



## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN ONTARIO

### WHAT IS IT

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Bluntly, it is slave labour involving the illegal movement and utilization of people for labour or sex, without their consent. It is a criminal offence under the *Criminal Code* and the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*.

### STATISTICS

Like sexual harassment and sexual violence cases, this is largely unreported.

**Statistics Canada**<sup>1</sup> using police reports from 2009-2016:

Canada:

- 95% of the 865 human trafficking victims were women.
- 72% of the victims under 25 years, with 26% of these less than 18 years old.
- Males accused in 81% of the cases; 80% of the accused between 18 and 34.

Ontario:

- Two-thirds (66%) of the cases were reported in Ontario
- Toronto had 272 cases (25% of the national). Ottawa was next with 122 cases (11% of the national). Cities like Calgary and Edmonton had only 3% each.
- 70% of all cross-border trafficking incidents in Canada over the eight-year period were in Ontario, accounting for 34% of all Canadian cases.

**RCMP**<sup>2</sup>:

Between 2005 and May 2019, the RCMP identified **581** cases where human trafficking specific charges were laid.

- 559 (95%) are domestic (primarily sexual exploitation), that is the traffickers were Canadian, or a permanent resident; 22 were international (primarily for forced labour)
- 443 victims were involved
- 227 successfully resulted in convictions

### WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Ontario has a **Strategy to End Human Trafficking**, including an Anti-Human Trafficking Coordination Office within the Community Services Division of the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. Sylvia Jones, Solicitor General and Jill Dunlop, Associate Minister of Children and Women's Issues are coordinating this strategy.  
<https://news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2019/11/20-million-in-yearly-funding-for-anti-human-trafficking-programs.html>

**95% of the human trafficking victims in Canada were women.**

**Two-thirds of the cases in Canada were in Ontario.**

**Most of the victims were Canadian or permanent residents.**

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

Look for information about **#ProjectMapleLeaf** about trafficking along the 401.

Connect with some of these organizations, and your local sexual assault centre:

#### **Courage for Freedom**

<https://courageforfreedom.org/> educates, trains, and certifies front-line staff and community service providers, as well as bringing awareness to the community.

**BPW Ontario** has joined with Courage for Freedom to bring awareness about the issue of human trafficking, especially along the 400 highways.  
<https://bpwontario.com/advocacy/anti-human-sex-trafficking-awareness.html>

#### **Joy Smith Foundation**

<http://www.joysmithfoundation.com/> works to ensure that every Canadian is safe from forced labour or sex trafficking through education, and funding front-line organizations that rescue and rehabilitate victims.

**Free Them** <https://www.freethem.ca/> believes that working together we can end slavery-human trafficking in our lifetime by educating the public on slavery that exists today in Canada and around the world, by producing campaigns, and providing tools that people can use.

<sup>1</sup> Dyna Ibrahim, *Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2016*, June 27, 2018, Statistics Canada  
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/85-005-x/2018001/article/54979-eng.htm>

<sup>2</sup> RCMP Summary of human trafficking convictions, May 2019  
<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>

- Ontario Council has joined with BPW Canada to support the Courage for Freedom's **#PROJECTMAPLELEAF**, a campaign, running from Feb.22-July 30, 2020, to bring attention to the horrors of human and sex trafficking – 95% of human trafficking victims are women, and most are Canadian. This project is centred on the 400 highways, especially the 401. <https://www.facebook.com/ProjectMapleLeafOriginal/>
- **Laurie Scott, MPP Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock** has worked on this file for many years <https://www.lauriescottmpp.com/hst>
- Canada has a **National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking**, and has ratified the United Nations *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children* in 2002. <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/ntnl-ctn-pln-cmbt/index-en.aspx>
- **Royal Canadian Mounted Police Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre** located in Ottawa, including a National Hotline 1-855-850-4640 for reporting human trafficking <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm>
- **Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline** 1-833-900-1010 A first of its kind in Canada, the Hotline is a multi-lingual and confidential service that is operational 24/7, 365 days a year. <https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/>
- The **Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking (CCEHT)**, a non-government organization, launched the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline on May 29, 2019. <https://www.canadiancentretoendhumantrafficking.ca/>

#### CFUW POLICIES SUPPORT:

...legislation to protect victims of human trafficking; be respectful of the human rights of trafficked persons... access to supportive services for trafficked persons; and ...fund provisions (for) supportive services. **(Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking 2006)**

...support the World Declaration Against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,1996; ...enforce legislation ...by prohibiting international sex tourism...from being organized in Canada; ...raise public awareness of the social, cultural and financial costs of sex trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation. **(Sexual Exploitation of Women and Children 1997)**

...identify and support appropriate international measures to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings; conduct research... relating to human trafficking, and identify areas of required policy, program and legislative reform; take appropriate follow-up action; take action domestically: the definition of trafficking in human beings include persons trafficked for...prostitution, mail-order brides, domestic and other, and workers;...pursue and prosecute traffickers and others involved ...and impose very severe sentences and financial penalties upon conviction. **(Trafficking in Human Beings 2001)**

#### CONCERNS

- “Don't mix up sex work and sex trafficking, advocates for workers say”<sup>3</sup>
- “Sex worker rights: Hysteria, surveillance and threats to fundamental freedoms”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/london/london-ontario-safe-space-sex-work-not-human-trafficking-1.4984323>

<sup>4</sup> <https://theconversation.com/sex-worker-rights-hysteria-surveillance-and-threats-to-fundamental-freedoms-120943>

## OTHER RESOURCES

- Canadian Women's Foundation, "No More" Ending Sex-Trafficking in Canada, Report of the National Task Force on Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada, Fall 2014  
[https://www.canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CWF-TraffickingReport-Auto-1\\_0.pdf](https://www.canadianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CWF-TraffickingReport-Auto-1_0.pdf)
- Sydney Loney, *This Woman Was Trafficked at a Club When She Was 19—And It Could Happen to \*Anyone\**, *One woman's story about what it's like to be sold for sex in Canada, and why she's far from the only one*, FLARE magazine, Dec.27, 2018  
<https://www.flare.com/news/reality-of-human-trafficking/>