

Anti-Sex Trafficking

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-  Information about Sex Trafficking
-  Understanding Risk, Warning Signs, and Exploitation
-  Supporting Students Impacted by Sex Trafficking
-  Policies, Procedures and Addition Resources
-  Conclusion

Before you Begin



Click on the ► play button to listen.

After you finish listening, read the content below to learn more.



Content Warning

This presentation contains material about sex trafficking that may be difficult for some individuals to reflect upon or discuss. It may cause a strong emotional and/or physiological response. If needed, contact one of the support providers below: **Windsor Essex**

Counter Exploitation Network

- **Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare** - 24-Hour Crisis Line: 519-973-4435
- **Sexual Assault Crisis Centre** - 24-Hour Crisis Line: 519-253-9667
- **The Crisis and Mental Health Wellness Centre** - 24-Hour Crisis Line: (519) 973-4435
- **Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline** - 24-Hour Crisis Line: 1 (833) 900-1010

A Note on Language

To engage in the Anti-Sex Trafficking training modules it is important to understand the terms, human trafficking, sex trafficking, victim and survivor.

Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking —

The term “human trafficking” is used to refer to the control over and exploitation of an individual. In Ontario, human trafficking is most often used for the purposes of sexual exploitation, also known as “sex trafficking” (though cases of labour exploitation are also known to occur).

Victim —

“Victim” is used to refer to an individual who is in the process of being recruited or is being trafficked.

Survivor —

“Survivor” is used to refer to an individual who has exited a trafficking situation.

- Some individuals will choose not to identify as having experienced “human trafficking”, and may use another term to describe their experiences (e.g., as a “victor” rather than a “victim”).
- It is important to mirror the language that someone uses (e.g., someone may refer to their trafficker as their “boyfriend”), and not use language that imposes external perspectives on their lived experiences.

CONTINUE

Information about Sex Trafficking



Click on the ► play button to listen.

After you finish listening, read the content below to learn more.

This training will provide educators with: An understanding of the urgency and complexity of combatting sex trafficking, including key definitions and signs.

Key Definitions and Statistics

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes worldwide, and Ontario is a hub.

- Statistics Canada. (2021, May 4). Trafficking in Persons in Canada, 2019.

In Ontario, the vast majority of police-reported cases of human trafficking involve sexual exploitation ("sex trafficking").

- Government of Ontario. 2020. Ontario's anti-human trafficking strategy 2020-2025.

Indigenous women and girls comprise a disproportionate number of persons trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation in Canada.

- National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. (2019). Reclaiming Power and Place: The Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Volume 1a.

There is no universal experience of human trafficking. Many survivors experience severe trauma, and may have non-linear healing journeys as they work to rebuild their lives.

95% of victims of police-reported human trafficking were women and girls.

- Statistics Canada. (2021, May 4). Trafficking in Persons in Canada, 2019.

22% of police-reported victims of human trafficking are children under the age of 18

- Statistics Canada. (2021, May 4). Trafficking in Persons in Canada, 2019.

The majority of all police-reported incidents of human trafficking in Canada occur in Ontario

- Statistics Canada. (2021, May 4). Trafficking in Persons in Canada, 2019.

Most victims / survivors of human trafficking in Canada are trafficked by someone they know

- Statistics Canada. (2021, May 4). Trafficking in Persons in Canada, 2019

Over 90% of victims of police-reported human trafficking were women and girls.

☐ True

☐ False

SUBMIT

According to Statistics Canada, (2021, May 4), 22% of police-reported victims of human trafficking are children under the age of 18.

☐ True

☐ False

SUBMIT

Most victims/ survivors of human trafficking in Canada are trafficked by complete strangers.

☐ True

☐ False

SUBMIT

Common Myths and Misconceptions

Human Trafficking- Isn't What You Think It Is (75s

Safety in Canada



Watch on

Debunking Myths

Please click each of the three prompts below to debunk the following myths about human trafficking:

Common Myth and Misconception #1

If a person isn't kept locked up
or in chains they can always just
leave?

