



BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons

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Ministry of Justice

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What is Human Trafficking?

**To control a person
for the purpose of
Exploitation**



International Instruments

- **UN Palermo Protocol**
to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, was adopted by the United Nations in Palermo, Italy in 2000
- **Canada ratified in 2002**





UN Framework: The 4 Ps

- **Prevention** of trafficking in persons
- **Protection** of victims of trafficking
- **Prosecution** of offenders
- **Partnerships** of stakeholders





Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Article 1:

All human Beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights

- Article 4:

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude





Definition of Trafficking

ACT

Recruit
Transport
Harbour
Control
movement



MEANS

May Include:

Threats
Coercion
Deception, or
Fear for safety
or safety of
another



PURPOSE

Labour and
Services
Sexual
Exploitation
Organ Removal

EXPLOITATION



Exploitation Includes:

- **Sexual exploitation**
- **Forced labour or services**
- **Slavery or practices similar to slavery**
- **Domestic Servitude**
- **Child soldiering**
- **Forced adopt/marriage**



Smuggling vs. Trafficking

- **Smuggling:** Once at their destination, smuggled persons are free to do as they please
- **Trafficking:** Once at their destination, trafficked persons are exploited





Prosecution

Federal Legislation:

- 2002: Immigration and Refugee Protection Act
- 2005: Criminal Code Section 279.01-.04





Protection – Temporary Resident Permit (TRP)

- 180 days - work permit, emergency health/dental services /counselling
- 178 TRPs issued to 73 foreign nationals in Canada (May 2006 to Dec 2011)

source: National Action Plan - June 2012



RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre

- 6 regional coordinators
- BC Coordinator: Cst. Jassy Bindra
- Human Trafficking Toolkit/Youth Prevention Toolkit



Canadian Trafficking Cases

Criminal Code

Total Convictions in Canada: 24

No of trafficked persons: 41

Under age of 18: 26

Domestic trafficking: 90%

Current cases before courts: 56

Trafficked persons: 136

Accused persons: 85



Domestic Trafficking

People recruited, coerced, deceived for the purpose of exploitation within Canada


Significant proportion are women and children trafficked for sexual exploitation

Unique vulnerabilities for Aboriginal populations



Unique Vulnerabilities

- Impact of colonization, racism, and residential schools
- Exposure to physical and sexualized violence as minors
- Disconnection of families (foster care system)
- Lack of public transportation force girls to hitch hike (Hwy of Tears)
- Extreme poverty
- Violence is 3X higher for Aboriginal women



**Hidden, un-named, normalized
exploitation that puts Aboriginal
communities at risk...
(Hunt, 2008)**



Sister, Relative, Auntie...



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Silence...is killing our
communities.

- Musque'um Elder

“Juvenile Prostitution” is Sexual Exploitation

Average age of first
involvement in prostitution:

12-14 yrs

Children cannot consent to
exploitation





Where?

- Vancouver Downtown East Side
- Oil rigs and mining in northern BC
- Geographic city triangles (e.g. Prince George, Kamloops, Vancouver)
- Cross border between traditional reserve communities (Canada/US)



Trafficking Indicators

Grooming:

- Sudden increase in 'bling' (hoodies, ipods)
- New collection of older friends
- Sudden infusion of cash – for vending machines, buying things for self and friends

Exploitation:

- No control over their money
- Signs of being controlled or abused (branding)
- Fear or anxiety
- Drug Addiction

Identifying a Potentially Trafficked Minor

- Talks about an older boyfriend or having sex with older men
- Uses words associated with prostitution
- Hangs around strip clubs, massage parlours
- Lack of parent involvement/may be in foster care
- Labelled as a run-away, throw-away, child prostitute
- May not attend school
- Prior history of abuse
- Poverty, addiction, crime involvement
- Signs of neglect, poor health, abuse
- Malnutrition
- Branding/tattooes





Recruitment Strategies

- School yard
- Internet – Facebook, Twitter
- Luring and grooming by “boyfriend”
- Drugs
- Girls as Recruiters

Why would girls not report?

Fear, Family ties, Addicted, Shame and Humiliation



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Barriers to accessing care exist ...

