

RCMP-GRC



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE • GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

KNOW THE SIGNS



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

It involves the recruitment, transportation and harbouring of persons and/or control of their movements for the purpose of exploiting them, usually for sexual exploitation or forced labour. It can be described as a modern form of slavery. Human Trafficking can happen anywhere. It can occur across international borders, domestically, or at a local community-based level. The victims are treated as possessions that can be bought and sold.



Be mindful of who you add to your **social media**. Consider only adding people you know, or those with verifiable accounts.

HOW DOES HUMAN TRAFFICKING HAPPEN?

Recruitment can happen everywhere! It can happen at parties, shopping malls, bars, bus stops, train stations, airports and even places like youth centres, shelters, schools and online.

Traffickers (referred to as “pimps” or “madams”) can be strangers or known to their victim, like family members, friends, or a romantic partner. They can also be members of organized crime groups. They are often skilled at identifying people’s unique vulnerabilities, luring or/and gaining their victim’s trust in order to control, isolate, and exploit them for profit. Victims may be recruited for forced labour (e.g., domestic work, restaurant, factory or farm work) whether the work is legal or not. Victims can also be sexually exploited (e.g., massage parlour, strip club or escort business) or have their organs removed to be trafficked.

WHO IS AT RISK?

While anyone can be a victim of human trafficking, vulnerable populations are at an increased risk. This can include migrant workers, new immigrants, youth, LGBTQ2S+ people, Indigenous women and girls, as well as anyone who is socially or economically disadvantaged, or in a vulnerable situation. Some findings have shown that even youth from stable families are at increased risk.

**ANYONE CAN
BE VICTIM
OF HUMAN
TRAFFICKING!**



45% of all victims of police-reported human trafficking were between the ages of 18 and 24 and **28%** were under the age of 18.

RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

You may be a victim of human trafficking if:

- You are not able to explain your circumstance to anyone;
- You don't have control of your identity documents (i.e. passport, driver's license);
- You are not able to move or leave your job;
- Have tattooing, branding to indicate ownership;
- Have someone who always speak on your behalf;
- Have bruises, show signs of abuse and/or malnutrition;
- You are isolated from your friends and family;
- Feel pressured to do things that makes you feel uncomfortable;
- Have someone who controls and monitor your movements, your spending, and/or communications.



Relationships with signs of abuse and control, as well as those with promises of a better life, may have the potential to develop into situations of **human trafficking!**

Where to get help

If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, you can contact:

- **Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline**
The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline is confidential and operates 27/7, 365 days a year. You can contact the toll-free hotline at **1-833-900-1010**, or use the live online chat. Help is available in English and French, along with 200 additional languages through an on-call interpreter.
- Your **local police** or **911**.
- If you wish to report a crime anonymously, call or text **Crime Stoppers** at **1-800-222-8477**.

If you or someone you know needs help, speak to a **trusted adult** (family member, teacher or school counselor), or contact a counselor anonymously at **Kids Help Phone** at **1-800-668-6868**, by text at **686868** or online at www.kidshelpphone.ca.

Visit the RCMP Human Trafficking page for more information.



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