

Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation Booklet for Indigenous Women and Girls



Prepared in partnership with
METRAC: Action on Violence and
Beddome and Longclaws Law Corporation

What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking is a crime where a person is controlled and exploited for the benefit of someone else. It involves activities, such as recruiting people, moving them from one place to another, or keeping them in a secret place for the purpose of exploiting them. Traffickers use different tactics such as force, threats, manipulation, blackmailing, etc, to make victims/survivors do things against their will, such as provide their labour or sexual services, marry someone they don't want to marry, or remove their organs. A trafficker can be one individual or part of a larger criminal network.

METRAC

“Our youth don’t think or see themselves as being sexually exploited. I never knew I was either and as a 12-13 year old child I was a child prostitute. We don’t realize we are being exploited/used/ groomed, I felt accepted and he was attentive then addictions. Once we grow and heal and educate ourselves, we realize it is exploitation and rid the shame and guilt. I’m not a victim, we are the survivors.”

What is Sexual Exploitation?

Sexual exploitation refers to: forcing, coercing or deceiving someone to have sex or perform sexual acts for something of value (money, food, drugs/alcohol, transportation, etc.).

Speak Out: Stop Sex Trafficking

“They see no escape from this existence or from those who are exploiting them. They almost feel some type of safety from those turning them out because of the business investment. As long as you are bringing in money, “better the devil you know”.

The Criminal Code and Human Trafficking

The Criminal Code deals with crimes committed in Canada. An individual can be charged, convicted and punished for committing a crime. For human trafficking, the Criminal Code makes it illegal to:

- ☼ **Communicate with underage people for trafficking purposes;**
- ☼ **To traffick in persons;**
- ☼ **To receive any material benefits from human trafficking;**
- ☼ **Withhold or destroy documents for the purpose of trafficking;**
- ☼ **All of these actions where it concerns underage persons; and, imposes mandatory minimum sentences for doing those things.**

95% of trafficked people in reported cases were women

2016 Statistics Canada report

Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation: The Internet

The internet has become a popular place to traffick and exploit people. It is very accessible and offenders of trafficking and exploitation can easily hide their identities and lure people in. These offences are happening to minors and adults across Canada.

The ***Protecting Canadians from Online Crime Act*** makes it illegal to publish, distribute, transmit, sell, make available or advertise an intimate image of a person knowing that the person depicted in the image did not give their consent to that conduct. An intimate image is a picture or video of someone in which they are nude or engaged in sexual activity.

Online luring is a term used to describe when someone communicates with a child online for sexual purposes. Offenders will lure children in by trying to connect with them through online games and apps that have chats. The offenders will often ask for pictures of the child or to chat or have video chats with them. During this communication they may ask for sexual touching, for the child to show their body or pictures of the child where their body is exposed.

Sextortion is a term used to describe when someone “coerce(s) youth into sending sexual images or engaging in sexual acts via camera-enabled devices and then blackmail them with the threat of distributing the sexual images/videos if they do not pay money or provide sexual images/videos.”

*Canadian Centre for Child Protection,
“Emerging Issues: Protect Kids Online.ca.”*

Examples of actions that are illegal:

- ☼ It is illegal for someone to offer you money, shelter, food, drugs or alcohol in exchange for sexual activities whether it is with that person or someone else.
- ☼ It is illegal for someone to recruit you for the purposes of controlling and exploiting you for their own gain.
- ☼ It is illegal for someone to move you from one place to another or hide you for the purposes of exploiting you for their own gain.
- ☼ It is illegal for someone to communicate with a child on the internet and ask them to expose their bodies on camera or in pictures.
- ☼ It is illegal to post a person's picture online where they are nude or engaging in sexual activity.
- ☼ It is illegal for someone else to advertise the sexual services of a child or adult.

