

# A Guide for Human Trafficking Survivors

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It is important for you to know that the Toronto Police Service (TPS) is here to provide assistance and support. The TPS believes that everyone impacted by Human Trafficking and sexual exploitation should be treated with respect and dignity, fairness and honesty and in a professional and bias-free manner. Our duty is to bring an appropriate resolution to the case by conducting a professional and thorough investigation, while at the same time providing you with the necessary information and resources to assist you.

As someone impacted by Human Trafficking, you have taken an important step by accessing this guide and/or browsing through our website. Enclosed in this resource guide is information on human trafficking investigations, possible outcomes and the criminal court process.

If you do not want to make a report to the police, or you need time and support to make that decision, we have partnered with many other agencies that can help you during this difficult time. A list of these agencies and their contact information is located on this website.

Our goal is to identify, arrest and prosecute the person(s) responsible. At the same time, we support the choices that you as the survivor make with respect to the process that is best for you.

For the purposes of this website we use the term "survivor/victim". We recognize that people who have been subjected to Human Trafficking, sexual exploitation and/or sexual violence have the right to choose how they want to be identified.

## Acknowledgements

The Toronto Police Service Human Trafficking Team would like to thank the Government of Ontario for providing the provincial support to complete this guide for Survivors of Human Trafficking.

The Human Trafficking Team would also like to thank all of the community partners, who provided their thoughts and feedback on this project. Your desire to share your wisdom, experience, and insight helped create this guide and bolster our ability to assist Survivors of Human Trafficking and their families.

By collaborating with our government and community partners, we can continue to take proactive steps towards prevention-based awareness that protects those impacted and acknowledges the severity of the issue in our communities.

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## What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is the equivalent of modern-day slavery and is a serious criminal offence under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Human trafficking can include recruiting, harbouring or controlling a person's movements using force, physical or psychological coercion, or deception.

Traffickers force their victims into the sex trade against their will.

Traffickers **coerce** their victims through emotional manipulation, money, drugs and physical abuse. (Coerce means to persuade (an unwilling person) to do something by using force or threats.)

Victims endure a life of despair, violence, fear and degradation from which it is very difficult to escape.

Most police-reported cases in Ontario are young girls and women. Indigenous women and girls are especially at risk to being targeted by traffickers.

Language barriers, fear of their traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement frequently keep victims from seeking help, making human trafficking a hidden crime.

The following sex trafficking educational video is narrated by survivor Rhonelle Bruder. It is intended for parents and young people, and it provides an overview of how human trafficking works, how traffickers target and groom their victims, and what young viewers should be aware of.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zu64J1T\\_H4k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zu64J1T_H4k)

## Human Trafficking and the Law

### Criminal Code of Canada

Since 2005, human trafficking has been a crime under Canada's Criminal Code.

**Human Trafficking (Section 279.01)** of the Criminal Code is defined as follows:

“Every person who recruits, transports, transfers, receives, holds, conceals or harbours a person, or exercises control, direction or influence over the movements of a person, for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation is guilty of an indictable offence.”

For a charge under this offence, the evidence must indicate that the suspect has:

- Recruited, transported, transferred, received, held, concealed, or harboured the victim,
- or exercised control, direction or influence over the movements of the victim; and
- done this for the purpose of exploiting the victim or facilitating their exploitation

Human trafficking includes three elements:

- Act: recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring, or receiving people
- Means: threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, or abuse of power, or paying someone in control of the victim
- Purpose: exploitation

There are three other main offences to address human trafficking in Canada's Criminal Law:

- section 279.011 (Trafficking of a person under the age of eighteen years),
- section 279.02 (Knowingly getting money or other benefits from human trafficking), and
- section 279.03 (Taking or destroying travel or personal identification documents of a person being trafficked).

The Criminal Code defines “exploitation” as follows:

**Exploitation (section 279.04):** Causing someone to provide, or offer to provide, labour or a service by engaging in conduct that could reasonably be expected to cause that person to believe that their safety, or the safety of a person they know, would be threatened if they failed to do so.



Proving exploitation in regards to Human Trafficking requires proof that shows that a reasonable person, standing in the survivor's shoes, would be afraid – taking into account all of the Survivor's unique circumstances (e.g., age, gender, national/ethnic origin, socioeconomic conditions, etc.). It does not imply that the Survivor must state that they feared for their own or someone else's safety.

**An important point to remember is that a Victim's or Survivor's consent is NOT a defense to a Human Trafficking charge. In Canada, no one has the legal right to consent to being exploited.**

### What is NOT Human Trafficking?

- Human smuggling that involves moving someone across a border
- **Independent** consensual, paid sex work by individuals **18** years or older

### Human Trafficking Myths

**Disclosing to police brings immediate relief for Survivors.**

For Survivors, the process of disclosing their victimization to police is often traumatic. Many have a deep fear of law enforcement and have extreme panic and confusion while interacting with police. Survivors then are asked to provide a statement to police regarding their abuse, which is further traumatizing. Disclosing to police is not the final step to freedom for each Survivor, but, rather, it is the beginning of a lifelong process of healing.

**Victims and traffickers are usually strangers.**

In many cases, victims are familiar with their traffickers. A trafficker could be a family friend, a significant other, a close relative or someone who has built a close friendship or romantic relationship. When the trafficker already has a connection to the victim, it can be easier to compel the victim into the sex trade.

**All trafficking victims are women.**

It is true that the majority of human trafficking victims are women, however, boys, men, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ2S+) may be particular risk for sex trafficking as well. The misconception that males are rarely or never affected can be dangerous, leading to fewer preventative and aftercare programs specifically targeted towards those who identify as male or as LGBTQ2S+.

### **All traffickers are men.**

While the majority of traffickers are men, women also play a prominent role in trafficking. Some female offenders were once victims themselves and are now the trafficker's "bottom". A bottom is a female appointed by the trafficker/pimp to supervise the others and report rule violations. Operating as his "right hand," the Bottom may help instruct victims, collect money, book hotel rooms, post ads, or inflict punishments on the other victims.

### **Human trafficking victims will attempt to seek help when in public.**

Human trafficking is often a hidden crime. Victims may be afraid to come forward and get help; they may be forced or coerced through threats or violence; they may fear retribution from traffickers, including danger to their families; and they may not be in possession of or have control of their identification documents or have access to a phone. Many victims are also geographically isolated making it difficult to report to police.

### **Human trafficking only occurs in low-income families.**

Human trafficking can affect any individual, regardless of age, race, gender, religion, family income, social status, or sexual orientation. Individuals from well-adjusted, caring families may become victims of trafficking.

## **Is Working as an Escort Illegal?**

Under the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA), selling sex is **legal** in Canada.

However, advertising sexual services, paying for those services, and living off the material gains from selling sex, are **illegal**.

## **At what Age can you agree to Sexual Activity if you are Under 18?**

In Canada, you have to be **16 years old** to be able to legally agree to sexual activity. This is called the "**age of consent**". Sexual activity includes a range of activity from kissing to sexual intercourse and cannot include any abuse or exploitation. There are some exceptions for youth under 16, but only if the youth are in peer groups or close in age.

You have to be 18 years old to legally agree to sexual activity that "exploits" – when it involves prostitution, pornography or when sexual activity happens in a

relationship of authority, trust or dependency (for example with a teacher, coach or babysitter)

### Who is at Risk of being Trafficked?

There is no single profile of a **trafficking** victim. Victims of **human trafficking** can be anyone, regardless of race, color, national origin, disability, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, education level, or citizenship status.

While human trafficking can affect **anyone**, the industry largely preys on those who are part of the most vulnerable, alienated communities in society.

Individuals who are at higher risk of being sex trafficked are:

- Women and girls (though boys, men and people who identify as LGBTQ2S+ are also targeted)
- Homeless and marginalized individuals
- Individuals who struggle with low self-esteem and low self worth
- Victims of bullying, discrimination and/or have a history of being abused
- newcomers to Canada, adopted individuals, individuals in care and individuals from low-income families
- Individuals who struggle with addiction
- Traffickers often use substances to recruit, control, or exploit their victims.
- Some traffickers purposely supply drugs to impressionable people to break down their resistance
- Persons suffering from mental health impact factors often have a limited ability to assess risk and detect ill intentions
- Traffickers are skilled at detecting the vulnerabilities of persons with mental health issues and manipulating them to their advantage.

While sexual exploitation can happen to anyone, some young people are more vulnerable than others because of the group with which they identify.

### Indigenous and Human Trafficking

Indigenous individuals, particularly females, are much more likely to be sexually abused and trafficked than non-Indigenous individuals. The Indigenous community

has been adversely affected by the trauma and abuses encountered as a result of colonization and residential schools.

Due to a lack of understanding of the problem, family violence, poverty, isolation, substance use, gang involvement, and racism, individuals in this community may be more vulnerable to sexual exploitation.

## What are the Signs that Someone is being Trafficked?

### Behavioural Indicators

- Changes in online social media presence - new profiles/accounts/online friends, not allowing parents to access accounts and/or profiles with different ages or names
- Change in their daily routine – awake throughout the night and sleeping during the day
- Posts provocative pictures on their social media and regularly dresses more provocatively regularly
- When in contact with persons in authority avoids answering questions or lets others speak for them
- Seems coached/frightened/nervous/paranoid hostile when engaging with persons in authority or the police
- Avoids eye contact
- Has been reported missing by their family
- Change in attendance, grade and behaviour at school or drops out of school
- Disconnects from family and friends, starts being elusive about whereabouts and new “friends”
- Dissociates and has a difficult time remembering conversations
- Uses slang language that is often used in the sex industry (daddy/pimp/bottom, etc).

### Physical Indicators

- Signs of physical trauma (unexplained bruises, cigarette burns etc.)
- Has a name or a symbol tattooed or branded onto their bodies (and are unwilling to explain the markings)
- No longer has possession of their identification (their ID is being held by someone else)
- Has large amounts of cash, pre-paid credit cards, hotel keys/receipts
- Carries multiple cell phones

- Has notebooks, slips of paper with nicknames, phone numbers, prices and dollar amounts
- Is in possession of sexual paraphernalia such as bulk condoms and lubricant
- Has provocative photos of themselves on their phone
- Has applications on their phone that disguise their phone number
- Has recurring medical complications involving sexually transmitted diseases

### What is Grooming?

Grooming is when someone builds a relationship, trust and/or emotional connection with an individual so they can manipulate, exploit and/or abuse them.

While grooming the victim the trafficker will take the time to get to know the individual to assess their vulnerabilities in order to manipulate them.

This process can take days, week, months and sometimes years. Over this time the trafficker will gradually earn their trust and have the individual become more and more reliant on them

- The trafficker will usually promise a better life for the individual. This could be a relationship, a job, materialistic things etc.,
- The trafficker will purposefully take advantage of the individual's wants and needs to exploit them
- Children and young people who are groomed can be sexually abused, exploited or trafficked
- A trafficker can be anyone; male or female, young, old or a peer. They can be new friends, classmates, mentors, girlfriends/ boyfriends, musicians and social media celebrities

The process of grooming an individual can be done in person or online.