Reality

Traffickers use a range of
tactics to coerce, control
and exploit victims, such as
manipulating an intimate
relationship; psychological
control; financial
dependence; having poor
credit or being in debt to

Myth and Misconception #2

Is human trafficking is the same as human smuggling?

Reality

Human trafficking is not the same as human smuggling, which involves transporting individuals across borders through non-traditional channels, typically with consent. In most reported cases of human trafficking

Myth and Misconception #3

Do some people chose to be involved in exploitative situations?

Reality

No one can consent to being trafficked, and no one under the age of 18 can consent to involvement in the commercial sex trade. Traffickers' manipulation and control tactics may lead victims to feel like they are

What tactics are used by traffickers to coerce, control and exploit victims?

-
- ☐ Financial dependence
 - ☐ Psychological control
 - ☐ Manipulating an intimate relationship
 - ☐ All of the above

SUBMIT

Human Trafficking Corridors in Ontario

- Ontario remains a hub for human trafficking, with the highest number of police-reported incidents of human trafficking in the country. Ontario accounted for 62% of incidents reported by police in 2019 (at 316 incidents), while representing approximately 39% of Canada's population. The police-reported incident rate in Ontario was 2.2 per 100,000 (almost double the national rate).
- Human trafficking incidents are most often reported by police in urban centres, but traffickers are known to target individuals from northern or remote communities.
- Among human trafficking incidents reported in 2019 in Canada, 17% were in the census metropolitan area (CMA) of Toronto, 9% were

reported in Halifax, followed by Montréal (7%), Ottawa (7%) and St. Catharines-Niagara (6%).

- One report suggest that human traffickers use trafficking corridors to:
 - Maximize profit
 - Lower risks as movement across municipal and provincial jurisdictions detection, investigation and conviction more difficult
 - Isolate and control the individuals they are exploiting
- Research suggests that human traffickers operate along Ontario's 401 Highway connecting Montreal, QC and Windsor, ON.
- Among other routes, traffickers also use Highways 11 & 17 to move victims from Sudbury and Thunder Bay through Northern Ontario and to connect to the online commercial sex market in Winnipeg.

CONTINUE

Understanding Risk, Warning Signs, and Exploitation



Click on the ► play button to listen.

After you finish listening, read the content below to learn more.

Who is at risk for sex trafficking?

Traffickers identify a person's vulnerabilities and then target those vulnerabilities to gain trust and form a bond. Since everyone has vulnerabilities, anyone can be at risk of being trafficked. However, there are some specific risk factors that may make an individual more vulnerable.

- Females, especially young children/youth, 2SLGBTQQIA+
- Children and youth in care, or transitioning out of care
- Indigenous and racialized women and children
- Homeless and marginalized youth
- Individuals with a history of physical or sexual abuse
- Individuals with low self esteem, who are isolated or lack a sense of belonging

Signs to Look Out for...

- Withdrawing from family and friends
- Being secretive about their activities
- Having a new boyfriend, girlfriend or friend who they won't introduce to friends and family
- Suddenly spending time with an older person or people
- Frequently missing
- Absences from school or a decline in school performance
- Wearing more sexualized clothing
- Having new clothing, jewelry etc. that they can't afford to buy
- Suddenly having a new or second cell phone with a secret number
- Shows signs of physical abuse such as bruising, cigarette burns, fractures etc.

Recruitment, Grooming, and Control

While each survivor's experience with sex trafficking is different, the following psychological and emotional manipulation tactics are often used by traffickers to control their victims:

- Targeting Vulnerabilities and Luring: Techniques used to target, recruit, lure and groom victims often rely on deception and coercion.
 - Traffickers can spot and exploit almost any vulnerability. Traffickers can be strangers, acquaintances, or friends or family.

