



# SA JUSTICE

CANADA & BERMUDA  
MODERN SLAVERY AND  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESPONSE

# Impact Report

## 2023



FIGHT FOR FREEDOM



Photo: St. David's Lighthouse in Bermuda

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## Glossary of Abbreviations

**MSHT** – Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking

**MSHTR** – Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response

**NRO** – National Recycling Operations

**SBAP** – Sex Buyer Accountability Programs

**TFWP** – Temporary Foreign Worker Program



# Letter of Gratitude

Dear Partners in Justice,

In 2023, our commitment and desire to end modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT) in Canada and Bermuda deepened and found new expressions. It was a year of meaningful impact, new opportunities and immense expansion.

As the Territorial Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Response (MSHTR) Committee completed their third year of engaging in our Fight For Freedom strategy and priorities, we focused on transformation and developing an integrated approach in our work. This meant embracing humility, engaging in collective remembrance and intentionally placing our eyes on God and his goodness while walking and working through the challenges and complexities of what we do. It has been an amazing journey of learning, celebrating, adapting, pressing in and focusing.

Our 2023 MSHTR Impact Report highlights the progress we have achieved in year three of our strategic plan. We celebrate this progress and give thanks to God for allowing us to partner with him in our work, as he leads, guides and focuses our efforts.

We cannot express enough our respect and appreciation for all MSHTR front-line workers, leaders with lived experience, partners and people stepping out of their comfort zone to learn. Each of you are freedom fighters, agents of change and an essential part of the solution. We honour you!

With sincere gratitude,

The Territorial MSHTR Committee, Canada and Bermuda

# New Initiatives

## MSHTR Work Throughout Canada and Bermuda

The Salvation Army has a long and extensive history of supporting and journeying with individuals who have experienced the impact of MSHT. We stand firm in our commitment to serve and assist people with lived experience, their families and their friends while working to stop MSHT. Our goal is to end MSHT in Canada and Bermuda.

Across the territory, our response work and programming includes education and training, prevention, outreach, emergency housing, short-term and long-term housing, live-in rehabilitation services, employment training, peer support, drop-in centres and case management.

To learn more about our locations, response work and the supports we provide, visit:  
[salvationist.ca/human-trafficking/connect/program-directory](https://salvationist.ca/human-trafficking/connect/program-directory)

This was another year of intentional growth, new opportunities and meaningful impact. On the pages ahead, read about new initiatives we're celebrating from 2023.



# Atlantic Division

## Let's Talk About It, L'Abri d'Espoir, Montreal

With the rise of digital technology, youth in Canada are vulnerable to online exploitation, including cyberbullying, online grooming and sextortion. Major Barbara Carey, the divisional MSHT advocate for Quebec, and L'Abri d'Espoir, the women's shelter run by The Salvation Army in Montreal, felt a responsibility to help bring awareness to this issue.

During the winter of 2023, they consulted with a group of 16- to 18-year-olds about dating violence and sexual exploitation. Drawing upon insights gleaned from these sessions, L'Abri d'Espoir and Major Carey developed a series of interactive workshops designed for implementation within schools, sports organizations and youth groups. Additionally, they created workshops tailored for parents, coaches and leaders, aimed at fostering constructive discussions on how these leaders can create positive and safe spaces for teens who find themselves in difficult situations.

Let's talk about it!



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# Ontario Division

Woven, North York Temple, Toronto

Woven is a weekly empowerment program for girls in Grades 7-12. It works to prevent incidents of human trafficking by empowering girls through safe community and mentorship, developing self-efficacy while growing self-confidence, resilience and leadership skills. This program strengthens the areas in young girls lives that traffickers typically seek to exploit, such as social isolation, low self-esteem, instability and lack of awareness about trafficking. Its foundations are built on relationship and creating a safe community for girls where they feel seen, known and loved while being encouraged, empowered and invested in on a weekly basis.

*"I have personally witnessed life transformation take place in some of the young women I have had the privilege of coming to know over the past two years. I've seen girls come out of their shells, share their hearts and lives with us, be connected to the local corps (churches) through volunteering, find new, healthy friendships, begin their faith journeys with Christ, begin going to youth group, and find support and healing through the encouragement of their program mentors and discussion group conversations. I see God's fingerprints all over their lives, and to get to be a small part of their story is an honour and a privilege that I don't take lightly."*

Mikhaila Tao, Director of Woven



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# Territorial MSHTR Committee

## GoodWorks@Work Campaign, National Recycling Operations

The Salvation Army's National Recycling Operations (NRO) collaborated with the Territorial MSHTR Committee, engaging in a four-week fundraising campaign to support MSHTR work throughout Canada. A key focus was providing education and awareness to NRO staff while highlighting prevention and support work happening through The Salvation Army's Sarah's Place in Winnipeg, the British Columbia Division's Illuminate and The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services in London, Ontario.