### What are the Signs of Grooming?

- Being very secretive about how they're spending their time, including when online
- Having a boyfriend or girlfriend who they are reluctant to introduce to families and friends
- Having money or new things like lingerie, clothes and mobile phones that they can't or won't explain

- Sudden drastic change in appearance (begins wearing make-up excessively, dresses in a provocative manner)
- Underage drinking or drug use
- Unexplained mood swings
- Spending more time online or on their devices
- Being upset, withdrawn or distressed
- Sexualized behaviour, language or an understanding of sex that's not appropriate for their age
- Sexualized and provocative social media posts
- Spending more time away from home or going missing for periods of time
- Accessing websites that are known for the sale of sex (Leolist.cc etc.)

### How do Traffickers maintain Control over their Victims?

Once a trafficker has recruited an individual, they will continue to exercise control over them in both outward displays of control and subtle behaviours.

Traffickers establish a psychological hold and control their victims in various ways such as:

- Relationship manipulation (the trafficker will do anything to make the victim fall in love with him/her)
- The trafficker's goal is to remove any positive influences in a person's life so they become completely dependent on the trafficker (emotionally, physically and financially)
- The trafficker will make false promises of a better life for them – creating a sense of family when perhaps the individual did not have that in their life
- Sexual abuse
- Forcing the victim to engage in illegal / criminal activities
- Threats – including violence against them and their families
- Intimidation
- distribution of sexually explicit images or videos
- Physical violence and torture
- Isolation from friends and family
- Taking away their identity documents and passports
- Financial manipulation – the trafficker will convince the victim that she needs to do sex work to support them financially

- Extortion - obtaining property from the victim through the use of actual or threatened force, violence or fear.
- Impregnating a victim to create a familial bond

The trafficker will encourage good behaviour by collecting and depositing cash at the end of each night so that the victims start the next day without any money. Victim will have to go out and raise more money if they wanted to guarantee food, housing, and other necessities.

Traffickers will instill rivalry with their victims by rewarding the most profitable with recognition and affection while ignoring those who receive less.

Traffickers will also put the victim in debt and make them financially dependent on them. A victim may be coerced into renting cars, paying for hotels, gas, food, and rent, among other things. They may also be forced to take out personal loans, with the proceeds going directly to the trafficker.

### Rules Traffickers have for Victims

- Traffickers impose a dollar figure quota that victims will have to earn each day
- A trafficker will often require his victim to call him “Daddy”. The trafficker will play the role of father (or “Daddy”) to the victim. The victim often does not know the trafficker’s real identify and only refers to him as “Daddy” or by his street name
- Victims are often only addressed by their ‘working girl’ names
- A victim is not permitted to make eye contact with another trafficker, if this “law” is violated, the victim may be exposed to extreme physical abuse.

### What is Labour Trafficking?

Labour traffickers use violence, threats, lies, debt bondage, or other forms of coercion to force people to work against their will in many different industries. Trafficked persons are often promised high-paying jobs, education or travel opportunities, however, when they arrive they forced to work long hours under unsafe and very poor working conditions for little or no money.

Victims will be led to believe that if they violate their work permits, they will lose their status and/or be deported. Many are subjected to abuse because they have families and children to support in their home country.

Anyone can become a victim of labour trafficking, but the most vulnerable individuals are new arrivals in Canada, who may have:

- Uncertain immigration status.
- Do not have possession of their travel documents or identification.
- Recruitment debts or living in poverty.
- Isolation due to language barriers, not being able to speak English.
- A lack of understanding of their rights in Canada or how to get assistance.

Examples of the type of industries where labour trafficking occurs are: construction, agriculture, restaurants, and manufacturing, food processing and nail salons.

Domestic Servitude is another form of labour trafficking within a household in which trafficked individuals may appear to be nannies, housekeepers, or other types of domestic workers. They are often exploited by working many hours at a time with little to no time off, earning minimal or no compensation, and, in some cases, their movement is restricted.

Signs of labour trafficking include:

- Being underpaid, not paid at all, or wages are deducted unjustifiably.
- Working excessive days or hours, forced to work overtime, or with no breaks.
- Forced to engage in duties outside the employment contract.
- Charged high, fraudulent recruitment fees to secure employment in Canada.
- Exposed to violence, including sexual assault, or threats of violence or harm.
- Abused emotionally or psychologically.

To learn more about resources for labour trafficking please visit:

**The FCJ Refugee Centre**  
208 Oakwood Ave.  
Toronto, ON  
(416)-469-9754  
[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)



The FCJ Refugee Centre serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status, and welcomes anyone asking for advice, counsel and support regarding these issues. FCJ Refugee Centre addresses systemic issues that newly arrived refugee claimants face in Canada including lack of resources, marginalization, and discrimination.

The FCJ Refugee Centre offers direct services to people who have been trafficked, taking into account the range of supports needed. Walking with survivors through legal processes, immigration procedures, settlement and recovery, we take a holistic approach to ensure people are informed and empowered to steer their own course out of the trafficking experience.

We ensure trafficked persons have access to orientation, legal assistance and referrals, information about their immigration options, appropriate housing, employment support, counseling and other forms of psycho-social support. The path out of human trafficking may take time, and we ensure that we walk with people the whole way.

## Survivor /Parent Questions about Human Trafficking

I am being Trafficked.

What will I be feeling during this time?

If you are experiencing human trafficking, it is important to know it is **NOT** your **FAULT**. Being the Victim of Human Trafficking is often a very traumatic experience but there is hope and help available for you and your family.

Many victims don't realize that they are being trafficked. Human trafficking is a complex issue that impacts both physically and psychologically. It is common for those who have been trafficked to have a hard time identifying as being exploited due to the manipulation used by the trafficker.

If you are affected by Human Trafficking, you may feel:

- Angry
- Guilty
- Shame
- Self blame
- Afraid, cautious or confused

- Worthless or alone
- Sad or depressed
- Anxious
- Like you don't have control
- Like you can't trust anyone
- Conflicted feelings to your trafficker

These are all common reactions to exploitation and abuse, but if you are feeling something else, that is **OK** too.

We know that the psychological impacts of exploitation, such as anxiety, depression, posttraumatic stress, combined with feelings of self-blame and guilt, can have long lasting effects on individuals.

It is not uncommon for individuals to also experience the following:

- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Drug and Alcohol abuse
- Thoughts of Suicide
- Self Harming Behaviours
- Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIS)
- Homelessness
- Mental Health Impact Factors

Remember, being the Victim of Human Trafficking is **NOT** your fault.

**What you are experiencing is a crime against you and you are not to blame for the trafficker's actions.**

### What is a Trauma Bond?

**Trauma bonding** is a psychological response to abuse. It occurs when the abused person forms an unhealthy bond with the person who abuses them.

We know that it is not uncommon for individuals to be lured and groomed with the promise of a relationship. When this happens the bond between the victim and trafficker develops into an intense attachment that is often referred to as **trauma bonding**. For some this could be the first relationship that they have experienced

love and affection. Once a relationship has been established, the cycle of abuse begins alternating between love and affection with anger and violence.

The victim will strive to do whatever it takes to bring the relationship back to the honeymoon phase they experienced in the beginning. After the trafficker becomes angry, they apologize and become affectionate and apologize for what may have happened. In those moments an individual may feel hopeful that things are back to how they were in the beginning however this is sadly not the case.

This vicious cycle keeps an individual in a state of constant uncertainty and hypervigilance. The victim finds solace in the relationship because, while it is abusive, it is also predictable and consistent, and leaving can be difficult and overwhelming.

### Signs of Trauma Bonding

The trafficked person may:

- Show gratitude for small kindnesses shown by the trafficker
- Feel loyal to or defend the trafficker
- Rationalize violence by the trafficker — believe they can control the level of abuse by being complacent and pleasing the trafficker
- Have protective feelings towards the trafficker
- Feel that the trafficker genuinely loves them and cares about them
- Feel that only the trafficker can help or care for them

### Why do I feel that I can't leave?

Understanding the way this bond works can help explain why people stay in violent or abusive relationships. The common but harmful question, “Why don't you just leave?” doesn't account for the complexity of a trauma bond and the mental reprogramming it requires to break one.

Here are a number of reasons researchers have identified as to why it is so difficult to break a trauma bond:

- Victims may not feel like they are being victimized. In some cases, they feel that being sexually exploited is “**normal**” because of an adverse childhood experience.
- The trafficker or “**pimp**” is sometimes viewed as a romantic partner.

- In many cases, the trafficker has essentially brainwashed the victim to the point that they believe they truly care about them and are there to keep them safe, while law enforcement and authority figures cannot be trusted.
- They may be afraid to leave. Even if they were assured that the trafficker will go to jail, they may still feel like they still won't be able to escape them.
- They may feel like that their situation being trafficked for sex is better than if they were to be free. There might not be enough family or community support to make it on their own.
- There may be cultural norms that ingrain a policy of “**don't talk about it.**” They may be too ashamed to leave and accept help, when it is normal in their culture to keep abuse a secret.
- Many Survivors, due to low self-esteem from childhood abuse or by being exploited in the sex trade believe that they DESERVE to be abused. These victims of trauma feel that they are unworthy of safety, love and healthy human connection.
- Many Survivors feel so changed by their experience of being trafficked that they do not believe that they will ever be able to fit into the 'real' world ever again. Due to this belief, they feel there is no point in trying to escape from their trafficker.

### Signs of Trauma Bonding

The trafficked person may:

- Show gratitude for small kindnesses shown by the trafficker.
- The victim will consistently strive to get the relationship back to how it was in the beginning (the honeymoon phase)
- Feel loyal to or defend the trafficker.
- Rationalize violence by the trafficker — believe they can control the level of abuse by being complacent and pleasing the trafficker.
- Have protective feelings towards the trafficker.
- Feel that the trafficker genuinely loves them and cares about them.
- Feel that only the trafficker can help or care for them.
- This could be the first time the victim has been shown any love, affection or protection in life. The victim will come to view the trafficker as someone who is protective and not exploitive.

## I am a Parent.

### What can I do to Keep my Child safe from Traffickers?

- Know what your kids are doing online.
- Know the usernames and passwords to all of their social media accounts
- Educate yourself on what social media accounts your child is using (ie Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat etc)
- Ensure that your child's social media is privatized and that you are aware of who they are adding as "friends"
- Become friends with your child online. This will give you access to their friend lists, posted photos, and status updates
- Know the phone number(s) your child has and their email addresses
- Know who your kids are with and where they are hanging out
- Foster close, loving relationships with your child
- Encourage conversations with your child centered around having healthy relationships and setting boundaries
- Help your child build a strong self-esteem from an early age
- Maintain open communication with your child. Remind them that they can come to you or another trusted adult if they are feeling threatened or need emotional support
- Create an atmosphere that no matter what is happening your child they can come to you, or come home. Always remind them that their home is a safe place.
- Be aware of the above-mentioned signs and indicators of trafficking/grooming and don't be afraid to ask your child questions if you notice these behaviours
- Make notes of phone calls, license plate numbers, and remember the names of who your child is associating with
- We don't want to teach our children to be afraid. Instead, we should teach them to be mindful that potentially dangerous and unsafe circumstances can occur anywhere, at any time, and to anyone.

