



Churches Against **Trafficking:**

A resource for your church

Resourcing Canadian churches in the fight against human trafficking, a training guide for volunteers.

Why the Canadian church should be against trafficking

Becky Murray, CEO, One By One



Throughout the Bible, from the Old Testament story of Joseph in the book of Genesis when his brothers sold him into slavery, to Exodus where the Egyptians enslaved the Israelites for over 400 years, the descriptions of the evil of human trafficking and slavery are told to us over and over again.

Yet human trafficking is not just a phenomenon from biblical times. Here in the 21st Century, modern day slavery blights the lives of vulnerable people across the world. It is estimated that across the globe today there are almost 50 million people in slavery. These are lives destroyed by greed and filled with violence, misery and despair. Yet it is all too easy to think of this as a problem consigned to the developing world and to countries and cultures far removed from ours.

You might be astonished to learn that human trafficking and modern day slavery is alive and flourishing in the Canada. The latest estimate from the global slavery index published by Walk Free is that there are 69,000 people living in modern day slavery in the Canada and it is not just a case of people being trafficked from abroad into the country. Canadian citizens and people from abroad are being exploited and abused by criminal gangs, forced to live in squalid conditions

and commit crimes, or sold into the sex trade or forced marriages.

One By One works around the globe to tackle the evil of human trafficking in some of the world's toughest places. But we also know that by working together with Christians and churches, we can end its scourge here in Canada.

As Christians our duty is to care for and protect our fellow men and women. So it is vital that we are aware of the warning signs of trafficking and slavery that are all too easy to miss; and that we put in place the measures to help those at risk. We need to have our eyes open as well as our hearts so that we can show God's love and protection to those who need it most.

That is why I am so grateful to you and your church for working with us in order to raise the profile of modern day slavery and make us all aware of how to spot the signs and, just as importantly, how to help.

Together and with this knowledge and God's love, we can ensure that nobody has to suffer the misery and pain modern day slavery can cause. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us to bring freedom! Let's be a Church that's against trafficking!

“Go out on to the streets and most people tell you it was eradicated 100 years ago. Sadly, it is not. There are people probably not that far from where you are today who are in slavery.”

Rt Hon Theresa May MP,
Former Prime Minister

What is **Modern Day Slavery** and **Human Trafficking**?

Modern Day Slavery comprises slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, and is a serious and often hidden crime in which people are exploited for criminal gain. The impact can be devastating and potentially life threatening for its victims.

The UN defines human trafficking as 'the recruitment, transport, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a person by such means as threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, abduction, fraud or deception for the purpose of exploitation'.

Canada

In Canada, traffickers compel victims to engage in commercial sex and to work in both legal and illicit industries and sectors, including in hospitality, agriculture, construction, restaurants, factories, massage parlors, retail services, drug smuggling and distribution, child care and domestic work.

While some victims are trafficked into the country from overseas, vulnerable Canadian citizens, including children, are also targeted. These victims face a life of fear, debt, and drudgery, with escape often impossible or severely punished.

In addition to overseas victims, Canadian citizens who have fallen on difficult times can also become ensnared in this cruel web of exploitation. In every case it involves using the weak and vulnerable people for the gain, often financially of the perpetrator.

The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline has identified 1,500 human trafficking cases since its launch in May 2019. During this time, 2,170 victims and survivors have been supported. The Global Slavery Index reveals an alarming statistic: approximately 69,000 individuals live in conditions of modern slavery in Canada. Yet, the real numbers are likely higher due to chronic underreporting.

What is clear is that the victims, whether men, women or children are always vulnerable, frightened and experiencing great pain and distress. Contrary to popular belief, traffickers can be both male and female. In many parts of the world, female traffickers are just as likely to be involved as their male counterparts. They could be individuals, be running small businesses or part of a wider organized crime network. Traffickers often know their victims personally. They may even be family members, which adds a tragic layer to the crime. The close relationship between traffickers and victims makes it challenging to detect and combat these offences effectively.

Human trafficking is the second largest criminal enterprise in the world. It is an industry worth over **\$200 billion**. While the true scale of human trafficking and modern slavery is an unknown, there are an estimated **49.6 million victims** trapped in modern-day slavery globally.

In Canada over 90 per cent of sex trafficking victims come from Canada. The average age of victims is 17, but they can be as young as 13.



What are forms of **human trafficking** in Canada?

Whilst modern day slavery can take many forms, the most common in Canada are:

Sexual exploitation

Forcing individuals into sex work or coercing them to perform sexual acts against their wishes and without their consent. This includes activities such as escort work, involvement in pornography, or being coerced into making indecent images of children. Trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most detected and encountered form of human trafficking by law enforcement in Canada

Bonded/forced labour


Forced labour can occur in various sectors, including agriculture, food processing, construction, entertainment, service industry, and manufacturing such as sweatshops or car washes. Debt bondage is a form of forced labour where individuals are compelled to work in order to repay a debt. Victims are often tricked into working for little or no pay, with no control over their debt.

Domestic servitude

This often occurs within private residences, often disguised as normal domestic work. However, it transitions into enslavement when the worker is unable to leave freely. Domestic servitude is difficult to detect because it occurs within private homes. Victims are often hidden away, unable to leave due to fear or shame.

Use of a person in illegal activities

Victims are often coerced into participating in illegal activities such as growing or transporting drugs, shoplifting, telephone or fraud scams.



The number of police-reported human trafficking incidents in Canada has increased fivefold in the past decade.

“You may choose to look the other way but you can never say again that you did not know.”

William Wilberforce,
Anti-slavery campaigner



How can I spot if someone in my community is a **victim of human trafficking**?

The very fact that victims of modern day slavery are living and working alongside us in our communities means it is all too easy to miss the indicators that could help identify a victim. However, being aware of those tell-tale signs could help you save the life of a vulnerable person.

