

ADDRESSING THE TRAFFICKING OF CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN BC

A Toolkit for Service Providers

CHILDREN OF THE STREET SOCIETY

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Supported by the Province of British Columbia

Department of Justice Canada
Ministère de la Justice Canada

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was made possible by BC's Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General who contracted Children of the Street Society to develop this toolkit. Funding was provided by the Department of Justice Canada. Staff from the Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons provided in-kind support.

Thank you to all of the community partners and stakeholders whose insight, knowledge, and experience helped to develop the content and inform the direction of this project. Special thanks are due to the project advisory committee members who provided key direction and input.

The advisory committee included members from the following agencies:

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- Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST)
- Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP)
- PLEA Community Services Society of BC, Onyx Program
- RCMP, Human Trafficking Coordinator for the Pacific Region
- RCMP, Provincial Prostitution Unit
- Richmond Addictions Services Society
- The Salvation Army, Anti-Human Trafficking Programs
- Vancouver Police Department, Counter-Exploitation Unit
- Vancouver Police Department, Youth Services Section
- Yankee 20 MCFD/VPD High Risk & Sexually Exploited Youth Intervention Team

Thank you to members of the Richmond and Vancouver Community Action Teams, Burnaby/New Westminster Sexual Exploitation Task Force, as well as the Comox Valley CASEY team for participating in the pilot testing and providing feedback for this project.

Children of the Street Society would also like to thank the experiential voices that provide foundation and direction for all of our programs and services. The making and completion of this project would not be possible without the contribution from individuals who have experienced sexual exploitation and human trafficking firsthand. Your strength and courage in sharing from your journey is deeply valued.

Children of the Street Society would like to acknowledge, with gratitude, this beautiful place where we live, work, and learn—the Coast Salish Nations.

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Please note that the information and statistics contained within this toolkit are up-to-date as of September 2016.

CHILDREN OF THE STREET SOCIETY:

Children of the Street Society is a provincial society and federal charity dedicated to preventing the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth in British Columbia through education strategies, public awareness initiatives, and family support since 1995. Our mission is to take a proactive approach through public awareness, education and early intervention strategies to prevent the sexual exploitation and human trafficking of children and youth, while offering support to families. Our vision at Children of the Street Society is a world where children and youth are safe and free from all forms of sexual exploitation.

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INTRODUCTION

In Canada, children and youth are being trafficked for sexual exploitation. This is an issue that is commonly misunderstood and often goes unreported. This toolkit provides an introduction to the trafficking of children and youth in British Columbia and discusses what an effective response may look like. It emphasizes that the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and youth are crimes. Included are real examples of how Canada's human trafficking laws have been used to prosecute human traffickers in BC and across Canada. The goal is to strengthen coordination between community agencies working with vulnerable children and youth in BC and the criminal justice system.

In 2014, Reza Moazami was convicted of thirty offences, including one count of human trafficking, concerning eleven complainants between the ages of fourteen and nineteen. This was BC's first successful conviction of human trafficking for sexual exploitation under the *Criminal Code*. This case highlighted the importance of coordination between police, community agencies, victim services, and Crown counsel. The content and direction for this toolkit was provided in consultation with key players who worked on this case, in addition to other individuals and agencies experienced in supporting trafficked and sexually exploited youth. For a summary of this case, see **Appendix 1: Human Trafficking Case Summaries, R v Moazami**

WHO IS THIS TOOLKIT FOR?

This toolkit is designed for individuals and agencies working with children and youth in British Columbia. This may include youth workers, social workers, outreach workers, counsellors, teachers, health care providers, as well as police and victim service workers.

HOW DO I USE THIS TOOLKIT?

This toolkit is designed to be accessed online or in conjunction with in-person training. It can be used as a companion piece to the BC Office to Combat Trafficking in Person's online training course, Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune[1], designed for service providers who may encounter trafficking situations of all types (not specific to the sexual exploitation of children). Please refer to this course for more information on the issue of human trafficking in Canada and how to assist trafficked persons.

This toolkit can be read in its entirety or in segments. Legal information and case studies are in sidebars or callout boxes, with points to remember and quick tips highlighted throughout.

Some external publications and websites are hyperlinked throughout the toolkit. Full website links are also listed in the footnotes at the end of each section. See the appendices for more information regarding Canada's legislation, criminal justice system, and legal case summaries.

[1] **OCTIP,** *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*, http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octiptraining/

LANGUAGE AND FRAMEWORKS

The way we speak about an issue—including the frameworks, language, and terminology we use to describe a certain population—directly impacts our beliefs and actions. This will, in turn, inform the way in which we provide support services. The following are recommended terms that will assist in effectively working with sexually exploited and trafficked youth:

Youth under nineteen years of age are children. In this toolkit, the use of the terms *youth* and *child* are used interchangeably. In BC, under the *Child, Family and Community Services Act*, any *youth* under the age of nineteen is considered to be a minor. The term youth or young person must always be viewed in this context.

The **sexual exploitation and trafficking of those under the age of nineteen in BC may be considered forms of child abuse**. Along with sexual abuse, it is almost always combined with the other forms of abuse, mainly: emotional, psychological, physical abuse and neglect.

When a minor is involved in the sex trade, they are **not a prostitute** or **sex trade worker** but a **sexually exploited child or youth**.

> *"A child cannot be a prostitute… a child is prostituted."*
>
> – Diane Sowden, Executive Director, Children of the Street Society

Other tips for changing language:

- Use *child sexual abuse images* rather than *child pornography*.
- Use *situation* rather than *lifestyle* to describe the exploitative situation. *Lifestyle* may indicate a certain level of choice or consent.
- In place of *victim*, use *affected youth*, survivor, *complainant*, or *witness*.

When working with trafficked youth, it is important to consider labels and check with youth about how they view and refer to their situation. They may not identify as being trafficked or exploited. They may commonly perceive their exploiter as a "boyfriend". They may not wish to be referred to as a *victim* as it could conjure feelings of powerlessness or lack of self-determination. In the criminal justice system, the term *victim* is used regularly to indicate that a crime has been committed against the individual. This is important to remember as it may create barriers for youth when working with police, victim services, and Crown counsel. It may be helpful to prepare youth for this before they go through the criminal justice process or access these services.

SECTION 1: Defining Human Trafficking

This section includes:

- WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?
- OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING LEGISLATION
- HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is often described as a modern-day form of slavery. It occurs in most countries around the world, including Canada. Human trafficking will be defined in this toolkit as:

The act of recruiting, transporting, harbouring, and/or controlling of a person through the use of threats, force, coercion, deception, or abuse of power for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation may include forced prostitution or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour, servitude, or the removal of organs.

Individuals can be trafficked internationally or domestically[1]:

- **International Trafficking** occurs when a trafficker transports the citizen of one country into another country for the purpose of exploitation.
- **Domestic Trafficking** occurs when the entirety of the crime occurs within a country's borders, and no international boundary is crossed. The trafficked person may be a citizen, permanent resident, visitor, temporary worker, or student—as long as all the elements of the crime or trafficking situation occur within the same country, it is considered domestic trafficking.

  This toolkit is specifically addressing the **domestic trafficking of children and youth** in British Columbia for the purposes of **sexual exploitation**.

The terms "human trafficking" and "human smuggling" are often used interchangeably, but they **are not** the same thing. Human smuggling always involves a person illegally crossing over an international border, is voluntary, and typically ends when the smuggler gets the smuggled person over the border. Human trafficking does not require cross-border travel. The trafficked person is exploited upon arrival in the country.

OVERVIEW OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

Canada has been identified as a transit, origin, and destination country for human trafficking. This means that people are trafficked through, from, or into Canada. The extent of human trafficking in Canada is difficult to determine due to the hidden nature of these offences, the reluctance of victims and witnesses to come forward, and the difficulty of identifying trafficked individuals. According to the RCMP, as of July 2016, there have been 360 cases since 2005 where human trafficking specific charges were laid.[2] Over ninety percent of these cases concern situations of domestic trafficking, typically for sexual exploitation.[3] For an overview and brief summary of some of the human trafficking cases in Canada, see **Appendix 1: Human Trafficking Case Summaries**.

Human Trafficking Legislation

Human trafficking is criminalized in Canada under the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* (IRPA) and the *Criminal Code of Canada*. It is a serious crime to participate in any activity related to human trafficking, from recruitment of a person to actually exploiting them.

The IRPA legislation applies to circumstances of international, cross-border trafficking. In other words, it is concerned with the movement of persons *into* Canada through the use of abduction, fraud, deception, threats or use of force, or coercion. See **Appendix 2: Legislation** for details regarding the IRPA legislation.

Criminal Code of Canada: Trafficking Offences

The framework of offences related to trafficking in persons under the *Criminal Code* include:

1. Trafficking of a person (s. 279.01)
2. Trafficking of a person under the age of eighteen years (s. 279.011)
3. Materially benefitting from human trafficking (s. 279.02)
4. Withholding or destroying travel or identification documents (s. 279.03)

The offence of trafficking in persons and its related offences were originally created in 2005 and have been subject to several amendments since that time. The primary elements of the offence are the **criminal conduct** and the required **intent** of the accused.

The offence of human trafficking under the *Criminal Code* can be broken down into the elements of *Act* (**What** is done), *Means* (**How** it is done), and *Purpose* (**Why** it is done):[4]

ACT	MEANS	PURPOSE
» Recruits » Transports » Transfers » Receives » Holds » Conceals » Harbours » Exercises control, direction or influence over the movements of a person	» Use of force » Threat of force » Coercion » Deception » Abuse of a position of trust, power or authority	» Exploitation: Causing a person to provide their labour or service by engaging in conduct that, in all the circumstances, could reasonably be expected to cause that person to believe their safety, or the safety of someone they know would be threatened if they failed to provide their labour or services

For a detailed explanation and analysis of the trafficking in person offence, see **Appendix 2: Legislation**.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

When working with children and youth, the terms **sexual exploitation** and **human trafficking** (for sexual exploitation) are often used interchangeably, however, it should be noted that they are two separate *Criminal Code* offences.



REMEMBER:

It may be difficult to determine if a person meets the definition of human trafficking under Canada's legislation. However, providing services and supports to all PRESUMED trafficked individuals and youth is important.

Human trafficking is a serious crime in Canada that the police investigate when indicators and evidence of human trafficking are present. In British Columbia it is the Crown Counsel that lay charges of human trafficking.

Sexual exploitation is used as an umbrella-term to refer to all instances where youth exchange sexual acts for consideration. However, it is also a specific offence in the *Criminal Code* (s.153). Sexual exploitation occurs not only when there is an exploitative relationship between an adult and a youth, but also when an adult in a position of trust or authority (such as a teacher or coach) has a sexual relationship with a young person under the age of eighteen. For more information regarding this offence, see **Appendix 2: Legislation**.



REMEMBER:

It is also important to recognize that under the *Child, Family and Community Services Act (CFCS)*, which is provincial, a youth is defined as anyone under the age of nineteen; whereas under the *Criminal Code*, which is federal, a youth is defined as anyone under the age of eighteen.

Sexual exploitation is the sexual abuse of children and youth through the exchange of a sexual act for money or any other consideration. Considerations may be tangible, including drugs/alcohol, shelter, food, or transportation. They may also be intangible, including love, acceptance, or protection. Sexual activity includes:

- Performing sexual acts
- Sexually explicit activity for entertainment (e.g., stripping or exotic dancing)
- Escort or massage parlour services
- Appearing in pornographic (sexual abuse) images or videos

In ***R v Moazami***, the accused was convicted on three counts of sexual exploitation for his sexual conduct with the complainants and the exploitative nature of his relationship with them.

Youth may be sexually exploited by a pimp, by peers, or by themselves (self-exploitation). For more information regarding peer - and self-exploitation, see the publication put out by The Canadian Centre for Child Protection.[5]

[1] **OCTIP,** *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*, http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octiptraining/.

[2] **See RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre, online:** http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/ht-tp/index-eng.htm.

[3] **RCMP, Northern Spotlight Press Conference, 2015.**

[4] **OCTIP,** *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*, http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octiptraining/.

[5] **The Canadian Centre for Child Exploitation,** *Self/Peer Exploitation*
https://www.protectchildren.ca/app/en/order?action=view&productid=175

SECTION 2: Understanding Human Trafficking

This section includes:

- » MYTH VS. REALITY
- » WHO IS TRAFFICKING YOUTH?
- » WHO IS BEING TRAFFICKED?
- » HOW ARE YOUTH TRAFFICKED?
- » THE IMPACT OF TRAFFICKING ON YOUTH

In order to identify and effectively respond to the trafficking of children and youth in British Columbia, it is necessary to understand what human trafficking looks like. This includes: who is trafficking youth, who is being exploited, how and where it occurs, the complex dynamics of a trafficking situation, and the impact of trafficking on youth.

MYTH VS. REALITY

Human trafficking is often considered a form of modern day slavery. The issue quickly ignites images of whips, chains, and victims being held hostage in dirty, underground rooms and basements. Similarly, people think of sweatshops or child labour in foreign countries. While this still holds true, myths about human trafficking mask the reality of what is happening to Canadian youth.

Myth: Human trafficking always involves the movement of a person across an international border.

