

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN HRM



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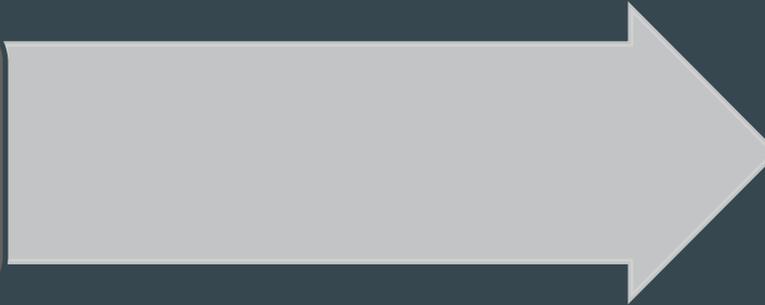
# HELP US KEEP THIS SPACE SAFE

Please remain respectful of others.



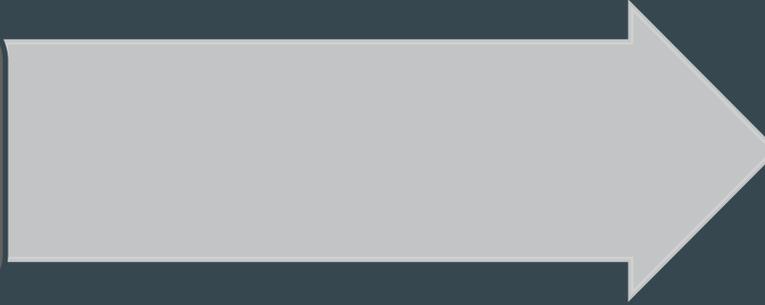
**SENSITIVE MATERIAL WARNING!**  
THIS PRESENTATION CONTAINS CONTENT THAT  
MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR SOME PARTICIPANTS

HT only involves crossing international borders



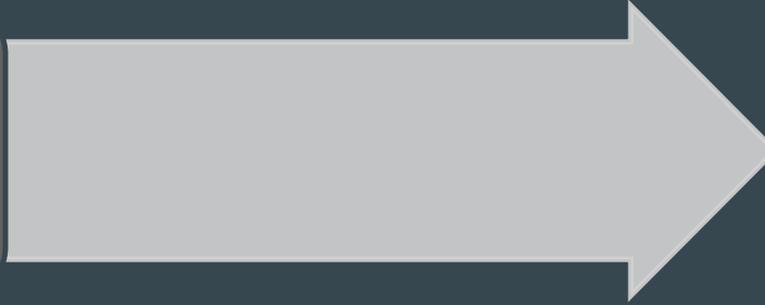
The majority of HT that happens in Canada is domestic

Victims of HT are kidnapped by strangers and forcibly confined



The majority of victims know and have a relationship with their traffickers

All traffickers are male and all victims are female and come from “bad families”



Traffickers and victims can be any gender and from any background

**THE MAJORITY OF HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING THAT HAPPENS  
IN CANADA IS DOMESTIC**

# IT'S HAPPENING HERE

- **NS has the highest rates of Human Trafficking in Canada**; the rate of Human Trafficking for NS in 2019 was 5.2 (cases per 100,000)\*
- This is not just a Halifax issue – **It is happening in rural communities too**
- Although there is no “legal” sex trade in Nova Scotia, there is an **identified trafficking corridor between Halifax and Moncton, NB** (the closest legal strip club to Nova Scotia)\*\*
- Mix of adult & youth, independent & 3<sup>rd</sup> party controlled, and street/survival-based engagement
- Disproportionately affects ANS, Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+ Communities



**THE MAJORITY OF VICTIMS  
KNOW AND HAVE A  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THEIR  
TRAFFICKERS**

# LURING & GROOMING TACTICS

- Posing as a boyfriend, girlfriend, lover or best friend
- Gifting material or luxury items
- Promising a better life
- Supplying drugs and alcohol or party lifestyle
- Providing love, community or a sense of belonging
- Offering free rides, transportation, trips outside community
- Paying for personal grooming (hair and nails etc)
- Mentoring and “teaching the ropes”
- False advertising for employment opportunities

# LURING, RECRUITMENT & GROOMING

**LURING** Vulnerable individual is identified and engaged.

**GROOMING** A relationship is formed between the victim and the perpetrator through promises for the future, and intense needs fulfillment.

**RECRUITMENT** The idea of working in the commercial sex trade is introduced, harms are minimized, and material reward is amplified.

**EXPLOITATION** Perpetrator isolates the victim, limits their freedoms, & takes control of their working conditions and money.

