person, we encourage you to refer to the resources listed at the end of this document for a list of key agencies and coalition members who are able to provide services or referrals.

### **Physical Needs**

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Trafficked persons often escape their exploiters with only the clothes they are wearing, or clothing not suited to their ongoing needs (e.g. lingerie, clothing not suitable to seasonal climate, etc.). Trafficked persons are also typically deprived of adequate food.

### **Documentation**

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Traffickers typically withhold their victims' identification and documentation including passports, driver's license, health cards, and immigration papers. Trafficked persons may require assistance in recovering these documents or obtaining new documents.



## **Medical attention**

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The traumas trafficked persons endure can be both physical and sexual in nature. Trafficked persons may require immediate medical attention to address any urgent or acute medical needs. Even if a trafficked person does not require immediate medical attention, seeking the support of health care providers is crucial to address any ongoing negative effects trafficking has had on the individual. For example, survivors of sex trafficking should be encouraged to be tested for sexually transmitted infections.

Many trafficked persons also require dental work given the lack of dental care and hygiene provided throughout the duration of their exploitation.

## **Shelter and/or housing**

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Some trafficked persons do not have safe family or friends to whom they can return after leaving their trafficker. For international trafficked persons, some may not wish to return to their country of origin but do not have a support system here in Canada on which they can rely for housing and shelter. For domestic trafficked persons, they may have a history of abuse or trauma and do not consider their family of origin to be a safe support system.

When first escaping their trafficker, a trafficked person often requires immediate emergency shelter, but ongoing housing needs like transitional and long-term housing are often necessary as well.

Shelter and housing is one of the most significant gaps in services for survivors of trafficking. Often survivors are referred to existing housing services (shelters, transitional housing, etc.), however many of these existing services do not or are not able to provide specialized services to trafficked individuals.

## **Financial support**

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Because trafficked persons are typically not allowed to keep any money they have earned for their trafficker, they usually do not have any money with them when they escape. Trafficked persons may require assistance accessing emergency funds<sup>59</sup> or applying for social support like Ontario Works (OW) or the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

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<sup>59</sup> See also section below on “Legal Assistance” for more information on what funds can be accessed through VQRP.

## Psychological and mental health supports

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Psychological and mental health supports are important services to assist trafficked persons in recovering from the traumas of trafficking. While these supports are important to the overall wellbeing of trafficked persons, services like trauma-informed counselling do not necessarily need to be emphasized in the “In Crisis” stage (see Appendix 3 and 4: “Theory of Change Framework” and “Stages of Change”). The obvious exception to providing immediate mental health supports is if you suspect the survivor is a risk to themselves or others.

Talking about their experiences of being trafficked often takes extensive trust in a service provider. Trafficked persons may not wish to disclose significant details within the initial period of escape. Trafficked persons should not be forced to disclose details of their experiences in order to receive intervention and intermediate supports during the pre- and in crisis stages.

## Addictions recovery

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Trafficked persons may struggle with substance abuse or addictions; this is often a significant barrier of being able to leave the sex trade or their trafficker.

Survivors may require assistance in seeking detox, rehabilitation, or ongoing counselling for addictions.

## Legal assistance

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As a victim of crime, trafficked persons may desire legal support and assistance in contacting law enforcement to report a crime. When reporting a crime, the trafficked person will be encouraged to provide a statement. Likewise, if their trafficker is charged with a crime, the trafficked person may be asked to provide testimony. These experiences are often triggering and re-traumatizing for an individual, and they may require extensive support and encouragement as they journey through the legal system.

### Police

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In Hamilton, the Vice and Human Trafficking Unit of the Hamilton Police Service is responsible for investigating cases of human trafficking. They can be contacted at 905-546-3831. Alternately, anonymous reports can be made to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

### Victim/Witness Assistance Program

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The Victim/Witness Assistance Program can provide support and services to those who are victims of a crime in which the trafficker has been charged. The survivor will be assigned a Victim/Witness Services Worker who can assist the survivor through the court process, answer specific questions relating to the case, liaise between the Crown, police and the survivor, help prepare the survivor for court, assist with victim impact statements, and provide referrals throughout and after the proceedings.

## Ontario's Free Legal Support for Survivors of Human Trafficking

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In May 2018, the Ontario government launched a pilot program to assist survivors of human trafficking and those at risk of being trafficked.

Effective May 1, 2018, a team of specialized lawyers are available to help survivors of human trafficking and those at risk get a restraining order by providing legal support, including:

- Free, confidential legal advice
- Help completing a restraining order application
- Representation at application hearings in any Ontario Court of Justice.

Parents and guardians of a child survivor or a child at risk of being trafficked are also eligible for free legal support.

There is also a new type of restraining order in effect for trafficked persons to utilize. The human trafficking-specific restraining order, created under the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, helps protect survivors and the safety of those around them and does not require notifying the trafficker in advance.

For more information, please see the resource section for a copy of the “Free Legal Support for Survivors of Human Trafficking” handout.

## Other avenues

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There are other legal avenues a survivor may wish to take in pursuing justice and compensation. If there has been a physical/psychological injury or death caused by a crime of violence, the survivor or their family may be able to receive financial compensation through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Survivors can access this event if no charges are laid or no one is found guilty. For more information, call CICB 1-800-372-7463.

In 2017 in Ontario, the Anti-Human Trafficking Act was passed, providing increased protection for survivors of trafficking and making it easier for survivors to pursue compensation.<sup>60</sup> This legislation made it possible for survivors to sue their traffickers for compensation through civil court.

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<sup>60</sup> Government of Ontario, “Ontario Passes Legislation to Protect Human Trafficking Survivors.” <https://news.ontario.ca/owd/en/2017/05/ontario-passes-legislation-to-protect-human-trafficking-survivors.html>

What happens if the survivor's case goes to court?<sup>61</sup>

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When the police lay a criminal charge, the Crown Attorney prosecutes the case. The Crown Attorney, with the assistance of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program:

- Will set up an introduction/engagement meeting early in the process with the survivor, the survivor's assigned Victim/Witness Services Worker (V/WSW), the Officer in charge of the Case (OIC) and the assigned Crown Attorney.
- Will explain the court process, the survivor's role, and assist them in preparing to give evidence.
- Can, for the safety of the survivor, seek an order of no contact and communication.
- Can, in sexual offences, seek an order banning publication of any evidence that may identify the survivor.

If the abuser/trafficker is found guilty, there are supports to help the survivor complete a victim impact statement. Once charges have been laid, the Crown Attorney is responsible for decisions related to the prosecution, including whether charges are withdrawn or not. The survivor's input in the process is important to the Crown and can be provided through the Victim/Witness Assistance Program.

Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP)

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In 2017, the Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP) was enhanced to provide more support to trafficked persons. *It is important to note that there does not need to be a report to police/ongoing investigation in order to access these funds through Victim Services.* There may be funds available to address crisis needs (e.g. emergency expenses such as clothing) and ongoing needs like residential programming costs, tattoo/branding removal, etc. For more information, please see the Victim Services' webpage: <https://hamiltonpolice.on.ca/victim-services/victim-quick-response-program>.

Survivors may also require legal aid and assistance if they have been charged with an offense – either as a result of being forced into criminal activity by their trafficker, or an experience apart from their trafficking situation.

## Education

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Many trafficked persons are first recruited in their teenage years and do not have the opportunity to complete high school. Survivors may indicate a desire to complete schooling or pursue educational development opportunities.

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<sup>61</sup> This section is from the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking's *Client Centered Support Model*.

### **Job skills or vocational training**

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Survivors may require assistance in developing job skills or vocational training. Especially if a survivor was trafficked for a long duration (making re-entry into the workforce more challenging) or was trafficked as a minor (and has no non-exploitative workplace experience), job skills and vocational training may be crucial for a survivor's reintegration.

Re-entry into the workforce can be difficult for survivors of trauma. Challenges like adapting to more regular sleeping patterns, facing and coping with triggers, and the energy needed to perform a job can be difficult to overcome without compassionate or understanding employers.

### **Family reunification and repatriation**

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Survivors may require assistance and support in re-connecting with family members, friends or other loved ones. Survivors often struggle with shame, including feelings around being vulnerable to trafficking and the experience(s) of being trafficked. If they desire to share their experiences and stories with family and friends, survivors may require assistance in and strategies on how to do this.

Some survivors have children or dependents who are no longer in their care. If desired and possible, they may require assistance in obtaining access or re-establishing contact.

International survivors may wish to return to their country of origin and may need assistance (financial and logistical) to arrange their return.