Reality: Many of the elements of human trafficking (including recruitment, holding, and exercising control, direction or influence) in the *Criminal Code* do not imply physical movement. Victims of trafficking in Canada *may* be foreign nationals who were transported or recruited into Canada; however, most of the cases of human trafficking in Canada have involved Canadian citizens being trafficked within Canadian borders.

Myth: Victims of trafficking are kept enchained in locked rooms.

Reality: Rather than being held by physical restrictions, victims often have freedom of movement but are controlled through fear and threats.

Myth: Men are always the traffickers and the victims are always women and children.

Reality: Offenders convicted of human trafficking in Canada include men, women, and minors. While the majority of identified victims are women and young girls, male and transgender youth are also human trafficked or sexually exploited. For this population, they may be less likely to disclose their situation or seek support due to social stigma, prejudice, embarrassment, or fear.

Myth: Only street-entrenched or 'high-risk' youth are exploited.

Reality: Sexual exploitation and human trafficking can and does happen to any youth regardless of their age, ability, ethnicity, gender, religion, family income, class, or sexual orientation. Traffickers will try to exploit any vulnerability, including low self-esteem or attention-seeking behaviour, a characteristic found in many youth, regardless of their history or upbringing.

Myth: Youth who are being exploited, at one point, consented to their situation.

Reality: In order to ensure their cooperation, traffickers will employ manipulative and coercive tactics that target a youth's particular vulnerabilities. This may include false promises or feigning love, providing protection or shelter, gifting, or threat of violence and retaliation if they refuse to cooperate. Legally, **no one** can consent to being trafficked.

WHO IS TRAFFICKING YOUTH?

Young people in Canada are being trafficked by a wide demographic of people that are difficult to profile. Based on experiences and cases of youth who have been exploited throughout the country, traffickers may be:

» Male, female, young, old, poor, rich, religious leaders, coaches, employers, family, online friends, elders, boyfriends, girlfriends, model/talent agents, gang members, teachers, peers, strangers….

While cases in Canada indicate that men are still the most common offenders, consider these two examples of individuals who have been convicted of human trafficking and related charges:

» Laura Emerson was the first female convicted of human trafficking in Canada in 2008[1]. Along with her partner, the twenty-eight year old drugged, confined, physically assaulted, and forced three females (two were minors) to provide sexual services. One of the victims was befriended and recruited by Emerson outside a shelter for young women. It is alleged that when one of the victims tried to escape, Emerson beat her

and dragged her back to their condo. Emerson pled guilty to several charges, including trafficking in persons, and was sentenced to eight years in prison, less time served.

» Kailey Oliver-Machado was just fifteen-years old and in grade nine when she, along with two other teens, lured and recruited girls online, drugged them, and then forced them into prostitution[2]. The youngest of the victims, aged thirteen, was forced to perform oral sex on an adult man. Machado was convicted of multiple charges, including human trafficking. While tried under the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, the court made the decision to sentence her as an adult for her crimes. She was sentenced to six and one half years in prison, less time served.

Pimps and Traffickers

The term "pimp" is often used to describe a person who controls individuals who are being prostituted. Female pimps may also be referred to as madams. Depending on the specific circumstance, arrangement, and personality of the pimp, they will have varying control over the individual. Their role and activities may include: recruiting, advertising, arranging meet-ups and dates, providing transportation, and setting up locations for the sexual services to be provided. [3]

QUICK TIP:
Rather than focusing on who the trafficker may be, focus on the warning signs of recruitment, grooming, abuse, and control. See **Section 3: Identifying Human Trafficking** for these indicators.

Traffickers for sexual exploitation typically engage in pimping activities. As the RCMP state in their report, *Project Safekeeping*:

> Not all pimps are traffickers for sexual exploitation; however, the majority of pimps employ control tactics that would categorize them as human traffickers according to the *Criminal Code*. A pimp becomes a trafficker for sexual exploitation when the pimp engages in some form of conduct that results in a reasonable expectation that if the person involved with the pimp does not offer or provide a sexual service then the safety of that person or of someone they know may be compromised.[4]

Due to the types of activities engaged in by pimps and traffickers, there are often complementary offences that may accompany or serve as an alternative to a human trafficking charge.

For a full list of the complementary charges that may accompany or serve as an alternative to human trafficking, see see **Appendix 2: Legislation**.

In ***R v Moazami***, the accused's 'glamourization' of the business, as well as promises of money and drugs, were found to constitute an inducement or influence in the complainants' decisions to engage in prostitution, and thus were found to fall within the scope of the procuring offence.

Link to Organized Crime

The RCMP[5] noted that, as of 2014, traffickers were associated with street gangs in approximately fifty percent of human trafficking cases. They added, however, that they do not consider it a "street gang activity" as the trafficker keeps the profits for themselves and it does not benefit the gang as a whole. In these cases, traffickers are often linked to organized crime but perform the pimping activities outside of their designated role within the gang.

In many cases, human traffickers have been in the drug-dealing industry, an activity linked to organized crime. In this position, they have access to youth as well as a ready supply of the drugs often used as a method of recruitment and control.

In ***R v Moazami***, the accused met a few of the complainants as a drug dealer. Moazami used their drug addiction as a tactic for recruitment and control. In a text message, he admitted that he gave one girl oxycodone free of charge when she was younger because he knew she would end up spending all her money on it. A few years later, after her drug addiction had become uncontrollable, she came to him and he glamourized the world of prostitution as an easy way to make money to support her addiction.

WHO IS BEING TRAFFICKED?

Human trafficking can happen to anybody regardless of their age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, income, or geographic location. However, certain groups are more vulnerable. This includes youth, whom traffickers target due to their increased vulnerability and lack of life experience.

"That will never be me…next thing you know you're waking up and you're there."

– Experiential Voice

The RCMP[6] noted that forty percent of victims of domestic human trafficking for sexual exploitation are under the age of eighteen. Traffickers manipulate and prey upon the needs and vulnerabilities of young people.

Those most vulnerable to being trafficked include youth who are / have:



- Sexually exploited (may turn into a trafficking situation).
- Runaway or homeless.
- In care, in foster homes, or have been adopted.
- From low-income families.
- Experienced sexual, physical, or emotional abuse and neglect.
- Mental health barriers and diagnoses.
- FASD or struggle with alcohol and drug addiction.
- Low self-confidence and esteem.
- Question their security and sense of belonging to their community, school, or family.
- Learning disabilities or cognitive impairments.

A young person may also be uniquely vulnerable to sexual exploitation and trafficking based on the community they belong to or identify with, including:

- Youth who identify as Aboriginal
- Youth who identify as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, queer, questioning, or two-spirit (LGBTQ+)
- Immigrant youth or newcomers to Canada

For more information regarding the vulnerabilities of these specific groups, see Children of the Street Society's Parent Manual, Section 6: *Uniquely Vulnerable Communities*.[7]

In ***R v Moazami***, the eleven complainants came from varying backgrounds; many of which highlighted their vulnerabilities. This included: history of abuse and addiction in the home, estranged relationship with family, pre-existing drug addiction, as well as prior sexual exploitation and sexual abuse. Some of the complainants were also in the foster care system or from families that were immigrants to Canada.

The Impact of Technology:

Technology has had a significant impact on human trafficking in Canada, particularly for youth. Traffickers use a variety of social media, online advertising, and dating sites to meet, recruit, and groom potential victims. Due to the popularity and widespread use of these online sites, traffickers now have access to a whole new section of the population. Because of this, we are seeing that victims of trafficking are getting younger, come from a wide range of backgrounds, and may come from a variety of places rather than being local to the city they are trafficked in.

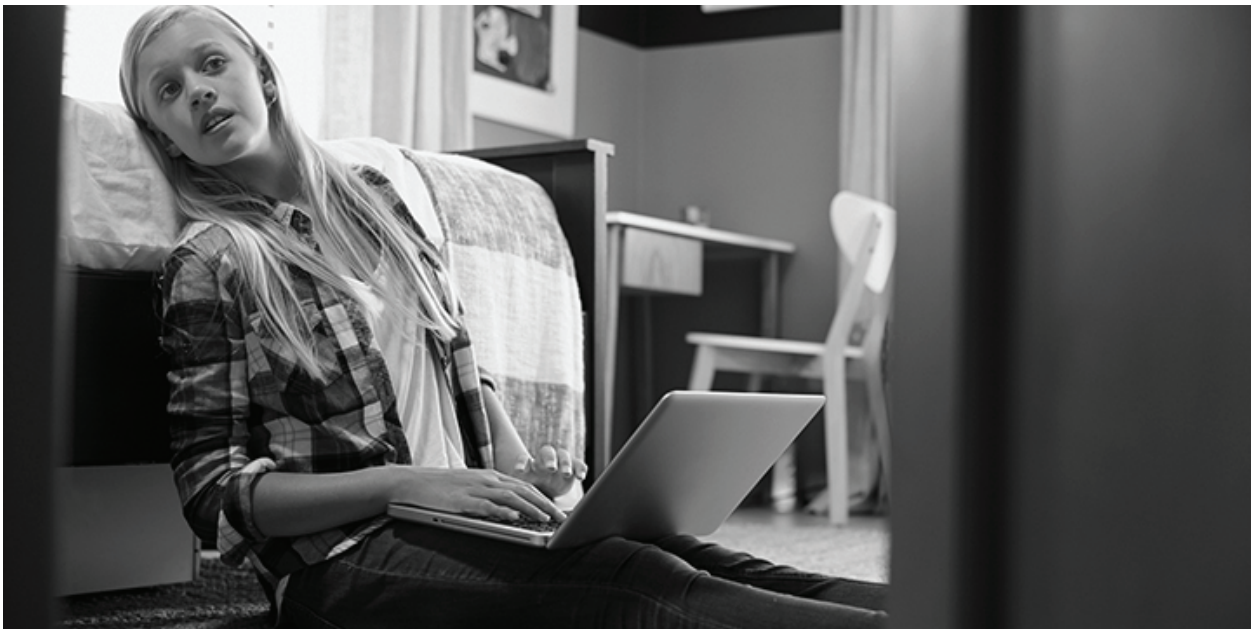
In the past, traffickers may only have encountered youth on the streets or in social settings. Online, however, traffickers encounter all different types of young people. Exploiters will relentlessly send out messages to young people. The majority will ignore them, but a few will respond back. It only takes one unmet need or vulnerability that the trafficker can exploit to begin the recruitment and grooming process.

"The significant reduction of street prostitution is being replaced by online social media and dating sites. Youth are more frequently being recruited online rather than in-person, such as nightclubs. This leads to more opportunity to recruit younger girls who would not normally be in nightclubs.".

– Diane Sowden, Executive Director of Children of the Street Society

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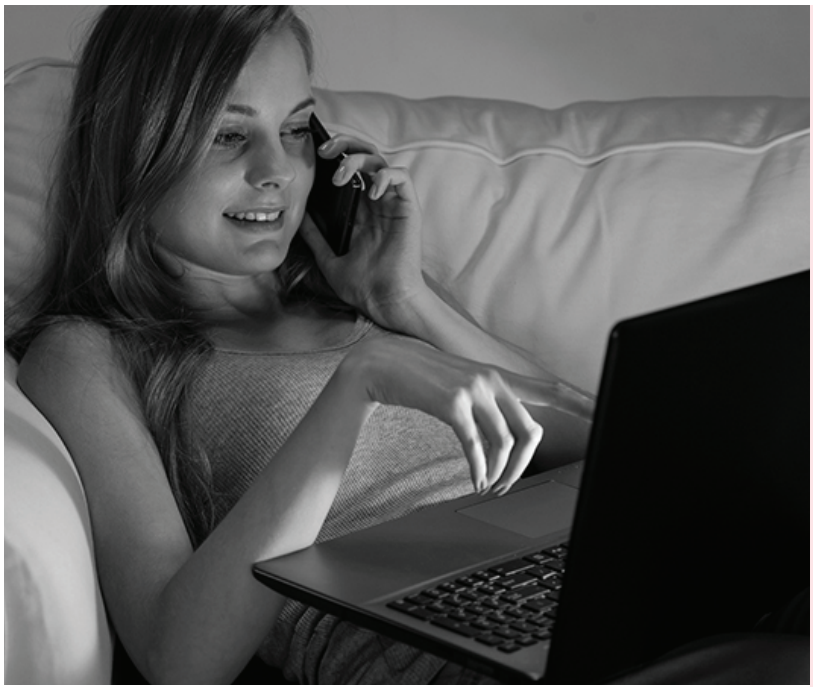
Many different sites have been linked to recruitment and advertising of services: Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, Plenty of Fish, Seeking Arrangement, Sugar Daddy, Badoo, and Mylol, amongst others.



HOW ARE YOUTH TRAFFICKED?

The process of trafficking differs in each case; however, there is typically some sort of recruitment and grooming process.

Recruiting: the act of selecting and enlisting new victims to be exploited. This process is selective and carefully planned by traffickers based on the victim's vulnerabilities.



Recruitment is one of the *acts* that, when combined with a *means* and *purpose* (see section 1), constitutes a trafficking situation. Recruitment is also listed in the offence of *procurement* (s. 286.3), and an accused may be charged under this offence if the evidence does not meet the trafficking threshold. If a trafficker tries to recruit a young person online or through telecommunication for the purpose of facilitating certain offences (including trafficking in persons and procurement), they could also be charged with *luring* (s.172).

