

Human trafficking is a form of modern slavery. It's a multibillion-dollar criminal industry that denies freedom to an estimated 40.3 million people around the world. Of those, an estimated 20.9 million people are forced into different forms of sex and labour trafficking.



No matter where we live in Canada or Bermuda, chances are it's happening nearby...

**It happens to the young girl who is deceived and pressured by her “boyfriend” to sell her body out of a hotel room after school.**

**It transpires to the man who enters the country on a temporary migrant worker visa and is now picking fruit on a farm in deplorable, exploitative conditions.**

**It occurs to the man working in a restaurant who has been deprived access to his passport, forced to work in a situation divested of dignity, and in fear of the safety of his family if he tries to quit.**

**It is seen in the woman whose family cannot locate her as she is being moved around the country and forced to work in massage parlors and brothels.**

This injustice and travesty is happening right here in our own backyard – all around us and on a daily basis. It is important that we are able to “Spot the Signs” so that we can identify a potential victim.

Not all the signs listed below are present in all situations involving human trafficking. Although the presence or absence of any signs neither proves or disproves that human trafficking is taking place, their presence should lead to investigation.

## General Signs of Human Trafficking (both sex and labour trafficking)

*Warning signs that someone may be a victim of human trafficking include:*

- Not able to leave or quit their work or change their circumstance if and when they want to;
- Being forced to work under certain conditions. This could include being unable to negotiate working conditions, working excessively long hours over long periods of time, and having no time/days off;
- Receiving little to no pay and having limited or no access or control to their earnings placing them in a situation of dependence;
- Being forced to live where they work;
- Being controlled and watched by others and often watched, driven to and from locations, and escorted at all times; having someone speak for them in public;
- Providing scripted or rehearsed answers to casual questions;
- Not being allowed to contact family or friends;
- Lying about age; showing false ID; or having no ID to show due to passport and identification documents confiscated and held by others;
- Not being familiar with the neighbourhood they live or work in. May not be familiar with the local language;
- Being moved frequently; claim to be “new” or “just visiting”;
- Not having control of their cellphone or may have more than one cellphone in their possession;
- May have acted on the basis of false job promises and have had the fees for their transportation to the country of destination paid for by facilitators whom they must payback by working or providing services in the destination.

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Giving Hope Today

The presence of any one of these signs may indicate that a person may be a potential victim of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Local Contact

**ALL ARE NEEDED  
IN THIS FIGHT – JOIN IN!**

For more information about spotting the signs of human trafficking, please visit our website

[salvationist.ca/trafficking](https://salvationist.ca/trafficking)

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**FIGHT FOR FREEDOM**  
CANADA & BERMUDA TERRITORY

**SPOT THE SIGNS**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
– Sex and Labour Trafficking –



**SA JUSTICE**  
CANADA & BERMUDA  
**MODERN SLAVERY AND  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESPONSE**

(02/2021-BDA)

***Mental health or signs of abnormal behaviour of potential victims of human trafficking:***

- Act in a fearful, anxious, submissive or nervous manner, excessive concern about displeasing partner/employer;
- Fearful of law enforcement or immigration services and therefore not willing to disclose their immigration status;
- Avoids eye contact and/or has another person speak for them;
- May have visible signs of substance dependency – alcohol and/or drugs;
- Expressing fear and intimidation through facial expressions or body language;
- Suffers from trauma (i.e. PTSD).

***Physical appearance of potential victims of human trafficking:***

- May be dressed in age-inappropriate clothing;
- May be dressed in clothing inappropriate for the time of year or context;
- May suddenly have expensive clothing, purses, shoes, nail services;
- May not have access to the appropriate clothing and safety equipment needed to do a labour job;
- Branding with tattoos of the trafficker’s name or symbol;
- May have bruises or other signs of physical abuse including malnourishment;
- May suffer injuries or impairments typical of certain jobs and applied control measures;
- May show signs of being physically restrained, confinement or torture;
- Lacking in basic medical services or is being denied these services by employer.



***Potential victims may:***

- Not know they are being victimized because they have a relationship with their trafficker – it could be their boyfriend, employer or friend;
- Not appear to need assistance because they have a place to live, food to eat, nice clothes, medical care and even a “paying job”;
- Be unaware of their rights, or may have been intentionally misinformed about their rights so they don’t know they can receive help;
- Be taught to distrust and fear the government and law enforcement officers because they are afraid they will get arrested or deported (if from another country);
- Feel alone, isolated, helpless with nowhere else to turn therefore they will do as they are told;
- Fear for their safety or the safety of someone known to them as some traffickers will threaten to harm the victim, their friends or family members if they report their situation to, or cooperate with law enforcement;
- Feel as though they have a debt to “pay back” or bonded by debt – for things like gifts, drugs, accommodation, recruitment fees, transportation from country of origin, etc.

(Sources: Polaris; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; Canadian Center to End Human Trafficking)

**Specific Signs of Sex Trafficking**

People who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation are typically made to work in brothels, massage parlours, strip clubs, gentleman’s clubs, house, hotels, and pornography (i.e. videos, photos).

***Warning signs that a person may have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation (in addition to general signs):***

- Be of any age, although the age may vary according to the location and the demand market;
- Have no personal items of their own;
- Only know how to say sex-related words in the local language or in the language of the client group;

- They may be exposed to higher incidences of sexually transmitted infections;
- May be in possession of excess cash outside their financial means and have hotel keys.



**Specific Signs of Labour Trafficking**

People who have been trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation are typically made to work in sectors such as agriculture, construction, entertainment, service industry (i.e. restaurants, beauty salons) and manufacturing (i.e. sweatshops).

***Warning signs that a person may have been trafficked specifically for labour exploitation (in addition to general signs):***

- Live in groups in the same place where they work and are not permitted to leave worksite unaccompanied;
- Lack basic training and professional licenses;
- Have no labour contract;
- Depend on their employer for a number of services, including work, transportation and accommodation;
- The employer or manager is unable to show the documents required for employing workers from other countries and is unable to show records of wages paid to workers;
- There is evidence that labour laws are being breached;
- There is evidence that workers must pay for tools, food or accommodation or that those costs are being deducted from their wages;
- Disciplined through fines.

**Specific Signs of Domestic Servitude**

***Warning signs that a person may have been trafficked for the purpose of domestic servitude (in addition to general signs):***

- Live with a family and sleep in a shared or inappropriate space that lacks privacy;
- Not eat with the rest of the family and/or only given leftovers to eat;
- Be reported missing by their employer even though they are still living in their employer’s house;
- Never or rarely leave the house for social reasons;
- Never or rarely leave the house without their employer.

**Specific Signs of Child Trafficking**

***Warning signs that a child is being trafficked (in addition to general signs):***

- An inability to attend school on a regular basis, drop in grades, and/or unexplained absences;
- Frequently running away from home;
- A sudden change in attire, behaviour, relationships, or material possessions (e.g., expensive items);
- Uncharacteristic promiscuity and/or references to sexual situations or terminology beyond age-specific norms;
- A “boyfriend” or “girlfriend” who is noticeably older, overly generous (for a period of time) and/or controlling;
- A sudden change in attention to personal hygiene;
- Hyper-arousal or symptoms of anger, panic, phobia, irritability, hyperactivity, frequent crying, temper tantrums, regressive behaviour, and/or clinging behaviour;
- Hyper-arousal or symptoms of daydreaming, inability to bond with others, inattention, forgetfulness, and/or shyness.

(Sources: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; National Center for Safe Supportive Learning)