### **Life skills development**

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As exploitative as traffickers and pimps are, they are also often responsible for caring for all of a trafficked person's needs like food, finances, shelter, etc. Survivors may face challenges in addressing some of the life skills needed to live independently from their trafficker. These could include (but are not limited to):

- ⇒ Budgeting
- ⇒ Cooking
- ⇒ Hygiene
- ⇒ Communication
- ⇒ Self-defense and personal safety
- ⇒ Basic management and cleaning of living conditions
- ⇒ Social skills (such as healthy relationships, conflict resolution, expressing emotions, etc.)

## Spiritual or cultural needs

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“Trafficked victims have all kinds of faith or religious backgrounds, which should be respected by their caregivers. If a trafficked person has found meaning, hope, truth, purpose and love through their faith or religious practices, they should be encouraged to deepen their faith journey.”

*The Salvation Army Canada and Bermuda Territory: A Reference Guide for Recognizing and Serving Victims of Human Trafficking*

Survivors may have needs that should be met with spiritual and cultural sensitivity.

If your organization is unable to meet practical needs relating to spirituality or culture (e.g. participating in or performing religious practices or rituals, etc.), you can ask the survivor if they would like to also be referred to an organization or faith community that might be able to address these needs. Always consult the survivor in these decisions and processes and take care to assist the survivor in making contact if they desire that extra support. While some faith communities or cultural groups hold perspectives on sexuality and gender that might prevent them from understanding the complexities of human trafficking, others have taken extensive organizational efforts to raise awareness and address the needs of trafficked persons.

The Native Women’s Centre in Hamilton can also assist with the specific spiritual and cultural needs of Indigenous survivors.

## Special needs

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All survivors are unique; survivors can range in age, socio-economic standing, religion, race, ethnicity, gender, abilities, and more. Beyond the needs listed above, certain populations may require extra support and services specific to their demographic. These populations can include but are not limited to:

- ⇒ International persons
- ⇒ Youth and youth in care
- ⇒ LGBTQ+ individuals
- ⇒ Disabled or developmentally challenged individuals

## Tips for Supporting Survivors<sup>62</sup>

- ⇒ It is not always best to immediately address the reality of the situation with a survivor. If they have not identified as being trafficked, are still in love with their trafficker, or are still coming to terms with some part of their experience, allow them space to process. Use the terms they use, ('boyfriend', 'escort', etc.) until they're ready to change the labels.
- ⇒ Acknowledge that the system isn't perfect. If the survivor has been hurt by other service providers, affirm them in their experience while reassuring them that you won't give up on them.
- ⇒ Providing wrap-around services is to the advantage and provides healing of the survivor: short & long term shelter, food, basic necessities, mental health support, drug/addiction support, dental, etc.
- ⇒ Survivors will often have dissociative symptoms and would benefit from desensitization therapies: teaching them how to deal with painful memories, acknowledge them in a safe place, and make them more manageable.
- ⇒ Understand that certain behaviors are a response to trauma. Survivors are not intentionally 'acting out' or 'being difficult'. They are bravely responding to deep traumas in their lives in the only way they know how to. If the coping mechanisms they've developed are negative, work together with the survivor to redirect them.
- ⇒ Be sensitive to labels. There can, unfortunately, be a lot of shame associated with the sex industry, with those who have experienced abuse, with those who have used substances, and those who have mental health issues. Be cognizant of the stigmas connected to the terms you use, and help survivors deconstruct the labels they use for themselves.

### HUMAN TRAFFICKING MYTHS VS FACTS

#### MYTH

Trafficked individuals will immediately ask for help or assistance and will self-identify as a victim of a crime.

#### REALITY

Trafficked individuals often do not immediately seek help or self-identify as victims of a crime due to a variety of factors, including lack of trust, self-blame, or specific instructions by the traffickers regarding how to behave when talking to law enforcement or social services. It is important to avoid making a snap judgment about who is or who is not a trafficking victim based on first encounters. Trust often takes time to develop. Continued trust-building and patient interviewing is often required to get to the whole story and uncover the full experience of what a person has gone through.

#### SOURCE:

[HTTPS://HUMANTRAFFICKINGHOTLINE.ORG/WHAT-HUMAN-TRAFFICKING/MYTHS-MISCONCEPTIONS](https://humantraffickinghotline.org/what-human-trafficking/myths-misconceptions)

<sup>62</sup> Taken from the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking's *Client Centered Support Model*.

### **Tips on Engaging with Trafficked Persons**

When engaging with a trafficked person, it is not uncommon for them to react to you in a traumatized, hostile, suspicious, aggressive, or defensive manner, or a combination of these.<sup>63</sup> Reluctance to engage may be a result of:

- Fear of traffickers
- Fear of law enforcement
- Loyalty to trafficker
- Lack of trust
- Memory loss

Building rapport and establishing trust with a trafficked person is crucial to identifying their needs and providing help.

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**“People masquerading as boyfriends, or gangs preying on low self-esteem and offering women and girls a chance to feel like they belong, or even their own family members may have betrayed their trust and a façade of caring to either directly sexually exploit them or recruit them into sexual exploitation on their behalf (trafficking). This history of abused trust is important for frontline workers to understand and be prepared to address if they are to establish trust.”**

**Native Women’s Association of Canada, *Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls*<sup>64</sup>**

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Keep in mind that those with the trafficked persons – including translators, apparent friends, or apparent boyfriends – could be perpetrators or other trafficked persons. When working with a trafficked person, meeting with them one-on-one will allow them the privacy to share information they might not otherwise share in front of the others. However, keeping in mind the information you have learned about the tactics that traffickers and pimps use to recruit and manipulate, it may take several encounters for you to build enough trust for a trafficked person to either disclose their situation or come to realize that their trafficker does not actually have their best interest in mind. With this in mind, mirroring the language the trafficked person is using is helpful; for example, do not insist on using the word “pimp” or “trafficker” if the trafficked person is primarily using the term “boyfriend.” However, it might be helpful to ask

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<sup>63</sup> The International Organization for Migration, “The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking.” [http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom\\_handbook\\_assistance.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_handbook_assistance.pdf)

<sup>64</sup> Native Women’s Association of Canada, “Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls: Literature Review and Key Informant Interviews.” [https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014\\_NWAC\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_and\\_Sexual\\_Exploitation\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014_NWAC_Human_Trafficking_and_Sexual_Exploitation_Report.pdf)



questions that encourage the trafficked person to think critically about their situation and come to a place where they can better identify that they are being exploited (e.g. “does your boyfriend let you keep any money that you make? Do you think that’s fair?”).

### Tips for Framing the Conversation\*

- ⇒ Believe, do not judge.
- ⇒ Reassure survivors that they are not at fault and did nothing to deserve their experiences.
- ⇒ Explain why you care about the individual’s situation and that you have worked with and assisted other individuals in situations that may be similar to their own. Explaining who you are and why you are there is particularly important to correct any misconceptions of your role. Do not promise anything you cannot deliver.
- ⇒ Ensure that survivors are in control of their body and communications – allow them to answer at their own pace, or to have time in silence or grief if needed.
- ⇒ When appropriate, attempt to engage in casual conversation about lighter topics and ask questions to try to get the individual to open up, even if it’s not about their trafficking situation or service needs. Although the client might be confused, scared and/or distracted, engaging in casual conversation before the assessment helps to build trust and set the tone for effective, non-defensive communication.
- ⇒ In your initial assessment, try to focus predominantly on assessments of their service needs, but weave in other questions naturally and when appropriate.
- ⇒ There is not a ‘standard script’ that can be used with survivors. Questions should fit the context and indicators you have observed in the situation.
- ⇒ Watch for signs that an individual needs to stop or take a break during an interview or procedure.
- ⇒ Use open-ended questions, allowing for the survivor to share their story. Avoid value statements that could influence the survivor, which may cause them to alter their story to gain your acceptance.

*\*From the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking  
Client Centered Support Model*

## **Service Provider Sensitivity<sup>65</sup>**

Service providers can unknowingly take part in systemic barriers or obstacles that keep survivors from feeling comfortable in approaching them and communicating with them. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

**Your clothing** – is your clothing it overly formal? Will you appear unrelatable to the client?

**Your speech** – are you using terms and concepts that are understandable to the client? Are you using the words that the client is using? Are you being clear and honest? Are you listening and repeating back what you've heard?

**Your approach** – are you refraining from judging the actions and choices of the client? Are you upfront about confidentiality, and your duty to report? Are you letting the client know they can choose not to involve police (if they are over 16 and not at risk of harm to self or others)? Are you offering safer/healthier alternatives when appropriate? Are you aware of the client's experience of trauma and adjusting your support in response?

**Your body language** – are you aware of how your posture, gestures, and facial expressions appear to the client? Are you ensuring you do not appear threatening, judgmental, disinterested, etc.? Instead, do you appear engaged, caring, understanding, etc.?

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<sup>65</sup> This section is adapted from the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking *Client Centered Support Model*.