Grooming: selective tactics used to prepare a youth for exploitation. This process can take days, weeks, months, or even years. Grooming can happen online as well as in person. The trafficker uses this time to develop a relationship with a young person to gain trust and chip away at his or her boundaries.

In ***R v AA***, the accused and the complainant first connected when they discovered they had a common bond over recently suffering the loss of a loved one. The accused, AA, professed his love for the complainant and explained that if she danced for him they could have the life they wanted. The complainant testified that she felt she had finally found somebody who wanted her and would protect and look after her forever.

"He told me it would be good money, better than a full time job. He made it sound very alluring. I could get laid every day and get paid. There wasn't a lot of talk about what the day to day would look like."

– Experiential Voice

In ***R v Moazami***, the accused used multiple tactics to recruit each complainant. For many of the girls, he provided them with free drugs and glamourized the "prostitution business" as a great way to make lots of money and pay for things like drugs, clothes, and travel. In one specific case, Moazami expressed concern for one of the complainants, as she was involved in a dangerous situation with a different pimp. Moazami recruited her with promises of protection, love, and a better life.

Traffickers use various tactics to recruit, lure and groom youth for sexual exploitation, including:

- Posing as a boyfriend, girlfriend, or lover.
- Brainwashing youth with romantic ideas and false affection.
- Gifting (i.e., jewelry, cell phones, computers, clothing, pets).
- Promising a better lifestyle.
- Glamourizing the 'prostitution business'.
- Providing alcohol and drugs.
- Providing emotional stability, love, and companionship.
- Offering free transportation.
- Providing housing or shelter.
- Posing as a confidant, trusted adult, friend, or peer.
- Using other victims to seek out and recruit potential future victims.
- Meeting and befriending the victim's family and friends.
- Isolating youth from their family, friends, and community (e.g., by making youth feel like their parents are the enemy or unfair in their decision making).
- Paying for personal grooming (i.e., hairstyles, nails, waxing, etc.).
- Hosting parties for youth.

WHERE ARE YOUTH BEING RECRUITED?

Traffickers may target areas where youth commonly hang out, including:

- Online (Facebook, Seeking Arrangement, Sugar Daddy, amongst others)
- School
- Community centres
- Foster/Group homes
- Parks
- Public transit
- Shopping malls
- Shelters
- Theatres
- Truck stops
- Restaurants

"In our community, many of the young girls are being recruited at the local twenty-four-hour McDonald's."

– Frontline Service Provider

In ***R v Byron***, the victim first started talking to the accused on Facebook as they had a mutual friend. Byron convinced the victim to travel from Windsor to Montreal to see him on the promises of having a romantic liaison. Once the victim arrived, Byron informed her she belonged to him and forced her to work for him.



REMEMBER:
Youth can meet and communicate with traffickers wherever they have access to a phone, computer, or any other device that receives a signal. Thus, **sexual exploitation and human trafficking can happen anywhere**.

TRAFFICKING DYNAMICS

The dynamics of a trafficking situation are incredibly complex. Traffickers use fear, isolation, debt, affection, false promises, and abuse to control every aspect of a young person's life.

"There's more than one way to chain a girl to a bed."

– Experiential Voice

In ***R v Byron***, the accused controlled the victim through threats of violence, physical assaults, and destroying her birth certificate. The Judge noted that: "Once Mr. Byron had her under his control, she responded in the only way she was capable of responding and that was by compliance. However, compliance does not correspond to consent or to being the directing mind…she felt she had no other options but to do as she was directed.

In order to maintain power and control and to keep youth from seeking help or leaving the situation, traffickers will use methods, such as:

- Committing physical, sexual, and emotional abuse (i.e., drugging, beating, raping and other forms of degradation).
- Sextortion and distribution of sexually explicit images or videos.
- Withholding or destroying personal identification (e.g., drivers licence, healthcare card, passport).
- Isolating a youth from their friends or family.
- Verbal threats of harm towards the youth's family and friends.
- Brainwashing and psychological abuse.
- Forced drug use or encouraging their drug addiction.
- Forced drug debts.
- False promises of better lifestyles.
- Impregnating a victim to create a familial bond.
- Projecting blame and responsibility onto victims.
- Implementing rules the youth has to follow or setting nightly quotas.
- Forcing youth to participate in illegal activities such as recruitment, enforcement (through threats or physical abuse), or theft.
  - When a girl is given additional responsibilities or elevated in status, they may be referred to as the pimp's "bottom-bitch" or "main girl".
- Branding or tattooing with labels to signify ownership.

"There is a huge difference between appeasement of a controlling perpetrator and consenting to a decision in which you had viable options to choose from. In the case of exploitation, there are no viable options."

- Larissa Maxwell, Manager, Salvation Army Anti-Human Trafficking Programs

In ***R v Moazami***, the accused used multiple tactics to control the complainants, including: encouraging drug use (he gave them unlimited GHB and ecstasy), false promises, sexual abuse, physical abuse, threat of violence, destroying their possessions, and manipulation. Moazami also bought the girls a dog, which he would harm or threaten to harm if they refused to do what he wanted. One complainant testified that they would always do what he wanted when he threatened to harm the dog thus solidifying this tactic as a method of control.



REMEMBER:
The rules and tactics employed by traffickers serve to strip affected youth of power and control over their lives. **When supporting youth, that sense of power needs to be restored.**

THE IMPACT OF TRAFFICKING ON YOUTH

The abusive, coercive, and manipulative nature of human trafficking has both short- and long- term impacts on youth. The specific effects will depend on the severity and length of the crime, their personality and on their available support networks.

"I don't watch violent TV shows because I still get flashbacks."

– Experiential Voice



The *fear for safety* element that needs to be established for exploitation under the trafficking in person offence may not be limited to physical abuse but extends also to psychological harm, including deception and psychological pressure. The individual does not necessarily need to be able to state explicitly that *they stayed in the situation because they were afraid*. This was seen in ***R v AA***, where the Court noted that even though the complainant herself did not connect the physical abuse or assault she experienced to her choice to dance, it is *reasonable to think that she was afraid* considering the circumstances of the situation.

Mental and Emotional Impacts:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder
  - For specific effects of trauma, see Appendix 4: Impacts of Trauma
- Anxiety and depression
- Shame and guilt
- Suicidal thoughts
- Cognitive impairment and memory loss
- Difficulties concentrating
- Anger and aggression
- Grief
- Trauma bonding: when youth form an emotional attachment to their trafficker, typically through the 'grooming' process, which is often used to further manipulate them

Physical Impacts:

- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Headaches, fatigue, weight loss
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Dental, eye, ear, skin problems
- Acute and chronic pain

Social Impacts:

- Stigmatization
- Alienation and isolation
- Impaired social development
- Distrust of others

In ***R v Nakpangi***, the victim shared the effects of the trafficking situation in her victim impact statement to the court. She recounts the effects of her physical injuries and describes her constant state of stress, anxiety, and fear. She also describes the negative impacts on her self-esteem, self-image, and relationships with others. For the full excerpt of her statement, see **Appendix 5: Victim Impact Statement**.

"Unlike crimes that happen one time, exploitation is continual, leaving someone in a constant state of being harmed and victimized over and over."

- Larissa Maxwell, Manager, Salvation Army Anti-Human Trafficking Programs

REMEMBER:
These effects will directly impact a trafficked youth's ability to exit their situation, access services, and begin the process of rehabilitation. An effective response requires an understanding of these impacts, combined with patience and consistency in support.



[1] **RCMP,** *Project Safekeeping*, **2013.**

[2] **RCMP,** *Project Safekeeping*, **and CBC News,** http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/kailey-oliver-machado-ottawa-teen-prostitution-ringleader-gets-6-year-adult-sentence-1.2822106

[3] **RCMP,** *Project Safekeeping*.

[4] **Ibid.**

[5] **Ibid.**

[6] **Ibid.**

[7] **Children of the Street Society,** *Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children & Youth in Canada: A Prevention and Early Intervention Toolkit for Parents,* **Available at** www.childrenofthestreet.com/parents.

SECTION 3: Identifying Human Trafficking

This section includes:

- WHERE YOU MAY ENCOUNTER A TRAFFICKED YOUTH
- INDICATORS OF TRAFFICKING

WHERE YOU MAY ENCOUNTER A TRAFFICKED YOUTH

Human trafficking is a clandestine criminal activity and therefore often hidden behind closed doors. Trafficked youth can be very difficult to identify and stay in touch with, as they are often highly transient and living in precarious and unstable conditions. However, you may encounter them in a variety of places, such as:

- Police stations or during a police intervention
- Hospitals, medical centres, or youth clinics
- Youth shelters
- Mainstream and alternate schools
- Group homes
- Harm reduction, detox, rehabilitation centres
- Public transit
- Parks
- Sporting and entertainment events

> In ***R v Moazami***, the accused transported multiple victims from BC to Calgary for the Calgary Stampede, as it was his belief that there would be more customers available.

- Community centres
- Shopping malls
- Beauty salons
- Online
  - Affected youth may reveal warning signs through conversation, or they may try seeking help from a trusted adult through online communication.
- Hotels/motels
- Private residences
- Strip clubs or massage parlours

INDICATORS

It is very unlikely that an affected youth will come to you and identify themselves as a victim of trafficking. However, they may come to you seeking services that are related (or unrelated) to their trafficking situation or as a result of an established relationship between you and the young person.

Human trafficking is located on a continuum of exploitation. Some factors may clearly indicate a trafficking situation; however, many of the warning signs indicating human trafficking overlap with sexual exploitation. **The sexual abuse and exploitation of children will not always be trafficking - however, it is always illegal.**



REMEMBER:
It is not your responsibility to determine—without a doubt—that a youth has been trafficked. Your responsibility is to recognize indicators that a youth may have been trafficked or sexually exploited so you can provide the most effective support and most appropriate referrals.

Indicators of sexual exploitation and trafficking may include:

Attitudes

- Withdraws from family, friends or peer groups and extra-curricular activities
- Maintains a high level of secrecy and is reluctant to share where they have been or with whom
- Responds to conversation as if they are reading from a practiced script
- Unexplained mood swings
- Angry, confrontational, or abusive
- Secretive about their daily life routines
- Protective of new relationships, providing little information when asked

- Appears to be protective of loved ones or fears for their safety
- Fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, or nervous/paranoid
- Experiences anxiety when they are unable to answer their phone or respond to messages

Behaviours

- Disappears for extended periods of time (days, weeks, months)
- Hangs around with new and different groups of friends, including older individuals
- Wears expensive clothing or jewelry that he/she could not normally afford
- Frequents hotels or unusual locations to meet friends
- Adopts slang and speech that is 'street' level talk or lingo associated with the sex trade
- Has pre-paid calling cards, credit cards, hotel room keys, business cards
- Has pornographic images or videos of themselves openly available or posted online
- Has profiles on online sites such as *Seeking Arrangement* or *Sugar Daddy*
- Does not attend school or is working during school hours
  - **Example:** In one case, a youth worker at an alternate school first became concerned when one student was **no longer attending** the program. The worker then received a message on Facebook from the youth, stating that she **didn't know where she was**, she **owed people money**, and she **wasn't allowed to leave** until the debt was paid.
- Has numerous taxi numbers programmed into their cell phone
- Attempts to downplay obvious health problems or risks
- Attends a clinic to obtain a verification that they have no STIs (this is often required by the pimp on a regular basis or when they suspect they may have contracted an infection)
- Has multiple cell phones
- Lies about age or has false identification
- Inconsistencies when describing and recounting events
- Unable to sleep at night and sleeps excessively during the day
- Refers to self or friends with different names (adopting a street name)
- Does not have control over their schedule or schedule is regularly changing
- Youth states their "boyfriend/girlfriend" tells them who they can or cannot spend time with, what they wear, and controls their phone and/or online activity
- History of travel between cities in Canada and possibly the US (can indicate being moved around on a circuit)
- Involved in a gang or in criminal activity such as running drugs or theft

Physical Indicators

- Sexually transmitted infections or diseases
- Evidence of unprotected or violent sex
- Mental health concerns, including depression or anxiety
- Post-traumatic stress disorder
- Memory loss
- Drug and/or alcohol addiction
- Lacks basic healthcare
- Appears malnourished
- Unexplained bruises, cuts, and broken bones
- Black eye(s)
- Tattooing or branding symbols such as names on neck, wrists, or lower back
- Cigarette burns on body
- Physical scarring, scrapes, or scratches

For a list of questions that may be asked if you suspect trafficking or sexual exploitation, see **Appendix 6: Questions to Identify a Trafficked Youth**.

SECTION 4: Responding to Human Trafficking

This section includes:

- » FIRST STEPS
- » SUPPORT PRINCIPLES
- » SERVICES FOR TRAFFICKED YOUTH
- » A MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE: COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

FIRST STEPS

As the previous section outlined, you may encounter trafficked youth in a variety of different situations. Trafficked youth may come to you due to a previously established relationship between you and the young person, a referral from another agency, a concerned parent, or a result of a police intervention or investigation.



REMEMBER:

In many cases, the young person we see as a victim or trafficked person may see their trafficker as their boyfriend/girlfriend or a trusted friend. Respect their assessment of the situation and focus on your relationship and building their trust.

Once you have identified that a youth may have been trafficked or is currently being trafficked, their **immediate safety** is the primary concern.

