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Stopping Human  
Trafficking and  
Sexual Exploitation

PRESENTED BY

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[BeAmazingCampaign.org](https://BeAmazingCampaign.org)

# Stopping Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation

Human trafficking is the recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving, holding, concealing, harbouring, or exercising control over a person for the purpose of sexual exploitation, and—in conjunction with prostitution—is the fastest growing crime in the world. Canada is a child sex tourism destination with Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal as the nation’s trafficking hotspots.

This form of modern-day slavery has low costs and huge profits, making it a lucrative crime that targets our youth, children, and the vulnerable.

## Who are the victims?

Trafficked victims are typically female but due to popularity of online gaming sites, now include a growing number of boys. Because traffickers look for vulnerability, their targets are people 30 years of age and younger.

## Who are the traffickers?

Traffickers are dominantly male with recent trends revealing a growing number of females. They are highly organized, sophisticated, move fast; and typically, organized crime and even sometimes family members are involved.

## Who are the buyers?

Male buyers are the root cause of the harm caused by human trafficking; they come from all ages and demographics and are criminally charged.

## What factors cause human trafficking?

There are four primary factors contributing to the problem: globalization, unregulated technology, limited law enforcement, and minimal prevention education.

“Human trafficking is a form of trauma that when you understand what people are going through and what is being done to them, it is true evil.”

— DR. JACQUI LINDER  
SURVIVOR, REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGIST, TRAUMATOLOGIST

## General Statistics

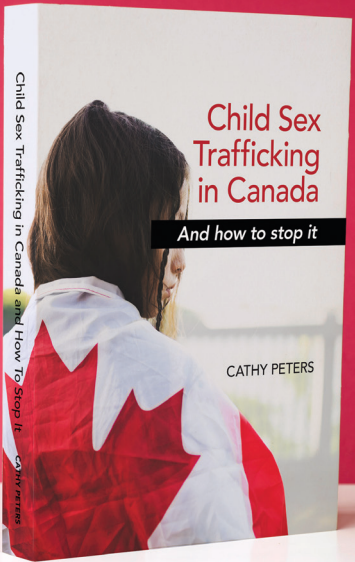
- The average age of recruitment is 13 years, and that age is lower in urban centres.
- At 50–90%, Indigenous women and girls are severely over-represented
- A vast majority of victims have experienced childhood sexual abuse and/or incest.
- Most of the trafficked survivors live with complex post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- 95% of prostituted victims want to leave the sex industry; it is neither a choice nor a job.
- As many as 99% of prostituted persons are either pimped or trafficked; it is a lucrative crime for traffickers.
- Only 1–5% of prostituted individuals are able to leave the sex industry. The majority become mentally ill, drug addicted, commit suicide, or are murdered.

## Human Trafficking Indicators

Aside from a “gut feeling” from parents, teachers, and service providers that something is wrong, the following character traits and situations have been observed as linked to an individual who is being trafficked:

*Has a fake ID, owns few personal possessions, does not speak for themselves, owes a debt, is not free to come and go, displays signs of malnutrition and poor hygiene, shows signs of physical abuse with bruises, broken bones, or black eyes, has tattoos or branding symbols, wears expensive clothing, accessories, or jewelry they cannot afford, has well-kept nails and/or lashes, is fearful, anxious, depressed, nervous, isolated, or paranoid, displays memory loss, suffers drug and alcohol addiction, avoids eye contact, has a new circle of friends, grades dropping, a change in attitude towards school, activities and friends, skips school, is exhausted, has two phones, wears inappropriate or provocative clothing, has an older partner, is involved in gang or criminal activity, fears for safety, is secretive.*

Now available for purchase online at Amazon.ca



## Human Trafficking and the Law

The Federal Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA) works and needs to be consistently enforced in Canada. In summary, the PCEPA:

- Criminalises both the buyers and profiteers of sex.
- Protects the sellers from prosecution and provides immunity from criminalisation.
- Provides exit strategies to assist trafficked victims out of the sex industry.
- Offers robust prevention education.

## Disturbing Trends to Note

- Sexting is being normalised, sextortion is increasing.
- Online grooming, luring, and recruiting for the sex industry is increasing.
- An increase in the sexualisation of youth/children.
- Increased childhood sexual assault/incest, and child-on-child sexual assault.
- Females are experiencing a decreased number of safe spaces.
- Pornography is the fuel for trafficking and is unchecked.
- A lack of digital safety training, social media accountability, and positive parenting support.
- The unchecked development of artificial intelligence (AI).