## **A Note on Policies, Procedures and Practices**

Trafficked persons and survivors are unique; they require services and supports that are varied and complex. Often these services are provided by agencies and organizations that do not work solely with this population. As such, the services provided are not always specialized to accommodate the unique challenges that trafficked persons face.

“Sometimes the service provisions have gaps. It may not seem like it, but operating a nine-to-five schedule when you are attempting outreach with exploited people may be missing key times, and thus vital opportunities, to engage with trafficking victims.”

Native Women’s Association of Canada, *Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls*<sup>66</sup>

Certain policies and procedures that are utilized by your organization may be detrimental or unhelpful in serving trafficked persons (e.g. intake forms, referral procedures, etc.). Until policies, procedures and practices that address the unique needs and challenges of trafficked persons can be formally created, adapted and/or implemented by your organization, a willingness to meet a trafficked person where they are at and adapt typical practices in order to serve them is helpful.

### **Native Women’s Association: Key Themes in promising exit supports and strategies**

- ⇒ Use frontline workers who are former experiential people to engage trafficked and exploited women and youth
- ⇒ Ensure support programs are flexible and set in judgement-free environments
- ⇒ Anyone seeking to effectively engage with trafficked and exploited women, youth, and children should have understanding on attitudes, education, and training and support on the frequent and common issues and causes for their exploitation
  - For Aboriginal contexts, this require awareness of additional, systemic factors (understanding colonial roots of violence, Indian Residential School intergenerational trauma, community-wide poverty, etc.)

[https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014\\_NWAC\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_and\\_Sexual\\_Exploitation\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014_NWAC_Human_Trafficking_and_Sexual_Exploitation_Report.pdf)

<sup>66</sup> Native Women’s Association of Canada, “Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls: Literature Review and Key Informant Interviews.” [https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014\\_NWAC\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_and\\_Sexual\\_Exploitation\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014_NWAC_Human_Trafficking_and_Sexual_Exploitation_Report.pdf)

## Harm Reduction Approaches

As stated above, it can take an average of seven attempts to leave before a trafficked person escapes their trafficker or exploitation. Service providers should be aware of this so they can identify ways to “meet trafficked persons where they are” and assist trafficked persons identify ways to prioritize safety.

Please note that some of these harm reduction approaches assume that a trafficked person has some control and autonomy over their environment. In many cases, a trafficker controls much of a trafficked person’s participation in the sex trade including what services they provide, how they conduct services (e.g. protection), how many clients they see, etc.

*(The following has been adapted from the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking’s Client Centered Support Model; the Halton Collaborative used the Peel HIV/Aids Network as a resource in developing this section.)*

The sex industry can be a high-risk environment - both for those who engage in independent sex work, and even more so for those who are being trafficked. Harm reduction resources that have been created for sex workers can be useful for those who a service provider suspects of being trafficked/sexually exploited, or those who have not yet chosen to leave their situation of exploitation. Service providers can offer these resources and tips to those who intend to continue engaging in the sex trade to help them stay as safe as possible while they contemplate exiting.

### **Bad Date Lists**

A bad date list is circulated by the Bad Date Coalition (a social action group based in Toronto dedicated to improving safety for people involved in sex work) details persons who may pose a threat to sex workers. Bad date lists are confidential (never shared with police) and can serve as a warning system, so that sex workers can avoid persons who fit descriptions on the list.

To report a Bad Date, call 416-765-6009 or email [bdcoalition@gmail.com](mailto:bdcoalition@gmail.com) and leave a confidential message 24/7 or report online at [www.baddatelist.com/reports](http://www.baddatelist.com/reports).

If the trafficked individual would like to search their bad date list, they will need to sign up and become a trusted member. Becoming a trusted member allows them to search the bad date list, so they can see if another sex worker has any negative things to say about a client.

Bad date lists might not be helpful to all trafficked individuals; trafficked individuals have very little say and autonomy over who they receive as clients.

## **Sex Work Health and Safety Precautions**

- ⇒ Always act as if someone knows where you are/is keeping tabs on you. Wave goodbye to a partner (or pretend to) and share an expected return time (or pretend to end a phone call as a client comes into the room and say when you'll call them back).
- ⇒ If getting into a car, remember the license plate or make of vehicle. Also, take note of the general description of the client. If it's a bad date, you can report that person and vehicle, and share the information with other sex workers. This may save your life.
- ⇒ Urinate often – friction from sexual intercourse with a full bladder may cause a bladder infection.
- ⇒ Always use a condom. If you have access to female condoms, they can be used for both vaginal and anal sex, are controlled by the wearer, and they offer protection from both pregnancy and STI's. Female condoms can be inserted before a client arrives and will guarantee some protection.
- ⇒ If you can access it use mentholated salve, like Vicks Vapo-Rub (for chapped lips and colds) inside your nostrils. You'll smell the client less and you'll be less sniffy if you've been doing drugs.
- ⇒ Put on condoms with your mouth to avoid having to negotiate condom use.
- ⇒ Tight pants, nylon underwear and pantyhose can cause vaginal infections. Wear cotton or crotchless underwear, or nothing.
- ⇒ When working on your period, do not use napkins, sea sponges, make up sponges, or cut up tampons to disguise it, as these can cause serious infections. Today's Sponges are hygienic and contain spermicide, are available at Walmart and Shoppers Drug Mart, and may be available through your public health unit. (Note: Today's Sponges do not protect against STI's, and repeated use may cause vaginal irritation making you more susceptible to STI's. Try to only use the sponges for short periods of time when you absolutely need to work.)
- ⇒ Keep lips, teeth, gums, vagina, and thighs well lubricated to prevent irritation. Use baby wipes or vaginal wipes to clean off excessive/left over lube or body fluids.
- ⇒ Avoid jewelry, scarves, cross-body bags, or anything that can be used to hurt you (a half zipped or buttoned jacket can be pulled over your shoulders to trap your arms). • Wear clothing that doesn't have to be removed to have sex. This saves time, hides money, and allows you to leave in a hurry. Make sure your shoes are comfortable or come off easily should you need to run.
- ⇒ Don't keep your money in your purse. If you're working on the street, keep it tucked away under clothing that doesn't have to come off to have sex (socks, bra, etc). If you're in a hotel, find an unusual hiding place and change it often (inside a Kleenex box, behind an air conditioner, under the bagged liner of a garbage can, inside zippered cushions on furniture, etc.)

- ⇒ If you are carrying a purse, try to keep minimal items in it. Try keeping ID, phones, drugs, etc. in your shoes, boots, or socks so if you need to run you can get out without worrying about leaving your personal items behind.
- ⇒ Always buy drugs from a trusted source. Use a small tester amount when you get a new batch or if you are using after a break.
- ⇒ Get your drugs tested.
- ⇒ Carry Naloxone and get overdose prevention training (Fentanyl is being cut into heroine, crack, coke, meth, and other drugs that are made to look like prescription pharmaceuticals).
- ⇒ Never mix substances.
- ⇒ Never use drugs when you're alone.

## Conclusion

We hope that this toolkit has been and will continue to be useful to you in your work as a service provider.

The intended purpose of this document is to raise awareness, share best practices and approaches, encourage you to consider how your services can be tailored or adapted to better suit the needs of survivors and those at risk of being trafficked, and provide you with resources and information, and we hope that this toolkit achieved these purposes.

We ask that you continue to consider ways to address issues and concerns surrounding human trafficking in our communities. Ways forward could include joining the Hamilton Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition (or continuing to refer others if your agency/organization is already a member) or forwarding the Coalition new resources and information that could contribute to our ongoing learning.

We encourage you to utilize the resources available in this toolkit and to reach out to the Coalition or key agencies should needs arise.

## Appendix

### 1. Glossary of Terms and Vernacular of the Sex Trade<sup>67</sup>

These are some common terms often used within the sex trade or specific to human trafficking. Being familiar with these terms may provide service providers opportunity to identify instances of human trafficking or better understand the story a trafficked individual shares.

**Automatic:** The behavior expected of a trafficked person when their trafficker is not around. They “automatically” continue working so they can hand over the daily quota of money owed to their trafficker when they return.

**Bareback:** Sex without a condom. Trafficked persons often do not have control over condom use.

**BBFS (Bareback Full Service):** Refers to sexual services that includes vaginal intercourse without a condom.

**Bitch:** A sexually exploited individual under the control of a trafficker.

**Bottom Bitch (also known as Wife in Law, King Ho(e), Mother Ho(e)):** A traffickers main girl who has been with him for a long period of time and has earned his trust. She has more responsibilities than other girls in the trafficker’s stable, such as recruiting new girls and keeping the others under control. In return, she receives favours from the trafficker, including having to perform fewer sexual services.