For more information on how to recognize, respond and react to signs of sexual exploitation please visit:

<https://www.childrenofthestreet.com>

“Children of the Street’s mission is to take a proactive approach through public awareness, education and early intervention strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth, while offering support to families”.

### **Parent Toolkit**

<https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/parent-toolkit>

Published in 2015, this toolkit is designed to educate parents on the issue of sexual exploitation and human trafficking, enabling them to recognize warning signs, safeguard their children against exploitation, and equip them with strategies and tools for managing this issue should it happen to their child.

### **Download the Safer Space Resource Package**

<https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/safer-space>

This package provides a short guide for parents, caregivers and adults who work with children and youth, to help them navigate apps and recognize the warning signs of online exploitation, and offers resources for support with online exploitation.

Download link:

[https://a21df1e8-146f-4268-85fd40f5b23760f2.filesusr.com/ugd/cb3288\\_6ec57a240ba745bfafb22d0e7bbb1543.pdf](https://a21df1e8-146f-4268-85fd40f5b23760f2.filesusr.com/ugd/cb3288_6ec57a240ba745bfafb22d0e7bbb1543.pdf)

Get Cyber Safe is a national public awareness campaign created to inform Canadians about cyber security and the simple steps they can take to protect themselves online.

<https://www.getcybersafe.gc.ca/en/home>

### **How do Traffickers Exploit Individuals Online?**

Online child sexual exploitation is when children are tricked into seeing or participating in online encounters of a sexual nature.

The internet is the most popular and simplest way for young people to be lured and groomed for sexual purposes. When someone with a sexual interest in a child trains them for potential sexual interaction, they are lured online.

Usually, it is an adult luring a child online, but it can be someone around the same age as the child or youth.

Traffickers who groom a child or adolescent online may:

- Befriend a child or adolescent over the course of days, months, or even years. It removes the concept of "stranger danger" by posing as a peer, acquaintance, partner, or a friend.
- Use offensive sexual words, exposing children to pornographic videos, or performing sexual acts on themselves in front of the child, traffickers may encourage a child or youth to explore their sexuality.
- The trafficker will use sextortion tactics, where the trafficker will convince a child to engage in sexual activity and take photos or videos of themselves. The trafficker then uses the images to threaten that child.
- The trafficker may also threaten to injure themselves or the child's family if the child abandons them by harming the child emotionally, psychologically, and physically.

Some signs of online grooming are:

- Secrecy about who they are talking to
- Unusual distractedness or preoccupation
- Withdrawing and appearing quieter or sadder or conversely more volatile
- Abrupt mood swings
- Inability to turn off phone resulting in worry or stress
- Switching screens when you come near them when they are on their computer or phone
- Using sexual language, you wouldn't expect them to know or that is not age-appropriate

You MUST begin to teach your child about being safe online, as soon as your child is able to use the internet or is given technology (cellular phone iPad, gaming device etc.).

- Parents should become familiar with the social media platforms and applications that their children use, as well as online language.
- Discuss online protection, anonymity, setting limits, preserving healthy relationships, and consent.

- Discuss with them the value of not succumbing to pressure and ending contact if they feel threatened.
- Tell them it's ok to come to you or another adult at any time, even if they believe they've made a mistake.
- Remind your child that it is a privilege and not a right for them to have access to the internet in your home. If they abuse this privilege or don't follow the rules that you have set out regarding its usage they can lose it.
- Set and enforce rules such as prohibiting all cellular devices from the bedroom. This will help ensure that they are not having secretive conversations on their devices late at night.
- Discuss with your children dangerous people, safety rules, body safety, dangerous situations, and create a family "safe word".

For more information on how to keep your children safe online visit:

<https://www.cybertip.ca/> and <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/campaigns/online-child-sexual-exploitation.html>

### I am a Partner, Parent or a Friend of someone who is being Trafficked into the Sex Trade.

#### What can I do?

If you believe, your child or loved one is being trafficked into the sex trade you can contact the police and file a report. Advise the attending officer(s) of the information you have relating to your child. All information relating to your child could potentially be important to the police. Provide the attending officer(s) with phone numbers, email addresses, social media accounts and the known associates of your child. The officers will then forward a report to the Human Trafficking Team for further investigation.

The support of family and friends plays an important role in the healing process, whether the Survivor was trafficked recently or years ago. Survivors may feel embarrassed, ashamed and frightened. They may or may not be ready to speak about what happened. Be ready to listen and support them when they are ready to talk.

If you have any suspicions that something isn't quite right or that your child is being sexually exploited, **trust your instincts**. Take the time to strengthen and



expand your relationship with your child by developing and opening lines of communication.

It is important to let them know that you care about them and that they are not to blame for what has happened. No one wants or deserves to be trafficked in the sex trade.

For an individual, leaving Human Trafficking may be extremely difficult. Threats from a pimp, being controlled by them, drug and alcohol abuse, feelings of guilt and worthlessness, low self-esteem, and alienation from family can all be obstacles for young people to leave.

They may feel a sense of guilt over what has happened but remember to remind them that it is not their **fault**. You can be of great help throughout their healing process by giving them this message.

### My child is being Trafficked. Are their Supports for me as the Parent?

Lifeworthy

A SIM Project

10 Huntingdale Boulevard

Scarborough, ON

1-800-294-6918

<https://lifeworthy.ca/parents-hope>

Lifeworthy provides and promotes supportive community and spiritual care for sex trafficked victims and their families. Led by John Cassells, Ashley Constable and their team of volunteers, this project provides three main areas of ministry:

- Mentoring and life coaching for young women who have been exploited in the sex industry.
- 'Parents Hope' ministry to provide care for family members of sex trafficking victims.
- Consulting and training churches and para-church organizations for human trafficking related ministries.
- If you have a loved one who is being trafficked or otherwise involved in sex industry activities, Parents Hope is here to support you.

- We offer online peer-led support group meetings as well as individual support.
- There is no fee for services. Parents Hope is a program of Lifeworthy - SIM Canada
- For more information, email Lynda at [parents.hope@lifeworthy.ca](mailto:parents.hope@lifeworthy.ca) or visit <https://lifeworthy.ca/parents-hope/>.

### If the Police find out I work in the Sex Trade, Will I be arrested?

**NO.** You will not be arrested for working as a sex trade worker

It is **legal** in Canada to sell sexual services **independently**.

**Independent** means being free from any outside control.

- It is **illegal** to purchase or advertise someone else's sexual services
- It is **illegal** to live on the material benefits that are earned from sex work from someone else

**However, it is important to remember that traffickers often coerce victims into participating with them in their crimes.**

When an individual is involved in sexual exploitation, either as a victim or as a perpetrator, they may face criminal charges. For example, an individual may unintentionally distribute child pornography, engage in coercion and extortion behaviour, or participate in victim abuse. These actions **may** result in criminal charges and time in prison.

### I am a Victim of Human Trafficking but I am not ready to report it to the police. What can I do?

If you think you might be experiencing grooming, luring, attempts at recruitment, human trafficking, or believe someone else may be, call The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010 or [contact the Hotline through online chat](#).

Specially trained Hotline Response Advocates are available to talk 24/7/365. Confidential support is available in over 200 languages. The Hotline can connect

callers with local emergency, transition, and/or long-term supports and services across the country.

You do not need to share any information you are not comfortable sharing.

The Hotline exists to help and support you.

The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, a Canadian non-governmental organization and registered charity, operates the Hotline. The Hotline is not a government and services across the country, as well as connecting callers to law enforcement where appropriate.

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### **Toronto Crime Stoppers**

Toronto Crime Stoppers prevents and reduces crime by partnering with the community, law enforcement and the media to offer anonymity to anyone providing information leading to an arrest or of significant use.

If you wish to report Human Trafficking and remain anonymous you can also contact:

Toronto Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS (8477)

Online at [222tips.com](https://www.222tips.com) or

Text TOR and your message to CRIMES (274637)

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### **SecureDrop**

Toronto Crime Stoppers is committed to assisting law enforcement address the problem of cybercrime by providing inside cyber tipsters with the most secure and anonymous means to submit information through the SecureDrop encrypted submission system.

The SecureDrop Platform set up by Toronto Crime Stoppers uses the Tor anonymity software to protect your identity, location and the information you send us. We do not ask for or require any identifiable information, nor do we track or log information surrounding our communication.

For more information visit:

<https://www.222tips.com/SecureDrop>

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### What is a Human Trafficking Restraining Order?

You may also contact the Legal Representation Program and obtain a **Human Trafficking Restraining Order** against the trafficker.

- It is a court order signed by a judge, when a judge determines that the victim is being trafficked, or is “at risk” of being trafficked and needs protection. It can also be considered a “Protection Order”.
- An application has to be brought in court to get a Human Trafficking Restraining Order
- The Restraining/Protection Order can lay out certain conditions that the trafficker must follow or else he or she will be **arrested** for breaching a court order
- For example, a Restraining/Protection Order can include conditions that the trafficker cannot have any contact, directly or indirectly with the victim, cannot attend any place where the victim may be (the victim’s home, work, school, shelter, group home), must return the victim’s personal items including documents to the police station, cannot possess any weapons, must delete all explicit photos of the victim and cannot post, sell or make them available, etc.

### Will obtaining a Human Trafficking Restraining Order cost me anything?

**No.** This is a **free** service provided by the Ministry of the Attorney General.

- A lawyer will be provided, free of charge, and do all the work to obtain the Restraining Order for the victim or the Applicant if the Applicant is not the victim

### Who can get a Human Trafficking Restraining Order?

- Adult victims who want a Restraining Order for themselves;
- Child victims who want a Restraining Order for themselves;
- Another person, acting on behalf of a Victim to obtain the Restraining Order, when the Victim consents to the Application; and
- Parents or Legal Guardians of a child victim (under 18) who want a Restraining Order to protect a child, **with or without** the child’s consent. (In those cases, the victim is a party to the Application and can oppose it)

### Will the Lawyer tell the Police Information about the Trafficker?

No. The lawyer is bound by Attorney-Client privilege and has to keep communications between the attorney and his/her client a secret

The lawyer will only provide the police with the information if the client gives permission for the lawyer to do so

### Who do I contact to get a Human Trafficking Restraining Order?

- Call the Human Trafficking Help Line: **1-833-900-1010**
- Ask to be connected to a lawyer for a Restraining Order
- Email [Kelly.Beale@ontario.ca](mailto:Kelly.Beale@ontario.ca) – or call or text Kelly Beale at **(416) 779-8189**

### Where can I get free Legal Advice?

#### Justice for Children and Youth

Justice for Children and Youth (JFCY) provides free legal services for young people under the age of 18 and homeless youth under the age of 25 in Ontario.