- Personal Barriers
- Service Barriers

Factors that Impede Service Delivery

Personal Barriers:

- Do not self identify
- Pimp/trafficker control
- Trauma bonding
- Fear, shame and self-blame
- Threats
- Drug dependency
- Sexual confusion (ie. victims of sexual abuse/assault)
- Repercussions
- Extension of violence



Factors that Impede Service Delivery

Service Barriers:

- Distrust of service providers/safety
- Inadequate services
- Lack of Knowledge of services
- Labels
- Language barrier
- MSP/insurance
- Education level



Physical Abuse and Deprivation

Physical injuries can be signs of abuse, torture and control

Physical consequences:

- Ligature injuries (strangulation)
- Contusions/bruises
- Cuts
- Burns/cigarette burns
- Broken bones
- Branding
- Deprivation (light, sleep, food)
- Death



Source: Zimmerman, C. et al. (2003). *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents: Findings from a European study*. London, UK: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Threats, Intimidation & Abuse

A common control tactic with residual mental health consequences requiring long-term medical involvement

Mental health consequences:

- Suicidal ideation and attempts
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Hostility/anger/violence
- Post traumatic stress disorder
- Flashbacks
- Re-experiencing symptoms
- Addiction



Source: Zimmerman, C. et al. (2003). *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents: Findings from a European study*. London, UK: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Substance Abuse and Misuse

Alcohol and drugs can be used by traffickers to maintain control, and as a coping mechanism by the trafficked person to mask the pain

Potential consequences:

- Overdose
- Suicide
- Drug addiction
- Alcohol addiction



Source: Zimmerman, C. et al. (2003). *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents: Findings from a European study*. London, UK: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Emotional abuse, Social restrictions & Manipulation

Social restriction creates an obvious challenge to identifying persons who are trafficked

Potential consequences:

- Psychological trauma and distress
- Poor overall health
- Exposure to communicable disease
- Restricted medical access



Source: Zimmerman, C. et al. (2003). *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents: Findings from a European study*. London, UK: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Economic Exploitation

Debt bondage and deceptive accounting

Potential consequences:

