



AWARENESS HANDOUT FOR STUDENTS ON ANTI- SEX TRAFFICKING

2024-2025





DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING

WHAT IS DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a hidden crime and involves the recruitment, transportation, harbouring and/or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person, typically through sexual exploitation or forced labour. Sex trafficking is a form of human trafficking; it takes place when a person is forced, tricked or manipulated into doing sexual acts for money- and the person or people who coerced them into doing those sexual acts are the ones controlling the money. Someone can be sex trafficked anywhere someone might be doing sex work of their own free will. This includes prostitution, brothels, escort agencies, strip clubs, online camming, mail order brides and sex tourism to name a few.

LANGUAGE YOU CAN USE FOR GETTING HELP

It's always best to use direct language, but sometimes we may not be sure what's going on. Here are some ways to express what's happening:

- "I'm being made to do things I'm not comfortable with and that I don't consent to."
- "I feel like I don't have any control."
- "I feel like I don't have a choice."
- "My gut doesn't feel right."
- "I feel disrespected."
- "I feel powerless."



POTENTIAL WARNING SIGNS OF SEX TRAFFICKING

Warning Signs may vary based on circumstance and may include some or all of the following:

1. The victim is often with a person who speaks for them or will not leave
2. The victim moves frequently, is unhoused, or “visiting” the area
3. The victim is not in control of, or has no identification
4. The victim or trafficker's story is vague
5. The victim may appear to owe a debt
6. The victim has signs of multiple sexual partners
7. The victim is evasive or afraid to answer personal questions
8. The victim or trafficker may be using substances
9. The victim has a lack of support systems, including no family or friends
10. The victim has signs of ownership, such as tattoos/branding
11. The victim appears to be exhausted and/or hungry
12. The victim has a history of physical or sexual assault, which may be a risk factor
13. The victim or trafficker is falling asleep in class due to a lack of sleep
14. The victim or trafficker may be wearing inappropriate clothing for venue or weather
15. The victim or trafficker is using language/vocabulary pertaining to trafficking
16. The victim or trafficker is frequently relocating
17. The victim's healthcare needs are being neglected
18. The victim is not in control of their own money, or may appear to always be owing people money
19. The victim may seem disoriented or isolated from the outside world, withdrawing from friends
20. The victim or trafficker may be secretive and very protective of privacy
21. The victim or trafficker may have unexplained money, which may be reflected in their clothes, hair, or jewellery
22. The victim or trafficker may have 2 phones or change phone numbers often
23. The victim or trafficker may exhibit behaviours including hyper-vigilance or paranoia
24. The victim or trafficker may be using hotel pens or have a lot of hotel receipts

If you see any warning signs, reach out to your school administrator and/or call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010



WHAT CAN I DO TO KEEP MYSELF SAFE?



UNDERSTAND TRAFFICKING & WARNING SIGNS

You are more protected when you know what sex trafficking is. You should be able to understand what sex trafficking is and recognize the warning signs.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

Trust your instincts for both yourself and friends. If something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't.

UNDERSTAND HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS & CONSENT

A study found that survivors felt that not knowing the characteristics of a healthy relationship and consent made them vulnerable to trafficking. Ask your school and do research on consent, safety, setting boundaries and the signs of a healthy relationship. Use the tools on the resources page on page 5 of this booklet.

CREATE A SAFETY PLAN

A safety plan helps empower you with tools you can use to protect yourself—including identifying safe adults and practicing online safety.

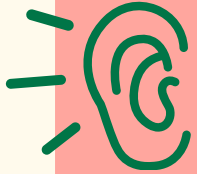
REACH OUT FOR HELP

Sex trafficking and sexual violence is never your fault (even if it feels like it is) and it's okay to ask for help. Reach out to the school or a safe adult for support.

IS SOMETHING GOING ON?



IF YOU HEAR THINGS LIKE...



"Don't tell anyone"

"It's our secret"

"You owe me"

"I need you to do something just this once, for our future together"

IF YOU FEEL...

Powerless

Disrespected

That you don't have a choice

That you don't have any control

Like you're being made to do things you're not comfortable with

That you don't have other options



IF YOU NOTICE THESE WARNING SIGNS:



You are being isolated from family, friends and support systems

You are being given a lot of expensive things

Your boundaries are being pushed

You are being encouraged to skip school, try drugs or alcohol, miss curfew, etc.

You are being promised a better life

You are being encouraged to be secretive about them and your whereabouts

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS, SOMETHING MIGHT BE GOING ON. REACH OUT TO A SAFE ADULT OR THE SCHOOL FOR SUPPORT.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



**SAVIS OF HALTON
PROVIDES FREE,
CONFIDENTIAL, AND
NON-JUDGMENTAL
24 HOUR SUPPORT
TO ALL SURVIVORS
OF VIOLENCE**

**IF YOU NEED
SUPPORT,
REACH OUT TO
YOUR SCHOOL
BOARD**

**THE CANADIAN
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
HOTLINE AT
1-833-900-1010**

**ONLINE SAFETY
EDUCATIONAL
GAMES FOR YOUTH
FROM
MEDIASMARTS.CA**

**LIKELY STORY: ONLINE
EDUCATIONAL GAME
FOR GRADES 7-12
FOCUSED ON SEX
TRAFFICKING,
HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS, AND
ONLINE SAFETY**

**OPHEA ONLINE
SAFETY
RESOURCES FOR
CHILDREN IN
GRADES 4-8**

**IT'S A BIG DEAL: AN
ONLINE ACTIVITY
BOOK FOR STUDENTS
GRADES 9-12
FOCUSED ON
HEALTHY
RELATIONSHIPS AND
BOUNDARIES**

**IF YOU ARE BEING
THREATENED OR
INTIMIDATED, IT IS
IMPORTANT TO
IMMEDIATELY INVOLVE
A SAFE ADULT IN YOUR
LIFE, CONTACT POLICE,
OR REPORT TO
CYBERTIP.CA**

**IF SOMEONE HAS
BEEN IMPACTED BY
SELF/PEER
EXPLOITATION, VISIT
NEEDHELPNOW.CA
FOR MORE
INFORMATION**