“They find they encounter people and situations that they don't know how to manage and find themselves living under duress, threats, and fear of the unknown”

Targets of Human Trafficking and Exploitation:

- ☼ Young women and girls, ages 12 and up
- ☼ Indigenous and racialized women and girls
- ☼ LGBTQIA2S+ youth
- ☼ Homeless youth

70% of these women were under the age of 25

2016 Statistics Canada report

Indigenous women and girls are being trafficked and sexually exploited at higher rates than anyone else in Canada. This is linked to colonization, residential schools, 60's scoop, intergenerational trauma, domestic violence, drug and alcohol issues, abuse, poverty, gender inequity, discrimination, racism and lack of opportunity. As a result, breakdowns within Indigenous families have been occurring and continue to this day. Children are being raised in the Child and Family Services (CFS) and Children's Aid Society (CAS) system away from their families and culture, causing them to be vulnerable and at risk of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

“This left them even more vulnerable as they entered into exploitative situations believing that they would be protected, and where they would become empowered to make their own decisions. Instead, they found they lost more and more of their power. They found themselves caught up in a different type of day-to-day survival, dependent again on new people who were abusing and exploiting them.”

Reasons That Lead to Human Trafficking and Exploitation:

Low Self-Esteem:

When children and youth are raised in environments where they are not valued, they can feel little or no value for themselves.

CFS and CAS:

Being in this system, people often have lost their connection to their family. They want to feel accepted and that they belong and believe they can get this feeling from the sex trade and streets.

Being Unaware:

A person may not realize they are in this situation. They may believe the trafficker is their boyfriend, partner, rescuer or friend.

Survival:

Traffickers provide what is needed for someone to survive, such as shelter, food, money, drugs, alcohol etc.

Trauma and Mental Health:

Someone who suffers from trauma and/or mental health issues may turn to addictions to cope with their pain and then be vulnerable and at risk.

Addictions:

If someone is dependent on drugs and/or alcohol they will go where it is supplied to them. Traffickers take advantage of this and supply the drugs and alcohol.

The Internet:

Sexual exploitation is occurring online and it is difficult to stop this from happening as it is hard to find who the offenders are.

Statistics on Human Trafficking:

It has been a challenge to obtain accurate statistics for human trafficking in Canada because the crime is often not reported and offenders are not prosecuted. People do not like to come forward and report the crime as often they are scared, do not want to be involved in a criminal trial and sometimes do not know they are being trafficked or exploited.

“Most of the young people I have met who were being exploited, became totally reliant on those who were “turning them out”. They thought at first that they were being rescued from the physical or sexual abuse they were experiencing in their own families or their foster homes.”

What is being done to fight human trafficking?

Raising awareness and educating access.

people about human trafficking and sexual exploitation will help people understand and be aware of this issue. Awareness and education can help put a stop to human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Many programs and services are available that people can turn to for support and safety. More information on human trafficking and exploitation needs to be created for victims to

Through research it has been found that the laws needed to change on human trafficking and sexual exploitation to make it easier to charge and convict the offenders. However, it is still very difficult to charge and convict offenders as these cases go unreported, the offenders are hard to find and the elements of the crime the police and crown attorneys need to convict an offender can be very hard to prove.

Unforgettable

Unforgettable

Sexy, Inviting, Alluring, Exciting, Chaotic, Scary, Depressing, Draining, Deadly, Dreary, Dark, Distorting, Desperate, Dismal, Deep, Flashbacks, Haunting, Horrific, Hateful, Hurtful, Heartbreaking, Traumatic, Tormenting, Torturous, Taunting, Twisted, Shaming, Isolating, Hostage-taking, Spirit-breaking, Unbearable, Broken, Bottom, Blackouts, Homeless, Helpless, Unforgettable

The Four Ps of Human Trafficking:

1. Prevention:

Awareness and education.

2. Protection:

Safe places to go, legal information, and privacy of the identity of victims.

3. Prosecution:

Prosecuting offenders, training police and those in justice and promoting rights of the victims.

4. Partnerships:

Working together to meet the goals of the Four Ps of Human Trafficking.

What can you do if you are being trafficked or exploited?

If you need help, talk to someone you trust such as an adult, Elder, teacher, or service provider. There are various programs and services to help put an end to human trafficking and help the victims and survivors of human trafficking.

(Please see the end of this booklet for services in Manitoba and Ontario where you can go for help.)

85% of human trafficking incidents reported in Canada in 2019 were in large cities with populations of 100,000 or more.

