

# Human trafficking – Freedom should include everybody

## July 30 is World Day against Trafficking in Persons

According to #NotInMyCity, Human Trafficking is one of the fastest growing crimes in Canada. #NotInMyCity is an Alberta organization raising awareness and taking collective action to prevent, disrupt and end sexual exploitation and trafficking, focusing on children and youth.



#not in my city

From the United Nations: "On this World Day against Trafficking Persons, let us reaffirm our commitment to stop criminals from ruthlessly exploiting people for profit and to help victims rebuild their lives."



Human trafficking is a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including sexual exploitation, sex trafficking and forced labour trafficking.

- 26 per cent of persons trafficked in the Canada are under the age of 18
- 72 per cent of persons trafficked in Canada are under the age of 25

The best way to be vigilant and protect the ones you love is by learning the signs, indicators and openly talking about possible risks. Increasingly, traffickers are turning to online message boards, social media, shopping centres and other public places to recruit victims. Traffickers often connect with children or vulnerable people by grooming and luring. They are master manipulators, have excellent sales skills, and like an actor, can present many different "faces", emotions and behaviors to lure, control, abuse and exploit people. They can start out as friends, boyfriends or girlfriends and can be family members.

Often times, vulnerable persons do not know they are being exploited or abused until its too late. Its not uncommon for victims to hide their victimization as they can develop Stockholm Syndrome, fear for themselves or their family's safety and often be under the influence of drugs and alcohol. There are instances of peer recruitment in high schools where older girls will recruit other females by befriending them, and turning them over to a trafficker.

## Tips for keeping kids safe

- Educate your kids about human trafficking
- Communicate with your kids, and let them talk to you without judgement. Create a safe place
- Monitor your kids technology use
- Know your kids' friends and partners
- Utilize GPS tracking devices which can be placed on phones, clothes or backpacks
- Get youth involved in their neighbourhood with community groups, sports, music, community services and more

## Click to learn more:

- Not In My City
  - <https://www.notinmycity.ca/>
- End Human Trafficking Day
  - <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-human-trafficking-day>

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