**Boyfriend:** Term used by trafficked girls to refer to their trafficker.

**Branding:** A tattoo or carving on a victim that indicates ownership by a trafficker/pimp/gang.

**Brothel:** These establishments may be apartments, houses, trailers, or any facility where sex is sold on the premises. Brothels can be located in rural areas, urban centres or the suburbs. Most brothels have security measures to prevent attacks by other criminals or provide a warning if law enforcement is nearby. The places often are guarded (and often open) 24 hours a day, but some have closing times in which the victims may be locked in from the outside.

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<sup>67</sup> Terms compiled and/or adapted from the following resources:

- Dorais, M., & Corriveau, P. (2009). *Gangs and Girls: Understanding Juvenile Prostitution*. Montreal, QC: McGill-Queens’s University Press.
- Halton: *Client Centered Support Model*
- In Public Safety: <https://inpublicsafety.com/2014/07/know-the-language-of-human-trafficking-a-glossary-of-sex-trafficking-terms/>
- Shared Hope: <https://sharedhope.org/the-problem/trafficking-terms/>



Victims may be kept in this location for extended periods of time or rotated to other locations every few days.

**Carpet ho(e):** A sexually exploited individual who works out of hotels or motels.

**Catcher:** A younger or lower-ranking trafficker who keeps an eye on trafficked women/girls when they're working at street level or in clubs to ensure they follow the rules of a higher-ranking trafficker.

**Caught a Case:** When a trafficker is arrested/charged with a crime.

**Charge it to the Game:** In trafficker slang. This is a way of saying that something is a loss, but that a lesson has been learned.

**Choosing Up:** When a trafficked person comes under the control of another trafficker. If a woman/girl makes eye contact with another trafficker, she is said to be "choosing" to work for him. This may result in the original trafficker having to pay a fee for her return, which in turn results in retributions that may include violence and increased sexual services to pay back the fee.

**Choosy Suzy:** Sexually exploited person who changes traffickers.

**Circuit, Stroll, or Track:** Area known for prostitution. Could be a street, a part of town, or a string of cities between which the women/girls are moved.

**Cousin-in-Laws:** Victims of pimp partners who work together.

**Curb Crawler:** Man who drives around for the purpose of soliciting prostitutes.

**Daddy:** Term traffickers may demand that the women/girls under their control use to refer to them.

**Date, Trick:** A paid interaction between a sex trade worker and a client.

**Escort:** Term used by legitimate sex trade workers to refer to themselves, but is also a term that traffickers instruct trafficked persons to use when talking to police or service providers to give the impression that they are working independently.

**Escort Service:** An organization, operating chiefly via cell phone and the internet, which sends someone who provides sexual services to a buyer's location (an "outcall") or arranges for the buyer to come to a house or apartment (an "in-call"); this may be the workplace of a single woman or a small brothel. Some escort services are networked with others and can assemble large numbers of women for parties and conventions.

**Exit Fee:** An amount of money the trafficked person is told they must pay to leave their trafficker. This is often an exorbitant amount that cannot possibly be paid and may increase without notice.

**Family:** A group of people under the control of one trafficker or group of traffickers.

**Front:** Legitimate business used to cover up illegal activities. For example, a massage parlour may be a front for a brothel.

**Full Service:** Reference to sexual services that include intercourse (as opposed to just a body rub at a massage parlour).

**Girlfriend Experience (GFE):** Reference to sexual services that include more personal activities beyond intercourse (e.g. kissing, etc.).

**Gorilla Pimp (also sometimes called Guerilla Pimp):** A trafficker who uses violence to control the girls/women working for him.

**Greek:** Slang or a code word for anal sex.

**Head Cut:** A victim getting beaten down by their pimp.

**Hoe or THOT (That Hoe Over There):** Terms used by traffickers to refer to prostituted women.

**In Pocket:** Committed to a trafficker.

**Indoor Pimp:** A trafficker who works in escort services, clubs, bars or casinos.

**John:** A man who pays for sexual services. A sex trade worker's client.

**Kiddie Stroll:** An area known for prostitution that features younger victims.

**Knocking:** Grooming young women and girls for prostitution.

**Live People:** Sex trade workers.

**Lot Lizard:** One who provides services at truck stops to people in the trucking industry.

**Love Bombing:** Emotional manipulation used by gangs that recruit girls into forced prostitution; the process in which a victim is showered with affection for the purpose of exploitation.

**Mack:** Trafficker.

**Mack Pimp:** A trafficker who works with street level sex workers who have typically worked in the same location for a long time.

**Madam:** An older woman who manages a brothel, escort service or other prostitution establishment. She may work alone or in collaboration with other traffickers.

**Manager:** Term used by traffickers to refer to themselves.

**Out of Pocket:** Term used when a woman/girl breaks the rules by making eye contact with another trafficker or arguing with her trafficker. It is also used for a sex worker who is not under the control of a trafficker and is at risk of violence to force her to “choose” a trafficker.

**Outdoor Pimp:** A trafficker who works on the streets.

**Pimp Circle:** When several pimps encircle a victim to intimidate through verbal and physical threats in order to discipline the victim or force her to choose up.

**Popcorn Pimp:** Small-time trafficker who has few women/girls working under him.

**Quota:** A set amount of money that a trafficked individual is told they must make each night. Quotas are often set between \$300 and \$2000. If the victim returns without meeting the quota, she is typically beaten and sent back out on the street to earn the rest. Quotas vary according to geographic region, local events, etc.

**Rider:** Someone who is committed to “the game” for the long haul, who follows and enforces “the rules,” and is loyal to those in control.

**Reckless Eyeballing:** When a trafficked person looks at another trafficker in the eye, which is strictly forbidden.

**Renegade:** A sex worker who does not have a trafficker.

**Romeo Pimp:** A trafficker who recruits by manipulating women/girls to “fall in love” with him by showering them with gifts and affection.

**Seasoning:** Breaking down the barriers of a recruited woman/girl to ensure her compliance. Can involve psychological, physical, and sexual violence.

**Scratch:** Money

**Square:** 1. A person trying to exit the game; 2. Authority figure, such as law enforcement.

**Squaring Up:** Attempting to escape or exit the sex trade.

**Stable:** A trafficker’s stable are the women/girls he controls.

**Streetwalker:** Someone in the sex trade who solicits customers on the street or in other public places.

**Swishing:** Gang rape.

**Telly:** Hotel, hotel party. A “Telly Ting” is someone who provides sexual services out of a hotel.

**The Game (also known as “The Life”):** Term used to refer to the commercial sex trade.

**Trade Up/Trade Down:** To move a victim like merchandise between pimps. A pimp may trade one girl for another or trade with some exchange of money.

**Trick:** Performing a sexual service (verb), or the person buying it (noun). A victim is said to be “turning a trick” or “with a trick.”

**Trick Pad:** A place, usually a house in a secluded area, where girls are kept against their will and are coerced to engage in prostitution.

**Turn Out:** To be forced into prostitution (verb) or a person newly involved in the sex trade (noun).

**Turn Tricks:** To offer sexual services in exchange for payment.

**Wifeys/Wife-in-Law/Sister Wife:** What women and girls under the control of the same pimp call each other.

## 2. Legal Framework & Legislation

### Canadian Criminal Code: Specific criminal laws against trafficking in persons (TIP)<sup>68</sup>

Six offences in the Criminal Code specifically address human trafficking:

- a. Trafficking in Persons ([section 279.01](#)): which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years where the offence involved kidnapping, aggravated assault, aggravated sexual assault or death, and a maximum penalty of 14 years and a mandatory minimum penalty of 4 years in all other cases;
- b. Trafficking of a person under the age of eighteen years ([section 279.011](#)) which carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a mandatory minimum penalty of 6 years where the offence involved kidnapping, aggravated assault, aggravated sexual assault or death, and a maximum penalty of 14 years and a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years in all other cases;
- c. Receiving a Financial or Other Material Benefit for the purpose of committing or facilitating trafficking in persons -Adult Victim ([subsection 279.02\(1\)](#)): which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment;
- d. Receiving a Financial or Other Material Benefit for the purpose of committing or facilitating trafficking in persons -Child Victim ([subsection 279.02\(2\)](#)): which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum penalty of 2 years;
- e. Withholding or Destroying a Person's Identity Documents (for example, a passport) for the purpose of committing or facilitating trafficking of that person - Adult Victim ([subsection 279.03\(1\)](#)): which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment; and,
- f. Withholding or Destroying a Person's Identity Documents (for example, a passport) for the purpose of committing or facilitating trafficking of that person - Child Victim ([subsection 279.03\(2\)](#)): which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment and a mandatory minimum penalty of 1 year.

Trafficking in persons is about exploitation and does not necessarily involve movement. For the purpose of the trafficking offences, the Criminal Code states that a person exploits another person if they:

1. cause someone to provide, or offer to provide, labour or a service by engaging in conduct that, in all the circumstances, could reasonably be expected to cause the other person to believe that their safety or the safety of a person known to them would be threatened if they failed to provide, or offer to provide, the labour or service.