- Traffickers sometimes pay sudden attention to individuals and lure them by becoming a friend or boyfriend.
- Grooming and Control: First, traffickers may offer the person what they want or need, then they will control and manipulation..
 - Traffickers learn what an individual wants or needs (i.e., money, affection, attention, material goods, a place to live, drugs, etc.). They build trust and reliance by fulfilling these needs, and then use this dependence to manipulate the individual.
 - Traffickers control victims in many ways, including psychological manipulation, emotional abuse, lies, addiction, threats, violence, isolation, and taking control of identity documents and money. Traffickers may force victims to recruit other victims with threats of violence or coercion by offering increased status or preferential treatment.
- Exploitation and Challenges to Exiting: Individuals who are trafficked may not believe or understand that they are a victim of crime. Service providers may not recognize the signs of trafficking.
 - Traffickers coerce victims into sex, often in exchange for money. This is different from sex work, where the person consents to engage in sex work (and can only do so if they are over 18 years of age).
 - It can be very difficult for a survivor to leave a trafficking situation. It can take several attempts before they are able to seek assistance.

The Stages of Exploitation

- At Risk
 - Traffickers identify and seek out individuals based on vulnerabilities that they can manipulate in order to make their victim dependent on them

- What Could This Look Like: Luring (often through social media), and grooming (e.g., showering individual with gifts/affection)
- Transitioning In
 - Trafficker begins to “test limits” of the individual they are targeting to determine how effectively they can control and manipulate behavior
 - What Could This Look Like: disengagement from previously enjoyed activities (e.g., school, extracurriculars, friend groups); alcohol or substance usage; spending time with a new friend or boyfriend (who may be older)
- Entrenchment
 - Traffickers use psychological, physical, emotional manipulation to control and exploit the individual
 - What Could This Look Like: going missing; using language of the sex trade (e.g., “the game”; “tricks”); moods more volatile; isolation from family/friends
- Transitioning Away
 - Individual begins to look at exiting the exploitative situation, though this may take several attempts
 - What Could This Look Like: seeking specialized supports; re-engagement in activities previously enjoyed; involvement in friends/family

Manipulation, Control and Consent



It is known that traffickers often force victims to recruit others as a part of their experience of

exploitation. This is done for several reasons, including:

- **to try to make victims feel complicit in their own exploitation, as well as in the exploitation of others;**
- **to prevent victims from coming forward or seeking help; to avoid detection; and**
- **to gain access to new groups of young people (e.g. younger siblings; peers in group care facilities, etc.).**

It is important to be mindful that the persons, especially school aged children and youth, recruiting others may be victims themselves.

- Even if a victim of human trafficking did say yes at any point, that does not mean that they agreed to be trafficked.
- Nobody can agree to be trafficked. Traffickers earn victims' trust and pretend to care about them so they can manipulate and exploit them.
- Anyone under the age of 18 cannot legally consent to have sex in exchange for money, drugs, alcohol, shelter, transportation, food, or any other object or necessity.
- Regardless of the age of the person being exploited, the person(s) responsible for manipulating and exploiting someone is committing a crime.

CONTINUE

Supporting Students Impacted by Sex Trafficking



Click on the ► play button to listen.

After you finish listening, read the content below to learn more.

This module will further your knowledge on how to respect, respond and support students who make make a disclosure.

Respecting and Responding to the Needs of All Students

To support the prevention and response to sex trafficking of students, educators need to:

- Understand that while any student can be impacted by sex trafficking, systemic racism within various social systems (e.g., education, child welfare, policing, health, etc.) has resulted in specific populations being disproportionately impacted by sex trafficking.
- Adopt a human rights-based, non-judgmental, culturally responsive, survivor-centered and trauma-informed approach to raising awareness, preventing, identifying and responding to sex trafficking.

- Seek out culturally responsive services and supports for students through a range of community-based partners, including Indigenous-led organizations.

To support the prevention and response to sex trafficking of students, educators also need to:

- Actively seek to engage all parents and caregivers through outreach to include groups disproportionately impacted by trafficking (e.g., Indigenous, Black and racialized parents and caregivers) in a trauma-informed way, recognizing historic and systemic barriers that may impact their participation in school-led actions against trafficking, including the implementation of the school board anti-sex trafficking protocol.
- Foster student voices, recognizing that students are at the centre of this work and should be involved in efforts to develop actions against sex trafficking.