United Nations (UN) Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the United States 'Trafficking Victims Protection Act'

2019 Statistics Canada report

Trafficking is happening in Winnipeg, Thompson and Brandon, rural communities and First Nations.

AMC, Stand Strong: Prevent Human Trafficking Stop the Sexual Exploitation of First Nations People

Manitoba:

Manitoba has created laws to deal with human trafficking and exploitation. This includes *The Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Act*. Under the Act, an adult or child who is at risk of or being trafficked can apply for a protection order to keep the people away who are trying to traffick and exploit them. The process to apply is quick, simple and inexpensive. The traffickers are not told that the order is being applied for until the order is granted and given to the trafficker.

The following people can apply for the protection order:

- ☀️ **An adult victim of human trafficking,**
- ☀️ **A parent or guardian of a child victim of human trafficking or child sexual exploitation, and**
- ☀️ **A Child and Family Services Agency, the appropriate CFS authority, or the director of Child and Family Services, if the child is in care.**

The following information is provided to get the protection order:

- ☀ Human trafficking or child sexual exploitation has occurred,
- ☀ There is a belief that it will continue, and
- ☀ That the victim needs protection.

“Victims of trafficking can be found in: domestic caregiving, sweatshop factories, construction, farming or landscaping, fisheries, hotel or tourism industries, panhandling, janitorial services, and restaurant services.”

The protection order can stop the following things from happening:

- ☀ The trafficker from following the victim or other person(s),
- ☀ The trafficker from contacting or communicating with the victim or other person(s), whether they contact the victim directly or another person about the victim.
- ☀ The trafficker from going near or into any place that the victim or other person(s) go to regularly (like their work, school or home), and
- ☀ The trafficker being able to keep the victim's things, pictures or documents.

Ontario:

Ontario has created laws to deal with human trafficking and exploitation. This includes the *Anti-Human Trafficking Act, 2017*. The law allows people who are being trafficked or at risk of to apply for a restraining order to protect themselves or their children from traffickers. This is an order from the court that will put restrictions on the trafficker's behavior. The order can last up to 3 years and can be renewed if necessary.

Ontario accounted for 66% of all human trafficking incidents reported between 2009 and 2019.

2019 Statistics Canada report

The following people can apply for a restraining order:

- ☀️ **A victim/survivor.**
- ☀️ **A person with lawful custody of a victim/survivor who is a child.**
- ☀️ **A person acting on behalf of a victim or someone who has custody of a child victim. The victim or the person with custody has to give their consent to the application.**

The court considers many factors when deciding if to give a restraining order, such as:

- ☀️ **The ages of the victim/survivor and the respondent (the person against whom the victim/survivor wants a restraining order,**
- ☀️ **The nature of the**

relationship between the victim/survivor and the respondent,

- ☼ The use of threats or other forms of intimidation,
- ☼ The use of force,
- ☼ The use of deception, fraud or other forms of coercion,
- ☼ If drugs or alcohol were given to the victim/survivor to make them provide labour or services,
- ☼ Control of the victim's access to alcohol or drugs,
- ☼ If there was control of the victim/survivor's finances, ID documents etc.,
- ☼ Keeping, selling, advertising or distributing explicit photos or videos of the victim/survivor.

The court can make orders such as:

- ☼ Stopping the trafficker from, directly or indirectly, communicating with or contacting the victim/survivor or any other person stated in the order,
- ☼ Stopping the trafficker from being within a stated distance of a place where the victim/survivor or someone else would be,
- ☼ Making the trafficker return ID documents of the victim/survivor,
- ☼ Not allowing them to carry weapons,
- ☼ Stopping them from distributing explicit photos and videos of the victim/survivor and returning photos and videos.

What else can you do if you are being trafficked or exploited?