JCFY are a non-profit legal aid clinic that specializes in protecting the rights of those facing conflicts with the legal system, education, social service or mental health systems. JCFY provides summary legal advice, information and assistance to young people, parents (in education matters), professionals and community groups across Ontario.

#### Justice for Children and Youth

Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth and the Law

55 University Ave, 15th Floor, Toronto, ON M5J 2H7

Phone: 416-920-1633

Ontario Toll Free: 1-866-999-JFCY (5329)

<https://jfcy.org/en/>

#### The Ontario Women's Justice Network

The Ontario Women's Justice Network (OWJN) is METRAC's legal information website. OWJN tries to help survivors of violence and their supporters better

understand legal rights in Ontario. We do not give legal advice. The website offers accessible legal information in a way that reflects the diverse experiences and realities of women. OWJN is a project of the non-profit organization METRAC Action on Violence.

For more information on legal rights please visit:

<https://owjn.org/>

### I am Ready to Report to the Police. What should I do?

- If you are in immediate danger, call **911**
- If the situation is not an emergency you can contact police on the non-emergency telephone number at **(416) 808-2222**.
- Non-emergency reports can also be made directly to the following websites: [canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca](http://canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca) and [humantrafficking@torontopolice.on.ca](mailto:humantrafficking@torontopolice.on.ca)

### I have called the Police. What happens Next?

The first responding officer, usually a uniform officer, will come to your location and take brief details about the incident in order to complete an initial report. This will happen in a private setting if possible.

The officer will also tend to your physical and emotional needs and call for an ambulance if required.

If you are willing to provide a statement, you will then be taken to a meet with an officer from the Human Trafficking Enforcement Team in order to provide a more detailed interview.

If the suspect has sexually assaulted you, a Sexual Assault Evidence Kit (SAEK) may need to be completed.

- You are not required to complete the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit. Only if you provide **your consent** will the SAEK be completed.
- While you are at the hospital, once you have provided your consent a specially trained nurse will complete the evidence kit.

- The nurse will also help address any questions and concerns you may have about sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy.

### Who will Investigate my Case?

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team is comprised of specially trained officers who are dedicated to working with victims of Human Trafficking.

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team has created excellent working relationships with many different community groups.

- With an individual's consent the officer can facilitate a referral to a community agency for support
- This is to ensure the Survivor is safe and arrangements are made to provide ongoing support and housing needs

The Human Trafficking Team will take carriage of most cases, conduct the interviews, and provide ongoing communication with each Survivor as the case proceeds through the justice system

### Do I have to Make a Statement?

You do not have to make a statement or answer questions but it will help police investigate the crime.

The investigators with the Human Trafficking Enforcement Team recognizes how difficult it is for you at this time to provide a statement. They will encourage you to provide one but they will recognize that it is your choice if you decide not to.

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team are committed to helping you regardless if you choose to make a statement or not.

Victims often provide important evidence that help police charge the Accused person and prevent them from committing the crime again.

By providing a statement, it will also guide the police to lay charges against your trafficker. By arresting and laying charges on your trafficker, this will help the police to keep you safe.

- Tell the police, in your own words, everything you remember about what happened
- Sometimes the questions police must ask might be difficult or embarrassing to answer. The Human Trafficking investigator will provide you with support to help you get through your statement and not judge you. If you need to take a break during the statement, the investigator will provide you with as many breaks as you need.
- Try not to leave anything out, even if you don't think it is important
- If, while giving your statement, you need to take a break, just tell the officer. You can take as many breaks as needed.

### Who sees my Statement?

The Crown attorney, the defence attorney, the police, the judge and the Accused will see a copy of your statement.

### Can I change my Statement at a Later Time?

Yes, you may change or amend your statement at a later date if you remember something of significance about the crime.

Contact the officer in charge of your case and tell him/her about the details you have remembered.

### Can I make a Report even if Time has Passed?

In Canada, there is no limitation on how long passes before you report it to police. Therefore, you can make the report at any time

### Who lays the charges against the Offender?

Based on the information that you have provided, it is at the discretion of the police to investigate and lay charges where they believe on reasonable grounds that an offence has been committed



## What is Sexual Assault?

A sexual assault is any unwanted sexual contact. Sexual assault can happen to anyone, regardless of gender, age and cultural background. It includes, but is not limited to, unwanted kissing, touching, penetration or attempted penetration.

Sexual assault can be committed by anyone; as stranger, a friend, a partner, a family member or a person in a position of authority.

If you report being sexually assaulted as a part of your statement the police may ask you to do a Sexual Assault Evidence Kit (SAEK).

## Do I have Choices regarding the Sexual Assault Evidence Kit (SAEK)?

The process for the SAEK is voluntary, which means that your consent is required. As a Survivor of Sexual Assault, we support the choices that you make with respect to the process that is best for you.

The following choices are available to Survivors of Sexual Assault regarding the SAEK:

- It is your choice to have a SAEK done and ask for police involvement
- It is your choice to have a SAEK done, but request no police involvement. The kit can be held for up to 6 months at the Sexual Assault Care Centre, in case you change your mind and want to involve police at a later date.
- It is your choice to refuse the SAEK and still ask for police involvement.

## What is a Sexual Assault Evidence Kit (SAEK)?

The kit is a package of envelopes, bottles and other containers used to collect and preserve evidence.

Evidence can be collected from many different parts of the body and at different points in time, the best time to have the kit completed is within 72 hours of the assault.

## Where is the SAEK kit completed?

The SAEK kit is completed by a registered nurse that is specially trained to collect the evidence. The kits are conducted at a Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Care Centre

There are 3 centers that conduct these tests in Toronto:

**Women’s College Hospital**

76 Grenville Street

Toronto ON, M5S 1B2

416-323-6040

<https://www.womenscollegehospital.ca/care-programs/sexual-assault-domestic-violence-care-centre/>

**Scarborough Health Network – Birchmount Campus**

3030 Birchmount Road

Toronto, ON, M1W 3W3

416-495-2555

<https://www.shn.ca/sexual-assault/>

**Hospital for Sick Children**

Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Program (SCAN)

55 University Avenue

Toronto, ON

416-813-7500

<http://www.sickkids.ca/SCAN/>

A Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Care Centers provide emergency care, follow-up health care and counselling to both male and female Victim’s of sexual assault and intimate partner violence. The care provided is available 24 hrs a day and includes services such as; crisis intervention, documentation of injuries, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy, forensic evidence collection and preservation for release to police, safety planning and referrals for ongoing support.

**YourChoice.to**

For more information on resources for Survivors of sexual assault, [www.yourchoice.to](http://www.yourchoice.to) is a one-stop shop for sexual assault survivors to find resources and support service that are accessible to them. Whether their choice is to confide in a friend, go to the hospital, seek legal advise or report to the police, the website is designed to empower survivors to make choices with respect to the process that is right for them. It is not about reporting, it’s about ensuring survivor have

enough information to make informed choices on the process that is best for them.

YourChoice.to also includes a 26-page document that provides answers to questions most commonly asked by survivor of sexual assault, which has been translated into 12 different languages.

### What other Types of Evidence are Collected?

Evidence is a very important part of any criminal investigation. The evidence collected is used later at trial to assist in proving the case against the alleged assailant.

Evidence can include video statements, cell phones, social media content and other documentation. If you have been sexually assaulted, biological evidence will also be used as evidence.

### I am Afraid because my Trafficker Threatened my Family and Me. How will the Police keep me Safe?

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team will make every effort to ensure your safety. Police will provide you with a safe place to stay and your support team will continue to work with you to provide you with shelter and housing options.

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team will transport you to a safe location and will provide you with a safety plan. This is to ensure that your trafficker will not be able to locate you or communicate with you.

### Will reporting to Police affect my Immigration Status?

NO. Your immigration status will **NOT** be affected by reporting to the police.

### Will Everyone know what Happened to Me?

Your privacy is important to us. When an arrest is made in relation to Human Trafficking, the Accused's information and charges are released in a Media Release.

The Human Trafficking Team will advise you BEFORE the media release is made public.

Your name, personal details and anything that would identify you as a victim will NEVER be released to the media. Protecting you and your identity is our number one priority.

### What Happens after an Arrest is made?

Once a person is arrested and charged, they become the “Accused”.

In most cases, Accused persons are held in custody and brought to court for a Show Cause Bail Hearing. This hearing is before a Justice of the Peace or Judge, with a Crown Attorney representing the Crown and a lawyer representing the Accused.

The Judge or Justice of the Peace will determine if the Accused is to be released on Bail, or Held in Custody and transported to a Jail.

If an Accused is released, there are usually conditions that will be placed upon them, that they must abide by while out on Bail. These types of conditions include, but are not limited to:

- A No Contact Order – directly, or indirectly with the Victim and other named parties, should they be relevant – this means that the Accused, or anyone else at the request of the Crown, cannot contact the Victim, by any means
- The No Contact order – typically includes that the Accused cannot attend any location that you are known to work, reside or attend.
- If the Accused disobeys any of the conditions placed upon them at the Bail Hearing, contact police immediately as this is a direct violation of their release
- If anyone contacts you and threatens or tries to intimidate you into not testifying notify the police immediately. No one can influence you not to provide testimony. They can be arrested for Obstructing Justice if they do.

The Accused will make numerous court appearances before the matter is set for a Trial. The Victim is not required to attend these court dates. These dates are routine and are for preparation for Trial.

The Victim will have to attend court if there is a Preliminary Hearing or Trial.

### What if the Offender is Not Caught?

Cases are never closed. Should the offender not be caught, the information stays open until further evidence comes to light, or the offender is located and arrested. The Human Trafficking Team will make every effort to arrest and charge the person(s) who have exploited you into the sex trade.

### Do Police Always Charge an Offender?

The role of the police is to investigate all allegations of any criminal offence. If there is enough evidence to support the laying of charges, the police are obligated to lay those charges. In cases where no charge is laid, the police should be able to offer an explanation to you as to why. The police may know who is responsible for the crime, but lack the evidence to prove it in court.

If there is not enough evidence to proceed and police cannot lay a charge, the investigating officer can tell you about the civil options that are available to you.

### Who is the Crown Attorney?

Crown attorneys are the prosecutors in the legal system of Canada. Crown attorneys represent the Crown and act as prosecutor in proceedings.

Ontario has a human trafficking prosecution team composed of specialized Crown attorneys who are responsible for handling human trafficking cases.

This team possesses specialized knowledge to prosecute cases, such as alternatives to in-court testimony (for example, via videoconference or testifying with supports) and can support a victim through the court process.

### What happens in Court?

The court process can be intimidating to many people. The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team has gone to great lengths to provide as much support as possible for you during this time. A Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)

member will be assigned to you for the case. They will be there to provide ongoing support while the court process takes place.