Supporting Prevention and Enhancing Protective Factors

- Schools can help to mitigate, in collaboration with other partners, some of the effects of the risk factors that increase a young person's vulnerability to sex trafficking including:
- Instability at home (e.g., parental divorce, frequent moves, conflict with parental expectations)
- Unmet needs and insecurities (e.g., seeking love, belonging, material goods, food and shelter)
- Past trauma (e.g., traumatic experiences leading to low self-esteem)
- Online luring (e.g., lack of knowledge of online safety)

- Lack of knowledge about healthy relationships (e.g., understanding consent, boundaries)
- Lack of knowledge about sex trafficking (e.g., having the language to describe sex trafficking)
- As part of prevention efforts, educators, as caring adults, can help the student to build skills to reduce the risk factors (e.g., by teaching students about healthy relationships, gender-based violence, and social-emotional skills through skills-based sex trafficking curricula or awareness-raising initiatives).

Considerations for Supporting Children and Youth Victims

- Being sensitive to the unique experiences of children and youth victims of sex trafficking is critical to being able to support this population.
- Being observant of changes in behaviour in children and youth (e.g. sudden changes in appearance; sudden changes in friend groups; sudden changes in engagement in school/extracurriculars; appearance of a new friend or boyfriend about whom they are secretive; missing or skipping class; in possession of substances, alcohol, or material goods with no reasonable explanation for how they've obtained them).
- Utilizing the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline, where applicable at 1-833-900-1010. The hotline is for: victims seeking help; people with a tip to report a potential case; members of the public wanting to learn more about the subject.
- Participating in localized and community-based responses, including local anti-human trafficking coalitions. These coalitions comprise organizations across sectors working to provide localized responses to human trafficking in their community.

The Duty to Report

On June 1st 2021, the government passed new legislation (Combating Human Trafficking Act, 2021) that amended the Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017 to explicitly add child sex trafficking to the circumstances when a person has a duty to report a child who may be in need of protection to a children's aid society. This legislative amendment came into force in Fall 2021.

If there are concerns that a student may be in need of protection, including situations where a child is at risk of, is being or has been sexually abused or sexually exploited, school board employees must meet their obligations under:

- The Education Act
- The Child, Youth and Family Services Act, 2017
- The Ontario College of Teachers Act, 1996
- Policy/Program Memorandum 9: Duty to Report Children in Need of Protection

When a student discloses or shares suspicion of sex trafficking:

- Listen without judgement and support the student's immediate physical and emotional safety. Making a disclosure is a highly vulnerable experience. Consider your bias; avoid projecting your own feelings; strive to understand the choices a student has made, the barriers they face and empathize with their current situation.
- Ensure the student remains supervised and is not re-victimized by having to repeat the story. Retelling their story may be traumatic and the person receiving the disclosure should make all efforts to reduce re-traumatization, taking a trauma informed and culturally responsive approach to receiving the disclosure.
- Be aware of and soften your body language.

- Let them take the lead in sharing. Avoid leading the conversation.
- Do not probe for their story.
- Listen respectfully and provide support.
- Mirror their language they use to describe their situation. (e.g. if they say “boyfriend”, use this term)
- Avoid making promises that you are not able to keep (e.g. assurance of confidentiality) and assure the student that their safety is a priority.
- Advise the student you are required to share information about abuse/illegal activities with your administrator and possibly the Police and the Children’s Aid Society.
- Report to the principal.
- The principal/designate will contact the Safe Schools Department for guidance and to initiate culturally trauma informed and culturally responsive supports and safety plan for the student(s).
- File a report with Windsor Essex Children’s Aid Society in accordance with the Child, Youth and Family Services Act.

CONTINUE

Policies, Procedures and Addition Resources

Ontario Ministry of Education Policy

- The link below will take you to the Ontario Ministry of Education Policy PPM 166, which serves as the policy document for Keeping Students Safe. This is the Ministry policy framework for school board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols.
- This document is listed here for your reference and is not part of completing the professional development.