To ensure their safety, you may need to:

- » Call MCFD (see section 5 for guidelines on duty-to-report)
- » Call Police (if they are in immediate danger or are a threat to themselves or someone else)

In addition to these measures, it is also important to create a safety plan with the young person. This should include identifying potential risks or safety concerns, creating strategies and personal measures for reducing potential harm or danger, and outlining options for how to respond when safety is threatened or compromised.



REMEMBER:

Traffickers will often keep close tabs on the individuals that are under their control. Even if the trafficker is not with them at that moment, they may be watching nearby or have others that are keeping tabs on them. Do not assume the youth is alone. Traffickers may become very angry if they learn that someone is talking to the young person. Traffickers may also be able to track the youth's whereabouts by GPS on their phone. You may need to decide upon a safe way to communicate with the young person if their trafficker is monitoring their activity and conversations. This may include making an arrangement to meet them in a private place or providing them with a calling card to contact you at a later time.

Once you have established that you are alone with the affected youth:

- Explain who you are, what your role is, and what your goals are.
- Explain your agency's confidentiality policy.
- Ask them what they think their needs are and make the appropriate referrals.

When you have encountered a youth who may have been trafficked:

- Do not mention to the youth that they may have been trafficked.
- Be relaxed and approachable.
- Listen carefully.
- Do not make assumptions.
- Be patient.

"The community needs to be equipped with tools on how to deal with youth that are put in these situations. The youth need to feel supported and not shamed."

– Frontline Service Provider

SUPPORT PRINCIPLES

When responding to the trafficking of youth, the first step is to build their trust. Establishing trust is essential in all social interventions; however, it is of upmost importance in a trafficking situation, where youth have experienced lies, deceit, excessive control, and violence. Part of building trust is to be consistent, patient, and to provide a timely response to service needs and to make useful referrals.

In conjunction with the frameworks guiding this toolkit (outlined in the introduction of this toolkit), there are specific principles that should inform the support services provided for trafficked youth:

"Support is a process, not an event."

– Outreach Worker

Human rights approach: Human trafficking is a gross violation of fundamental human rights. A human rights approach recognizes that human trafficking is a violation of rights and views the trafficked person as someone in need of protection and services rather than as a criminal.

Principles of a human rights approach include:

- **Be safe:** Ensure privacy and confidentiality and offer trafficked youth safe options for exiting their situation and accessing services
- **Do no harm:** Treat each interaction with a trafficked youth with extreme care. Do not undertake actions that could make the person's situation worse.
- **Give back control and obtain consent:** Provide care and support to assist trafficked youth to regain control of their lives, promoting their ability to make informed decisions for themselves.
  - To restore the power that has been stripped from them, affected youth need to be given as much ownership over their rehabilitation process as possible. This includes providing them with all the information needed to make an informed decision, giving them decision-making power, and supporting them in the decisions they make.
- **Consider the whole person:** Treat trafficked youth with dignity and respect.
- **Provide culturally competent services:** Consider the role of cultural differences in your

work with trafficked youth.

- Culture can affect a youth's perception of the trafficking situation, as well as their understanding of the impact it has had on their life. Cultural competence includes awareness of how culture influences a client's beliefs, behaviour and understanding about their situation, as well as an awareness of your own attitudes and biases as a service provider. If possible (with consent), connect youth with services specific to their community or culture, including language services. Cultural competence is important for working with any client, but is especially important when working with youth who identify as Aboriginal, LGBTQ+, or are from the newcomer/immigrant community.



REMEMBER:
Trafficked youth may not want to receive supports from someone in their 'group' if they have concerns regarding confidentiality or experience shame from speaking with someone from the same community.

- **Be patient:** Recognize that healing and recovery is a long process and that trafficked youth benefit from patience and a continuum of support.
- **Offer options to seek justice:** If trafficked youth wish to work with police, provide information and options to do so.

For more information regarding the principles of a human rights approach, go to OCTIP's Online Training.[1]

Best interests of the child: In BC, youth who are under the age of nineteen are considered children. Children have a right to physical and emotional safety, security and well-being. Children who are being sexually exploited through prostitution require support services and may be in need of protection.

Trauma-informed care: This begins with understanding the physical, social, and emotional impact of trauma on the individual. Trauma-informed practices recognize the prevalence of trauma, how it affects not only the individual but all surrounding supports, and respond by putting this knowledge into practice. Trauma-informed practice encourages safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment. For more information on how trauma can affect behaviour and beliefs, see **Appendix 4: Impacts of Trauma**.

Psychosocial care model: Human trafficking affects youth emotionally, physically, spiritually, and socially. Supports may reflect this reality by helping youth to rebuild their lives in each area that has been damaged. Psychosocial care promotes this and emphasizes social reintegration. This can be incredibly helpful for trafficked individuals due to the high degree of social isolation they experience. For an overview of this model, visit Psychosocial Rehabilitation Canada.

REMEMBER:
There are multiple barriers that prevent trafficked youth from exiting their situation and accessing services. Support services workers need to be patient and recognize that the process may be slow. This may require second, third, and fourth chances for youth to access services.



SERVICES FOR TRAFFICKED YOUTH

The service needs for trafficked youth will vary depending on the young person, their situation, and how you first came into contact with them. Every support plan needs to be individualized and reflect the principles discussed above.

The rehabilitation process for a trafficked youth is long, and their support needs should be addressed with a continuum of care model. This type of model identifies the specific support needs of affected youth at each stage of the process: immediate/emergent needs, stabilization/short-term needs, reintegration/medium-term needs, and transition to long-term needs.

"The rehabilitation process must involve the survivor at every step of the way, otherwise support becomes the replacement control to what they have experienced."

– Larissa Maxwell, Manager, Salvation Army Anti-Human Trafficking Programs

Services that a trafficked youth may need to access include:

- Shelter and housing services (ensure shelter/housing services are youth-appropriate and equipped for possible heightened security risks due to the trafficking situation).
- Health services (including medical, dental, and mental health care).
- Addictions services (including detox programs and recovery house placements).
- Police, Crown, and Victim Services.
- Emotional support and counselling.
- MCFD/designated First Nations child welfare agency.
- Youth services (empowerment, support, outreach).
- Legal services
  - Some youth may have criminal charges of their own, related or unrelated to the trafficking situation.
  - In one case, legal services were required for a complainant in order to remove existing warrants for arrest. This allowed police to be able to meet with the complainant as a victim/witness rather than being obligated to arrest her.
- Multicultural services
- Spiritual support
- Long-term services
  - Once immediate needs have been met, longer-term supports will be required. This may include life skills training, education, career guidance or employment programs, and long term trauma counselling.

QUICK TIP:
In some communities in British Columbia, there are designated support workers to work specifically with sexually exploited youth.

For a list of these programs, including additional services, visit Children of the Street Society's searchable online resource database.[3]

QUICK TIP:
In many communities across British Columbia, there are established Community Actions Teams (CATs) that are comprised of a group of service providers and community partners who are working to develop local strategies to address the sexual exploitation of youth. CATs are comprised of relevant services for trafficked youth or may be able to help connect you with the appropriate services. For a list of CATs in BC, see **Appendix 7: Resources and Services.**

REMEMBER:

A network of supports also includes family, friends, and the wider community. A trafficked youth should be connected to a trusted adult. This may or may not include parent(s)/caregiver(s). If a parent is involved, it is important to recognize that the trafficking of their child will also impact them. For information about the impact on parents, see Children of the Street Society's Parent Manual.

Please note: If you have identified a trafficked youth who has an uncertain immigration status in Canada, they may require additional legal and governmental services. Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) can issue a Temporary Resident Permit (TRP) to presumed trafficked persons, providing temporary status and access to emergency health, counselling and other benefits. Identified foreign trafficked minors must be brought to the attention of MCFD. For more information regarding TRPs, click here.

A MULTI-SECTORAL RESPONSE: COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

Given the wide range of needs that a trafficked youth may have, and the diverse services that may be involved in their recovery process, collaborative practice is the key to any response. **No one agency will be able to address all the needs of a youth who has been trafficked.**

"Traffickers work in highly connected and coordinated networks. We need to do the same on the solution side!"

– Frontline Service Provider



REMEMBER:

Although a collaborative approach is necessary, one agency or person will likely take on the responsibility of case-management. The case-manager should be able to provide consistent support throughout their recovery by coordinating services and ensuring that the young person's needs are at the core of the whole process.

Collaborative practice is not easy. It will initially require extra work and planning. However, it will result in a greater capacity to serve the immediate and longer-term needs of trafficked youth.

> *"When we identify a youth who may have been trafficked, we have to act immediately or we may lose them forever. This requires a lot of planning."*
>
> – Frontline Service Provider

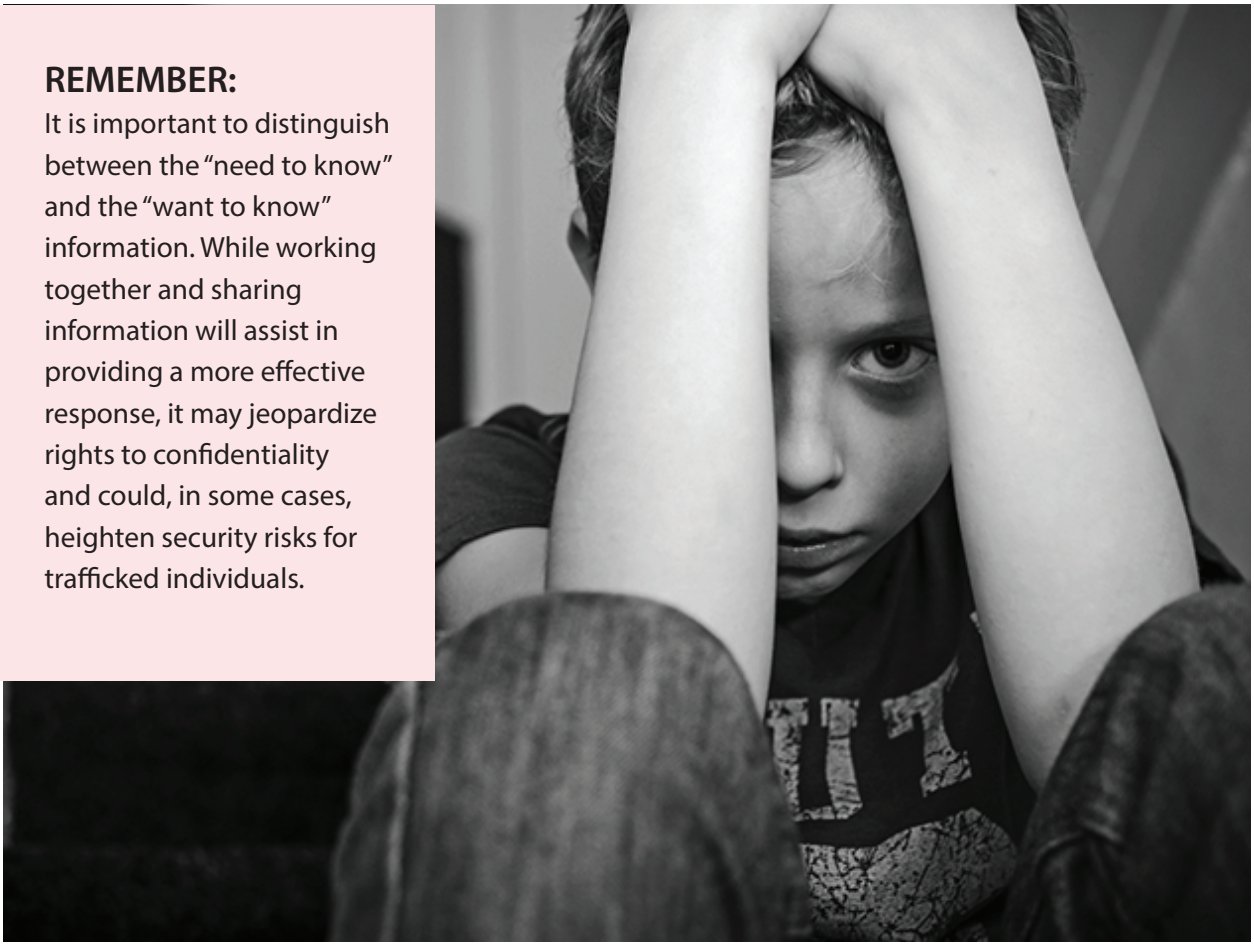
Tips for collaboration:

- Have a pre-established network of supports.
  - Consider: what services are already in place and can be adapted to meet the needs of trafficked youth?
  - See **Appendix 8: Building Your Network** for a fillable sheet to start this process for your community.
- Clarify the role of each agency.
- Recognize the differing mandates of each agency.
  - Rather than viewing different mandates as conflicting, try to see how they can complement each other.
- Be willing to compromise.
  - Sometimes agencies will not be able to come to a consensus. Try to establish which option puts the needs and views of the affected youth first.
- Release any sense of 'ownership' over a case.
- Stick to what you do best and make referrals for everything else.
- Develop information-sharing protocols and confidentiality policies.
  - Delegate one person or agency to take the lead on ensuring these policies are followed.
  - The policies will vary depending on the agencies involved. In some cases, informal understandings may work better.

For questions that may help to facilitate collaboration, see **Appendix 9: Questions for Collaboration**.