Engage in Indigenous culture:

- ☀️ **Participating in traditional ceremonies and learning about the sacred teachings provides a connection to culture and can help an Indigenous person gain a sense of identity.**
- ☀️ **It can help a person avoid, get out and heal from being exploited and trafficked. Connection with culture can help overcome trauma and create a path for healing.**
- ☀️ **Speaking to Elders and grandmothers. They can provide traditional counselling and teachings.**

Attend programs and services where you can take programs that help you:

- ☀️ **Realize yourself worth**
- ☀️ **Learn how to practice self love and nurture**
- ☀️ **Work on letting go of the shame, guilt and humiliation that you may feel**
- ☀️ **Have open and safe discussions with other victims and survivors to help you realize you are not alone and can share your story.**

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

Manitoba:

**Human Trafficking Hotline in Manitoba
(24/7) “Call the Line”**

Toll Free: 1-844-333-2211

Sexual Assault Crisis Line (24/7)

Toll Free: 1-888-292-7565

Winnipeg: 204-786-8631

Video Relay Service Available

Klinic Crisis Line (24/7)

Toll Free: 1-888-322-3019

Winnipeg: 204-786-8686

Video Relay Service Available

Survivor’s Hope Crisis Centre Inc.

(North-Eastern Manitoba)

204-753-5353

Domestic Violence Crisis Line (24/7)

Toll Free: 1-877-977-0007

Kids Help Phone

Toll Free: 1-800-668-6868

Text TALK to 686868

Cybertip.ca

**National tipline for child pornography,
luring, child sex tourism and child sexual
exploitation.**

Toll Free: 1-866-658-9022

Child and Family Services

For children in need of safety.

Toll Free: 1-866-345-9241

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre

Mobile Outreach Program Contact person:

Debbie Cumby - 204-330-3300

Neecheewam Inc.

For children and youth requiring safe care.

204-775-9240

Clan Mothers Healing Village

**Provide mid-term to long-term support to
women who have been victims of multi-
generational trauma, sexual violence,
sexual exploitation, and human trafficking
as they begin their healing journey.**

<https://clanmothers.ca>

Ka Ni Kanichihk - Heart Medicine Lodge

Culturally-based support and advocacy services for Indigenous women and those who identify as women who have experienced sexual assault and sexual violence:

Winnipeg: 204-594-6500 ext. 107

Toll Free: 1-888-953-5264

Text: 204-809-8587

Shelter/Emergency Residential Services

For confidential information and help.

Toll Free: 1-877-977-0007

TTY: 1-888-987-2829

Community Legal Education Association

Free legal information and lawyer referrals:

Winnipeg: 204-943-2305 (for legal questions)

Toll Free: 1-800-262-8800 (outside Winnipeg)

Lawyer Referral Program

Email: info@communitylegal.mb.ca

Sexual Harassment Hotline

Email: sexualharassmenthelp@communitylegal.mb.ca

Legal Help Centre

Free legal information, summary advice and referrals to helpful resources to low income people in Winnipeg who are trying to solve a legal problem.

Winnipeg: 204-258-3096

Email: info@legalhelpcentre.ca

Ontario:

Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General

General

Free legal support for trafficked people or those at risk of being trafficked

https://www.attorneygeneral.jus.gov.on.ca/english/ovss/human_trafficking.php

Local Community Legal Clinics:

Free legal advice and representation for low-income individuals

<https://www.legalaid.on.ca/legal-clinics/>

Legal Aid Ontario:

Free legal advice and representation for low-income individuals

<https://www.legalaid.on.ca/>
1-800-668-8258

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline:

Confidential, multilingual 24/7 service that connects victims and survivors with social services, law enforcement, and emergency services, as well as receives tips from the public.

<https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/>
1-833-900-1010

Shelter safe:

Information on Women's Shelters

<https://sheltersafe.ca/>

Victim Services Toronto:

<https://victimservicestoronto.com/>
(416) 808-7066

Talk4Healing:

A culturally grounded, fully confidential helpline for Indigenous women available in 14 languages all across Ontario.

<https://www.talk4healing.com/>
1-855-554-4325 (1-855-554-HEAL)

Assaulted Women's Helpline:

Offers crisis counselling, emotional support, safety planning, and referrals to shelters and legal resources. Services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in many languages.

<https://www.awhl.org/>
1-866-863-0511

Ontario Women's Justice Network:

Information on human trafficking and the law

<https://owjn.org/human-trafficking-and-the-law/>

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