The campaign was an overwhelming success! More than 90 employees received training, including administrative staff, managers and regional directors, and 98 thrift stores engaged in the campaign, raising over \$95,000. This exceeded the original goal by three times and allowed employees to connect with more than 40,000 donors across Canada.

Funds raised helped people with lived MSHT experience find emergency housing while covering relocation costs, supported the distribution of crisis kits for women leaving trafficking situations, and provided educational opportunities surrounding substance use/addiction treatment, first-aid training and healing retreat days as survivors continue to rebuild their lives.



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# Fighting for Freedom

The Salvation Army is committed to ending slavery and human trafficking in Canada and Bermuda.

Our Fight For Freedom territorial strategy focuses on four key areas.

Read more about our 2023 work in the pages ahead.

# Key Area #1

## Raising Awareness. Educating People.

We believe that effective and intentional awareness, education and training is needed to mobilize people in Canada and Bermuda to end MSHT.

### In 2023:

- **8,090 people** throughout the territory attended 120 community events\* to raise awareness about MSHT
- **214 people** enrolled in our online, self-paced *Introduction to MSHT Certificate* while **137 have completed** it since we launched in 2022. Learn more about the course here: [salvationist.ca/human-trafficking/training/msht-response-certificate](https://salvationist.ca/human-trafficking/training/msht-response-certificate)
- **2,703 people** attended **80 workshops and webinars** on specific MSHT topics
- **263 employees and officers** were provided training in MSHT

### Educating and Resourcing

We want all Salvation Army personnel to be aware of and to recognize MSHT signs, risk factors and methods of recruitment while having a basic understanding of the needs of survivors.

These short videos have been developed to help educate, inform and spread awareness:

#### Signs Video:

Highlights common signs that could indicate a person is being impacted by MSHT.

#### Risk Factors:

Risk factors that could increase the potential of a person or community to be trafficked or exploited.

#### Grooming:

Shines a light on the grooming process often used in MSHT situations.

#### Temporary Foreign Worker Program + Labour Exploitation Training:

Launched from the British Columbia Division, this training was completed by 40 people throughout the territory. Teaching was provided on explaining the TFWP, how it can cross over into labour exploitation, available resources and how Army ministry units, thrift stores and corps could help.

\*Community events included: teaching about signs, risk factors and methods of recruitment; sex, labour, child trafficking and early and forced marriages; trauma-informed care; our Fight For Freedom strategy and MSHT response work.

Find more MSHT resources here: [salvationist.ca/human-trafficking/resources](https://salvationist.ca/human-trafficking/resources)

See all our videos here: [salvationist.ca/modern-slavery-human-trafficking-response/resources/msht-videos](https://salvationist.ca/modern-slavery-human-trafficking-response/resources/msht-videos)

## **Prairies and Northern Territories Division**

With the Prairie provinces known as a hub and transportation corridor for trafficking and exploitation, The Salvation Army created a new and innovative role based in Saskatoon, bringing in Stephen Moorgen as MSHTR facilitator for Saskatchewan. Focusing on preventative, educational, advocacy and networking efforts throughout the Prairies and Northern Territories Division, Stephen is working to educate and motivate people and sectors to end MSHT where they are.

“We are raising awareness about this evil that exists,” says Stephen. “We are opening eyes.”

## **Fighting MSHT in Saskatchewan – Raising Awareness, Opening Eyes**

In July 2023, motivated by a newspaper article highlighting a recent human trafficking situation involving the tourism industry in Saskatchewan, Stephen reached out and met with the leaders of Tourism Saskatchewan. This connection resulted in the creation of an industry-led working group made up of The Salvation Army, Hope Restored, an organization which supports people who have been sexually exploited and trafficked, law enforcement officials and representatives of the hospitality industry.

With a focus on educating, supporting and providing MSHT resources to tourism-related industries, the group is working to make important MSHT policy change recommendations to the provincial government. In November, Stephen spoke at the first ever Saskatchewan Human Trafficking Summit, which brought together members of the tourism industry, law enforcement officials, housing advocates and representatives of Indigenous-led organizations.