REMEMBER:

It is important to distinguish between the "need to know" and the "want to know" information. While working together and sharing information will assist in providing a more effective response, it may jeopardize rights to confidentiality and could, in some cases, heighten security risks for trafficked individuals.



[1] OCTIP, *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*, http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octiptraining/.

[2] PSR Canada, *Principles of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*, http://psrrpscanada.ca/index.php?submenu=_about&src=gendocs&ref=Core%20Principals&category=Main

[3] Children of the Street Society, *Resource Database*, www.childrenofthestreet.com/resources

[4] Children of the Street Society, *Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children & Youth in Canada: A Prevention and Early Intervention Toolkit for Parents*, www.childrenofthestreet.com/parents

[5] *OCTIP, Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*, "Government Services: Temporary Resident Permits", http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octiptraining/media/pdf/m4_government_services.pdf

SECTION 5: Reporting Human Trafficking

This section includes:

- » REPORTING TO MCFD
- » MCFD SERVICES
- » CHILD PROTECTION PROVISIONS FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH
- » REPORTING TO POLICE

Once you have identified that a youth may have been trafficked or is currently being trafficked, their immediate safety is the primary concern.

If a youth is in immediate danger or is an immediate threat to themselves or to someone else, call 911.

REPORTING TO MCFD

As discussed in the introduction to this toolkit, the human trafficking of youth is a form of child abuse. Affected youth are not only abused sexually, but experience physical, emotional, and psychological abuse. The following are ways in which pimps and traffickers abuse youth[1]:

> *"Even if the affected youth is seventeen or eighteen, we need to view the situation as **child** sexual exploitation."*
>
> – Karen Zilke, MCFD Social Worker, Yankee 20

- Emotionally:
  - Social and geographical isolation
  - Manipulation
  - Terrorizing, intimidation and causing a state of fear
  - Encouraging destructive, antisocial behaviour
- Physically:
  - Beatings, burnings, cutting hair, introducing or forcing drug use
- Physical neglect:
  - Inadequate provision of the basic necessities of life, including: clothing, shelter, nutrition, hygiene, rest, and access to medical and dental care
- Sexual abuse:
  - Contact: Including forced intercourse, oral sex, or touching and fondling in sexual areas
  - Non-contact: Including exposure to pornography, being forced to witness sexual acts, or being forced to pose for sexual photographs or videos

As a service provider, it is not your responsibility to determine whether or not human trafficking has indeed taken place. However, it is your duty to report suspected child abuse.



DUTY TO REPORT:
Under Canadian child welfare laws, every person in Canada has the duty to report child abuse and neglect if they know or suspect it is occurring. Each province/territory has different reporting mechanisms. In British Columbia, Duty to Report legislation is outlined in the Child, Family and Community Services Act.[2] Reports must be made to a child protection social worker in either an MCFD office, or a First Nations child welfare agency that provides child protection services. Follow your agency's specific protocols for reporting child abuse or click here[3] for instructions.

Affected youth will often not identify as being trafficked. They may not even identify as being a victim of any type of crime. In many cases, youth may believe they consented at some point to their current situation, and therefore see no reason to report to MCFD or law enforcement.

However, regardless of how old they may act or how defiant they may seem, we must remember:

1. Youth under the age of nineteen are children, and children may be in need of protection.
2. No one can consent to being trafficked.
3. The sexual abuse and exploitation of children through prostitution will not always be trafficking—however, it is always illegal.



REMEMBER:

If something does not seem right, trust your intuition. Example: In one case, a youth worker was supposed to meet with a youth, however when she called the youth to confirm their meeting, the youth simply said, "*He* (the youth's boyfriend) *is high right now and he said I shouldn't come out*". The youth worker had a weird feeling about the situation and called an MCFD social worker. The social worker then called the police. Immediately, the police connected the situation to an ongoing investigation. This example highlights the importance of trusting your intuition when you notice a red flag, as well as the need for collaboration. The youth worker, social worker, and police in this situation had a pre-existing relationship with one another and trust had been established. The situation was vague enough that it could have been nothing. However, the established trust between the different agencies allowed for a conversation to take place and resulted in further action.

MCFD SERVICES

It is required by law to report suspected child abuse to MCFD or a First Nations child welfare agency. However, MCFD also provides a wide range of additional services that may be relevant for trafficked youth, including:

- Helping youth find safe housing
- Making referrals to other services (some agencies require an MCFD-referral for their services)
- Working with youth and their families
- Creating or revisiting an existing Youth Agreement if applicable and relevant to the situation
- Helping to apply for protection and intervention orders to keep young people safe (see below)

CHILD PROTECTION PROVISIONS FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED YOUTH

Child, Family and Community Services Act

Under the *Child, Family and Community Services Act (CFCS Act)*, there are certain protective and intervention orders available for a child who is, or suspected to be, sexually exploited. The *CFCS Act* defines sexual exploitation as the act of encouraging, helping, coercing, or enticing a child to engage in prostitution. These orders under the *CFCS Act* can, in some cases, be used as an alternative provision to the *Criminal Code*.

Please note: These orders should not be pursued if criminal charges have already been laid.Under Section 28 and 98 of the *CFCS Act*, there is an opportunity to apply for orders to prevent an exploitative adult from interacting with a child or youth. Both orders can provide protection for up to six months, with possibility of extension based on the type of order and situation. A breach of either order is considered to be a criminal offence, enforceable under s.127 of the *Criminal Code*.

REMEMBER:

In contrast to the *Criminal Code*, where an adult is classified as anyone over the age of eighteen, the *CFCS Act* defines a "child" as someone under the age of nineteen. In other words, these protection orders are still relevant for youth aged eighteen even when the offence of sexual exploitation in the *Criminal Code* is no longer applicable.

Section 98 Restraining Order

Section 98 allows child protection workers to apply to the court for a restraining order. The order restricts contact between the child or youth and another person if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the other person is applying pressure to engage in prostitution. This order is available to a child in care, temporary custody, or for those currently in a youth agreement.

Section 28 Protective Intervention Order

While similar to a Section 98 restraining order, this protective intervention order is available for children who are not in care. Further, this order is applicable for not only circumstances of sexual exploitation, but also to other forms of abuse. It can also provide a child with protection from their parent.

QUICK TIP:

For an outline of the roles and responsibilities of MCFD social workers, law enforcement and healthcare providers when responding to high risk youth, please see Appendix 10: Child Protection Provisions in the *CFCS Act*.

Please note: Section 28 Protective Intervention

	S. 28- PROTECTIVE INTERVENTION ORDER	S. 98- RESTRAINING ORDER
Available to Protect	*Child who is not in care of MCFD*	*1. Child-in-care (CIC) of MCFD or youth receiving services under a Youth Agreement* *2. A caregiver of CIC (e.g., a foster parent)* *3. A person providing support or education services to a CIC* *4. A child protection worker*
Criteria for Application	*Reasonable grounds to believe that contact between a child and another person would cause the child to need protection*	*Reasonable grounds to believe that a person:* *a) Has or is likely to encourage, help, coerce, or lure a child into prostitution, or* *b) Has or is likely to otherwise exploit, abuse, or intimidate a CIC or youth receiving youth services*
Who can apply?	*Child protection social worker*	*Child protection social worker*
Who needs to be served notice?	*1. Person to be restrained* *2. Child, if aged twelve or older* *3. Person with care of the child*	*1. Person to be restrained* *2. Any parties court may direct you to serve*
Maximum length of Order	*Up to six months (order can be extended for a further six months)*	*Up to six months (order can be extended indefinitely)*

Section 28/98 Orders may be considered:

- When an affected youth is unwilling to leave their situation or is unable/unwilling to participate in the criminal justice process.
  - While criminal charges are contingent on the testimony of the victim, Section 28/98 orders do not need cooperation from the child.
- When criminal charges of sexual exploitation or trafficking have not gone through (either charges were dropped or the accused was acquitted of charges).

- After the criminal conditions have expired, and the victim is still under the age of nineteen.
- When there is not enough information or evidence to lay criminal charges.
  - Section 28/98 orders are applied for in family court, which is subject to a *civil standard of proof*—"a balance of probabilities" (i.e., more probable or likely than not), which is lower than the standard of proof in criminal court, where Crown counsel has to prove the offence took place *beyond a reasonable doubt*.

QUICK TIP:

Amendments to the *CFCS Act*, effective March 18, 2013, apply to enforcement of protection orders under s. 28 and 98. These amendments make breaches of these orders where the order is issued on or after March 18th 2013; a criminal offence under s. 127 of the *Criminal Code* instead of a civil matter. Enforcement under the *Criminal Code* makes these orders more effective in protecting children.

REMEMBER:

On the application for the order, request that the court include a term authorizing a police officer to **arrest the individual without warrant** if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the individual has contravened or is contravening the court order. Generally this is crafted by the social worker's legal counsel and is done prior to going to court. It is recommended that the social worker and the legal counsel discuss this ahead of time. To assist with this, you can refer to the language that is used in the *CFCS Act*: "s. 98 Restraining Orders subsection (7) At the request of a director, a police officer MUST assist in enforcing a restraining order." Or "s. 28 Protective Intervention Order subsection (5) At the request of a director, a police officer MUST assist in enforcing a protective intervention order."

For specific information regarding how to apply for these orders and additional considerations, see **Appendix 10: Child Protection Provisions in the *CFCS Act***.

REPORTING TO POLICE

The trafficking and sexual exploitation of youth through prostitution is a crime. While reporting an offence of human trafficking to police is not required, it is encouraged. As safety is a primary concern for trafficked individuals, connecting with a police agency is very important.

This will be discussed in **Section 6: Connecting with Law Enforcement**.

To report child abuse and access further resources, please visit the Reporting Child Abuse section on the provincial Ministry's website at: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/protecting-children/reporting-child-abuse

To report online sexual abuse of children and youth, including online luring, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, go to www.cybertip.ca or call 1-866-658-9022.



REMEMBER:
If a youth is in immediate danger or is an immediate threat to themselves or to someone else, **call 911**.

[1] **Government of Alberta,** *Protection of Sexually Exploited Children and Youth* , http://humanservices.alberta.ca/documents/PSEC-manual.pdf

[2] *Child, Family and Community Service Act*, http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/00_96046_01

[3] *Reporting Child Abuse*, http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/protecting-children/reporting-child-abuse

SECTION 6: Connecting with Law Enforcement

This section includes:

» POLICE SERVICES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA
» WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

As all trafficked and sexually exploited youth are victims of crime, connecting with the criminal justice system is an important component to providing comprehensive support and services. Connecting with law enforcement is not mandatory; however, a youth who has been trafficked should be informed of all options available to them.

REMEMBER:
For youth who do not identify as being trafficked, do not to label their situation as human trafficking. This may cause them to experience further distress or set them up for disappointment if a charge of human trafficking is not pursued. However, it is important to help them understand that a crime has been committed against them.



POLICE SERVICES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia receives police services from:

- RCMP federal, provincial (E-Division), and municipal forces.
- Independent municipal police departments (E.g., Vancouver Police Department or Oak Bay Police Department).
- A First Nations administered police force (The Stl'atl'imx Tribal Police Service is the only First Nations force in British Columbia).

When making a report to law enforcement, it is important to contact the local police agency that has jurisdiction in your area.

However, if available, it is helpful to make connections with law enforcement that are experienced in working with issues of human trafficking, sexual exploitation, or youth issues specifically:

- The Vancouver Police Department (VPD) Counter–Exploitation Unit (formerly known as the Vice Unit) is mandated to investigate trafficking and other prostitution related offences, pornography, and other forms of sexual exploitation. The CEU has a dedicated civilian community support worker who can liaise with other services agencies.
- Provincially, the RCMP has designated officers to address crimes related to human trafficking, prostitution and exploitation, as well as internet child exploitation. Their roles may include leading investigations, supporting local units, or providing training on these issues.
- Some municipal forces have designated youth teams or school liaison officers.
- The Oak Bay Police Department has one officer (Mobile Youth Services Team) dedicated to address the issue of sexually exploited youth in the Capital Region District on Vancouver Island.

To report online sexual abuse of children and youth, including online luring, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, go to www.cybertip.ca or call 1-866-658-9022.

WORKING EFFECTIVELY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Barriers for Connecting with Police

Trafficked persons rarely make a police report on their own initiative. Multiple barriers to reporting to police exist for youth who have been trafficked, including:

- Not identifying as a trafficked person or victim of exploitation.
- Mistrust of police, due to:
  - Prior history of negative experiences with police.
  - Manipulation by traffickers into thinking that police are not to be trusted
- Fear of retaliation from the trafficker, or from his/her circle.
- Fear that they may be charged for:
  - Prostitution
    - Youth (and adults) will not be charged for the act of exchanging sex for consideration. For the full list of revised prostitution-related offences in the *Criminal Code* and an explanation regarding the changes, see **Appendix 2: Legislation**.

In ***R v Moazami*** one of the complainants testified that Moazami told her that if she ever "ratted him out" to the police he would find her and get people to "grind her".

- Drug-related charges or outstanding warrants for other criminal activity (related or not to the trafficking situation)
    - Oftentimes, traffickers will force their victims into participating in other criminal activity. They may become involved in recruiting other youth, enforcement, and other responsibilities.

