

# Human Trafficking in Ontario

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# WEFIGHT

- Direct services to persons who are found to be trafficked
- Develops effective community strategies in collaboration with organizations who may provide assistance
- Provides education and awareness building to general public and service providers
- Systemic advocacy with provincial and national partners

Legal Assistance of Windsor  
Windsor Essex Children's Aid Society  
University of Windsor, School of Social Work  
Mathew House  
Survivors  
Diocese of London Ministry to Refugee Claimants  
Windsor Police Services  
Victim Services, Windsor Essex  
Windsor Youth Centre  
Multicultural Centre Windsor/Essex  
Welcome Home Shelter  
House of Sophrosyne

Ontario Provincial Police  
Can Am Native Friendship Centre  
Women's Enterprise Skills Training  
Sexual Assault Treatment Centre  
Victim Witness Assistance Program  
Ministry of Children and Youth Justice  
Southwest Detention Centre  
City of Windsor, Social Services  
Street Health  
Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women  
Aids Committee of Windsor

# Elements of Trafficking

## Process Action

Recruiting or  
Harbouring or  
Moving or  
Obtaining a  
person



## Means

Force  
Or  
Fraud  
Or Coercion



## Purpose

Involuntary  
Servitude  
Or  
Debt Bondage  
or Slavery  
or Sexual  
Exploitation



# Who is at Risk?

- People experiencing homelessness
- Youth who have/are experiencing trauma
- Temporary foreign workers
- Undocumented people
- Men/women working in the sex trade

# Where Do We Fit?

Prevention

Identification

Treatment

Systemic/Policy

# Trafficking

## Forced & Domestic Labour/Debt Bondage

- Migrant workers, temporary foreign workers, construction, live-in caregivers

Forced to move drugs/guns into throughout country

Forced to Steal

## Marriage

- Young women & girls
  - Sexual exploitation
  - Fraud

Forced to act as "enforcer" or "collect money from the victim"

Forced to commit fraud

- Collect cheques
- Mail/credit card

## Sex Trade

- Prostitution
- Exotic dancing
- Massage
- On-line-webcam

Organ trafficking



# Exploitation Spectrum

Decent Work  
√ Productive  
√ Fair Income  
√ Freedom to express concerns  
√ Social protections  
√ Equal Opportunities and protections

Labour Law Violations  
√ Can lead to civil or administrative sanctions  
√ Need to assess and address to prevent further abuses  
ie. overtime, minimum wage  
√ Usually calls for labour justice response

Human Rights Violations  
√ Discrimination or harassment based on the codes grounds  
ie. firing for pregnancy, bathrooms/housing based on race or country of origin  
√ Ensuring equal treatment  
√ Human Rights Tribunal response

Criminal Code Violations  
√ Taking of passport/identification  
√ Fraud  
√ Extortion  
√ Workplace violence/harassment  
√ Usually calls for a criminal justice response

Forced Labour/Trafficking  
√ If signs of coercion, involuntariness or threats in combination with previously described violations (or others)  
√ Calls for a criminal justice response

# Marriage as Trafficking

- Recent study found 219 cases in Ontario between 2010 – 2012
- Between 18 – 34 years old
- Approximately ½ were citizens
- Most experienced other forms of family violence
- Financially dependent on their families

# Sex Trafficking Exploitation Continuum RISK FACTORS

## At Risk

- CAS Involvement (self and/or children)
- Self Esteem concerns
- Poverty

## Low Risk

- Friends/Family drug use
- History of abuse
- History of group homes/foster care

## Medium Risk

- Unexplained Injuries
- Drug/Alcohol use
- Older friend circle
- Self-Harm
- Children apprehended by CAS
- Difficulty with housing
- Legal Issues
- Did not complete high school

## High/Immediate Risk

If signs of coercion/threats in relation to above indicators

Disclosed pimp/working in sex trade

## Group/Individual work

- TRAUMA
- Regarding Safe and healthy Relationship Boundaries
- Respect for self
- Community resources
- Education focus
- Consult with supervisor

## Consult/Referral to WEFiGHT

Shelley Gilbert  
Coordinator of Social Work  
(519) 253-7831 Ext 4213  
Amanda Pierce  
Project Coordinator  
(519) 253-7831 Ext 4222  
**Gillian Golden**  
Youth in Transition Worker  
(519) 253-7831 Ext 4220

If client is in immediate danger contact 911 for assistance

# 3 Questions

1. Have you ever worked and someone took all/some of your money?
2. Have you ever felt forced into doing something that made \$ for someone else?
3. Has fear/confusion ever made you feel trapped in a lifestyle?