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program member will:

- Help you understand what to expect at each court appearance you are required to attend
- Let you know when you are required to come to court
- Provide you with any court related paperwork you need
- Help you complete a Victim Impact Statement
- Coordinate with the Crown Attorney's Office to have you meet with the Crown Attorney, before you need to testify

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team will make all arrangements to pick you up and have you transported to court. The Team member will stay with you at court and ensure that you are not intimidated or harassed while awaiting your testimony.

You will be brought to a secure location within the courthouse and the team member will remain with you until you are asked to provide testimony. This is to ensure that you feel safe and protected during the court process.

If you need to take a break during your testimony, the team member will remain with you.

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team and your supports will be in contact with you throughout the whole process. They are a direct contact for any questions, concerns or needs that you may have.

### What is a Trial?

A trial is when a Crown Attorney and the Accused's lawyer will ask the victim and other witnesses what has occurred. This is all done in front of a Judge. At the end of the Trial, the Judge will review the evidence presented in court and render a finding, the verdict. Reviewing the evidence presented can take some time for the Judge, or Judge and Jury to review.

The Accused can be found Guilty or Not Guilty. These findings are laid out at the end of the trial. If at the end of the trial, the Accused is found to be Not Guilty, which means they are acquitted of the charges and are free to go. This does not mean that you or other witnesses were not believed, it means that not enough evidence was found, beyond a reasonable doubt, to have a finding of guilt.

If the Accused is found guilty, a sentencing hearing will be done on another date. You will not be required to attend on that date, however, you are allowed to, should you want to go.

### Will I have to Testify in Court?

If the Accused has chosen to plead Not Guilty, you will likely need to provide testimony at the Preliminary Hearing and Trial.

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team and your support team will meet with you and the Crown attorney assigned to your case prior to you having to testify in court. The Crown attorney will prepare you for what to expect in court and will answer any questions you may have.

Sometime before the trial, the Crown will ensure that you are provided with a copy of your statement, which will help refresh your memory (often the trial can be a long time after the offence). You may be asked to read your statement over a number of times to ensure that the answers you provide in court match the answers given in your statement.

The Crown will also show you the court room prior to the trial date so that you can see where the trial will take place.

If you are expressing concerns about seeing your trafficker in the court room and you feel that seeing him/her will affect your testimony the Crown can make an application so that you can testify in another room via CCTV (video). Most of the victims in Human Trafficking cases choose this method of testifying as they have expressed a great deal of fear and anxiety about seeing their trafficker in court. The Crown will make every effort to protect your rights and dignity, which will assist you in providing your testimony.

The website [www.courtprep.ca](http://www.courtprep.ca) can also provide you with some information on the Canadian Justice process and shows you an animated courtroom.

### Will I see the Accused and his/her Associates at Court?

The team members from the Human Trafficking Enforcement Team who transported you to court will bring you immediately to a private room in the courthouse. You will stay in the room until you are needed to testify. If you want to leave and go outside the officers will walk with you. This is to ensure that you feel safe at all times during the court process. If the Accused or any of associates of the Accused attempt to threaten or communicate with you the officers will respond and further criminal charges may be laid.

### Where does the Accused sit in the Courtroom?

If the Accused is in custody, he or she will usually sit in a transparent enclosure, which is guarded by court officers. If the Accused is **not** in custody, he or she may sit in the courtroom beside his or her lawyer.

If the Accused has been released on bail, he or she may be sitting beside their lawyer or in the public seating area of the courtroom.

### Is there Appropriate Attire to wear to Court?

Although there are no set rules on what to wear to court, there are some general rules of the court regarding attire. If you are wearing a hat, for example, you will be asked to take it off. Other rules of courtroom etiquette, such as not talking while court is in session and turning cell phones off, will also be enforced.

### What Happens if I Change my Mind after the Charges are Laid?

Victims of crime should be treated with courtesy, candour, respect and dignity. The rights of victims to information, protection, participation and restitution are recognized by the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights and the Ontario Victims' Bill of Rights.

Prosecutors must display sensitivity, fairness and compassion in their dealings with victims. Victims have the right to convey their views about decisions to be made



that affect their rights under the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights and to have those views considered.

However, other compelling public interest factors will be balanced against the victim's wishes. For example, if the Accused poses a risk to the public or if there is a concern that the victim is being intimidated or pressured not to proceed. All of these factors will be carefully considered in deciding whether to proceed with a case. The Crown Attorney will make the final decision to proceed with the case.

### What is a Victim Impact Statement?

If the Accused is found guilty or pleads guilty to the charges, the Crown Attorney will ask you to complete a Victim Impact Statement. This document is your opportunity to say how the situation has affected you, your life, both emotionally and physically.

The Judge will consider your Victim Impact Statement when they are imposing a sentence.

It is your choice to complete the Victim Impact Statement. You are not required to do so. However, it is very important for the Judge to see exactly how you and your life has been affected.

If you do complete the statement, the Judge is required to consider all your information before imposing sentencing.

### What kind of Sentences can a Judge order?

There are numerous types of sentences that can be ordered.

#### **Incarceration**

- Offender is sent to jail
- The *Criminal Code* sets out the maximum term of imprisonment available for each criminal offence as well as minimum sentences for some offences. The Judge decides what the appropriate sentence is in each individual case.
- A No Contact order can also be added so the offender cannot contact the Victim while in jail

- If the Sentence is less than 2 years, the Offender is sent to a Provincial Jail and may also be given a Probation Order that they have to comply with following their release from Jail
- If the Sentence is 2 years or more, the Offender is sent to a Federal Prison and will be subject to Parole Supervision if released into the community on parole before the end of their sentence
- There are Minimum, Medium and Maximum-security prisons

### **Intermittent Sentence**

- Only available if a Judge imposes a sentence of 90 days or less
- The offender reports to jail on Friday evenings and stays in jail until Sunday evening. This happens again on subsequent consecutive weekends until the offender serves the entire sentence
- This sentence allows the offender to go to work, school or manage any Health issues
- This sentence is always accompanied by a Probation Order, that the offender must comply with when not in jail

### **Conditional Sentence**

- Available where the sentence imposed is less than 2 years, there is no minimum sentence for the offence, it is not one of the offences listed in the *Criminal Code* which is prohibited from being eligible for a conditional sentence (e.g. human trafficking) and the court is satisfied that serving the sentence in the community would not endanger the safety of the community and would be consistent with the fundamental purposes and principles of sentencing.
- The jail sentence is served in the community (i.e. at home) while under the supervision of a probation officer and subject to conditions such as house arrest. A probation order can also follow a conditional sentence, lengthening the amount of time the offender is required to abide by conditions and is under the supervision of a probation officer. If an offender breaches the terms of a conditional sentence order, he can be re-arrested for the breach and after a Breach of Conditional Sentence hearing a Judge can either order that the offender serve the rest of the conditional sentence in a jail or allow the offender to continue serving the rest of the conditional sentence at home.

### **Suspended Sentence with Probation**

- A Judge may choose to delay or “Suspend” the passing of sentence on the offender for a specific period of time. If the Accused does not commit any new criminal offences during the time period that the sentence is suspended, no further sentence can be imposed for the original offence. However, if the offender does commit new criminal offences during the time period of the suspended sentence, the offender can be brought before the original sentencing Judge who can impose any available sentence for the original offence which resulted in the suspended sentence. Suspended sentences are always accompanied by a Probation Order, which requires the offender to abide by certain conditions set by the Judge.
- The offender does not serve any jail time but is under the supervision of a Probation Officer

Orders a Judge can make at the Sentencing stage, depending on the circumstances of the case: DNA order, SOIRA Order, Firearms Prohibition and Forfeiture Order

### **Probation**

- When offenders are supervised in the community after they have served a jail sentence of less than two years or in addition to certain types of sentences (such as a conditional discharge, fine or suspended sentence)
- They are supervised by a Probation Officer for a period of up to three years
- The offender usually has conditions to follow that are listed on the Probation Order which can include: No drugs or alcohol, staying away from areas, places or people, attend treatment or counselling if the offender agrees, seek or maintain employment, not to possess any weapon
- If the offender violates any of the conditions placed upon them, they may be arrested and charged with a new offence of Breach of Probation.

### **Appeals**

- The Accused can ask for an Appeal to a higher court of a guilty verdict at the end of a trial, as well as an appeal of the sentence imposed where an Accused is found guilty after a trial or pleads guilty
- The Crown Attorney, in certain circumstances, can ask for an Appeal to a higher court of a not guilty verdict at the end of a trial, as well as an appeal of the sentence imposed where an Accused is found guilty or pleads guilty.
- The Appeal must be filed within 30 days of sentencing

- The Appeal Court can either allow the appeal or dismiss the appeal. If the verdict is being appealed by either the Accused or the Crown, a new trial could be ordered by the Appeal Court
- You will only be required to testify again if the Appeal Court orders a new trial

### What is a Plea Bargain?

Plea bargaining occurs when the Crown and the defence come to an agreement wherein the Accused pleads guilty. The guilty plea usually comes in exchange for a benefit such as reducing the charge against the Accused or where the two sides agree upon a sentence.

If a plea bargain occurs in your case, it does not mean that the offence is less serious or that the Crown doesn't believe you. It is commonly used to save both time and money, as the court system could not handle the volume of cases that come before it without the plea bargaining system. Since Crowns have a good idea of the type of sentence that a judge is likely to impose for a particular crime, if they can get the Accused to agree to a term close to this, they may not see the benefit of a trial.

Crown Attorneys MUST confer with victims of crime before proceeding with a plea bargain. A Judge will ask during the plea/sentencing if the Crown Attorney has informed the victim of the proposed sentence, and ask if he/she wants to provide any input. Victims appreciate being informed of happenings in their case and are more likely to accept a plea bargain when the reasons behind it have been explained.

Plea bargains also occur when an accused wishes to take responsibility for the crime, to demonstrate remorse, in efforts to hopefully receive mitigation at sentencing.

It is also important to note that Crowns do not require a victim's permission before proceeding with a plea. A plea bargain can be made at any time including, up to, and during the trial.

It is often difficult for victims to understand why the Crown would plead down charges against the Accused, especially when the case seems so strong. Speak to the Crown and have them explain the reasons for doing so. Ultimately, it is the judge who has the final discretion in accepting or rejecting a plea.

Regardless of the fact that a plea bargain has been entered, you still have the right to submit a Victim Impact Statement.

### When will the Offender be released from Prison?

Most Offenders do not serve their full sentence in jail. In most cases, the offender will be released from jail on Parole after serving part of the sentence. You can request to be notified of the Offender's release or Parole Hearing.

If the Offender is serving a sentence in a Provincial Jail you can register with the Victim Notification System by calling 1-888-579-2888.

Choose the option for Victim Notification Service.

If the Offender is serving a sentence in a Federal Prison, you can register with the National Parole Board by calling 1-800-518-8817.