Possible indicators that someone could be being trafficked include:

Appearance



- Has no or only a few **personal possessions**.
- Shows **signs of injuries** that appear to be the result of physical or sexual abuse.
- Seems **fearful, unconfident**, and prefers others to speak on their behalf when addressed directly.
- Appears **withdrawn, anxious, and unwilling to interact**.
- Looks **malnourished or unkempt**.

Controlled Movement



- Has **limited or no social interaction** because they are restricted by someone.
- Shows signs that their **movements are being controlled**.
- **Has tried to escape** from a situation of work or family and is returned.
- **Is not allowed to interact** with other people in or outside the workplace.
- Has **no access or control** of their passport or identity documents.

Social



- Is afraid of revealing their **immigration status and/or excessively afraid** of being deported.
- Is **distrustful of the authorities** or is threatened with being handed over to the authorities.
- Has a history with **unexplained missing gaps in their history or unexplained moves**.
- Lives in **cramped, dirty, overcrowded accommodation**.

Work Related



- Has **no or only partial access to their earnings**.
- **Unable to freely leave** their work environment.
- Has **accepted or is about to accept an unclear job offer** away from home, or their actual job is different to the job they had originally applied for.
- Has had **transport costs paid for by facilitators**, whom they must pay back by working or providing services.
- Made to **work against their will**.
- Does **not know their home or work address**, or even in which town/city they are living and working.
- Forced to **work in exploitative conditions**.
- **Works excessively long hours over long periods** without compensation.
- Forced to **live in crowded or substandard accommodations** to accomplish tasks for the employer.
- Is **subjected to violence or threats of violence** against family members or loved ones.

Housing: Warning Signs



- The **property seems too small** for the numbers of people that live there.
- People appear to be **bundled in and out of the property** by others, often during darkness.
- There are **bars on the windows and/or the curtains are permanently drawn or boarded up**.
- Large numbers of **young women have suddenly been moved into the property**, which then receives lots of visitors day and night.
- The **mail box has been sealed**.
- There is **CCTV at the entrance** to the property.
- There is a **pungent smell**.
- **Electricity is being re-routed** from neighbouring properties or directly from power lines.



How can I report my concerns?

If you have information about a potential trafficking situation, call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline on **1-833-900-1010**.

The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline is a confidential, multilingual service, operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It connects victims and survivors with social services, law enforcement, and emergency services, as well as receiving tips from the public.

You can also make a report online at
www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/submit-a-tip/

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One by One is focussed on restoring the dignity of all God's children, and it's so important for the church to come together, collectively, to help fight this fight.

Bill Woolf,
Former Special Advisor to the White House for
Human Trafficking and Exploitation

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Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes in Canada, and anyone can be a target

Quebec man facing human trafficking charges

Human trafficking cases are increasing

Woman charged with human trafficking in Langley

Trafficking can happen to anyone

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The victims of HT are pretty much anyone who could be at the wrong place at the wrong time. It's the university student who's at the bar. It's the 13 year old in care, it's the high school girl in our neighbourhood. Suddenly a trafficker comes into the picture and that's when everything spirals.

Kelly Beale,
Pro-Bono Lawyer, Victims of HT, Ministry of the
Attorney General, Ontario

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The individual makes the decision that other human beings are a commodity. They essentially con their way in their lives. The final outcome is to want that person to be exploited and to make a profit doing so.

Sharon Hanlon,
Anti-Human Trafficking Unit, Ontario Provincial
Police

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ENDING EXPLOITATION

Educate your congregation – Protect your community

Human Trafficking Quiz True or False?

1. Human trafficking is primarily limited to developing countries. True ☐ False ☒

Human trafficking is widespread. Data taken from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime documents the trafficking of persons from 127 countries, with exploitation taking place in 137 countries.

2. Traffickers only target victims they don't know. True ☐ False ☒

Many survivors have been trafficked by romantic partners, including spouses, and by family members, including parents.

3. Human trafficking only happens in illegal or hidden industries. True ☐ False ☒

Human trafficking cases have been reported and prosecuted in industries including restaurants, cleaning services, construction, factories and more.

4. Human trafficking can involve moving or transporting a person across borders but it doesn't have to. True ☒ False ☐

Human trafficking is often confused with human smuggling, which involves illegal border crossings. In fact, the crime of human trafficking does not require any movement whatsoever. Victims can be recruited and trafficked in their own home towns, even their own homes.

5. Traffickers prey on the vulnerabilities of their victims, such as those living in poverty, being uneducated, with disabilities or fleeing violence or a conflict zone. True ☒ False ☐

Studies have found that victims of trafficking often live in poverty and have little education. This allows traffickers to deceive the people that they target. For example, sex traffickers promise exciting employment that doesn't exist.

6. Traffickers use the Internet to recruit victims and accomplices. True ☒ False ☐

An emerging feature of human trafficking is the use of the Internet. Traffickers use social media and other online communication technologies to mask their identities and operations. Traffickers prowl social media and peruse personal profiles to identify vulnerable people. They create fake profiles, join groups and solicit applicants for lucrative jobs in order to get in contact with potential victims. The anonymous nature of the Internet facilitates their activities.



How can your church become a church against trafficking?

- Give out this FREE resource to all your volunteers and safeguarding team.
- Host a One By One Sunday and invite our CEO Becky Murray or one of our speakers.
- Give victims of human trafficking a regular mention in your prayer meetings and small groups.
- Arrange a visit to one of our centres and bring a team to help spread God's love across the world.
- Participate in next year's fundraising challenge and get the whole church on board!
- Consider us in your missions budget. ANY amount helps in the fight against exploitation.

ENDING
Exploitation

Find out more: www.onebyone.org