

HUMAN SEXUAL TRAFFICKING

Definition: Human Sexual Trafficking is a form of slavery. It happens when human beings are sold and bought for the purposes of sexual exploitation. It includes people (mostly women and girls) being recruited, transported, transferred, harboured or received. These actions are accomplished by means of force, the threat of force, or other forms of coercion. It is always involuntary because even when consent is achieved, it is through some form of fraud, deception, abduction/kidnapping or abuse of power/vulnerability.¹

Human Sexual Trafficking can happen across international borders or within them (for example, Aboriginal women and girls are trafficked from reserves to larger towns/cities).

Although many trafficked persons are used in prostitution once in Canada, not all prostituted persons are trafficked.

¹ Adapted from the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, 2000. The Salvation Army uses the term human sexual trafficking, because we focus on trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

The Salvation Army recognizes the inherent human dignity in each person, and has a long history of efforts to protect that human dignity; with a special emphasis on the most vulnerable members of our societies. The Salvation Army is committed to ending Human Sexual Trafficking and ensuring that the human rights of trafficked persons are respected.

Some of the tactics used by traffickers:

- Intimidation and threats against a person and/or her family
- Lies and deception (false promises of employment and travel)
- Money (i.e. debt bondage to the trafficker – for food, rent, etc.)
- Unsafe, unpredictable events creating dependency on the trafficker (i.e. starvation, assaults)
- Emotional abuse & manipulation
- Social isolation (separating the trafficked person from any real or potential support networks)
- Forced/intentional drug addiction
- Identity control (giving the trafficked person new names and appearances to reinforce the message that they are owned and controlled; confiscating the person's passport/other identity documents) – these all contribute to the person's real or perceived inability to seek help from the law
- Impregnating victims (so that they will obey the trafficker and prevent harm to their child)

Working with Sexually Trafficked/Exploited Persons:

Important Program/Service Components



Produced by The Salvation Army
Canada & Bermuda Territory
Anti-Trafficking Network

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Suggested Screening Questions:

In a respectful way, speak with the person privately and confidentially. The person they came with could be a trafficker posing as a spouse/boyfriend, family member or interpreter. Interpreters must be screened carefully, to ensure there is no conflict of interest. Preference is to use an interpreter hired by the centre.

- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?
- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Have you been physically harmed in any way?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you sleep in a bed, on a cot or on the floor?
- Have you ever been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Are there locks on your doors and windows so you cannot get out?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?

Recognizing Trafficking²:

These are certain indicators that may give clues that a person has been trafficked. Many of these are similar to those of someone being abused.

Please note that these are indicators, but do not necessarily mean that the person has been trafficked:

- Lack of passport, immigration or identification documentation
- Evidence of being controlled
- Evidence of an inability to move or leave a job
- Bruises or other signs of battering
- Fear or depression
- Newcomer to Canada/Non-English Speaking

- Between 700,000 and 4,000,000 people are trafficked annually worldwide – many of these numbers are women and children who have been sexually trafficked.
- At least 2500 foreign women and girls are coerced into joining the Canadian sex trade each year by human traffickers.
- Another 2200 people are trafficked through Canada to the United States

Summary of Needs:

Physical:

Safety, health care, potential need for addictions treatment

Emotional/Psychological:

Trust, self-esteem, freedom from fear/guilt/shame, trauma counselling, potential need for mental health care

Social:

Education and employment training, social activities, options

Spiritual:

Connection/re-connection with faith, hope

**If you suspect someone has been trafficked:
Contact your Salvation Army regional anti-trafficking network and/or the R.C.M.P.**

Contact Information:

²Adapted from the Department of Health & Human Services, USA