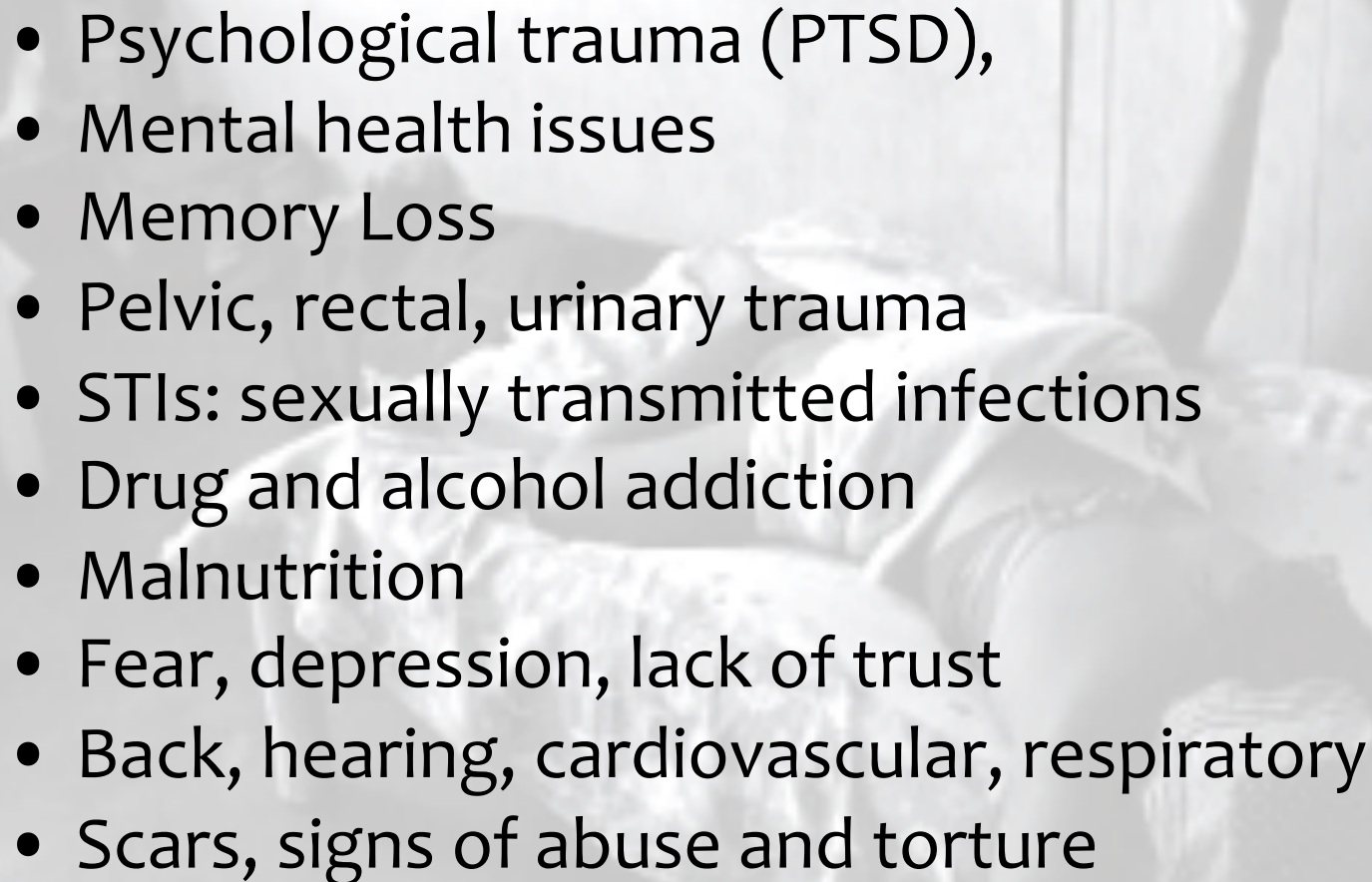
- Insufficient food or fluids
- Malnutrition
- Climate control
- Poor hygiene
- Risk-taking to repay debts
- Insufficient funds to pay for care
- Resale/re trafficking



Source: Zimmerman, C. et al. (2003). *The Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents: Findings from a European study*. London, UK: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Effects Last a Lifetime

- 
- Psychological trauma (PTSD),
 - Mental health issues
 - Memory Loss
 - Pelvic, rectal, urinary trauma
 - STIs: sexually transmitted infections
 - Drug and alcohol addiction
 - Malnutrition
 - Fear, depression, lack of trust
 - Back, hearing, cardiovascular, respiratory
 - Scars, signs of abuse and torture

World Health Organization Guiding Principles

1. Do no harm
2. Know your subject and assess the risks
3. Prepare referral information
4. Ensure anonymity and confidentiality
5. Get informed consent
6. Listen to and respect self assessment
7. Do not re-traumatize
8. Be prepared for emergency intervention
9. Put information collected to good use



BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons

Coordination of BC's
strategy to address
human trafficking:

- sexual exploitation
- labour trafficking
- domestic servitude





Mandate of OCTIP

- Identify gaps and barriers that trafficked persons face
- Coordinate a network of response services for trafficked persons
- Support communities to address this issue
- Contribute to national and international efforts to prevent and eliminate human trafficking



Human Rights Approach

- Recognize violation of rights
- Offer a viable route for escape
- Provide care and assistance in regaining control of his/her life
- Present fair and reasonable life options
- Deliver justice (prosecution and punishment of traffickers, and redress for trafficked persons)

Using a Human Rights Approach





What can we do?

BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP)

Province-wide toll free 24 hours: 1-888-712-7974

Website: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/

RCMP Human Trafficking Coordinator for BC/Yukon

Cpl. Jassy Bindra: 604-598-4603

Crimestoppers – 1-800-222-TIPS (8477)

Cybertip.ca – 1-866-658-9022 national tipline re: child pornography, luring, child trafficking

Ministry of Children and Family Development

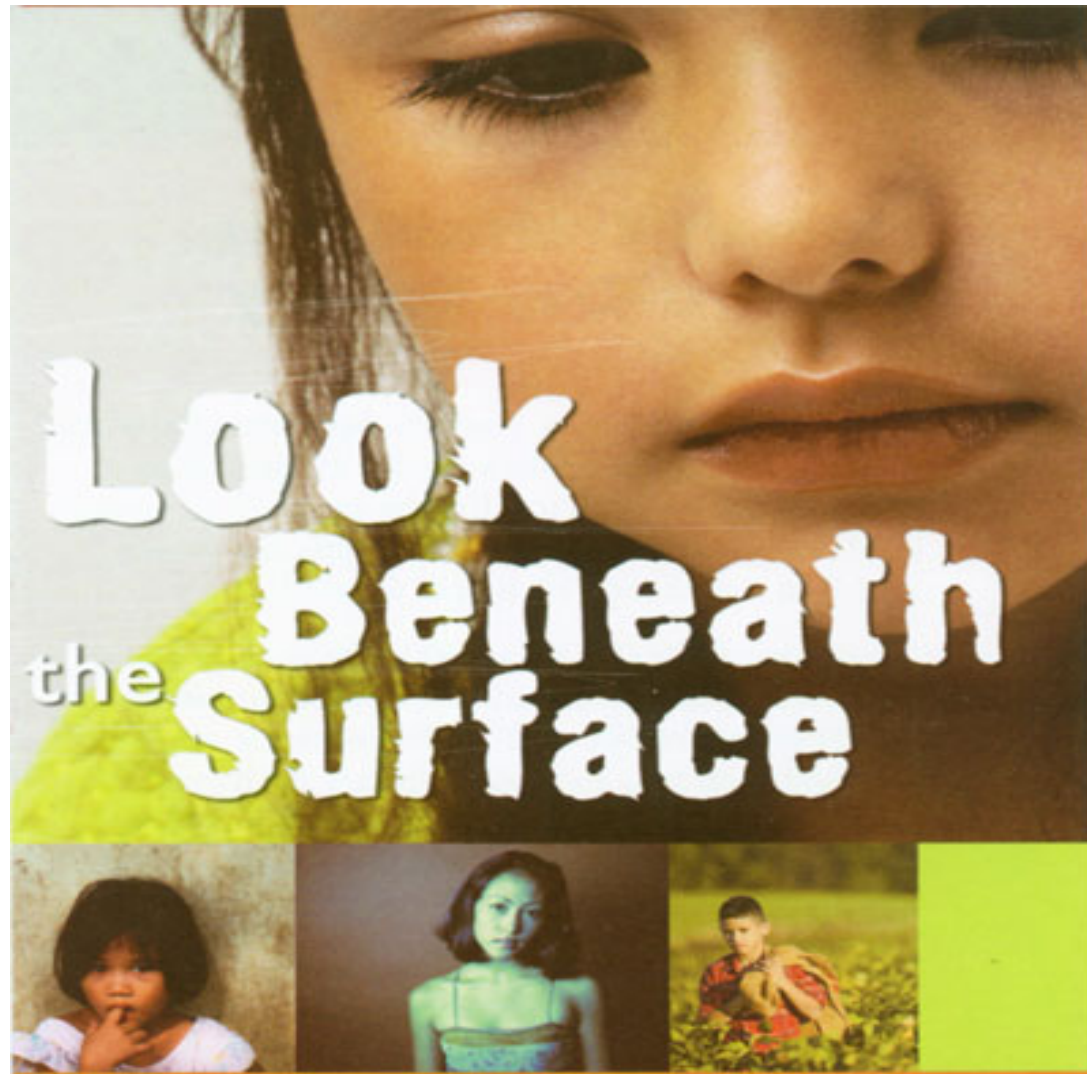
After Hours Phone: 250-310-1234



How can OCTIP help your community?

- Support local efforts to prevent human trafficking/sexual exploitation
- Online training tool for service provider to learn indicators of human trafficking (
<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octip/training.htm>)
- Pocket card distribution; VictimLINK
- Staying Current
- Victim Services/Violence Against Women/CVAP

Trafficked Persons



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The Hurt of one is the Hurt of all..

The Honour of one is the Honour of all...



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