

# SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IS ABUSE AND A CRIME

Human trafficking is an offence that involves controlling, forcing, intimidating or deceiving a person of any age in order to exploit them through various forms of sexual exploitation or forced labour.

This crime can happen in communities of all sizes, and in all kinds of properties from budget motels to luxury hotels and resorts. Human trafficking/sexual exploitation isn't always easy to spot, but there are some signs you can watch for.

## SIGNS THAT SOMEONE MAY BE A VICTIM:

- They may seem disoriented or disheveled.
- They appear withdrawn and/or intimidated (rarely smile).
- They rarely, if ever, leave the premises or are escorted whenever they do.
- The person/people they're with seems to be preventing them from moving about freely.
- They may be made up to look older than they really are.
- They may show signs of physical abuse.
- They're rarely left alone.
- The person/people they're with are significantly older.
- They don't have their own credit cards or forms of identification.
- They may have tattoos that mark ownership.
- International victims might have a very limited knowledge of English (if any) and will often travel with others, but one person will obviously be in charge of the group.

### Other signs:

- A lot of male visitors to one room.
- Guest rooms with lots of condoms or condom wrappers, lubricants, lingerie, sex toys, drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- High traffic to guest rooms.
- Guests who don't want their rooms cleaned.
- A person who refuses to leave a credit card imprint and insists on paying cash, or uses disposable or reloadable gift credit cards.

**SAY  
SOMETHING  
IF YOU  
SEE  
SOMETHING**



**PARTNERS IN POLICING**

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[www.halifax.ca/police](http://www.halifax.ca/police) [www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ns](http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ns)