



WHAT YOU CAN DO

About this CFUW Ontario Council newly adopted policy on Human Trafficking:

The Ministry of Education's Memorandum 166 is fundamental to our requests.

PLEASE NOTE: Memorandum 166 was sent to the Directors of Education and principals, not to the school board trustees.

1. Read the Memorandum 166.
2. Follow up with the Directors of Education and/or principals with suggested template letter, email, meetings. Copy your school board members if you wish but remember the directive has come from the Ministry to the Directors of Education.
3. Determine how they are developing, or developed, the Protocol.
4. Ask if members of the club can support their work somehow?
5. Ask if members of the club be involved in a working committee within the school or school board?
6. Talk to teacher friends and local associations of OSSTF, ETFO and OECTA about Memorandum 166.

The aim of this **CFUW Ontario Council 2021 adopted resolution**, or policy, [Human Trafficking Awareness, Prevention and Detection](#), is very specific – to stop the sexual trafficking of our own young people through mandatory measures within the education system.

According to Statistics Canada, Ontario is overrepresented in the number of police-reported incidents of human trafficking in Canada. It accounted for 66% of all incidents between 2009 and 2019¹. The report by Alan Cotter² helps us understand the numbers involved – that most of the victims are women and girls, that children as young as 12 are involved.

Fortunately, since 2016, the government of Ontario has also been very concerned. With its first [Strategy to End Human Trafficking](#), now updated with [Ontario's anti-human trafficking strategy 2020-2025](#) including its legislation, Bill 251, Combatting Human Trafficking Act, 2021.

A number of actions have flowed from this: most specifically money and programs. The government is investing \$307 million over the five years to support multiple programs and community organizations, for survivor support, awareness and prevention.

Specifically related to our adopted policy, the Ministry of Education has issued **Policy/Program Memorandum 166**³ [Keeping Students Safe: Policy Framework for School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocols](#) distributed July 2021 effective January 31, 2022. Part of this policy requires school boards to create a Protocol covering the board's anti-sex trafficking procedures with respect to set roles, responsibilities and accountability measures.

The elements of the protocol must include a statement of principles, strategies to raise awareness and prevent sex trafficking, school response procedures, training for school board employees (not just teachers), accountability and evaluation. This Memorandum covers both elementary and secondary education and is directed to the school boards via the Directors of Education, all other supervisory people and principals.

¹ Statistics Canada, Trafficking in person in Canada, 2019. Dated May 4, 2021 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-005-x/2021001/article/00001-eng.htm>

² Adam Cotter, Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2018 <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-002-x/2020001/article/00006-eng.htm>

³ <https://www.ontario.ca/document/education-ontario-policy-and-program-direction/policyprogram-memorandum-166>

Our 2021 adopted resolution has five specific requests:

- 1) "to urgently adopt mandatory instruction in Ontario's Elementary and Secondary Schools"

While this is currently in the curriculum for grades 7 and 8, it is not mandatory.⁴

- 2) "as well as mandatory teacher training to prevent future victimization"

Mandatory teacher training is covered by the newly announced issued Policy/Program Memorandum 166 (Memorandum 166).

- 3) "educating all students and train all educators to be alert to the luring and coercive control techniques used by human traffickers and similar predators via tools and methods"

Memorandum 166 includes the development of school board protocols. Part of this protocol includes "strategies to raise awareness and prevent sex trafficking".

- 4) "mandatory additions to the Grade 9 and 10 Health and Physical Education Curriculum [regarding] how to recognize unhealthy relationships specifically the coercive control and luring techniques used by human traffickers and similar predators"

As this clause requests "mandatory additions" it will be followed up by Ontario Council with those developing curriculum in this area – Ministry of Education, Provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office plus others who advise on curriculum.

There are excellent programs such as the one given by White Ribbon⁵ in conjunction with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, funded by Ontario but not mandatory. Another program is [RESET](#) created in conjunction with the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region. A number of sexual assault clinics throughout the province have also created programs.

- 5) "all Ontario educators, both elementary and secondary, complete a mandatory annual anti-human trafficking training on awareness, prevention, detection and duty to report followed by comprehension assessment"

Memorandum 166 requires training for school board employees including multi-point elements which "must be tracked and be available throughout the year to all new and existing school board employees. Training must be updated and delivered regularly to stay current with emerging issues relating to trafficking and changes in community services and response." The section on Response covers procedures which "must" be established to cover the duty to report safely and in a culturally responsive manner.

About Sex Trafficking:

Talk with local rape crisis and abused women's centres:

- Many of them are assisting and supporting the victims of sex trafficking. How can the club help?
- Many have programs for schools to alert students and the public to the danger of coercive control and trafficking.

A few examples:

- The [London Abused Women's Centre](#) has links to *Trafficking 401*.
- [Covenant House Toronto](#)
- [London Anti-Human Trafficking Committee](#)
- [Ottawa Coalition to End Human Trafficking](#)
- [Toronto Counter Human Trafficking Network](#)

Provincially:

- [Courage for Freedom](#) #ProjectMapleLeaf covering trafficking along the 401
- The [Ontario Native Women's Association](#) concerning the situation facing indigenous women and girls.

Nationally:

[Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking \(CCEHT\)](#).

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline

1-833-900-1010

⁴ The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8: Health and Physical Education, 2019 <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/2019-health-physical-education-grades-1to8.pdf>

⁵ White Ribbon Lesson Plans <https://www.wrprevent.ca/lesson-plans#page-section-610980a1dd9b653dcb885e8f>