

**Malton Women Council**




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# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Tip Sheet

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# What is Human Trafficking?

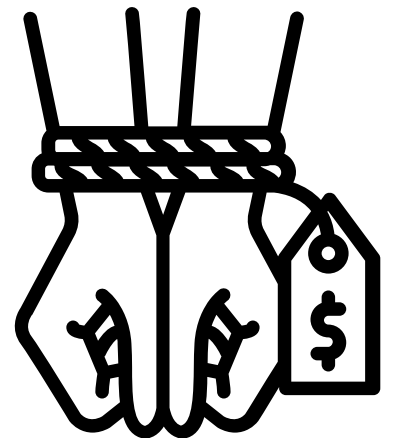
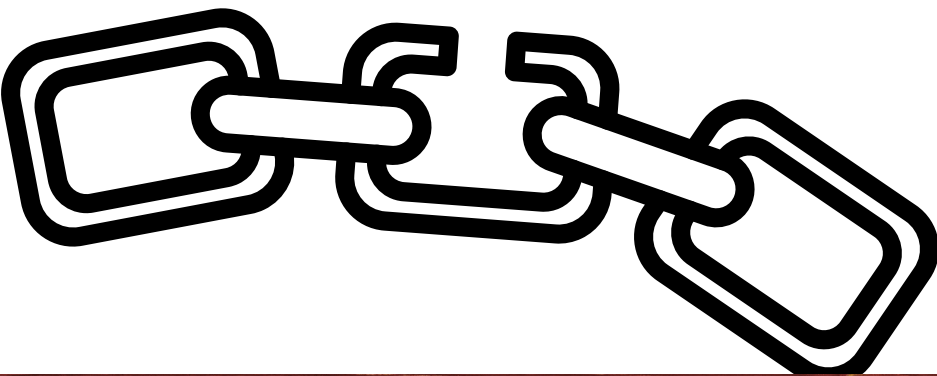
Human Trafficking involves recruiting, moving, or holding victims to exploit them for profit. Traffickers often target women and girls, young people, people who have experienced abuse, are financially struggling, are migrants, immigrants, or isolated.





## There are two common types of trafficking:

- Sex Trafficking – Sex Trafficking involves using victims for sexual exploitation, such as forcing or threatening them to provide sexual services. Often, victims trust and love their traffickers and may not view themselves as being trafficked. They may believe they are choosing to engage in commercial sex. They are often dependent on the trafficker for food, clothing, or shelter, making it hard to leave the situation.
- Labour Trafficking – Labour Trafficking involves forcing victims to perform any work. Often, victims are offered a job. The pay and working conditions are abusive, but the worker cannot leave due to threats from the trafficker. Victims are often indebted to the trafficker and are being exploited for their economic insecurity.





# How does Human Trafficking Work?

- Traffickers can use physical and emotional abuse, threats of deportation, and abuse of trust or power to control victims. Victims are often isolated from loved ones and living and working in unsafe conditions.
- Trafficking victims are often too afraid to report or do not understand the signs of trafficking. Traffickers make huge money, giving little or nothing to the victims.





- Traffickers find victims in bus stations, malls, outside schools, youth shelters, group homes, or online. Often, traffickers target intimate partners, family members, friends, and co-workers.
- Traffickers may start by **luring** their victims by filling unmet needs (love, money, self-esteem, etc.). They may show romantic interest or offer jobs. They may then **groom** the victims. This includes isolating victims from families and asking them to provide services to earn love or pay back their favours. Finally, traffickers take full control through **exploitation**. They may use physical or emotional abuse to ensure the victim continues to provide services such as providing sexual favours or working in remote locations.

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## Warning Signs

- A trafficking situation may be hard to identify. Below are possible signs that may indicate that a person is being trafficked:
- A person is given a job contract that they do not understand or must pay for.
- A person receives large sums of money or gifts, or is in a fast-moving relationship.
- A person has someone else speak for them and escort them. They appear anxious or are unable to contact their loved ones.
- A person dresses older than their age, looks tired, or shows signs of abuse.
- A person has few personal belongings, no ID, and several hotel keys.



# Help for Trafficking

## If you are being trafficked:

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911. **Never** confront the trafficker directly. You could put yourself at risk.
- If you can safely use a phone or go online, call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010 (available 24/7) or your local police. You can also contact the hotline via chat or submit a tip:  
<https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/>
- If you cannot use a phone or go online, quietly speak or pass a note to ask someone you trust to call for you.







## To help someone who is a victim of human trafficking:

- **Assess the Situation** – Do not confront the trafficker or victim directly to prevent putting yourself or the victim at risk. If immediate danger is present, call 911. Otherwise, follow the steps below:
- **Record Details** – Record a summary of the situation, date, time, and location of the suspicious event, description of individuals involved (height, weight, hair color, clothing, age, tattoos), names, nicknames, and description and license plate of vehicles.
- **Call Hotlines** – Call the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010 or contact the organization via email, text, or submit a tip using their website <https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/>. The hotline is open 24/7, 365 days a year, and available in 200 languages via translation services.



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# Tips for Parents and Guardians

- Take an interest in your child's social life. Know their friends' names and contacts.
- Teach your child not to accept inappropriate requests.
- Monitor your child's social media.
- Teach your child about healthy vs. abusive relationships.





# Resources and References

- Government of Canada Human Trafficking  
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/campaigns/human-trafficking.html>
- Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline 1-833-900-1010  
(Available 24/7 and in 200 languages through translation services)  
<https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca/>
- Peel Police Human Trafficking:  
<https://www.peelpolice.ca/en/safety-tips/human-trafficking.aspx>
- Polaris Project: <https://polarisproject.org/understanding-human-trafficking/>

