

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING THE MALE VICTIM



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# What is Human Trafficking?

- ***Human Trafficking*** - “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, receiving, holding, concealing or harboring of a person, or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating in their exploitation.” - Criminal Code of Canada (2015)
- ***Exploitation*** - The action or fact of treating someone unfairly in order to benefit from their work

# Statistics

- The vast majority (96%) of detected victims of human trafficking were women and girls. In all, one in four (25%) victims were under the age of 18. Meanwhile, one in five (20%) were aged 25 to 34. (StatsCanada2020)
- 2016, just under 20 million persons worldwide were victims of trafficking either through forced labour or sexual exploitation (International Labour Organization 2017)



# Male Victims

Report published by Interpol and ECPAT International

## Infant victims:

### Online exploitation and sexual abuse

- Over 60% unidentified prepubescent – including infants & toddlers
- Link between genders and the level of abuse were also identified, with severe abuse images more likely to feature boys

Urban Institute Survey – Those surveyed 13-21 years of age

### Survival Sex: (Surviving the streets)

46% Male

11% Trans female

2% Trans other

35% Female

3% Trans male

3% Other



# How Does This Happen?

## GROOMING Models:

**Trusted friend**



**Online**



**Gang related**



**Boyfriend – Girlfriend Model**



**Peer on peer abuse**



**Female perpetrator**



**Opportunistic**



**Vulnerable 2SLGBTQ+**





# Pathways to Exploitation for boys

## Family

- To help support family poverty
- To fund family substance use

## Street Family

- Runaway, throw away, abandoned
- Peer facilitated, House Mom

## Survival

- Commercial sex to support themselves

## Seeking Validation

- 2SLGBTQ+
- Lack of positive male role model
- Peer acceptance



# 7 Stages of Grooming

- 1) Targeting
- 2) Contacting
- 3) Keeping Control
- 4) Perceived positive Behaviour
- 5) Negative Behaviour
- 6) Control & Reinforcement
- 7) Sexual Exploitation



Adapted from the BLAST (Yorkshire MESMAC) v seven stage grooming model, which is applicable to boys and young men.

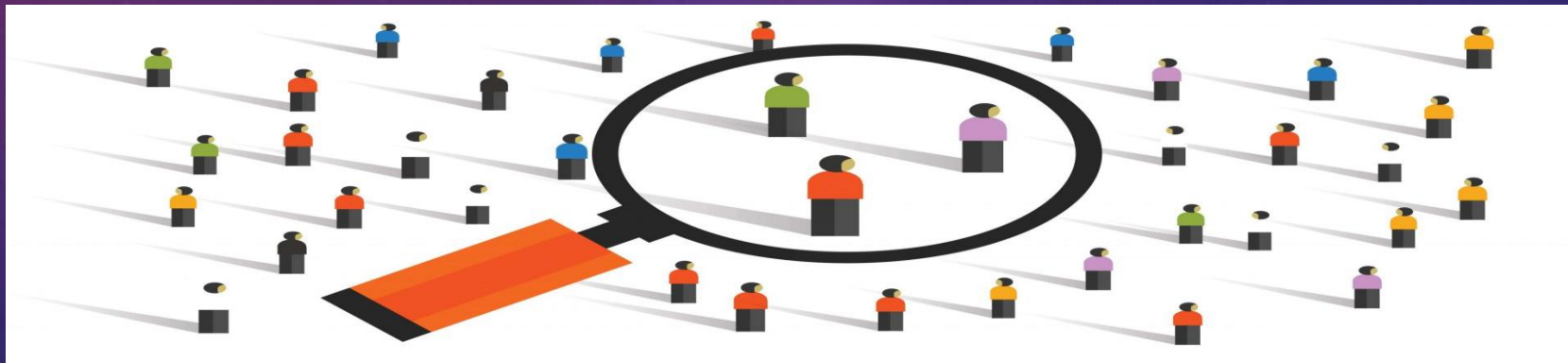
# 1) Targeting

## What:

The perpetrator seeks boys and young men, and is looking for opportunity.

## How:

Internet - apps, chatrooms, games  
Safe places - school, sports club, youth club, transport  
Risky places - bars, clubs, streets, cruising sites, toilets





## 2) Contacting

### What:

The perpetrator finds the opportunity to make contact.



