

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING



## *What is human trafficking?*

LAST UPDATED 09.2019

Human trafficking according to Public Safety Canada is "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" (2019). It's commonly thought that the buying and selling of people is something of the past. It is also perceived that it is happening in other countries, in other places – not in our own backyard. But in fact, there are more people trafficked today than anytime in human history.

The International Labour Organization and Walk Free Foundation indicate that 40.3 million people are being trafficked, 70% of whom are women and children. The Canadian Women's Foundation estimates that 90% of people who are trafficked in Canada for sexual exploitation are from within Canada's borders (2014). Both developing and developed countries are impacted by human trafficking: this is a global issue.

95% of trafficking cases between 2012 to 2016 were domestic cases of sexual exploitation (Public Safety Canada). Approximately two-thirds of cases in Canada take place in Ontario, most of which involve sex trafficking ([www.mcsc.gov.on.ca](http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca), 2019). Sexual exploitation is known to take place in hotels/motels, strip clubs, massage parlours, Airbnbs, streets and homes.

### GLOBAL STATS



40.3 million people are trafficked globally

25% of trafficked persons are children

99% of people trafficked for sexual exploitation are women and girls



### CANADA STATS



459 persons were accused of human trafficking between 2009 and 2014

The age of recruitment is as low as 12 or 13 years old

# Know the Signs

SOURCE: WWW.MCSS.GOV.ON.CA

- The person is not allowed to speak for themselves and their activities are controlled by someone else.
- The person is under 18 years old and involved in 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 malnourished or lacks medical care.
- The person seems fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid. They may avoid eye contact, seem fearful around police, etc.
- The person shows signs of abuse, such as bruising, cigarette burns, fractures, etc.
- The person has tattooing or branding symbols, particularly names.
- The person doesn't have their own things or money, and doesn't control their own passport or other documents.
- The person is moved frequently and may not know their surroundings well. The person has been reported missing.



## Who is trafficked?

- Mostly women and girls
- Youth experiencing homelessness and marginalized youth
- Youth may be targeted who struggle with: low self-esteem, bullying, discrimination, poverty, abuse, and/or isolation
- Indigenous peoples
- LGBTQI2S
- People who struggle with addiction, mental health issues and developmental disabilities

## What can you do?

### GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer!
- Pack gift bags
- Financial or in-kind donations
- Write a letter to local politicians
- Invite us to a speaking engagement
- Follow us on social media
- Educate yourself
- Advocate

Anyone can be trafficked & a trafficker can be anyone.

## OUR VISION

*We want to see the end of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in Canada and in the world.*

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## REPORTING & RESOURCES

If there is immediate danger or if you suspect a child under 18 is being trafficked, call 911 or your local police service.

For information and support, call Canada's confidential Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-833-900-1010



## CONTACT

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