<sup>68</sup> Information in this section taken directly from the Department of Justice website <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/tp/legis-loi.html>

2. cause a person, by means of deception or the use or threat of force or of any other form of coercion, to have an organ or tissue removed ([section 279.04](#)).

Other Criminal Code offences can also be used by police and Crown prosecutors depending on the facts and circumstances of the case. They include:

- [Kidnapping](#)
- [Forcible confinement](#)
- [Uttering threats](#)
- [Extortion](#)
- [Assault](#)
- [Sexual assault](#)
- [Aggravated sexual assault](#)
- [Prostitution-related offences](#)
- [Criminal organization offences](#)

The [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act \(IRPA\)](#) prohibits knowingly organizing the coming into Canada of one or more persons by means of abduction, fraud, deception, or use or threat of force or coercion ([section 118](#)). The offence is punishable by a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$1 million. The offence found in the IRPA is limited to transnational cases where a person is brought into Canada from somewhere else. The term "organize" includes recruitment, transportation, and after entry into Canada, receipt and harbouring. [Section 117](#) Organizing entry into Canada prohibits providing advice and representation for a fee to all stages of an application or proceeding.

## **International Treaties<sup>69</sup>**

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Canada is a party to many international treaties that oblige the government to take steps to address trafficking in persons and related conduct, including:

- [UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children \(PDF Version\)](#)
- [The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\) on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography](#)
- [ILO Convention 182 concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst forms of Child Labor](#)
- [Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court \(PDF Version\)](#)

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<sup>69</sup> Information in this section taken directly from the Department of Justice website <http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/cj-jp/tp/legis-loi.html>

## **Temporary Resident Permits (TRPs): Considerations specific to victims of human trafficking**

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To enhance existing in-Canada mechanisms for facilitating persons who may be victims of human trafficking and who are foreign nationals, the Government of Canada (Canada Immigration and Citizenship) has developed criteria to be used in assessing TRP applications from potential victims of human trafficking. These measures will also extend Interim Federal Health coverage to these persons and will introduce a more systematic way of tracking these cases. You can find more information about the TRP process here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/publications-manuals/operational-bulletins-manuals/temporary-residents/permits/considerations-specific-victims-human-trafficking.html>

## **Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act**

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Criminal Code 286 “Commodification of Sexual Activity” can be read in detail at <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-46/page-69.html#h-85>. The below subsections provide information taken directly from the Government of Canada website outlining the details of the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA).<sup>70</sup>

### Purchasing sexual services

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This new offence prohibits purchasing sexual services and communicating in any place for that purpose. Maximum penalties are 18 months imprisonment on summary conviction and five years imprisonment on indictment. There is a mandatory minimum fine on the first offence, which increases with subsequent offences. There is a \$500 fine for a first offence and a \$1,000 fine for a subsequent offence on summary conviction, as well as a \$1,000 fine for a first offence and a \$2,000 fine for a subsequent offence on indictment. These fines are doubled if the offence is committed near parks, schools, religious institutions or other places where children could reasonably be expected to be present. Purchasing sexual services from a child is an indictable offence that now carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment, a mandatory minimum penalty of six months imprisonment for a first offence and a mandatory minimum penalty of one year imprisonment for a subsequent offence.

### Receiving a financial or material benefit

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This new offence prohibits profiting from the prostitution of others, including through businesses that sell the sexual services of others online or out of venues, such as escort agencies, massage parlours, or strip clubs. The maximum penalty for this offence is 10 years imprisonment. Where the victim is a child, the maximum penalty is 14 years imprisonment and the mandatory minimum penalty is two years imprisonment.

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<sup>70</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/news/archive/2014/12/protection-communities-exploited-persons-act.html>

#### Advertising the sale of sexual services

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This new offence prohibits advertising the sale of others' sexual services, whether in print media or on the Internet. Courts now also have the power to authorize the seizure of materials containing such advertisements, and to order an advertisement to be removed from the Internet. Maximum penalties are 18 months imprisonment on summary conviction and five years imprisonment on indictment.

#### Communicating for the purpose of selling sexual services in public places that are or are next to specific locations designed for use by children, i.e., school grounds, playgrounds and day care centres

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This new offence prohibits communicating for the purpose of selling sexual services in public places that are in or are next to specific locations designed for use by children, i.e., school grounds, playgrounds and day care centres. The maximum penalty is six months imprisonment.

#### Procuring (also known as "pimping")

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This offence prohibits procuring, recruiting or harbouring another person for the purposes of prostitution. The maximum penalty is 14 years imprisonment and, where the victim is a child, a mandatory minimum penalty of five years applies.

#### Child prostitution (and related offences)

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Child prostitution offences have been reformulated as aggravated forms of the purchasing, material benefit and procuring offences with higher penalties, as indicated above.

#### Human trafficking (and related offences)

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Penalties for human trafficking have been increased to ensure consistency of penalties between trafficking and prostitution offences.



### 3. Theory of Change Framework

The Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking developed the following theory of change framework to develop their “Critical Care Pathway Flowchart.” While our HAHTC Guide for Supporting Trafficked Persons does not contain a similar care pathway flowchart, outlining the general stages might help you better identify which services a survivor might require. You can also refer to the list of key agencies at the end of this toolkit for more assistance and referrals.

**Overall Assumptions:** Survivors are willing to access supports available, supports are provided in a timely manner, supports are accessible, service providers are referring survivors to the most appropriate agency to meet their needs, service providers are using trauma-informed approaches to care, survivors are connected to culturally appropriate services where possible.

**Overall Risks:** Survivor may not self-identify/have awareness of being trafficked, survivor disconnects and goes back to trafficker/‘the game’ due to: threats to safety, discrimination/stigma from others, survivor becomes distrustful of service providers.

#### STAGES 1A & 1B: Pre-Crisis & In Crisis

##### Initial Connection with Service Provider & Intervention Supports

**Assumptions:** Survivor identifies themselves as a trafficked person, survivor forms trusting relationship with initial service provider.

**Risks:** Survivor fears threat to safety and disconnects from supports quickly.

**Pre-crisis** connections with a survivor of human trafficking or sexual exploitation are extremely important for building trust and rapport. These may be the only interactions a survivor has with those who are able to provide the supports that they want, and could help them decide to leave their exploitive situation. Also, these supports will help reduce the risk the harm to a survivor while they decide whether or not to seek intervention. Statistically, it takes approximately seven positive interactions with a service provider before a survivor makes the choice to exit, so it is crucial to offer these supports consistently, repeatedly, with empathy, and without judgement. Finally, it is important to note that at this stage, a survivor may not self-identify as having been ‘trafficked’, they may consider their trafficker to be their ‘boyfriend’, and they may not recognize that what is happening to them is a crime. Be careful not to label them or to try to control them – this stage is about building relationships of trust so that when a survivor is ready to exit, they have the resources and contacts to reach out to.

#### QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

- Do they need an interpreter?
- Are they safe? Are their family/friends/children/pets safe?
- Are they under 16 years old, or have dependents under 16 years old? Do they have previous involvement with a Children’s Aid Society? (Children’s Aid must be contacted if they are under 16).
- Do they need immediate medical attention?

- Do they want police involvement at this point? (Be sure they're aware that they have the choice not to consent to police involvement if they are over 16 years of age).
- Do they want access to sexual health products and services? (Condoms, lubricant, oral contraceptives, pregnancy support, STI testing & treatment, counselling, etc.)
- Do they want access to safer drug equipment, drug counselling, or detox support?
- Do they want a backpack with dignity items, sexual health items, and emergency resources?
- Do they want a safe place to stay for the night?
- Do they want home safety equipment or repairs due to damages from forced home entry? (Window and door locks, deadbolts, peepholes, etc.)
- Do they want an immediate support person or accompaniment?
- Do they want emergency or crisis contact numbers?
- Do they want a safety plan?

**(In Crisis) Intervention supports** are intended to be the resources that a survivor may want within the first few hours of leaving their exploitive situation. As the survivor will be in crisis at this stage, they may be in shock or unable to identify what they need or want. In the beginning stages, crisis often happens in cycles for survivors, as the trauma they've experienced can be re-triggered and intensify uncontrollably. Give them the space and time they need to answer questions and make choices about what they want to do. If they consent, it's very helpful to contact one of the short-term support persons listed who are trained to support survivors in crisis. Also be aware of the survivor's basic needs during this stage as they can become overwhelmed when interacting with service providers. It's always OK to take a break from questions so that the survivor can regroup and come back hours or days later when discussing the situation is less traumatizing for them. Finally, be sure the survivor is treated with dignity and has access to food, a shower, clean clothes, and has a chance to rest if they choose to.

**QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:**

- Do they need an interpreter?
- Are they safe? Are their family/friends/children/pets safe?
- Are they under 16 years old, or have dependents under 16 years old? Do they have previous involvement with a Children's Aid Society? (Children's Aid must be contacted if they are under 16).
- Do they need immediate medical attention?
- Have they used or been given substances recently? Do they want support to get sober?
- Are they at immediate risk of harming themselves or others?
- Do they have an immediate short term support person?
- Do they have immediate access to food, clothing, and personal hygiene items? Do they want immediate financial assistance?
- Do they want police involvement at this point?

## STAGE 2: In Crisis Intermediate Supports

**Assumptions:** Survivor's immediate needs are being met; survivor stays connected to services.

**Risks:** Trauma from being in crisis leads to disconnection from services, or gaps in service lead to needs not being met; survivor goes back to trafficker / "The Game."

Stage two immediate supports are those that a survivor may want to access in order to establish safety and security, often within the first few days to the first weeks of intervention. Survivors will still be in-crisis in this stage but will need to access services that will lead to their stabilization (i.e. housing, counselling, legal aid, financial support, etc.) These questions and supports are intended to be a systematic review of all of the possible services a survivor may want in order to move towards stabilization, and due to their varied situations, they may desire to access many or only a few of the potential supports. They may also want to access supports from specific groups that they personally identify with, allowing them to process their crisis alongside a community where they feel safe and accepted. If there is a group that the survivor identifies with that is not currently listed in the Critical Care Pathway, try to research that group, or contact HCAHT for help in identifying the appropriate services.

### QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

- Do they need an interpreter?
- Do they want forensic evidence for domestic violence or sexual assault? Do they want STI or Pregnancy testing? Do they want access to birth control or the morning after pill?
- Do they have safe and immediate shelter?
- Do they want immediate care for dependants - children, seniors, adult dependents or pets?
- Do they want accompaniment support?
- Do they want crisis counselling?
- Do they want crime scene cleanup or removal of graffiti? Do they want home safety equipment (locks, peepholes) or repairs due to forced home entry?
- Are they pregnant? Do they want pre-natal care? Access to a Doula? Do they want to consider pregnancy options?
- Do they have non-urgent medical/dental/eyesight needs?
- Do they have identification? Do they need replacement of government documents?
- Are they at risk of deportation?
- Do they want legal support?
- Do they want LGBTQ+ specific support?
- Do they want linguistically and culturally responsive services and support?
- Do they want spiritual support?
- Do they want financial support or help signing-up for financial support?
- Do they want victim witness assistance, reunification support, or help dealing with threats to family/friends?

**STAGE 3: Post-Crisis  
Stabilization Supports**

**Assumptions:** Survivor has trusting, ongoing relationship with at least one service provider, survivor can express what they want for the future.

**Risks:** Survivor feels that “the game” provides more safety and security than rebuilding their life, returns to trafficker.

Stage three supports are intended to come into play once a survivor has stabilized and is **post-crisis**. There is no set time for when stabilization occurs; it could be after one to two weeks, or six months, or a year or more. It will be different for each individual depending on the trauma they’ve experienced and the resilience they’ve developed. Some signs of stabilization are when a survivor has fewer crisis episodes, when they are off substance use, when they have developed a positive rapport with service providers, and when they are consistently accessing community supports. It is also helpful to refer to the Stages of Change to see how far along the survivor is in the trajectory of contemplation – are they at the action stage, or do they need further stabilization? In the end, it’s not a failure for the client to access some of the services of stage three and then relapse to in-crisis; in fact, this should be expected. The service provider should provide consistent, non-judgemental support and do their best to help any referred resource contact person(s) to understand the cycle of trauma responses the survivor has experienced, and to understand the cycle of trauma responses the survivor has experienced so they can adapt their service accordingly.

**QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:**

- Do they need an interpreter?
- Do they want regular counselling support?
- Do they need access to transportation?
- Do they want non-emergency access to food, clothing, personal items, home furnishings or a storage locker?
- Do they want transitional housing? (Up to 2 years)
- Do they want access to a consistent support person?
- Do they want life skills support?
- Do they want access to peer support groups/community groups for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence?
- Do they want employment support?
- Do they want educational support?
- Do they want childcare or support for adult dependants? (While seeking employment or education)

## STAGE 4: Post-Crisis Ongoing Support

**Assumptions:** Survivor of human trafficking is experiencing positive outcomes in their life, survivor chooses not to return to trafficker.

**Risks:** Life stressors can create triggers that cause survivor to regress.

The **on-going supports in stage four** are the services and resources that a survivor may need to access consistently for the long term. Some of these supports are transitional, such as resettlement or counselling services intended to help them stay safe and process their experience. Others are supports to help them heal and move on from their experience, establishing their lives anew while repairing some of the damages they've experienced. In addition, many survivors will have to deal with the life-long effects of what they have experienced. Having consistent support for mental health, addictions, trauma counselling, etc., will ensure they continue receiving wrap-around services. From there, they can access resources to further their education.

### QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE:

- Do they need an interpreter?
- Do they want dental care?
- Do they want tattoo cover-up/removal?
- Do they want immigration/resettlement support?
- Do their friends and/or family want support?
- Are they leaving the region and want to be referred to survivor supports in other areas?
- Do they want on-going accompaniment support?
- Do they want on-going trauma counselling?
- Do they want on-going addictions support/programs?
- Do they want on-going mental health support/programs?
- Do they want financial counselling? (Budgeting, credit counselling, tax assistance)
- Do they want on-going legal support?

## 4. Stages of Change

*The following is a tool developed by the Halton Collaborative Against Human Trafficking. It is a useful tool to assist service providers in identifying which supports might be most appropriate for a trafficked person at a particular stage.*

This is a helpful tool for service providers in assessing a survivor's readiness to move from crisis to post-crisis stages, or to come to recognize the reality of the exploitation that they have experienced. It is also known as the 'transtheoretical model'. We have adapted it below for specific use for trafficked and exploited persons. With support, a survivor will move through the following stages (and move back and forth between stages) as they progress on their healing journey.

### Pre-Contemplation

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- Ambivalence to change • Does not recognize exploitation as a problem
- May not see current circumstance as exploitive
- They feel their basic needs are being met by the trafficker (love, belonging, food, shelter, substances, etc.)
- Harm reduction resources will help them stay as safe as possible

### Contemplation

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- Thinking about change
- Beginning to recognize exploitation, but may not see a way out of situation
- May begin talking about dreams/goals
- Processing abuse and effects of abuse/exploitation
- Open to self-reflection, weighing consequences, pros and cons, and talking about feelings
- May begin talking about alternatives to current situation

### Preparation

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- Getting ready for change • Can get overwhelmed with barriers to change
- Commitment to leave situation and/or thoughts about leaving
- Exhibits signs of independence, may begin to take small steps towards change

#### Action

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- Client is ready for change
- Leaving trafficking situation
- Goes through stages of exiting, takes action on one or more aspects of exiting (i.e. housing, relocation, substance use, disengaging with trafficker)
- Needs outlet to process their narrative of exploitation
- Basic needs must be met by alternate sources (love, belonging, food, shelter, etc. must be in place from service providers, family, community, etc.)

#### Maintenance

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- Remains out of trafficking/exploitative situation
- May maintain job, school
- Develops new network of support
- Continues to address trauma of exploitation and impact trafficking has had on life
- Sets her own goals for the future

#### Relapse

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- Returns back to a previous stage
- Re-establishes contact with trafficker/exploiter
- Processes temptation to return to “The Game” – triggers may cause setbacks

## Resources

### **Ontario Government's Strategy to End Human Trafficking**

Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking was launched in 2016. It aims to increase awareness and coordination efforts, improve survivors' access to services and enhance justice-sector initiatives.

The strategy reflects the diverse views of survivors, front-line community agencies, public safety representatives and Indigenous organizations.

Supporting survivors and providing safeguards for those at risk of trafficking is a part of Ontario's vision to ensure that everyone in the province can live in safety - free from the threat, fear or experience of exploitation and violence.

Key parts of Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking include:

- Funding [specialized programs](#) and [housing](#) for human trafficking survivors.
- A province-wide [legal support pilot program](#) to help survivors and people who are targeted to get restraining orders against traffickers.
- [Online training](#) for service providers.
- Specialized [survivor](#) services and supports through the justice system.
- [Transition workers](#) to help prevent the trafficking of youth leaving provincial care.
- Working with [liaisons](#) who work with agencies to ensure they can appropriately meet the needs of Indigenous survivors.
- Ongoing engagement with Indigenous partners, [survivors](#) and stakeholders from many different sectors.
- [Legislation](#) to help protect people from traffickers and to establish Human Trafficking Awareness Day on February 22 of each year.
- A new [Provincial Human Trafficking Crown Prosecution Team](#).
- Strengthening police responses through [improved intelligence coordination, new training, and a specialized team at the Ontario Provincial Police](#).