### What is Parole?

Parole is a conditional release from a jail before the offender has served the entire sentence imposed, which permits the offender to serve the rest of his/her sentence in the community under the supervision of a probation and parole officer (if the sentence was served in a provincial jail) or a parole officer (if the sentence was served in a federal penitentiary).

In Ontario, the release of offenders from jail before the end of their sentence is the responsibility of the Ontario Parole Board. The Parole Board of Canada is responsible for the early release of offenders who receive prison sentences of two years or more.

A Parole Board will decide, based on their governing legislation, whether or not to approve the offender's application for Parole. Some of the factors they consider

are the offender's behavior in jail and whether s/he has completed programming or treatment.

Most offenders who are serving a penitentiary sentence of two years or more can apply for early release from prison to The Parole Board of Canada after serving 1/3 of their sentence, or after 7 years, whichever comes first. If the offender is denied Parole, they can reapply after 2 years. If Parole is approved, the offender will be released from prison, and serve the remainder of their sentence in the community, under specific conditions and under the supervision of a Parole Officer. If the offender violates the conditions while on Parole, it can be revoked and the offender is sent back to prison. In some instances, the Judge can order that the Offender is not allowed to apply for full Parole until they have served one half of the sentence or ten years, whichever is less. If this is the case, it will be stated at the time of sentencing.

### What is the Canadian Victims Bill of Rights?

The Canadian Victim Bill of Rights is a set of principles that guides how Victims of crime should be treated at different stages of the Criminal Justice process.

A Victim, according to the Act, is defined as an individual who has suffered physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss as the result of a crime.

The Canadian Victim Bill of Rights provides the following statutory rights for Victims of Crime;

- Right to Information
- Right to Participation
- Right to Protection
- Right to Restitution

Every victim has the right to present a victim impact statement to the sentencing Judge before the Judge decides what sentence to impose on the offender. When a victim impact statement is filed in court, the Judge must consider it when determining what sentence to impose. The victim impact statement is the means by which the Judge learns about the physical and emotional harm, property damage, or economic loss suffered by the victim as a result of the crime and the impact of the crime on the victim.

In Ontario, Victim Witness Assistance Program workers can assist victims of crime with completing Victim Impact Statements. The victim impact statement can be filed on paper only, or read in court by the victim or by the Crown, or read by the victim from outside the courtroom through closed circuit television so that the victim does not have to see the offender.

For more information on the Canadian Victim Bill of Rights you can go to:  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/policing/victims.html>

### Can I get Financial Compensation?

As a Survivor of Human Trafficking, you are eligible to be financially compensated.

The Canadian Victims Bill of Rights (2015) provides victims with a right to ask the court to consider restitution if the offender is convicted. If ordered, the offender's sentence may include **restitution**, requiring the offender pay an amount directly to the victim of the offence to help cover monetary losses or damage to property caused by the crime.

### I have a Large Financial Debt. Can I get Help?

When a trafficker uses coercion or fraud to obtain credit in the victim's name, coerced debt is created. In coercive debt situations, for example, a victim may be threatened, forced, or tricked into renting cars, paying for hotels, gas, food, and rent, among other things.

The victim may also be forced to take out personal loans, student loans, open credit lines, or apply for certain social benefits, which are then turned over to the trafficker.

### Project Recover

Project Recover offers free support, guidance, advice and advocacy to Survivors of human trafficking who are dealing with the negative impact of coerced debt on their credit profile. To date, Project Recover has had a 100% success rate in advocating on behalf of Survivors of sex trafficking. Project Recover also offers a number of practical resources for survivors and social service providers, and a toolkit about human trafficking for Canadian lenders

For more information please visit:  
<https://projectrecover.ca> or  
call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010

### Victim Services of Toronto

Victim Services Toronto provides short-term crisis response, intervention and prevention services which are responsive to the needs of individuals, families and communities in the immediate aftermath of crime and sudden tragedy (typically within 72 hours).

Victim Services Toronto provides short-term crisis response, intervention and prevention services which are responsive to the needs of individuals, families and communities in the immediate aftermath of crime and sudden tragedy (typically within 72 hours).

Victim Services Toronto also has several programs in place to assist victims of Human Trafficking. Some of these programs are:

#### Victim Crisis Response Program

The Victim Crisis Response Program assists individuals and their families in the immediate aftermath of crime or sudden unexpected tragedy. Operating 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, the Victim Crisis Response Program is the **only** service in Toronto providing immediate on-scene crisis, trauma, safety and support services to victims of crime and sudden tragedies.

#### High Risk Support Services

High Risk Support Services promotes the safety of individuals and their families who are at a high risk of experiencing violence by an intimate ex-partner. Case Coordinators work with clients to create comprehensive safety plans, reassess safety options as circumstances change, as well as provide advocacy and linkages to community supports.

#### Case Management Services

Case Management Services are short-term (one to three months) intensive assistance for victims of major crime and sudden tragedy who experience multiple barriers to accessing services. The services are tailored to the needs of each individual and may include: emotional support, systems advocacy, financial



assistance (limited eligibility), safety planning, accompaniment, assistance with accessing a wide range of programs, services and resources, assistance in navigating bureaucracies. Case Management implementation of the Victim Quick Response Program.

### What is VQRP?

The Victim Quick Response Program (VQRP) is designed to assist victims of the most violent crime who require immediate financial assistance that cannot be obtained through other sources. Eligible victims of homicide, attempted murder, serious assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking and hate crimes have access to limited financial assistance.

Please contact Victim Services Toronto in order to determine eligibility. Case Coordinators will meet with victims, assist with the application process and ensure that victims have the proper community supports. The program is designed to fill the gap between when a crime occurs and when the victim receives longer-term support services.

Please note that Victim Services Toronto will submit the application to the Ministry of the Attorney General, which is responsible for the administration of the program.

For more information about VQRP please visit:

<https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/vqrp.php>

Contact Information:

**Victim Services of Toronto**

40 College Street

Toronto, ON

(416) 808-7066

<https://victimservicestoronto.com/>

### What is the Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)?

VWAP provides information, assistance and support with respect to the court process for all Survivors and witnesses of crime.

The VWAP is located within courthouses across the province. The Ministry of the Attorney General website lists the location of VWAP offices.

[www.ontario.ca/attorneygeneral](http://www.ontario.ca/attorneygeneral)

### **I belong to the LGBTQ2S+ Community. Are Resources Available to Me?**

The Toronto Police Service is here to help you because we have a responsibility to protect and serve ALL victims of crime. Members will continue to build upon our understanding of diversity, the importance of respect for all people, and how to demonstrate inclusion, respect and dignity for all people no matter their identity.

The Human Trafficking Enforcement Team is dedicated to identifying elements of trafficking across all demographics and demonstrate cultural competency when working with ALL victims of trafficking.

We have included LGBTQ2S+ friendly organizations under the Community Resources section of this website. You can also contact our LGBTQ2+ Liaison Officer, Constable Carmen Wong, at 416-808- 7268, for more information.

If you identify as Transgender, you can review our Guide to Police Service in Toronto – Dedicated to the Trans Communities of Toronto.

[https://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/guide\\_to\\_police\\_services\\_trans\\_community.pdf](https://www.torontopolice.on.ca/publications/files/guide_to_police_services_trans_community.pdf)

**Efforts to end human trafficking are only effective when all victims of human trafficking receive support and assistance, including those who identify as LGBTQ2+.**

### **I have an Addiction. Can I get Help?**

Yes. The Human Trafficking Team will provide you with support services to help you with your addiction(s). Freedom from Addiction is one of Canada's leading and most innovative alcohol and drug addiction recovery homes. Freedom from Addiction is a leader in drug and alcohol addiction recovery, offering a host of superb addiction treatment programs and services for youth, adults, families and employers.

Freedom from Addiction also provides a safe, sensitive, and sober space and offer different types of LGBTQ2S+ -friendly addiction treatment programs.

**Freedom from Addiction**

Aurora ON

1-888-241-3391

[Freedomfromaddiction.ca](http://Freedomfromaddiction.ca)

**Where can I get free Confidential telephone Support?**

**Chrysalis Anti-Human Trafficking Network**

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. We also offer ongoing support to sex workers who do not personally identify as being trafficked or exploited.

We provide our callers with counselling, local referrals and Project Lifeline, a safe buddy system for sex workers operating in isolation. To use the Lifeline, just call and let us know when you're entering and expected to leave a date you're concerned about. If we don't hear back from you at the scheduled time, we'll inform your emergency contact and work to verify your safety.

<http://www.chrysalisnetwork.org/>

1-866-528-7109

**Where can I find Help and Counselling in Toronto?**

**Covenant House**

20 Gerrard Street East

Toronto ON

416-598-4898

[www.covenanthousetoronto.ca](http://www.covenanthousetoronto.ca)

Canada's largest homeless youth agency, Covenant House provides a wide range of services and support under one roof: 24/7 crisis shelter and transitional housing on-site and in the community along with comprehensive services, including

education, counselling, health care, employment assistance, job training and aftercare.

The team at Covenant House has access to numerous services that provide housing, financial assistance, counselling, rehousing, and many other services.

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**Boost CYAC**

890 Yonge Street  
Toronto ON  
(416) 515-1100

[www.boostforkids.org](http://www.boostforkids.org)

The Human Trafficking Team has also collaborated with the Boost Child and Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) to provide supports for underage victims. A registered charity, Boost CYAC is a community-based organization that provides programs and services for children, youth and their families after abuse or violence has occurred. Boost CYAC also provides prevention programming and training for parents, professionals, post-secondary students and the community.

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**Strides Toronto**

(416) 321-5464

[www.stridestoronto.ca](http://www.stridestoronto.ca)

<https://stridestoronto.ca/programs/gender-based-violence/>

The Gender-Based Violence Program at Strides Toronto offers a variety of services for survivors of human trafficking, including trauma therapy, case management, peer support and group support.

Strides Toronto is a multi-service agency that offers a variety of programs and services for children, youth and families. As Lead Agency for infant, child and youth mental health in Toronto, Strides Toronto works with 31 core service providers to design and implement system-level improvements that transform access to

services, experience of services and the mental health outcomes for Toronto's diverse communities.

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**Safe Hope Home**

15-75 Bayly Street West

Ajax, ON

[info@safehopehome.com](mailto:info@safehopehome.com)

Safe Hope Home seeks to provide long-term recovery programs, designed to guide sexually exploited or trafficked women, or those at identifiable risk of becoming sexually exploited/trafficked into full rehabilitation and reintegration into society. This process includes housing, post-secondary education, counselling and more.

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**360°Kids**

Newmarket, ON

(905) 475-6694

<https://www.360kids.ca/>

360°Kids provides a host of youth support services to help isolated and vulnerable youth who are at-risk or homeless from across York Region to overcome adversity and crisis and to move to a state of safety, stability and well-being. Programs offered are emergency and longer term housing, employment programs, counselling, basic needs, outreach, gang prevention and education upgrading (iGrad).