***“We are raising awareness about this evil that exists. We are opening eyes. Right now, in Saskatchewan, there is a growing demand for awareness and education about human trafficking. I have loved employing a truly cross-collaborative approach to end human trafficking and exploitation, while providing resources to connect with varying stakeholders.”***

Stephen Moorgen, Saskatchewan MSHTR Facilitator

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# Key Area #2

## Preventing MSHT. Engaging in Outreach.

We believe that it is possible to prevent MSHT and that The Salvation Army is strategically positioned as an organization across Canada and Bermuda to help do so.

- In 2023, The Salvation Army engaged in **4,821 instances of MSHT outreach support** through activities such as case management meetings and accompaniment to meetings, accessing support services and court proceedings
- **421 individuals** with lived experience accessed these outreach services in 2023

### Prevention Work:

Sex Buyer Accountability Programs (SBAP) in Saskatoon, Regina, Winnipeg and London, Ontario, are community-based alternative measures program offered to those who have been arrested as consumers and/or purchasers of sex. These full-day programs seeks to educate sex buyers on the realities of prostitution and human trafficking. The goal is to provide accountability and education while addressing the demand for paid sex as a means of preventing and abolishing the sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of women and children.



## **Sex Buyer Accountability Programs – What Are They and How Do They Help?**

These programs seek to hold sex buyers accountable while educating them on the lasting harm caused to women experiencing prostitution, sex trafficking and/or sexual exploitation.

As part of the program, participants learn about gender socialization and the inequalities that exist between men and women in the world, where women are commodified and objectified in various contexts (in pornography, prostitution and mainstream media, for example).

These classes provide a space for women who have experienced sex trafficking and exploitation to tell the realities of the sex trade and the harm it causes. Hearing from women harmed by sex trafficking and exploitation has helped participants understand the part they've played in perpetuating this harm, while gaining insight into the inherent dignity and worth of survivors. SBAP help create changes in behaviour, thinking and decision-making that can be passed on to their sons, with an impact that reverberates for generations.

***“We have seen major shifts in attitudes and awareness in the men who participate in our SBAP. Many seem profoundly impacted by the program content and quite often share very personal, private feelings and experiences as part of their self-reflection. They do the work of examining why they sought out paid sex in the first place. We talk about what the real impact is on the women and, ultimately, on the men themselves. They often talk about shame and self-loathing, so it is quite emotional and powerful. Many of the participants reach out for support or to check in long after the program has been completed. I always tell them they are welcome to reconnect at anytime. We think it speaks volumes about the impact of the program that they do reach out, even years later.”***

Michele Hines, SBAP Director,  
The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services

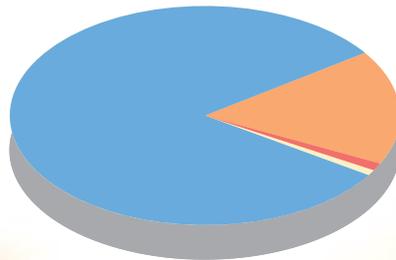
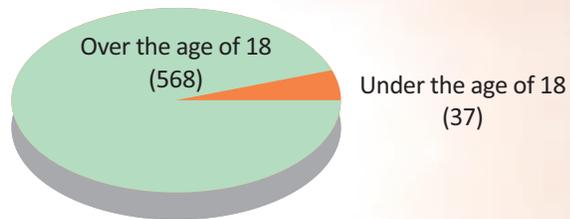
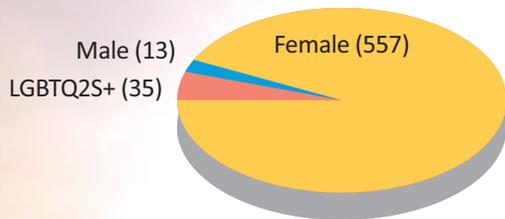
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# Key Area #3

## Supporting Survivors. Responding Holistically.

Once survivors of MSHT have exited months or years of victimization, they need diverse and holistic services that recognize the unique trauma they have experienced as they work to rebuild their lives.