POLICY/PROGRAM MEMORANDUM 166

Government of Ontario Funded Resources

- Educational [resources](#) and [lesson plans](#) for secondary school educators on [child sexual exploitation developed](#) by White Ribbon.
- Culturally safe prevention [education and training](#) for youth, educators and caregivers by Victim Services Durham Region

- An annual [school-focused online educational 3-day event](#) for youth (ages 13+) and educators that promotes awareness, prevention and empowerment by Victim Services Durham Region.
- [Likely Story](#) , an interactive game developed by Victim Services Durham Region that engages youth in real life scenarios to teach about healthy boundaries and relationship red flags.
- “[The Trap](#)” a human trafficking digital education tool, and facilitated by an adult, teaches children and youth what human trafficking is and equip them with the skills to stay safe.
- [Speak Out: Stop Sex Trafficking](#), an educational campaign focused on raising awareness about sexual exploitation among Indigenous women and youth
- [Respect in Schools](#) Workshop is a 90-minute evidence-based online training program offered by the Respect Group. The training is available in French and English and designed for school leaders on the prevention of bullying, abuse, harassment, and discrimination

Additional Resources

- [The Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres - Trauma-Informed Schools Report](#)
- This report examines the role of trauma in school environments in Friendship Centre communities, and methods to develop

trauma-informed approaches to support Indigenous student success and enrich students' experiences within schools.

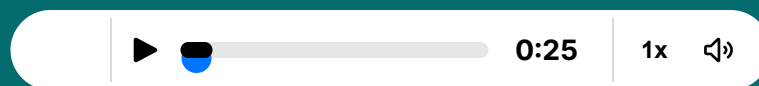
- The Ontario Native Women's Association - [Aakwa'ode'ewin \(Courage for Change\) Program](#)
- This association supports the unique needs of Indigenous women, youth, and girls that are affected by sexual exploitation. All services provide a trauma-informed, anti-oppressive framework with culture-based practices and models to ensure a seamless integration of cultural and mainstream supports.
- [The Ontario Native Women's Association Learning Resources](#)
A link to ONWA's Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking resources including a presentation and the Journey to Safe Spaces: Indigenous Anti-Human Trafficking Engagement Report 2017-18
- [The Pervasive Reality of Anti-Black Racism in Canada](#) , by Nan DasGupta, Binay Shandal, Daniel Shadd, and Andrew Segal.
- A new review and compilation of the available data by BCG and [CivicAction](#) , that demonstrates the depth and pervasiveness of anti-Black racism in Canada, and how systemic racism against Black individuals appears across their full lifecycle in areas like education, employment, healthcare, and policing.
- [Trafficking at the Intersections: Racism, Colonialism, Sexism, and Exploitation in Canada](#) by the Learning Network at

the [Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children.](#)

- This Brief examines the intersection of sexual violence with systemic violence as an aspect of human trafficking in Canada.
- Transformative [education and training initiatives](#) in the pursuit of eradicating all forms of racial discrimination in Canada from the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.
- These education and training initiatives focus on capacity building for organizations to create just, equitable and inclusive environments.
- [Teaching human rights in Ontario: A guide for Ontario schools by The Ontario Human Rights Commission](#) .
- This guide can serve as a starting point for lifelong learning about human rights, and the value of respecting the dignity, worth and inclusion of all Ontarians.

CONTINUE

Conclusion



!IMPORTANT!

To ensure your training is marked as complete, please remember to submit the **Completion Declaration** in Brightspace. Without this step, your training will not be recorded as complete. Failure to complete the declaration may result in disciplinary action. Please take a moment to complete this final step to avoid any issues.



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eLearning

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Anti-Sex Trafficking 2026-27 ▾

Content Object

Completion Declaration

Once you have completed and understood the eLearning, click on the [Completion Declaration](#) link below. This will open up a survey that you need to agree to and Submit to complete this course.

[Completion Declaration](#) ▾

Survey

EXIT