For more information, see:

<https://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/en/mcsc/programs/humantrafficking/index.aspx#ontariosrole>



## Helpline Assistance

Ontario's confidential toll-free human trafficking helpline:

1-833-999-9211  
1-888-340-1001 (TTY)

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The Chrysalis Network offers a free, confidential telephone counselling service to women, men, and youth who have been trafficked for the purposes of forced commercial sex or labour. They also offer ongoing support to sex workers who do not personally identify as being trafficked or exploited.

<http://www.chrysalisnetwork.org> | 1-866-528-7109

## Government Documents & Resources

Government of Ontario, Ministry of Community and Social Services, "Ontario's Strategy to End Human Trafficking."

<https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/humanTrafficking/index.aspx#whatis>

Public Safety, "National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking."

<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/ntnl-ctn-pln-cmbt/ntnl-ctn-pln-cmbt-eng.pdf>

Public Safety, "National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking: 2015-2016 Annual Report on Progress." <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/ntnl-ctn-pln-cmbt-prgrss-2016/ntnl-ctn-pln-cmbt-prgrss-2016-en.pdf>

Royal Canadian Mounted Police:

Human Trafficking webpage: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>

Frequently Asked Questions: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/q-a-trafficking-traite-eng.htm>

Report: Human Trafficking in Canada, March 2010, Unclassified:

[http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2011/grc-rcmp/PS64-78-2010-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2011/grc-rcmp/PS64-78-2010-eng.pdf)

Statistics Canada, "Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2014."

<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/85-002-x/2016001/article/14641-eng.htm>

"Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls" (report written by Red Willow Consulting Inc. and prepared for Public Safety Canada) [http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection\\_2015/sp-ps/PS18-8-2014-eng.pdf](http://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2015/sp-ps/PS18-8-2014-eng.pdf)

## **Indigenous Organizations' Research**

Native Women's Association of Canada:

"Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls: Literature Review and Key Informant Interviews": [https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014\\_NWAC\\_Human\\_Trafficking\\_and\\_Sexual\\_Exploitation\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014_NWAC_Human_Trafficking_and_Sexual_Exploitation_Report.pdf)

"Boyfriend or Not - Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls in Canada: Report to the Embassy of the United States": [https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014\\_NWAC\\_Boyfriend\\_or\\_Not\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/2014_NWAC_Boyfriend_or_Not_Report.pdf)

Ontario Native Women's Association:

"Sex Trafficking of Indigenous Women in Ontario":  
<http://www.onwa.ca/upload/documents/report-sex-trafficking-of-indigenous-wom.pdf>

## **Resources on Service Provision**

International Organization for Migration, "The IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking." [http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom\\_handbook\\_assistance.pdf](http://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iom_handbook_assistance.pdf)

Children of the Street Society, "Addressing the Trafficking of Children & Youth for Sexual Exploitation in B.C.: A Toolkit for Service Providers." <http://bccpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/COS-Toolkit-for-Service-Providers-Addressing-the-Trafficking-of-Children-and-Youth-for-Sexual-Exploitation.pdf>

Native Women's Association of Canada, "Our Spirits are NOT for Sale: A Handbook for Helping Sexually Exploited Aboriginal Women and Girls." <https://www.nwac.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Our-Spirits-are-NOT-for-sale-English-web-version.pdf>

The Salvation Army, "Anti-Trafficking Training Program for Service Providers." [https://issuu.com/pennymatheson/docs/tsa\\_anti-trafficking\\_training\\_manual\\_final](https://issuu.com/pennymatheson/docs/tsa_anti-trafficking_training_manual_final)

Timea's Cause, various manuals for service providers, law enforcement, and various business industries. <https://www.timeascause.com>

## News Articles

Carville, Olivia. Investigative series on human trafficking in Canada. *Toronto Star*.

<http://projects.thestar.com/human-sex-trafficking-ontario-canada/>

Marwaha, Seema. (January 29, 2017). “Anyone can be a victim: Canadian high school girls being lured into sex trade.” *CBC*. <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/human-sex-trafficking-domestic-1.3956214>

Truong, May. (March 25, 2017). “The Trafficked: how sex trafficking works in Canada.” *The Globe and Mail*. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/the-trafficked-how-sex-trafficking-works-in-canada/article28700689/>

## Canadian Women’s Foundation Research on Trafficking

“Fact sheet”: [http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/FactSheet-EndHumanTrafficking%20\(Aruna%20Edit%20-%20ONLINE\)\\_0.pdf](http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/FactSheet-EndHumanTrafficking%20(Aruna%20Edit%20-%20ONLINE)_0.pdf)

“‘No More.’ Ending Sex Trafficking in Canada, Report of the National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada”: [https://www.canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CWF-TraffickingReport-Auto-1\\_0.pdf](https://www.canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CWF-TraffickingReport-Auto-1_0.pdf)

“An Assessment of Sex Trafficking”: <https://www.canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/NB-Nov-14-FINAL-REPORT-Assessment-of-Sex-Trafficking-in-Canada.pdf>

“Human Trafficking of Women and Girls: Forced Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation in Canada”:

[http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/TraffickingMessaging\\_FINAL\\_Oct8.pdf](http://www.canadianwomen.org/sites/canadianwomen.org/files/TraffickingMessaging_FINAL_Oct8.pdf)

## Videos

APTN, “Bringing attention to Canada’s secret shame: Human Trafficking”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qg0BHH-Tpk0>

CBC News, “Canada a target for human traffickers”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L-1rIr6SKQ>

Covenant House, “Stop Sex Trafficking in Ontario”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb3os7i9gB4>

Defend Dignity, “Not in my backyard training video”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fQrUovOcCA>

Lakehead University’s conference on Contextualizing Sex Trafficking of Aboriginal Women and Girls (full conference video, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bjyhpo804s>)

Michigan Public Service Announcement re: signs for service workers to identify trafficking, “MSP ‘Look Again’”

<https://vimeo.com/249411289/5ad0f677b2>

National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (American), “Very Young Girls Pimp Tactics”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6G3pJPPDVXo>

RCMP, “NOT FOR SALE - A journey into understanding human trafficking in Canada”

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K\\_TbVHcpoks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_TbVHcpoks)

The Agenda with Steve Paikin, “Ontario’s Human Trafficking Problem”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpnxZtWJKs8>

Toronto Star, “Matthew Deiac” (interview with pimp)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQhdHu55fhg>

Toronto Star, “The Victims”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mtB2ytA-P40>

Treasures, “Beautiful: How I Got Into The Life” (spoken word poetry)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAzLkyaQURQ>

## Books

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### Canada-specific

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Dorais, Michel and Patrice Corriveau. (2009). *Gangs and Girls: Understanding Juvenile Prostitution*. Montreal, QC: McGill-Queens's University Press.

Jessome, Phonse. (1996). *Somebody's Daughter: Inside the Toronto/Halifax Pimping Ring*. Halifax, NS: Nimbus Publishing.

Perrin, Benjamin. (2010). *Invisible Chains: Canada's Underground World of Human Trafficking*. Toronto, ON: Penguin Books Ltd.

### International perspectives

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Bales, Kevin. (2007). *Ending Slavery: How We Free Today's Slaves*. Berkley, CA: University of California Press.

Batstone, David. (2007). *Not for Sale: The Return of the Global Slave Trade – and How We Can Fight It*. San Francisco, CA: HarperOne.

Bolkovac, Kathryn. (2011). *Whistleblower: Sex Trafficking, Military Contractors, and One Woman's Fight for Justice*. New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan.

Kristoff, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WeDunn. (2009). *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. New York, NY: Vintage Books.

Malarek, Victor. (2009). *The Johns: Sex for Sale and the Men Who Buy It*. Toronto, ON: Key Porter Books Limited.

Malarek, Victor. (2003). *The Natasha's: The New Global Sex Trade*. Toronto, ON: Penguin Canada

### **Articles re: Domotor Case**

<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/2238856-human-trafficker-pleads-guilty/>

<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/2237739-slavery-boss-given-record-9-year-sentence/>

<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/2124910-exclusive-hit-man-blocked-from-entering-canada/>

<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/2238346-victims-fearful-of-hit-man/>

<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/2232635-a-prosecution-in-peril/>

<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/4645126-human-traffickers-deported-there-is-no-room-in-canada-/>

<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/4647000-suicide-on-hamilton-tracks-a-tragic-end-to-slavery-victim-s-life/>

<https://www.thespec.com/news-story/4732217-officers-say-goodbye-to-human-trafficking-victim/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/how-hungarian-criminals-built-a-slave-trade-in-ontario/article4097573/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/how-canadas-massive-human-trafficking-ring-was-brought-down/article4098695/>

# Free Legal Support for Survivors of Human Trafficking

Ministry of the Attorney General

Human trafficking is a crime. A restraining order can be an important legal tool in protecting survivors and individuals at-risk of being trafficked from the threat of exploitation and violence. Learn about what human trafficking is, what you can do to stop it and what help is available at [ontario.ca/HumanTrafficking](http://ontario.ca/HumanTrafficking).