# MOST PEOPLE DO NOT CONSIDER THEMSELVES TO BE VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



# THE SPECTRUM OF CHOICE

NO CHOICE	COHERCED CHOICE	PERCEIVED CHOICE	SITUATIONAL CHOICE	APPARENT CHOICE	EVIDENT CHOICE
3RD PARTY CONTROLLED			MAY BE 3RD PARTY	INDEPENDANT	
KIDNAPPED	DECEIVED	MANIPULATED	CO-DEPENDANCY	EDUCATED DECISION TO PARTICIPATE	
FORCED	THREATENED	ROMANTIC INVOLVEMENT	LACK OF ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY		ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY
CONFINED	BLACKMAILED /SEXTORTED	ECONOMIC DEPENDANCY			AUTONOMOUS
SLAVERY	SEXUAL EXPLOITATION		EXPLOITATIVE		EMPOWERED
TRAFFICKING			SURVIVAL SEX WORKER	SEX WORK	

**TRAFFICKERS AND VICTIMS  
CAN BE ANY GENDER AND  
FROM ANY BACKGROUND**

# TRAFFICKERS

- There is no profile of a “pimp”
- Most offenders are already known to their victims
- Can be a someone who is in a position of power or authority, a family member, or a peer or friend
- Can be any gender, age, have any color of skin, and be from any community
- Some perpetrators have been groomed into the business
- Some victims are also perpetrators

**If we allow our biases and stereotypes to guide our judgement we may misinterpret what we are seeing**

# WHO IS AT RISK?

- Under 18 years old
- Spends unsupervised time alone or with peers
- Owns a cellphone/computer
- Has at least one social media account
- Is attracted to consumer goods
- Desires development of romantic relationships
- Sometimes feel insecure, alone & misunderstood
- Sometimes fight with their parents or feels their parents don't care
- Wants more independence
- Tests boundaries and take risks

**SO  
BASICALLY  
ALL  
YOUTH!**

# RISK ALSO DEPENDS ON...

- **INDIVIDUAL FACTORS:** events in, or characteristics of, an individual's life
- **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS:** come from a child's neighborhood or community
- **SOCIAL FACTORS:** the foundation set up in our culture that makes CSEC possible or ways in which our society promotes or perpetuates sexual exploitation

## INDIVIDUAL RISK FACTORS

GENDER IDENTITY  
SEXUAL ORIENTATION  
RACIAL IDENTIFICATION  
HISTORY OF SEXUAL ABUSE  
LOW SELF-ESTEEM & CONFIDENCE  
NEED FOR APPROVAL AND LOVE  
FAMILY DYNAMIC  
LACK OF SOCIAL SUPPORT NETWORKS  
PROBLEMS AT SCHOOL/BULLYING

HIGHEST  
RISK

## SOCIAL/SYSTEMIC VULNERABILITIES

GENDER INEQUITY  
LEGACY OF COLONIZATION  
SYSTEMIC RACISM  
SOCIAL MARGINALIZATION  
POVERTY  
MASCULINITY NORMS  
COMMUNITY ISOLATION  
LANGUAGE BARRIERS  
HYPERSEXUALIZATION OF GIRLS

# WHO IS AT HIGHEST RISK?

- Youth with a **History of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)**
- **Homeless Youth**
- Youth **In-Care**
- Youth living in **Isolated Communities**
- Youth who have **Dropped Out of School**
- Youth with **Low Self-Esteem and Body Image Issues**

PERPETRATORS OF  
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL  
EXPLOITATION **SEEK OUT**  
**VULNERABILITIES AND**  
**EXPLOIT THEM**

# WARNING SIGNS!

- Regular out of town trips (Halifax, Moncton, Toronto)
- Frequently disappears or goes missing for extended periods of time
- Responds to conversations as if reading a script
- Withdraws from friends, family, school or loved activities
- Evidence of a controlling ‘friend’ or ‘romantic partner’ coupled with fear of the consequences of displeasing that person
- New or excessive secrecy about activities, friends, and online presence
- Has an online relationship with someone they have never met
- Receives unexplained gifts, or is in possession of luxury material items without other financial means to purchase
- Has more than one cell phone
- A tattoo that the youth is reluctant to explain
- Has second “working” bag or purse with safe sex supplies

# CONTINUING ENGAGEMENT

- If you would like more info about TESS email [TESS@ywcahalifax.com](mailto:TESS@ywcahalifax.com)
- Follow TESS on Social Media to stay current on the issue and the provincial response



@TESSNovaScotia