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**Project iRISE**

<https://www.projectirise.org/>

Project iRISE is a Survivor-led, community-based not-for-profit organization providing innovative skills & leadership development programs & opportunities for Survivors of human trafficking and those at risk. We provide trauma-informed and culturally responsive anti-trafficking programming and educational training for Survivors, youth, caregivers, service providers to educate and empower our community.

**Lotus Health**

555 University Avenue

Toronto, ON

437-226-3579

[lotus.health@sickkids.ca](mailto:lotus.health@sickkids.ca)

Lotus Health is a health and advocacy program for children and youth under the age of 18 years who have experienced, are currently experiencing, or may be at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking.

Lotus Health are a multidisciplinary healthcare team who provides medical and mental health services and works closely with community partners to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to care.

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**Lifeworthy**

**A SIM Project**

10 Huntingdale Boulevard

Scarborough, ON

1-800-294-6918

<https://lifeworthy.ca/parents-hope>

Lifeworthy provides and promotes supportive community and spiritual care for sex trafficked victims and their families. Led by John Cassells, Ashley Constable and their team of volunteers, this project provides three main areas of ministry:

- Mentoring and life coaching for young women who have been exploited in the sex industry.
- ‘Parents Hope’ ministry to provide care for family members of sex trafficking victims.
- Consulting and training churches and para-church organizations for human trafficking related ministries.
- If you have a loved one who is being trafficked or otherwise involved in sex industry activities, Parents Hope is here to support you.

- We offer online peer-led support group meetings as well as individual support.
  - There is no fee for services. Parents Hope is a program of Lifeworthy - SIM Canada
  - For more information, email Lynda at [parents.hope@lifeworthy.ca](mailto:parents.hope@lifeworthy.ca) or visit <https://lifeworthy.ca/parents-hope/>.
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### **Courage for Freedom**

Kelly Franklin, Founder  
Courage for Freedom Head Office  
PO Box 414 Station Main  
Chatham, ON N7M 5K5  
Phone: 519-615-2292  
Phone/Text: 519-870-2292  
<https://courageforfreedom.org>

At Courage for Freedom we educate, train, and certify front-line staff and community service providers with proven strategies and prevention tactics to serve vulnerable victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. We bring awareness to community agencies and personnel, government agencies, teachers and families who work or serve in a position of influence or care in this sector. Using our front line work experiences, lived experiences, care solutions, trauma recommendations and support options, we have offered countless survivors and their support persons/families empowering advice for their self-direction towards safety and even exiting. Our Horses that Heal programs offer trafficking trauma support starting points, followed by in person and offering virtual mentoring. We assist agencies with consultant recommendations, trend updates and hope. CFF having served countless survivors since 2013 with real time solutions and honest system navigation relies on a team lead by Kelly ( a human trafficking and sexual exploitation survivor) best-selling author and award winning activist whose goal is to listen to survivors and support their futures unilaterally.

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**The FCJ Refugee Centre**

208 Oakwood Ave.  
Toronto, ON  
(416)-469-9754

[www.fcjrefugeecentre.org](http://www.fcjrefugeecentre.org)

The FCJ Refugee Centre serves refugees and others at risk due to their immigration status, and welcomes anyone asking for advice, counsel and support regarding these issues. FCJ Refugee Centre addresses systemic issues that newly arrived refugee claimants face in Canada including lack of resources, marginalization, and discrimination.

The FCJ Refugee Centre offers direct services to people who have been trafficked, taking into account the range of supports needed. Walking with survivors through legal processes, immigration procedures, settlement and recovery, we take a holistic approach to ensure people are informed and empowered to steer their own course out of the trafficking experience.

The centre ensures trafficked persons have access to orientation, legal assistance and referrals, information about their immigration options, appropriate housing, employment support, counseling and other forms of psycho-social support. The path out of human trafficking may take time, and we ensure that we walk with people the whole way.

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**Metrac**  
**Action on Violence**  
158 Spadina Road  
Toronto, ON  
(416) 392-3135

[www.metrac.org](http://www.metrac.org)

**METRAC works to end gender-based violence across communities, through education, research and policy**

**METRAC works with individuals, communities and institutions to change ideas, actions and policies with the goal of ending violence against women and youth.**



Delivering relevant and boundary-breaking services and programs, we focus on education and prevention and use innovative tools to build safety, justice and equity.

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**Aura Freedom International**  
PO BOX 69018, RPO ST CLAIR CENTRE  
TORONTO, ON  
Email: [info@aurafreedom.org](mailto:info@aurafreedom.org)

<https://aurafreedom.org/>

Created in the name of gender equality, Aura Freedom is a grassroots women's organization that works to eradicate gender-based violence and human trafficking through advocacy and education. We work with a diverse group of allies to achieve our goals.

Through education, advocacy, research, training, and feminist movement building, Aura Freedom has implemented sustainable projects addressing gender-based violence in both Canada and South Asia.

Our work has advanced gender equality, empowered marginalized women and given survivors anti-oppressive access to crucial services.

We have seen firsthand that by simply educating women and girls on their human rights empowers them to resist long-standing societal norms of gender inequality and the resulting implications, and live a life of good health and inclusiveness. When we add [education on the root causes of gender-based violence](#), the impact of our work is further increased.

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**The Elora House – A New Hope**  
Guelph, Ontario  
(519) 710-2176  
[www.ercf.ca/elora-house](http://www.ercf.ca/elora-house)

The project's immediate focus is to provide a safe-haven in Guelph/Wellington County for girls and women exploited by sex trafficking. Elora House will provide immediate lodging, food and clothing and will help connect them with community partners for all areas of counselling and support.

The Elora House Leadership Team is comprised of staff who have experience working with Human trafficking and domestic violence survivors, volunteers in the Guelph/Wellington Community including those who work with victim services, SIM Canada, women's ministry and police services.

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### Indigenous Led Services

Indigenous Survivors can get counselling, cultural programming, addictions treatment and leadership development services.

#### **Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto**

191 Gerrard Street East

Toronto, ON

(416) 963-9963

<https://nwrctportal.ca/live/>

The Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto (NWRCT) is a community-based organization dedicated to providing resources and support to urban Indigenous women and their families. NWRCT delivers culturally relevant programs and services that empower and build the collective capacity and self-sufficiency of Indigenous women.

The Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto (NWRCT) began when a dedicated group of Aboriginal women recognized the need for a gathering place in Toronto where Aboriginal women could share resources, support one another, and practice their traditional ways.

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#### **Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA)**

Phone: 1-800-667-0816

[www.onwa.ca](http://www.onwa.ca)

The Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Liaison (IAHTL) Program supports Indigenous communities in providing survivor focused and localized responses to Human Trafficking. The IAHTL initiative was created by and for Indigenous people in order to end Human Trafficking in our communities.

The program develops and implements culturally grounded presentations, educational materials, trauma-informed tools and resources, as well as, awareness and prevention tools specific to Indigenous HT for communities that are created with invaluable guidance from survivors.

Liaisons organize community engagement and educational sessions with survivors, including youth, Two-Spirit and those who have recently exited, focusing on their strengths and resiliencies in order to inform the development of best practice models.

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### **Talk4Healing**

<https://www.talk4healing.com/>

Toll-free: 1-855-554-HEAL (4325)

**Talk4Healing** is a culturally grounded, fully confidential helpline for Indigenous women available in 14 languages all across Ontario providing:

- Culturally sensitive crisis counselling, advice and support
  - Personalized information and referrals
  - Acceptance of Aboriginal women's issues in a non-judgemental way
  - Help to find the path to personal healing
  - Scheduled telephone counselling sessions
- 

### **Native Child and Family Services of Toronto**

30 College Street

Toronto, ON

(416) 969-8510

<https://nativechild.org/holistic-services/clinical-services/>

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto (NCFST) is a multi-service urban Aboriginal agency providing holistic, culture-based programs and services for Aboriginal children and families.

Our Anti Human Trafficking Team offers an inclusive, non-judgmental approach to support. It's called "Bekaadendang", which means being peaceful. Our goal is to support folks at all stages of their healing journeys find peace within themselves.

We offer specialized support to community members who have had negative sexual experiences (including trafficking), those at risk, those looking to heal, and to families of loved ones who have had one of those negative experiences. At this time, Bekaadendang offers:

- Mental Health support for community 12+;, including therapy for community who would like intensive counselling
- Case Management for community 16+ (but able to change this as needed), for community who need support with finding and accessing housing, employment, education, etc. We have many services internal to NCFST (including substance use support, transitional housing, pre + post-natal support, etc.), so we can provide a Circle of Care within the agency.
- We also run various psycho-education groups, groups for survivors, and are always looking to expand our community offerings
- Each support is guided by the teachings of the Cree Medicine Wheel and takes an empowerment-focused approach to give the person a dedicated space to focus on figuring out what they need & help them achieve it.

Each support is guided by the teachings of the Cree Medicine Wheel and takes an empowerment-focused approach to give the person a dedicated space to focus on figuring out what they need & help them achieve it.

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**Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre**

439 Dundas Street East

Toronto ON

(416) 360-4350

[www.councilfire.ca](http://www.councilfire.ca)

Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre is an autonomous, vibrant cultural agency that involves and serves the Indigenous community with confidence for and commitment to their well-being. Our mandate is to provide counselling, material assistance and other direct services to First Nations people as well as to encourage and enhance spiritual and personal growth.

Please see below for many of Toronto Council Fire's programs and services:

## SECTORS / PROGRAMS

- 1) Core Sector: *Finance - Maintenance - Restoration of Identity (ROI) Project including the Teaching, Learning, Sharing and Healing (TLSH) Space with the TRC Call to Action 82 Turtle Sculpture and the Annual IRSS Legacy Celebration at Nathan Phillips Square [www.irsslegacy.com](http://www.irsslegacy.com)*
  - 2) Gathering Place: *Drop In Kitchen - Food Bank - Counselling Housing/Homelessness - Community Events and Information Fairs*
  - 3) Child & Family Support & Wellbeing: *Prenatal Nutrition Program - Family Nurturing Program - Special Programs and Events*
  - 4) Health and Wellbeing Sector: *Indigenous Healing and Wellness - Life Long Care Program - Urban Aboriginal Healthy Living Program - Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin (I am a Kind Man)*
  - 5) Youth and Youth Wellness Navigation Sector: *Akwe:go Program - Little Embers Program - Was-Nabin Program - Youth Life Promotion Program - Youth Wellness Navigation Program*
  - 6) Education, Awareness and Wellbeing Sector: *Literacy and Basic Skills - Apatisiwin (Employment and Training)*
  - 7) Resolution Health / Cultural Support & Indian Residential School Survivors (IRSS): *Naandwidizwin – Wechihitita (Healing Ourselves – Helping Each Other) - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Trans and Two Spirits (MMIWGT2S)*
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## LGBTQ2s+ Led Services

**The Toronto Rape Crisis Centre / Multicultural Women Against Rape (TRCC/MWAR)**

**24H Crisis Line: 416-597-8808**

P.O. Box 59098

Toronto, Ontario

M6R 3B5

<https://trccmwar.ca>

The TRCC/MWAR is a grassroots, women and non-binary people run collective. We work towards a violence-free world by providing anti-oppressive, feminist peer support to Survivors of gender-based or sexualized violence.