## Pilot program

Ontario is piloting a new program to help survivors and those at-risk of being trafficked to get restraining orders against their traffickers.

The service is available provincewide, by phone or in person.

## How the program works

A team of specialized lawyers will help survivors and potential victims get a restraining order by providing legal support, including:

- free, confidential legal advice
- help completing a restraining order application
- representation at application hearings in any Ontario Court of Justice

Parents and guardians of a child survivor or a child at-risk of being trafficked will also be eligible for free legal support.

A restraining order can be filed any time after a survivor has been trafficked, regardless of how much time has passed.

## Eligibility

Survivors of all ages can access this service, and the trafficking does not need to have happened in Ontario to be eligible. The program is available to all women, men, trans and gender-diverse people. This restraining order would only apply to a trafficker who is an Ontario resident.

## Contact

To access services, call the toll-free **human trafficking helpline** at **1-833-999-9211**.

TTY – **1-888-340-1001**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a restraining order?

This is a court order used to keep a person away from another person. Violating a restraining order is a criminal offence and if convicted, the person may be sent to jail for a term of up to two years.

### How long is the restraining order effective?

Restraining orders can be in place for up to three years and renewed if necessary.

These orders are entered into a national computer registry and enforced by police.

### Why do I need legal support?

A lawyer can provide information on the legal process to obtain a restraining order, including filling out the application, submitting it to the courthouse and representing you in court if needed.

If you are concerned about your safety or the safety of those around you, a lawyer can provide confidential advice and guidance.

### Do I need to report my trafficker to the police before I can talk to a lawyer?

No, your trafficker or potential trafficker does not need to be convicted or charged with human trafficking in order for you to file a restraining order.

## Victims Services Supports

### Victim Support Line

The toll-free multilingual Victim Support Line provides information and referrals to services across Ontario. To speak with an information and referral counsellor, call 1-888-579-2888, or 416-314-2447 in the Greater Toronto Area.

### Victim Crisis Assistance Ontario

Available across the province, this program provides immediate, on-site services to victims of crime 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 1-866-376-9852.

## Knowing the signs of human trafficking

A number of signs may point to human trafficking:

- The person is not allowed to speak for themselves and their activities are controlled by someone else.
- The person is under 18 and involved in prostitution or sex work.
- The person is unpaid or paid very little to work, and seems to be treated poorly (long or unusual hours, not allowed breaks, forced to live in poor conditions, etc.).
- The person is repaying a large debt through labour or sex.
- The person seems fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid. They may avoid eye contact, seem fearful around police, etc.





# Hamilton Human Trafficking Services

## IMMEDIATE SAFETY

Victim Services Branch Hamilton Police Service – Victim Quick Response Program – Transportation, Shelter and 24/7 supports.

Safety Planning – All emergency shelters.

Hamilton Police Service

Crises Lines – See Reverse

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

Good Shepherd Women's Services – Mary's Place & Martha House & Men's Shelter

Mission Services – Inasmuch House & Men's Shelter

Native Women's Centre Shelter

Notre Dame House – Youth Shelter

Salvation Army Men's Shelter

## YOUTH

Good Shepherd Notre Dame

YMCA – Youth In Transition Worker

Living Rock Ministries

Catholic Children's Aid Society

Children's Aid Society

## HOUSING

Honouring the Circle

YWCA

Good Shepherd Women's Services

## LEGAL SERVICES/ COURT SUPPORT

Hamilton Community Legal Clinic

Victim Services,

Hamilton Police Service

Victim Witness Assistance  
Program

Salvation Army

Legal Advocates in Hamilton

Centre de Santé

Communautaire H/N

## FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICES

Centre de santé  
Communautaire

## INDIGENOUS

Native Women's Centre

Hamilton Regional  
Indian Centre

Honouring the Circle

Aboriginal Health Centre

## COUNSELLING

Sexual Assault Centre  
Hamilton and Area (SACHA)

Sexual Assault/Domestic  
Violence Care Centre

Catholic Family Services

## MEDICAL

Sexual Assault/Domestic  
Violence Care Centre

Hamilton Health Sciences

Public Health – Prenatal Care

## IMMIGRATION

Immigrant Working Centre

Wesley Urban Ministries

YMCA Immigration Services



# Human trafficking resources

## Emergency:

Police/Fire/EMS ..... 911

## Immediate 24/7 Crisis Intervention:

Victim Services Branch, Hamilton Police Service ..... 905-546-4904

## Women's Emergency Shelter (Safety planning can be done with each shelter):

Mary's Place ..... 905-540-8000  
 Inasmuch House ..... 905-529-8149  
 Native Women's Centre ..... 905-664-1114  
 Martha House ..... 905-523-8895  
 WomanKind ..... 905-545-9100  
 MountainView (Healing Sisters) ..... 905-318-2666 / 905-389-9908

## Crises Lines:

Centre de Santé Communautaire H/N ..... 1-866-437-7606  
 SACHA ..... 905-525-4162  
 Martha House ..... 905-523-6277  
 Interval House of Hamilton ..... 905-387-8881  
 Chrysalis Anti-Human Trafficking Hotline (Canada wide) ..... 1-866-528-7109

## Men's Emergency Shelter:

GS Men's Shelter ..... 905-528-9109  
 Mission Services Men's Shelter ..... 905-528-7635  
 Salvation Army ..... 905-527-1444  
 Youth Shelter:  
 GS Notre Dame House ..... 905-308-8090

## Medical:

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre ..... 905-521-2100 ext 73557  
 Hamilton Health Sciences ..... 905-521-2100  
 Public Health (Prenatal) ..... 905-546-2489  
 Shelter Health Network ..... 905-526-7137  
 Centre de Santé Communautaire H/N ..... 1-866-437-7606  
 Substance Use & Harm Reduction Services:  
 Alcohol Drugs Gambling Services ..... 905-546-3606  
 The Aids Network ..... 905-528-0854  
 WomanKind ..... 905-545-9100

## French Language Services:

Centre de Santé Communautaire H/N ..... 1-866-437-7606

## Resources:

Helping Hands Street Mission ..... 905-522-4263  
 YWCA McNab ..... 905-522-9922  
 Salvation Army Community & Family Services ..... 905-522-1477

## Counselling Services:

Sexual Assault Centre Hamilton and Area (SACHA) ..... 905-525-4573  
 Catholic Family Services ..... 905-527-3823  
 Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre ..... 905-521-2100 ext 73557  
 Good Shepherd Women's Services ..... 905-523-8766  
 Women's Centre of Hamilton ..... 905-522-0127  
 Flamborough Women's Resource Centre ..... 289-895-8580

## Legal/Court Support:

Hamilton Community Legal Clinic ..... 905-527-4572  
 Victim Services Branch, Hamilton Police Service ..... 905-546-4904  
 Victim Witness Assistance Program ..... 905-645-5272  
 Good Shepherd Women's Services ..... 905-523-8766  
 Jared's Place (Legal Advocacy) ..... 905-522-0127 ext 209  
 Centre De Santé Communautaire H/N ..... 1-866-437-7606  
 Salvation Army ..... 905-645-5252 x3660

## Housing:

YWCA McNab ..... 905-522-9922  
 Honouring the Circle (Transitional Housing Program) ..... 905-664-1114  
 Good Shepherd Women's Services ..... 905-523-8766  
 Restorations Second Stage Homes ..... Not open yet

## Indigenous Supports:

Healing Sisters ..... 905-389-9908  
 Honouring the Circle ..... 905-664-1114  
 Native Women's Centre ..... 905-664-1114  
 Hamilton Regional Indian Centre ..... 905-548-9593  
 Aboriginal Health Centre ..... 905-544-4320

## Youth Supports:

Good Shepherd Notre Dame House ..... 905-308-8090  
 YMCA Youth In Transition Worker, Anti-Human Trafficking Worker ..... 905-526-8452 ext 3420  
 Living Rock Ministries ..... 905-528-7625  
 Catholic Children's Aid Society ..... 905-525-2012  
 Children's Aid Society ..... 905-522-1121

## Immigration:

Immigrant Working Centre ..... 905-529-9209  
 Wesley Urban Ministries ..... 905-528-5629  
 YMCA Immigration Services ..... 905-526-8452  
 Centre de Santé Communautaire H/N ..... 1-866-437-7606



**FUNDED BY:**



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**QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS  
CAN BE DIRECTED TO**  
[HamiltonHumanTrafficking@gmail.com](mailto:HamiltonHumanTrafficking@gmail.com)