# How Does this Happen?

- Recruitment Strategies & Risk Factors
- Ongoing Abuse/Coercion
- Returning to Abusive Environment

# Recruitment (Labour)

Lisa

- Extreme poverty with no opportunity out
- Children
- Provided opportunity to work in Canada and pay for children's needs
- Paid fee to recruiter for the work

John

- Lived with family in poverty
- Little opportunity for education/training
- Very little work in country
- Told about someone, from own community, who has “made it in Canada”
- Given the opportunity to “make it” here too

# Recruitment (Marriage)

## Mary

- Lives in war torn country
- 14 years old and oldest child
- Parents are offered money for her hand in marriage
- Promised their daughter can finish school in another country
- Money could be used to feed the family

## Sarah

- 1<sup>st</sup> generation Canadian
- Was told at the age of 10 years she would be married to her cousin in country of origin
- Parents worried about “negative influences” in Canadian society
- Also wanted to expand family social connections

Toronto Star article, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

# Recruitment (Sex Trafficking)

## Jenny

- In & out of care and group homes
- Substance abuse in family
- A lot of distrust in systems
- Introduced to a guy by a girl she knew from the group home
- Guy entices her to come to another province to meet with him and perhaps start a relationship

## Annie

- Crown ward living in group home
- No family involvement & no real attachments to anyone
- Wants to be “part of a family”
- Introduced to a guy who pretends to be interested in her and convinces her to “try” prostitution for the weekend

# Recruitment Strategies

- Poverty
- Lack of options for self
- Substance misuse
- Possibility of new life
- Need to escape abuse
- Use of someone from your own culture, community, background who is successful
- Sense of adventure

# Coercion (Labour)

## John

- Locked in basement
- Witnessed threats/violence to others
- Threatened to be killed and his body buried in the woods
- Isolated work environment

## Lisa

- Threats of firing & deportation if non-compliant
- Work permit is for single employer so no chance to find another
- Constant monitoring of movements at work and home
- Strict house rules to follow

# Coercion (Marriage)

## Mary

- Husband extremely emotionally, physically and sexually abusive
- Moves her from family
- Isolates her
- Changes her name, birth year and province of her birth

## Sarah

- Afraid she will be ostracized from family
- Afraid she will be abandoned by family
- Afraid she will bring shame and embarrassment to family

# Coercion (Sex Trafficking)

## Jenny

- Violence
- Threats
- Threats to family
- “Omnipotence” of the trafficker(s)
- Fear of police

## Annie

- Violence/threats
- Belief this is her “family”
- Lack of trust/attachment to the system
- Fear of abandonment

# Coercion

- Threats/violence to the individual or family
- Lack of understanding/knowledge of the law
- Lack of/precarious immigration status
- Lack of trust of authorities/systems
- Isolation/Loneliness
- The system not recognizing the factor
- Threats of deportation
- Economic intimidation
- Need to pay back debt

# Exploitation (Labour)

## John

- Worked 14 – 16 hour days
- No pay
- Had to pay trafficker back for airfare, shampoo etc

## Lisa

- Worked long hours
- Although against contract told she had to repay airfare
- Paid additional money for transportation, for rent, for help to get OHIP, for work permit renewal

# Exploitation (Marriage)

## Mary

- Provided free labour for husband and his family
- “Sanctioned” sexual violence

## Sarah

- Additional social and business/financial connections secured with her marriage

# Exploitation (Sex Trafficking)

## Annie and Jenny

- Pimps determined what acts they would perform to charge the highest amount of money
- Worked extremely long hours
- Received little to no money
- Fed infrequently

# Exploitation

- Using them to make money
- Using them to take the risk of criminal charges
- Using them for free/cheap labour
- Using them for social status/connections

# “Why do they go back?”

- Poverty, lack of options
- Little/no opportunity for education, training
- Fear of having to return/hopelessness for the future
- Lack of stability
- Isolation from family
- Lack of immigration options
- Additional stress due to criminal justice process

# Ontario Strategy

## Includes

- Support services
- Law enforcement
- Enhanced prosecution
- Education/training
- Housing – resources and regulatory changes

# What Survivors Need

- Support
- Trustworthy people
- Safe place
- Stability
- Counselling
- Art-Therapy
- Stronger justice system & laws
- Crown attorneys
- Law Enforcement
- Organizations specifically created to help victims of human trafficking

# Healing

- Treatment
- Regular doctor's visits
- Trust
- Building strong relationships
- Socialize
- Being myself again

# ART-THERAPY

- The world of art-therapy
- Drawing
- Painting
- Reading books
- Writing journals
- Exercise

# NEW PURPOSE

- Get a job
- Saving for school
- Help people
- Family support
- Relationships
- Family
- Being happy



STOP  
**HUMAN**  
TRAFFICKING

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[WWW.WEFIGHT.CA](http://WWW.WEFIGHT.CA)

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