### How:

Online - friend requests, messages, creates fake profiles, joins groups and/or games

Offline – offers something ie money, lifts, friendship, advice, protection, alcohol, drugs



### 3) Keeping Contact

#### What:

The perpetrator maintains and continues to build the relationship. Often this is done through offering gifts and attention.



#### How:

Encourages further contact – swaps contact details, suggests or arranges a meeting, provides a mobile phone

Offers what they want or need – ie love, affection, advice, support, friendship, a place to stay, protection, alcohol, drugs





## 4) Perceived positive behaviour

### What:

The perpetrator presents as a safe and 'cool' person. This is with the intention of making the child or young person want to spend time with them.



### How:

Appropriate activities – ie days out, cinema, sports.  
Appropriate attention – talking, text messages, compliments, affection, encouraging trust  
Impresses him – nice car, money, friends, jokes  
Appropriate gifts – clothing, phone, food and drink, cash, games, romantic presents  
Does favours – ie a place to stay, lifts, support and advice

## 5) Negative Behaviour

### What:

The perpetrator sexualizes the child or young person, and creates situations or information to use against him. Unsafe or risky activities are common here, as well as normalising sexual behaviours.



### How:

Gifts – alcohol, drugs, porn, sexualised clothing or items  
Tests touch – dares, massage, play fighting  
Gives attention – isolates, sexualised chat, keep secrets, flirting and sexting  
Activities – drinking, taking drugs, clubbing, watching porn, cruising sites, nights in hotels



## 6) Control Reinforcement

### What:

The perpetrator finds ways to remain in control. For example, he/she might speak positively about the current situation and negatively about the child or young person's life before. Control techniques may also include threats and intimidation.



### How:

Highlights the positives – being treated like an adult, fun and independence  
Exaggerates the negatives – without them life would be boring, no fun, no gifts  
Exerts control – demands, threats, isolate, create fear and dependency

## 7) Sexual Exploitation

### What:

The perpetrator engages the young person in sexual activity for their own benefit.



### How:

Sexual activity – includes sexual images, sex with others and selling children or young people for sex  
Persuade – beg, offer incentives, comments like ‘it’s a favour’, ‘you will enjoy it’, for the perpetrator’s benefit, play on guilt and love  
Blackmail – comments like ‘you should have known what to expect’, ‘you don’t get something for nothing’, ‘you won’t be believed’, blame, threat, using information against the child or young person



# Vulnerabilities

## Gender perceptions make it a hidden issue

- Less likely to report
- Professionals don't always recognize the signs
- Gendered attitudes – “Boys will be boys”
- Risk indicators and services can often be female centric
- Lack of professional curiosity and unconscious bias can lead to being overlooked



## Homelessness and Missing Episodes

- Boys tend to be reported missing later than girls
- Or, to be less at risk



## 2SLGBTQ+

- Belonging
- Acceptance
- Homeless





## Technology & Social Media

- Gaming sites
- Peer on peer via technology (pictures being shared)

## Links With Offending

- Gangs and/or offending behaviour
- Often, it's the offending that gets noticed and responded to by professionals
- May be forced to commit offences as a way to pay debt owed
- Boys tend to display trauma externally and be labelled as violent and/or aggressive
- May com in contact with predators through offending behaviour



# Risk Factors Unique to Males

- Lack of present male role model
- Fear of diminishing manhood
- Feeling of invincibility
- Need to serve as the “Man of the house”
- Need for hormone therapy
- Fear of being outed or weak
- Higher rates of substance dependency and incarceration
- Lack of attention on and impunity of female buyers
- Exclusion or marginalization in prevention & intervention efforts
- Gender biases
- Racism
- Toxic norms around masculinity
- Homophobia (internal/external)
- Misandry





# Barriers & Fears

- Misconception that males cannot be victims
- Female victim and male perpetrator paradigm
- Being judged for their sexual identity – whether they identify as LGBTQ+ or fear the consequences of being perceived as such
- Because of the stigma, many male victims will not disclose their sexual exploitation
- Lack of resources to help exit the trafficking situation and address their needs.
- Cultural and Religious beliefs



# Looking Forward

- Develop and conduct trainings for frontline workers (police, healthcare providers, agencies, schools)
- Create more resources and services for male survivors of sex trafficking
- Raise awareness of these services where victims are commonly found (Hospitals, Shelters, Courts, Counselling, Legal Aid, Financial Assistance Offices, etc)
- Discuss sex trafficking of males in training seminars, webinars and awareness events
- Value the stories of those with lived experience and let their voices be heard