» Threats from the trafficker that if they talk to police they will harm their friends/family

» Trauma-bonding: when youth form an emotional attachment to their trafficker, typically through the 'grooming' process, which is often used to further manipulate them

» Believing that reporting a crime would be pointless, due to inaction or the likelihood that the offender will not be charged or will 'get off easy'

» Feeling that the abuse they may be experiencing is part of the risk of the activity they are engaged in (prostitution)

» Feeling judged

» Do not want to be labelled as a 'rat'

» Thinking that the police will force them to leave their situation, send them back home, or send them to a foster home

» Stigma of being involved with the sex trade

» Embarrassment of the manipulation they experienced

» Do not want to divulge too much personal information

» Fear of losing the income they need to fund their addiction

» Fear of re-victimization through the Criminal Justice System (for example, having to recount the abuse they incurred or testifying in front of their trafficker in court)

In ***R v Moazami,*** one of the complainants testified that she "never thought of calling the police because she had bad experiences with the police in the past and would never want Mr. Moazami to know she was thinking of calling the police out of fear that he may retaliate."

Benefits of Connecting with Police

Despite these barriers, police can provide relevant services for trafficked youth. Making a report to police can:

» Provide protection for the affected youth (and family if necessary).

» Start a trail of information linked to the victim and the possible offender.
- This can be beneficial for a future criminal investigation or for pursuing a Section 28/98 Order under the *CFCS Act*.

» Connect this information to a possible ongoing investigation.

- Alert officers to a potentially dangerous person that could be hurting others.
- Connect youth to additional services.
- Trafficked youth may also have specific motivations for connecting with the criminal justice system, including:
- Justice for themselves:
  - Wanting the trafficker to answer for what he/she did to them
- Justice for others:
  - Prevent them from hurting others
    - Example: In one case, the affected youth had a strong bond with her trafficker and felt a lot of guilt for his arrest on her account. This made her conflicted about whether or not she wanted to testify. However, once she learned of what he did to the other girls, she wanted justice for them and agreed to participate.
- If their friends are also testifying, they may find it important to support each other.
- To have the opportunity to explain forensic evidence (Facebook, text messages, pictures, etc.) that involve the victim. If youth do not provide a statement, they will not be able to challenge an incorrect inference.

Bridging the Gap Between Youth and Police:

As indicated above, there are multiple barriers that prevent victims of trafficking from connecting with law enforcement. These barriers may prevent youth from connecting with police on their own initiative. However, **as a service provider, you play a vital role in connecting trafficked youth with law enforcement**. Once trust has been established, you may be able to bridge the gap between the young person and the criminal justice system.



"If someone feels safe, there is a higher chance they will give a statement."

– Diane Sowden, Executive Director of Children of the Street Society

As a service provider, you can:

- Explain to the affected youth the role of police, what they do, and the services they can provide. Remember: the priority for police is to ensure safety. Information is secondary.
- Speak about police in a positive light.
- Introduce youth to police officers you know and have worked with previously.
- Discuss with youth the benefits of reporting to police.
- Accompany youth when they speak to police regarding their options.



REMEMBER:

Breaking down the barriers between trafficked youth and law enforcement may help them in this specific circumstance. However, it could also help them in the future. One positive interaction with police may encourage the affected youth to contact them if they are ever in danger in the future. Example: One trafficked individual spoke of her experience with two police officers. They were approachable, kind, and non-judgmental. At the time of their first meeting, she was not ready to seek help and leave the situation. However, when she was later caught in a very dangerous situation with her trafficker, she remembered these two police officers and contacted them for help. They were able to remove her from the situation, provide her with protection, and connect her with services.

Tips for Connecting with Police:

- Understand the role of police
  - In order to work effectively with police, it is necessary to understand how they operate and what their mandate is. Different police forces, and even different units within one force, may operate and function differently. Have a discussion regarding what this may look like when working with a trafficked youth.
  - For general questions to facilitate effective collaboration see **Appendix 9: Questions for Collaboration**.
- Establish a relationship with police
  - While cold-calling police may be necessary in an emergency situation, having an established relationship with certain police officers allows for ease-of-communication and can ensure a basic level of trust.
- Be willing to partner and assist
  - All agencies, including police, function on reciprocity to some degree. Oftentimes a trafficking situation requires agencies to go above and beyond their typical role and duties. By being willing to partner and assist with them (related or unrelated to this specific situation), it is more likely that they will in turn be willing to adapt their services to meet the specific needs of the affected youth.
- Do not over-promise
  - Overpromising what the police can provide may set the situation up for failure, which may leave the trafficked youth disappointed or create barriers for them to seek help in the future. If you are unsure what the police can provide for a specific situation, just ask.

"As a social service agency dealing with a highly vulnerable population, it might seem difficult or even impossible to effectively work with police. But I just have to remind myself that at the end of the day their role is to keep people safe. They aren't social workers. My role is to help support the individual, their role is to help protect them and bring the offender to justice"

– Frontline Service Provider

REMEMBER:

these tips are for when a youth's immediate safety is not at risk. If they are in immediate danger, call **911**.

SECTION 7: Services and Supports in the Criminal Justice System

This section includes:

- VICTIM SERVICES
- VICTIM COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM
- CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRES
- CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CVAP)

While support services need to be provided by multiple agencies (see Section 4), there are specific service professionals that are mandated and trained to provide support for adult and youth victims during the criminal justice process.

VICTIM SERVICES

In British Columbia, there are more than 160 victim service programs based in community agencies or police detachments and departments. Victim services workers (VSW) provide assistance to victims of crime and can provide information about the justice system, practical help, emotional support and referrals to other appropriate programs. Victim service programs are either police-based or community-based. While these programs provide similar services, there are some key differences:

Police-based victim services:

- Operate out of police detachments and departments.
- Provide services to victims of all crime types.
- Are crisis-based (usually become involved as a result of a police intervention).

Community-based victim services:

- Operate out of community service agencies.
- Are available in communities with populations over 20,000.
- Provide services to victims of power-based crimes, including: sexual assault, family and sexual violence, Aboriginal specific, children/youth, or culturally specific crimes.
- Will usually work with victims of crime regardless of whether or not they wish to report their story to the police or cooperate in an investigation.

Differences may vary based on the specific program or region. Consult with your local victim service program to find out more information.

QUICK TIP:
To find services available in your community, call VictimLinkBC at **1-800-563-0808**

Services provided by VSWs are free of charge. They may provide the following services: Emotional support

- Help to deal with the aftermath of a serious crime
- Practical assistance, such as going with youth to talk to the police
- Serve as a liaison with Crown counsel
- Information about the criminal justice system and the court process
- Accompaniment if youth go to court, and assistance with preparing for court
- Help to prepare a Victim Impact Statement
- Notification on the status of the court case
- To both victims and those protected by civil protection orders, notification of the provincial custody status of the offender
- Information and assistance regarding peace bonds or protection orders and having it registered in the Protection Order Registry

Victim Service Workers are specifically trained to provide information and support as it relates to the criminal justice system. They are an integral part of a comprehensive support program for a youth who has been trafficked.

Youth may be reluctant to seek help from a VSW as they may see them as part of the 'system'. However, in most cases, **support and services by a VSW are not contingent on participation with the criminal justice system**. Separate from the criminal justice system, VSWs can provide assistance with:

- Emotional Support
- Referrals to appropriate agencies and services
- Safety planning
- Assistance with applications for financial assistance/benefits (See CVAP, below)

QUICK TIP:

If a young person doesn't view themselves as a victim, focus on the services and assistance a VSW can provide and refer to their role as a 'support worker'. Many VSW's will refer to their role in this manner.

VICTIM COURT SUPPORT PROGRAM

The victim court support program provides direct support to victims dealing with specific issues and difficulties that arise from being a victim in a criminal court process. These programs operate from the courthouses located in Port Coquitlam, Surrey, and Vancouver.

This program complements services provided by the local police-based and community-based victim service programs.

For more information regarding the services a court support caseworker may provide as well as contact information for available programs, click here.

CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRES

Child and Youth Advocacy Centres (CYACs) provide a coordinated approach to addressing the needs of children and youth who have been abused. Through an integrated and streamlined approach, CYACs engage various sectors to provide a single, accessible "one-stop-shop" where child/youth victims and their non-offending family members can receive necessary supports and services in a safe, child-centred environment. By co-locating police, child protection workers and victim services in one location, these centres minimize trauma for young victims, and reduce the number of meetings and interviews that children have to go through during the investigation process. Ultimately, bringing together service providers to jointly respond to cases enables a strengthened approach to investigating and prosecuting child abuse.

CYACs may be able to provide assistance for trafficked youth by:

- Providing assistance and coordination from a multi-disciplinary team (may include law enforcement, child protection services, prosecution, mental health services, victim advocacy services and child advocacy centre)
- Providing a safe, neutral setting for interviews with police and Crown
- Providing victim advocacy and support, including court support
- For a list of CYACs that are currently operational throughout BC, see **Appendix 7: Resources and Services**.

CRIME VICTIM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CVAP)

Human trafficking can impact every aspect of a young person's life. As a result, the youth (including immediate family members) may suffer financial loss or injury. The Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP) offers financial assistance to help with some of the costs and services needed to assist in recovering from or coping with the effects of violent crime.

REMEMBER:

Victim services workers are able to assist victims in completing the CVAP application form.

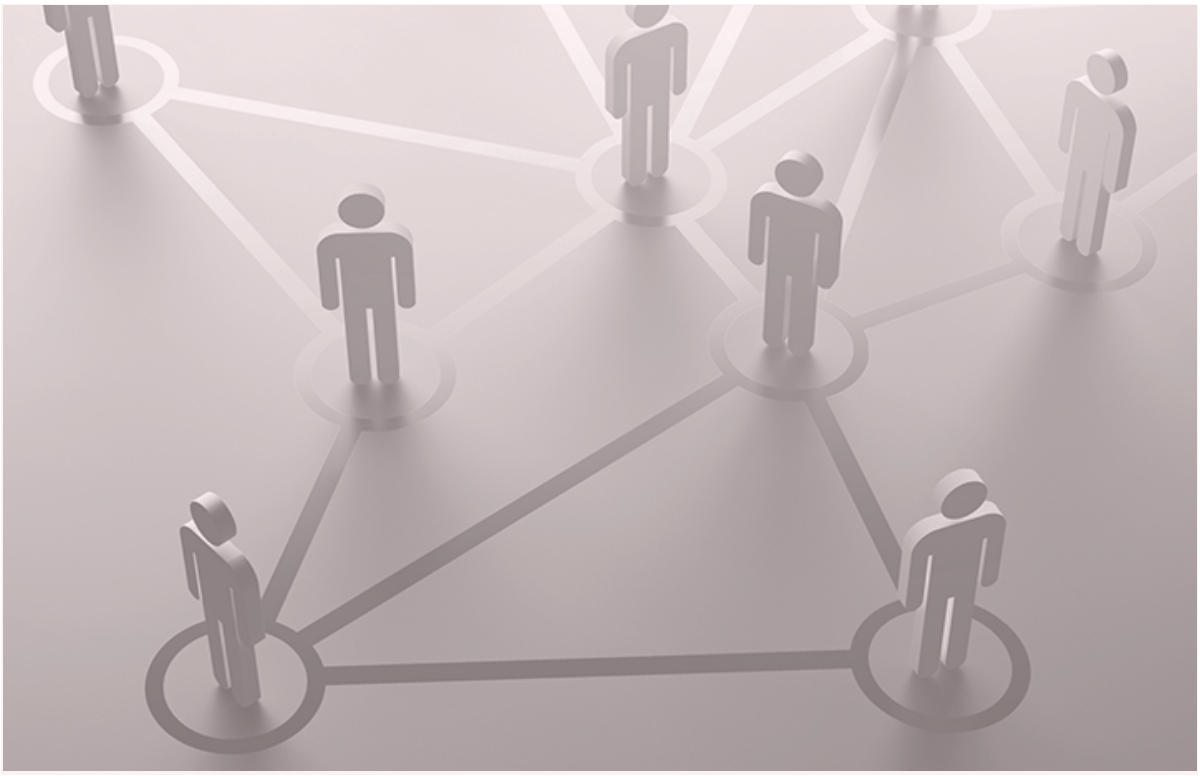
Benefits that may be available include:

- Medical, dental and prescription drugs
  - Trafficked youth may have various medical and dental concerns as a result of abuse or neglect from their trafficker.
- Counselling
  - Trafficked youth may suffer from multiple mental health concerns or other effects from the trauma experienced.
- Protective measures
  - If a youth is at risk of additional harm by the trafficker or traumatized with fear, CVAP may be able to cover personal protection or relocation expenses.
- Replacement of damaged or destroyed eyeglasses, clothing, disability aids
  - Traffickers will often destroy a youth's possessions to threaten or punish them.
- Addiction Treatment
  - CVAP benefits for addiction treatment are only considered in exceptional cases when a direct link can be shown between the actions of the trafficker and the resulting addiction. Generally addiction treatment programs for victims of human trafficking are not covered by CVAP.
- Transportation and related expenses
  - Trafficked youth may need to be relocated due to security issues.
- Income support or lost earning capacity.

Note: For victims of sexual offences (including human trafficking), there is no time limit for when an application must be completed.

QUICK TIP:

CVAP can be compared to an insurance company. The trafficked youth will be required to prove how benefits claimed are the direct result of being a victim of crime. An application for a youth who has been trafficked may include information on complex trauma, addiction as a coping mechanism, or a youth's exploited vulnerabilities. If information is required to support a CVAP claim, such as a medical or police report, the CVAP Program staff can seek it out on the client's behalf.