The TRCC/MWAR engage in public education, activism, and provide direct individual and group support to Survivors and their supporters.

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## Lotus Health

555 University Avenue

Toronto, ON

437-226-3579

[lotus.health@sickkids.ca](mailto:lotus.health@sickkids.ca)

Lotus Health is a health and advocacy program for children and youth under the age of 18 years who have experienced, are currently experiencing, or may be at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking.

Lotus Health are a multidisciplinary healthcare team who provides medical and mental health services and works closely with community partners to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to care.

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## Other Resources for Survivors

### Illuminate

604-347-9500

Canada Wide Toll Free Number 1-855-332-4283

[Connect@illuminateht.com](mailto:Connect@illuminateht.com)  
[www.illuminateht.com](http://www.illuminateht.com)

The Salvation Army Illuminate, based in British Columbia, supports Survivors of trafficking across Canada to access help, support, relocation, treatment, leadership and employment training, and much more.

Their Deborah's Gate Live in Program provides wrap around aftercare and rehabilitation, and their Propel Survivor Development Centre offers navigation, counselling and equine therapy, employment, mentoring, both in person in British Columbia and digitally for Survivors anywhere in Canada.

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**Timea Nagy**

<https://www.timeanagy.com/>

Timea is an International Speaker and Social Advocate for change.

Human trafficking survivor, author, speaker and social advocate, Timea Nagy, immigrated to Canada in 1998. Her nightmare unfolded in Toronto in that same year after arriving from Budapest, Hungary in the hopes of finding meaningful employment. The daughter of a Hungarian policewoman, Timea was held (For three terrifying months) at the hands of traffickers and was forced to work in the sex industry. Thankfully, she escaped and started life anew. Ten years later, Ms. Nagy founded 'Walk with Me', a non-profit organization to assist victims of human trafficking and law enforcement agencies.

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**Elizabeth Fry Toronto**

215 Wellesley Street East  
Toronto, ON  
(416) 924-3708

<https://www.efrytoronto.org/sex-work-transition-program>

EXIT Doors Here is a Sex Work Trade Transition program with the goal of assisting women to permanently leave the sex trade and recover from the related trauma. We also assist victims of Sex Trafficking.

This program provides personalized wraparound services and time-based interventions for women wishing to exit the sex work industry as well as survivors of sex trafficking.

Exit Doors Here uses a new evidence-based case management model of Critical Time Intervention (CTI). CTI has proven successful in transitioning people from precarious and sensitive situations to stability.

The Exit Doors Here team provides emotional and practical support during critical times of transition and strengthens women's long-term ties to services, family, friends, and the community. CTI is a time-limited evidence-based practice that mobilizes support for vulnerable populations during periods of transition.

If you or someone you know is ready to leave or need help getting there, Elizabeth Fry Toronto is dedicated to providing meaningful support.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The program is open to:

- Reside in the GTA
- Female-identifying individual 18 years and over
- At any stage of sex work, voluntary or involuntary
- A desire to leave sex work
- Experience at least two of the following:
  - a. Has been, or at-risk of being in conflict with the law
  - b. Lack of positive social support/nature support networks
  - c. Substance use with a negative impact
  - d. Unemployment/underemployment/lack of employment skills
  - e. Lack of basic life skills
  - f. Lack of personal safety at the hands of an abuser
  - g. At-risk of homelessness or is homeless



## French Speaking Survivors

### La Maison

Maison d'hébergement pour femmes francophones  
La Maison - Women's Shelter for French speaking women.

Téléphone (647) 777-6433

[www.lamaison-toronto.org](http://www.lamaison-toronto.org)

La Maison est un Centre multiservices qui offre un hébergement aux femmes francophones et leurs dépendants aux prises avec la violence conjugale et familiale.

### Notre mandat

Offrir un environnement sécuritaire aux femmes francophones dans toute leur diversité, avec ou sans enfants, aux prises avec la violence conjugale et familiale afin de les appuyer dans la reprise de leur autonomie. La Maison s'implique également dans des stratégies sociales visant à réduire la vulnérabilité des femmes et à faire valoir leurs droits

Les La Maison est un organisme féministe géré par et pour les femmes d'expression française.

Les services directs, la prévention et la sensibilisation au coeur de la communauté sont une partie intégrante de son engagement.

### Hébergement et soutien

Logement d'urgence temporaire, confidentialité, accueil, écoute, repas, transports d'urgence, gestion et planification des risques de sécurité.

### Accompagnement

Appui dans les démarches légales et administratives, information, orientation et accès aux services et ressources externes, défense des droits, suivi post-hébergement.

### Programme d'activités

Rencontres individuelles et en groupe, ateliers thématiques et créatifs pour les femmes et leurs enfants, activités de loisir et de divertissement.

Liaisons communautaires – Sensibilisation, programme de bénévolat, éducation et formation.

**La clientèle de La Maison :**

Les femmes d'expression française dans toute leur diversité

**Our mandate**

Provide a safe environment for Francophone women in all their diversity, with or without children, struggling with conjugal and family violence in order to support them in regaining their autonomy. The House is also involved in social strategies aimed at reducing women's vulnerability and asserting their rights.

Les La Maison is a feminist organization run by and for French-speaking women. Direct services, prevention and awareness in the heart of the community are an integral part of its commitment.

**Accommodation and support**

Temporary emergency accommodation, confidentiality, reception, listening, meals, emergency transport, security risk management and planning.

**Support**

Support in legal and administrative procedures, information, guidance and access to external services and resources, defense of rights, post-accommodation follow-up.

**Program of activities**

Individual and group meetings, thematic and creative workshops for women and their children, leisure and entertainment activities.

Community Links - Awareness, volunteer program, education and training.

**The customers of La Maison:**

French-speaking women in all their diversity

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**Fem'aide**

[www.femaide.ca](http://www.femaide.ca)

Téléphone : 1 (877) 336-2433

Fem'aide est une ligne d'assistance téléphonique provinciale offerte 24 heures sur 24, 7 jours sur 7, pour femmes qui ont été victimes de violence. Des ressources et des services de soutien sont fournis.

Fem'aide is a 24/7 provincial telephone helpline for French speaking women who have experienced gender based violence. Support and referral services are provided.

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### **OASIS Centre des Femmes**

<https://www.oasisfemmes.org/>

465, rue Yonge

Téléphone : (416) 591-6565

OASIS Centre des femmes offre des services de counseling et de soutien pour femmes francophones (16 ans et plus) relatifs à la violence dans les relations intimes et/ou à caractère sexuel. Leurs heures d'ouverture sont du lundi au vendredi de 9 h à 17 h.)

Oasis Centre des femmes provides counselling and support services to French-speaking women (16 years and older) who have experienced or are experiencing domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Their hours of operation are Monday to Friday 9AM to 5PM

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### **Centre Francophone**

<https://centrefranco.org/fr/>

Téléphone: (416) 922-2672

Le Centre francophone de Toronto est un entre multidisciplinaire offrant des services socio-communautaires variés à l'ensemble de la communauté francophone.

Centre francophone is a Community Hub which offers a variety of social services under one roof.

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### **MOFIF**

Le Mouvement Ontarien des Femmes Immigrantes Francophones  
20 Lower Spadina Avenue

Toronto, ON  
Téléphone: (647) 390-4194

<http://mofif.ca>

Le MOFIF a pour mission de travailler à la mise en place des conditions favorables pour améliorer la situation des filles et des femmes immigrantes francophones et favoriser leur intégration ainsi que leur participation active dans toutes les sphères de la société.

MOFIF's mission is to work to create favorable conditions to improve the situation of French-speaking immigrant girls and women and to promote their integration as well as their active participation in all spheres of society.

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**French Liaison Officer - Community Partnerships and Engagement Unit**

Téléphone : (416) 808-0100

<http://www.torontopolice.on.ca/community/french.php>

Agente de liaison francophone - Unité d'engagement et de partenariats  
communautaires

**Korean Speaking Survivors**

**KCWA Family and Social Services**

5075 Yonge Street, Toronto, ON

416-340-1234

Email: [kwca@kwca.net](mailto:kwca@kwca.net)

<https://www.kcwa.net>

"KCWA Family and Social Services," formerly known as the Korean Canadian Women's Association is a non-profit and charitable organization established in 1985 by a group of women who were concerned about immigrant women and family issues. However, we now serve women, men, seniors and youth.

Our mission statement is "Building the Korean-Canadian community, one person at a time." We aim to empower the Korean Canadian community by providing culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate services and programs that are

aimed to fight domestic violence, poverty and inequity as well as to enhance the well-being of immigrant families.

Over the last 36 years, we have provided individual counselling for settlement-related matters and family issues. We have conducted regular programs and seminars for career development, parenting, finances, accessing social benefits, education, and legal information. We have also done several projects and public awareness campaigns that were designed to support raising community issues.

KCWA has two offices in the GTA. Our main office overlooks the North York Civic Centre and Mel Lastman Square that is directly connected with the North York Centre Station. Our branch is located at Bathurst-Finch in front of the Northview Height Secondary School.

If you are looking for information and services regarding settlement and family counselling, please do not hesitate to contact KCWA.

캐나다한인여성회라고 알려진 KCWA Family and Social Services는 1985년에 캐나다의 한인 이민 여성들과 가정문제에 관심을 가진 여성들에 의해 발족된 비영리 자선단체이며 현재는 남녀노소를 불문하고 서비스를 제공하고 있습니다.

KCWA는 “건강한 우리 지역 사회 만들기, 한 번에 한 사람씩”이라는 임무를 달성하고자, 문화적, 언어적으로 적합한 서비스와 프로그램을 제공하여 지역사회 구성원들이 폭력과 가난, 불평등에서 벗어날 수 있는 능력을 갖도록 지원하며 이민자들의 삶의 질을 향상하도록 돕고 있습니다.

지난 36년동안, 캐나다 정착을 원하는 이민자들의 다양한 문제들과 가정문제들을 위한 개별상담을 제공해왔으며 직업개발, 자녀양육, 재정, 정부 지원프로그램의 이용, 교육, 법률정보 등과 관련된 정기적인 프로그램과 세미나 운영하고 있으며 또한 지역사회의 현안을 해결하고 지원하기 위한 다양한 프로젝트와 지역사회 캠페인을 진행했습니다.

KCWA는 광역토론토내에 2개의 사무실을 운영하고 본사는 노스욕시빅센터와 멜라스트맨 광장을 마주하며 노스욕센터 지하철역과 직접 연결됩니다.

KCWA의 지점은 배더스트-핀치의 노스뷰하이츠 고등학교 앞에 위치하고 있습니다.

정착이나 가정문제와 관련하여 도움이 필요하신 분은 언제든지 KCWA에 연락주십시오.