## Resources

Additional resources are available on our website at [BeAmazingCampaign.org](https://BeAmazingCampaign.org)

**Public Safety Canada** Public safety and emergency preparedness. [publicsafety.gc.ca](https://publicsafety.gc.ca)

**Cybertip.ca** Canada’s tipline for reporting online child sexual abuse and exploitation. [cybertip.ca](https://cybertip.ca)

**Joy Smith Foundation** Canada’s leading authority on human trafficking prevention. [joysmithfoundation.com](https://joysmithfoundation.com)

**Brave Education** Inspiring resilience through social and emotional skills. [braveeducation.com](https://braveeducation.com)

**Exploitation Education Institute** Trusted experts in exploitation prevention. [exploitationeducation.org](https://exploitationeducation.org)

## For Parents

**Defend Young Minds** Kids can learn to reject pornography. [defendyoungminds.org](https://defendyoungminds.org)

**Protect Young Eyes** Helping families, schools, and churches create safer digital environments. [protectyoungeyes.org](https://protectyoungeyes.org)

**KIDS TOO** Protecting children from harmful adults, acts and ideologies in school environments. [kidstoo.org](https://kidstoo.org)

**PAXA** Parents Against Child Sex Abuse, the founding non-profit organization for KIDS TOO. [paxa.online](https://paxa.online)

## For Help in BC

**RCMP Emergency** Report to police, call 9-1-1

**Suicide Help Line** 9-8-8

**Ministry of Child Protection Services** 604-310-1234

**Covenant House** Crisis program for ages 16–24. 604-685-7474 | [covenanthousebc.org](https://covenanthousebc.org)

**The Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons** 1-888-712-7974 | [octip@gov.bc.ca](mailto:octip@gov.bc.ca)

**VictimLinkBC** 7-1-1 | 1-800-563-0808 | [victimlinkbc@bc211.ca](mailto:victimlinkbc@bc211.ca)

**The Salvation Army Illuminate** Support for women survivors of human trafficking. 604-347-9500 | [illuminateht.com](https://illuminateht.com)

**Crime Stoppers** 1-800-222-8477 | [canadiancrimestoppers.org](https://canadiancrimestoppers.org)

**Fraser Health Forensic Nurse Service** Surrey Memorial Hospital 604-953-4723

**Onyx** A free, confidential, voluntary support service for youth aged 13–18, of all genders and all orientations, who are, or are at risk of, being sexually exploited. 1-877-411-7532 | [plea.ca](https://plea.ca)

**Children of the Street** Dedicated to preventing the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth in BC; a resource for parents, youth, and caregivers. 604-777-7510 | [childrenofthestreet.com](https://childrenofthestreet.com)

**Family Services of Greater Vancouver** Low barrier support for low income families and individuals. 604-731-4951 | [fsgv.ca](https://fsgv.ca)





## Strategies to prevent human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

### Strategies for Parents: The TRUST Model

- T** Talk with your youth about what influences them.
- R** Relationships and helping them to identify healthy ones.
- U** Understanding and empathy to reach your youth.
- S** Security, stability, and safety are needed at home.
- T** Teach children about grooming, luring, boundaries, and how to report such instances.

To complement the **TRUST** model and in order for prevention education to be impactful and effective, here are answers to two key questions posed by today's youth.

#### What is a healthy relationship?

A healthy relationship exudes kindness, trust, courtesy, consideration, honesty, reliability, equality, good communication, and acceptance. Knowing your own boundaries and being able to communicate them, plus respecting the decisions and boundaries of others. It allows you to be yourself and to feel supported and encouraged by the other person. Violence is never okay in a healthy relationship.

#### Who is a safe adult?

A genuine and kind person who expects nothing in return, a safe adult encourages you to maintain and grow healthy relationships with friends, family, and peers. They encourage you to achieve your goals and dreams, to be well and be your best. If you need help, a safe adult will assist you with contacting the proper authorities.

### Strategies for Communities and Provinces

Reduce demand, diminish supply. Address complicit businesses such as unregistered massage and body rub parlours, nail spas, day spas, wellness centres, modelling agencies, tattoo parlours, escort services, cheap bars and hotels, men's clubs, AirBnB, VRBO, casinos, strip clubs, organized crime club houses, bus stops, train stations, homeless camps, tent cities, work camps, pool halls, community centres, and wherever youth congregate.

Keep schools safe because they have become recruiting grounds for gangs and human trafficking. There is growing research that some school personnel are involved with sexual interference with students (source: Cybertip.ca).

### Strategies for the Public

**Learn, share, alert.** Learn about the issue. Share it with others. Alert your politicians that sexual exploitation must stop.

**“Sexual trauma is the deepest form of trauma a human being can experience.”**

— DR. INGEBORG KRAUS  
GLOBAL EXPERT ON TRAUMA AND PROSTITUTION

Human sex trafficking and sexual exploitation for the purpose of prostitution is the fastest growing crime in the world. It is a lucrative crime targeting our youth, children, and the vulnerable.



You can help stop sexual exploitation starting in your community:

**Learn** about the issue.

**Share** it with others.

**Alert** your politicians that sexual exploitation must stop.

An Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative

**BeAmazingCampaign.org**

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Canadian National Human Trafficking Hotline

**1-833-900-1010**