For more information regarding the benefits that may be able to assist trafficked youth and their immediate family members, including a copy of the application form, click here. [3]

[1] **VictimLinkBC,** http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/victims-of-crime/victimlinkbc

[2] **Victim Court Support Program,** http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/if-you-are-a-victim-of-a-crime/the-court-case/court-support

[3] **Financial Assistance & Benefits,** http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/if-you-are-a-victim-of-a-crime/victim-of-crime/financial-assistance-benefits

SECTION 8: Overview of the Criminal Justice Process in BC

This section includes:

- » THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
- » OVERVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

This section will include a brief overview of the criminal justice process. Section 9 will provide tips and considerations for service providers supporting youth through this process. Even if a young person is connected to a victim services worker, it is important that all service providers in their network have a basic understanding of the criminal justice system to be able to effectively support their needs during this process.

QUICK TIP:
For police officers wanting information on specific practices such as preparing for and conducting interviews, collecting evidence, and preparing charges for trafficking cases, the *Department of Justice Canada* has created A Handbook for Criminal Justice Practitioners on Trafficking in Persons.

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

In Canada, provincial and federal governments jointly govern the criminal justice system. The *Criminal Code* sets out criminal offences in Canada as well as procedural matters related to evidence, sentencing, and other criminal justice issues.

This overview is specific to British Columbia and is limited to a discussion of the adult justice system. For information regarding the youth justice system click here.[2]

What Constitutes a Crime?

A crime is considered to be an offence against society as a whole[3], and the prosecution of crimes primarily involves the state and the accused. While victims of crime are receiving greater attention in terms of their role within the broader criminal justice system, the prosecutor in a criminal trial acts on behalf of society and the state, not on behalf of a victim.

Most criminal offences in Canada are found under the *Criminal Code* (RSC 1985, c C-46).

Crimes are generally divided into two categories:

- » Summary offences: usually minor in nature, such as causing a disturbance
- » Indictable offences: serious in nature, and include theft and murder[4]

The offence of trafficking in persons and related offences (ss.279.01-279.04) are all indictable offences.

OVERVIEW OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

The criminal justice process in British Columbia involves four primary stages: the investigative function, the prosecution function, the trial function, and the corrections function.[5]

The Investigative Function

When a possible crime is reported to an investigative agency like the police, or the agency itself identifies a possible crime, the agency will investigate and decide whether the incident warrants forwarding a report to Crown counsel [6]. In other words, police will determine whether a crime has been committed and will gather sufficient information on the incident to provide to Crown counsel.

QUICK TIP:

Visit www.courtprep.ca for an overview of the criminal justice process that you can read through with the victim, in addition to helpful tips and frequently asked questions when preparing for court.

The Prosecution Function

Where police determine that an investigation or incident warrants forwarding a report to Crown counsel, the Crown counsel must then determine whether charges should be laid against the person(s) named in the report. **In BC, unlike most other provinces, Crown counsel is responsible for approving the laying of formal charges.**

Charge assessment requires Crown counsel to consider the following:

- Whether there is a substantial likelihood of conviction based on the evidence presented; and,
- If so, whether the prosecution is required in the public interest. Assessment of this factor can include the seriousness of the allegations, such as whether a victim suffered serious harm or a weapon was used in the commission of the crime.

Based on the above considerations, Crown can decide to:

- Lay formal charges.
- Lay no charges.
- Recommend that the person be referred to an alternative measures program rather than going to court.



REMEMBER:

The offence of human trafficking carries a high threshold of proof. The evidence needs to indicate that an *act* and *means* took place for the *purpose* of exploitation. Exploitation requires that the evidence show that it would be reasonable for a person to fear for their safety when faced with these circumstances. See Section 1 for the elements of human trafficking, or **Appendix 2: Legislation** for more information.

The Trial Function

If Crown counsel lays formal charges, the matter will proceed through the trial system, which includes preliminary hearings and the actual criminal trial and sentencing hearings.

A criminal trial may be held in either Provincial or Supreme Court. Persons charged with serious indictable offences may choose to have their trial heard by judge alone, or by a jury. Jury trials only occur at the Supreme Court. Prior to the actual criminal trial, the courts may hold judicial interim release (bail) hearings and preliminary hearings to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to proceed to trial, as well as hearings on specific issues on the admissibility of evidence, if these arise before trial. The criminal trial will be scheduled and heard according to the choices or requirements attending the alleged offences (i.e., in Provincial Court or Supreme Court, by judge alone or by jury).

The role of Crown counsel: To ensure the evidence against the accused person is presented vigorously, but fairly, in court (i.e., not to gain a conviction). Crown counsel also has stringent obligations to provide all evidence to defence counsel through disclosure procedures in advance of trial. **It is important for youth to be aware of this requirement, especially as some disclosures may identify them and could affect their safety at some point.**

The role of the judge/jury: To weigh the evidence and come to a determination on guilt.

In criminal cases, the accused is presumed to be innocent. Crown has the *burden* to prove the offence took place **beyond a reasonable doubt**. This is known as the **standard of proof**. Beyond a reasonable doubt requires more proof than 'probable' or 'likely' guilt, but does not require absolute certainty. In other words, there needs to be enough evidence to indicate that a crime occurred and that it occurred as described. This is important to remember when supporting youth, as it may explain why an accused is found not guilty.

Testimonial Aids

Victims may be asked to testify or present evidence during the course of a criminal trial. The *Criminal Code* contains a number of provisions to protect young victims and witnesses under eighteen and make it easier for them to provide their testimony. The goal of providing testimonial aids are to help to reduce the trauma which may result from testifying and to ensure that victims are not re-victimized by participating in the criminal justice process.

Testimonial aids may include:

- Testifying outside the courtroom by close-circuit TV or inside the courtroom behind a screen.
- Having a support person with them while they testify.
- The evidence (statement) of young victims and witnesses may be videotaped before the trial to spare them from repeating their testimony at trial.
  - Note: the young person will still be subject to cross-examination by the defence.

QUICK TIP:
Typically, Crown counsel will apply to the court for a testimonial aid on behalf of the victim or witness. However, it may require some advocacy with Crown on the part of victim services or other service providers to request this if it has not been offered.

For more information regarding testimonial aids, including additional measures that may be available, see **Appendix 11: Testimonial Aids in Court**.

Canadian Victim Bill of Rights

In July 2015 the Canadian Government introduced a new *Canadian Victim Bill of Rights (CVBR)*, with rights for victims to information protection, participation, and restitution. The CVBR builds on the rights provided by the existing provincial *Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)*. To learn more about how the *CVBR* and legislative amendments relate to your work with victims, please see **Appendix 12: The *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* - Highlights and Summary for Victim Services.**

The Judgement Decision

Following the conclusion of a trial, either a judge or jury will make a determination of guilt.

Both Crown and the accused have a right of appeal, on certain grounds. For more information regarding the appellate function, see **Appendix 13: Criminal Appeals**.

The Corrections Function

Where an accused is found guilty at trial or pleads guilty to the charges, the judge must make a sentencing decision. Crown and defence counsel will often make submissions to the judge for a sentencing hearing. A Victim Impact Statement may also be included at this stage of the criminal justice process, and a judge can consider this in determining an appropriate sentence.

A sentence may include a term of imprisonment, as well as other conditions, such as submitting a DNA sample, weapons prohibitions, or registration on the Sex Offender Registry. It can also include monetary fines, restitution, probation, community service, and other measures.

In ***R v Moazami,*** the offender was sentenced to a total of twenty-three years imprisonment following multiple convictions related to eleven complainants. He was also required to submit a DNA sample, be registered on the Sex Offender Registry for life, was given a lifetime weapons prohibition, has a no contact order with all complainants and witnesses, and a forfeiture order was granted for all items seized by police at time of arrest.

How is a Sentence Determined?

Criminal sentencing in Canada is based upon fundamental principles set out in the *Criminal Code*, which include:

- To denounce unlawful conduct.
- To deter the other offender and other persons from committing offences.
  - In the Moazami case, the court noted that because eight of the eleven complainants were under the age of eighteen at the time of the offences, the principles of denunciation and deterrence must be given primary consideration.

- Isolation.
- Rehabilitation.
- To provide compensation for victims and communities.
- To promote responsibility and accountability in offenders.

A judge will also consider specific issues or facts of the case that may increase (aggravating circumstances), or reduce (mitigating factors) the sentence. For a full list of these considerations, see **Appendix 14: Sentencing**.

In ***R v Moazami,*** , the court noted in its sentencing decision the exceptional nature of this case. This includes the large number of complainants, the large number of times that he committed sexual offences against the complainants, and the young age of the victims and their vulnerable circumstances. For the full list of factors and considerations determining Moazami's sentence, see Appendix 15: *R v Moazami* Sentencing Summary.

Note: In a case where the total sentence (determined by adding up the sentence for each offence) is extraordinarily high, the court must use the totality principle to hand down a reasonable sentence. This principle determines that a sentence should not be so oppressive as to eliminate any chance of rehabilitation. In *R v Moazami,* the total sentence on each count would have added up to forty-eight years imprisonment. Following the totality principle, the sentence was reduced to twenty-three years.

Victim Impact Statements

As part of the sentencing hearing, a victim may prepare and file a Victim Impact Statement, which describes the physical or emotional harm, property damage or economic loss suffered by the victim as the result of the commission of the offence and the impact of the offence on the victim. The preparation of an impact statement is part of a victim's right to participation, outlined in the *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights*[9]. The parole board members may also use victim impact statements when considering an inmate's application for early release.

QUICK TIP:
Victim service workers can help an individual to write their victim impact statement.

The victim may present the statement by:

- Writing it and submitting it via Crown counsel (the most common way).
- Reading it by themselves, accompanied by a support person, or behind a screen or device.
- Any other manner the court considers appropriate.
- The court may also allow a photograph of the victim before the commission of the crime to be presented where it deems that this would not disrupt the proceedings.



In ***R v Nakpangi***, the victim provided a statement that described the emotional effects, physical injuries, and financial consequences of being trafficked. She wrote of not feeling safe, having nightmares, panic attacks, low self-esteem, and the negative impact on her relationship with others. She also wrote of being left with absolutely nothing once she left Nakpangi. For the full excerpt, see **Appendix 5: Victim Impact Statement**.



REMEMBER:

The preparation and submission of a victim impact statement is the victim's choice. However, the sentencing judge must consider the statement if one has been prepared.

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[1] Department of Justice, *A Handbook for Criminal Justice Practitioners on Trafficking in Persons*,
Available online: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/rp-pr/cj-jp/tp/hcjpotp-gtpupjp/hcjpotp-gtpupjp.pdf

[2] *Youth Justice System*, http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/youth-justice

[3] Department of Justice, *Canada's System of Justice* (Ottawa: Department of Justice, 2015).
Available online: http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/csj-sjc/just/img/courten.pdf at 26.

[4] Department of Justice, ibid at 26.

[5] BC Ministry of Justice, "Overview of the Adult Justice System"
online: BC Ministry of Justice http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/prosecution-service/crim-court-proc/adult.htm

[6] BC Ministry of Justice, *supra* note 3.

[7] S.718.

[8] S.722.

[9] *Canadian Victims Bill of Rights* (2015), http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-23.7/page-1.html

[10] S.722(5).

[11] S.722(6).

SECTION 9: Supporting Youth through the Criminal Justice Process

This section includes:

- » SUPPORT DURING:
- » THE INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTION
- » THE PROSECUTION FUNCTION
- » THE TRIAL FUNCTION
- » THE CORRECTIONS FUNCTION
- » AFTER COURT: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

This section includes tips and considerations for supporting youth, following the outline provided in Section 8: Overview of the Criminal Justice Process.

The criminal justice system can, inadvertently, re-traumatize youth who have been trafficked. Key triggers to re-traumatization include feeling a lack of control, experiencing unexpected change, feeling threatened or attacked, feeling vulnerable or frightened, or feeling shame. Even for individuals who are willing and committed to going through the process, these triggers may occur when retelling their story or being interviewed multiple times by police and Crown counsel, when testifying in court in front of their trafficker, or when being cross-examined by the defence counsel.

Providing support for trafficked youth before, during, and after going through the criminal justice process is imperative. Their rights and needs are not in addition to, but are rather at the very core of the whole process.

"Victims of crime are entitled to information about criminal charges related to their victimization and updates about how those charges proceed through the criminal justice system. Victim services funded throughout B.C. provide victims of crime with emotional support, information about their case and referrals to community agencies. In some communities they can also accompany victims of crime to interviews with police, Crown and provide support in the courtroom during the trial. These rights are found in the Victims of Crime Act *and the* Canadian Victims Bill of Rights. *We have seen that victims who are supported by service providers, such as victim services, throughout the criminal justice process are better equipped to testify and offer other assistance with the case."*

–Rosalind Currie, Director, Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons,
BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Using a trauma-informed approach to support trafficked youth through the process will help to identify potential triggers and help equip youth to manage them if they arise.

QUICK TIP:

Connect affected youth with a victim service worker (VSW) as early as possible. A VSW has the specific knowledge and experience with the criminal justice system to provide effective support and guidance through this process. For more information on victim services programs in BC, see Section 7: Services and Support in the Criminal Justice System.