- **605 survivors supported and served** through our four MSHT focused ministry units
- **53 survivors helped to exit** their human trafficking situation



### MSHT survivors supported by The Salvation Army in 2023:

- **499** were experiencing sex trafficking and sexual exploitation
- **108** were experiencing labour trafficking and labour exploitation
- **5** experienced a combination of the above forms of MSHT
- **3** were experiencing a forced marriage

The Salvation Army supported individuals with lived experience across Canada, providing:

#### Safety and Emergency Support

- **553 safety plans** created with victims
- **1,198 victims and survivors** received **crisis support interventions**
- **109 emergency and hygiene kits** handed out to victims and survivors

#### Housing

- **5,172 nights of housing** provided to survivors

#### Holistic Support

- **177 survivors** engaged in **life skills training**
- **73 survivors** received **legal support**
- **58 survivors** engaged in ongoing **trauma counselling**
- **33 survivors** participated in **employment training**
- **16 graduates** from in-house MSHT programs

### **Illuminate – A Survivor Shines Bright**

We welcomed a resident into our program whose journey has been defined by resilience, success and a remarkable desire to create an extraordinary life. Embracing the in-house programming, including mental-health services, she wholeheartedly participated in every growth opportunity that came her way. At the same time, she enrolled in an online course at a local college to continue her education. She also started volunteering at a non-profit organization, embodying the spirit of giving back.

While being a part of the safe house program, this resident launched her own beading business. These many successes are a testament to her unwavering determination and resilience, turning challenges into stepping stones towards a brighter future.

We take immense pride in celebrating her achievements as she continues to inspire others with her story of triumph and perseverance.



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# Key Area #4:

## Partnering with Others. Advocating for Change.

If we want to make any real, long-lasting impact in the area of MSHT, The Salvation Army cannot do this alone. We recognize that we need to intentionally stand and collaborate with others to advocate and end MSHT.

Partnerships and collaborations continue to be vital in our response work. **In 2023, we engaged in 913 internal and external partnerships and collaborations.** These centred around working together to support the needs of survivors, engaging in collective programming and projects, offering education and awareness through classes and webinars, working to end the demand, providing referrals and engaging in advocacy and prevention work.

In addition, we have personnel participating in **29 local and national MSHT task forces and coalitions.**

The Salvation Army contributed and worked on **four research projects**, with topics such as accessibility to support services for survivors, how the British Columbia housing crisis has impacted human trafficking, violence against women and girls, and prostitution.



## Government Relations and Advocacy – Territorial MSHTR Committee

Our committee found many opportunities in 2023 to contribute and engage in advocacy on a provincial and federal level, including:

- **Parliament Hill Week, May 2023.** We were invited as part of a delegation to help educate the government on the scope and expansive nature of The Salvation Army's work in Canada. We met with members of Parliament, senators and political party leaders to discuss our success in providing education and awareness, along with detailing the support services we offer throughout the country for people with lived experience.
- **Submission to the Standing Committee on the Status of Women.** We provided recommendations on the necessity of upholding Bill C-36 and reducing the demand, addressing and resolving underlying social issues that contribute and sustain sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, and deconstructing the colonial structures and systems that increase the vulnerabilities of Indigenous women and girls to become and remain victims of domestic sex trafficking.
- **Written Submission in Support of Bill S-224.\*** Advocating for easier conviction of an individual for human trafficking by removing the requirement that victims prove the trafficking they experienced caused them fear prior to a conviction being entered.
- **Brief Submission on Modern Forms of MSHT.** In response to the call for input during the United Nations Special Rapporteur's visit to Canada, we submitted a brief on contemporary forms of slavery.

\* [parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/s-224](https://parl.ca/legisinfo/en/bill/44-1/s-224)

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# Territorial MSHTR Committee

## Leadership Team



### Lead

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**[nl-msht@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:nl-msht@salvationarmy.ca)**

For questions and inquires for Bermuda, please email:

**[bm-msht@salvationarmy.ca](mailto:bm-msht@salvationarmy.ca)**

If you suspect a person may be a victim of modern slavery and human trafficking  
call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at

**1-833-900-1010**

SA JUSTICE MSHTR Canada and Bermuda website:

**[salvationist.ca/trafficking](http://salvationist.ca/trafficking)**

# Take Two

She's pretty  
She's plain  
She's vulnerable  
She's feisty

She's a stranger  
She's a daughter  
She may be the one you think, "not her"

No matter what ... no matter who  
It's always time ... to take two

Two hours to learn  
Two seconds to see  
Two minutes to weep  
Two years to break free

There's a scourge going on  
That's hidden from sight

There's more than we see  
There's much to make right

Together we can  
Make a difference for those

Whose rights are abused  
Whose lives are on hold

Will you join in the fight?  
Will you see with new eyes?  
Will you hold out your hand  
And say, "Here, take mine"?

Mary Read Horton

Winning poetry submission for the  
2024 Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Awareness  
Ontario Division Poetry Contest: Spirit of the Contest Category



# FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

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