REMEMBER:

While many of these support tips and considerations fall under the role of a victim services worker, it is important to be aware of the different ways to support youth during this process.

UNIQUE COMPLEXITIES IN A HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE

In order to support affected youth, it is also helpful to understand the unique complexities in a human trafficking case, including:

- The clandestine (concealed) nature of the crime
  - This makes it difficult to identify victims as well as the evidence related to specific criminal activity.
- There are often multiple victims
  - Rather than having to address the needs of one victim, a human trafficking file may have eight or more identified victims, making it increasingly more difficult to coordinate services.
- Victim cooperation and participation is essential in securing a charge of human trafficking. Participation is impacted by:
  - Strong bonds between the traffickers and the affected youth
- Youth may be reluctant to assist in an investigation. This is particularly impactful if the trafficker and youth were separated due to the police intervention and not by choice.
  - Security and safety concerns
- Traffickers may be watching or have others monitoring the young person's activity.
  - Vulnerabilities of the youth
- Dealing with the impacts of complex trauma, mental health, and addictions.
- The youth may still be in an exploitative situation.

SUPPORT DURING THE INVESTIGATIVE FUNCTION

For youth involved in a human trafficking investigation, the process can be difficult. Working with police may induce anxiety and they may be experiencing fear of retaliation from their trafficker or others. They will also likely be asked to provide a statement to police, which will require them to discuss in detail their traumatic experiences.

Support during the investigative function may include preparation, accompaniment to the interview, advocacy, and debrief afterwards.

- Preparation
  - Discuss any fears or anxieties they may have about the interview. Encourage them to speak to the police officer about this.
  - Practice calming, grounding exercises to reduce or address traumatic responses.
  - Inform youth that the police will probably ask a lot of detailed, personal questions.

- Every detail is important and should be shared if they feel comfortable to share it. They are not the one being investigated. However, they are allowed to ask police why they need to know certain details.
- At trial, the statement of the victim will be questioned. In order to corroborate as much of their statement as possible and increase their credibility, police will likely have to ask questions that seem unrelated to the trafficking situation.
  - Encourage the young person to be as honest as possible: it is okay if they are unsure of an answer or don't remember certain details. Remind them that they do not need to add or change details to sensationalize what they went through.
  - It is important to remember that preparation does not include coaching on how to answer or discussing specific details to the case.
- Accompaniment and Emotional Support
  - Attending the interview with the youth may calm some of their anxieties and make them more comfortable. If the youth requests it, inquire with the investigator if they will allow you to be present for the interview. If you do accompany them, it is important to remember that you are there for support purposes only. You must not interfere or interject.
- If you are part of an interview, this may also allow you to be called as a witness. Be aware of this, as you may not be able to provide support to the youth if you are also a witness in the trial.
  - After the interview, ask how they felt about the process and help them to recognize the reactions or emotions they may be experiencing as a result.
- Advocacy and Education
  - Some police officers may be very aware of the complex dynamics of the trafficking situation and the traumatic impact this has on victims. However, you may also work with police officers with little experience in this area. It is important to be aware of the impact of trauma on youth and determine ways to reduce these impacts or support them as they occur.
  - During the investigative process, advocacy may involve:

REMEMBER:

Let the police do their job. As a service provider, it is not your role to try to investigate or receive disclosures regarding criminal offences. Encourage youth to report important information to police and support them through this process.



REMEMBER:

Traffickers are often incredibly controlling and possessive over their victims. Depending on the situation, they may still be in contact with the youth during the investigation. In *R v Urizar*, the accused sent a total of thirty-nine text messages to the complainant in the two days surrounding the time she gave her statement to police.

- Helping youth ask for things they may need:
- Scheduling interview times around victims needs.
- Asking for the interview to take place in a neutral, safe environment. Depending on the situation, the police department may be the best place for the interview to take place. Some buildings may be equipped with specific rooms for interviewing children.
- Taking breaks throughout the interview.

» Communicating or explaining certain behaviours to police/Crown:

- Not showing up or showing up late could be an impact of trauma, or a reflection of the schedule/lack of schedule they had while in the trafficking situation.
- Dishonesty or reluctance to share may indicate a lack of trust.
- Gaps in memory or inconsistencies could be an impact of trauma.

SUPPORT DURING THE PROSECUTION FUNCTION

During this stage, Crown will determine whether charges should be laid against the person listed in the police report. Support during the prosecution stage will likely look very similar to the investigative function. In particular, it is important to provide youth with as much information as possible so they are aware of the current status of the investigation. This may require you to consult with the Victim Service Worker and liaise with police and Crown on the youth's behalf.

QUICK TIP:
Ask the affected youth what would make them most comfortable. Some female youth may actually prefer to speak with a male officer because they are used to talking with Johns or may feel more shame when recounting details to another woman. Remember to consider this for male and transgender youth as well.

If charges are not laid, youth may question whether or not they were believed. Explain to them the complexity of the investigative process and the amount of evidence that is required to prove an offence took place. Their role is to share their story; it is the responsibility of police to gather the evidence.

REMEMBER:
A trauma-informed approach recognizes the impact of trauma and responds by putting this knowledge into practice. In one case, after agreeing to cooperate with police, a young victim failed to show up for the interview that was scheduled in the morning. Several hours later, she eventually showed up. During the interview with the male investigator, she was angry, dismissive, and only gave one-word answers. A support worker recognized something wasn't right. After speaking with the youth alone, it was discovered that the youth wasn't sleeping at night and the male investigator reminded her of her trafficker. The support worker asked the youth to choose the time of day for the next appointment and asked whether she would prefer questions to be asked by a female officer. The place of the meeting also changed from the police station to a safe, neutral spot that made the youth more comfortable.

QUICK TIP:
If charges are laid and it proceeds through to the trial function, try to advocate for Crown counsel to meet with youth as early as possible. Building that trust between Crown and the trafficked youth may take time and it is essential for the rest of the process.

SUPPORT DURING THE TRIAL FUNCTION

For any victim of crime, testifying in court can be a frightening and difficult experience. However, this experience may be particularly difficult for a young person who has been exploited through trafficking due to the coercive practices involved, such as violence or threat of violence. There are many times throughout this process where an affected youth may be triggered.

QUICK TIP:

VictimsInfo[3] and CourtPrep[4] are useful online resources for victims of crime that provide general information about the court process, including frequently asked questions and links to additional sites for further information.

"In my experience some trafficked youth are more aware of, and sensitive to, the power dynamics that take place in the court system. They want to know who they have to listen to and why that person has the power, what they have choices about and what they do not. They are sometimes very affected by a situation where someone else, even if the person is a judge, is able to tell them what to do and how to act."

– Victim Support Worker



Trauma can greatly impact a young person's testimony and ability to recall events. In ***R v Urizar***, the cross-examination of the complainant revealed that her testimony contained some omissions and lapses of memory, a few exaggerations, contradictions and moments of hesitation, and even some statements that could be considered to be inconsistencies. However, the Court noted that "it would be illusory to think that a young person who had just lived through a nine-month relationship marked by so much physical, verbal, emotional and sexual abuse would be able to recount all of this in detail and in chronological order; indeed, it would be worrisome if they were able to do so."

Supporting youth through the trial function may include:

- Preparation
  - Discuss the court process, what to expect, and the roles of Crown, defence, and the judge/jury.
  - Tour the courthouse prior to trial, making them aware of where they will testify, where you (the support worker) will be, where the accused will be sitting, etc.
  - Ask them about any questions, anxieties, or concerns they may have about the process.
  - Practice strategies for recognizing, preventing, and managing a traumatic response. This includes identifying normal physical reactions like feeling cold or shaky, or having difficulty breathing or thinking clearly. Helpful strategies include calm breathing and grounding exercises.
- ***Anxiety BC*** has useful information regarding self-help strategies for coping with anxiety and PTSD.
  - Provide support as they read through their statement.
  - As discussed in Section 8, there are a number of accommodations (see testimonial aids) available to vulnerable victims testifying in the court system. Crown counsel usually needs to apply for these so discuss it with Crown early on in the court preparation process.

> **QUICK TIP:**
> Role play prior to trial may help to build the young person's ability to enlist these strategies on the day of trial. During role play, walk through what happens when they start to feel defensive and discuss tips and strategies for how to address these reactions in the moment.

- Accompaniment and Emotional Support
  - Help the young person address any unexpected things that arise.
    - Example: In one case, the affected youth had a breakdown each time after court. It was important for the support worker to find a place to park the car outside of the courthouse that was out of everyone's view.
  - Help to explain what is going on during the trial.
  - During the trial, youth may run into the accused (if not in custody) or their family members/associates before trial, during breaks, or after the trial. This could happen outside of the courtroom or in any public space in the courthouse. If you have specific concerns on the day of the trial, speak with the courtroom sheriffs about any concerns.

"One young woman was very triggered by being offered a hotel room to stay in the night before her court appearance. It made her feel like she had to do something to earn that, that it gave someone power over her."

– Victim Support Worker

» Debrief

- Testifying in court may have lasting impacts on youth. It is important to be aware of these impacts and to debrief with youth after they have testified.
- Example: After testifying, the individual was so traumatized by her experience that she was afraid to be alone. Her support worker needed to check in with her every few hours for the next couple of days.



REMEMBER:

Crown counsel does not represent the victim, but acts on behalf of society and the state. In court, the victim is referred to as a 'witness' for the Crown. While victims have certain rights and support needs during the criminal justice process, it is important to remember that it is not the primary role of Crown to provide these. **It is the role of victim services to ensure the rights of the victim and that they receive sufficient support during the court process.**

Out-of-Town Trial

Due to relocation, returning home, or due to the amount of time elapsed, the young person may no longer be living in the place where the trial is being held.

When a young person has to travel for trial, they will likely be isolated from the support system they have built around them. Crown counsel will cover travel costs for victims and witnesses testifying. However, accompaniment by a support worker is not covered. If accompaniment is not possible, it is important that there are supports in place for the youth when they arrive.

Ensuring adequate support for an out-of-town trial may include:

- Connecting with a local victim services worker.
- Arranging for a point-person to coordinate on the ground support:
  - Arranging for pick-up when they arrive.
  - Escorting them to court or any additional appointments they may need to go to.
  - Picking them up from court.
- Ensuring this point-person is aware of any security concerns or specific considerations for supporting the affected youth.
- Ensuring any of their regular needs are met and daily routines are maintained as much as possible in order to prevent disruption to their recovery process. This may include, for example:
  - Finding a nearby community centre where they can continue their regular activities.
  - Ensuring they have a full supply of their prescription medications for the time they will be away. If the young person is taking methadone, they should speak with their physician regarding their options for travel and where they can access it when they have arrived at their destination.

QUICK TIP:

Before they leave, provide them with a phone card so they can call you. While time and cost restrictions may prevent you from accompanying the young person, it is important to maintain as much contact as possible to try to ensure consistency in support. This may help to reduce traumatic responses.

The Judgment Decision

Due to the complex dynamics in a trafficking relationship, the affected youth may find either verdict (guilty or not guilty) difficult to process. Regardless of the result, they may experience a mix of guilt, sadness, relief, happiness, regret, shame, or self-doubt.



REMEMBER:

Due to a number of factors, the final judgment may take place long after a victim provides their testimony in court. In *R v Moazami*, the judgment was made one year after the eleven complainants testified in court. Youth may or may not decide to attend the judgment hearing.

If they do attend the judgment hearing, support considerations may include:

- Validating and discussing their feelings regarding the judgment decision.
- Reminding youth, regardless of the outcome:
  - They were able to share the truth of what they experienced.
  - They were believed (if they weren't, the case would have never proceeded to trial).
- Clarifying their role in the process:
  - Remind them that it was not their responsibility to prove guilt, but to share their piece of evidence. If the accused is found not guilty, it does not mean the crime did not happen but that the case did not meet the criteria for the judge to issue a conviction.

In the event of an acquittal (accused is found not guilty), the affected youth will likely experience a wide range of emotions and have a lot of questions. They may ask:

"What was the use of putting myself through all of this when nothing is going to happen?"

» **Support:** Validate their feelings as normal and discuss the impact that has been made as a result of their participation, such as:
- The situation is no longer hidden and people are aware of it.
- Investigators and police are now aware of the accused.
- The affected youth was able to share their truth and they were believed.
- The police and Crown may now be more prepared for any future cases.

"He's going to kill me."

» **Support:** Discuss a safety plan that may include developing personal safety skills or seeking protection through alternative measures. (See section below, After Court: What Happens Next?)

"I failed."

» **Support:** A victim or witness should never equate a verdict of 'not guilty' with not being believed. If they were not believed, it would have never progressed to the trial function. Remind them that the standard of proof in a criminal case is very high and it wasn't their role to prove the offence occurred. Rather, it was their role to provide their piece of evidence as it related to the situation. Many factors influence the court's judgment decision. Explain to the youth that "not guilty" does not mean the accused is innocent. It means that there was not enough evidence to prove the offence took place beyond a reasonable doubt.

SUPPORT DURING THE CORRECTIONS FUNCTION

The sentencing hearing may take place long after the criminal trial has concluded. Victims are not required to attend the sentencing hearing or submit an impact statement.

In ***R v Moazami,*** the sentencing hearing did not conclude until October 2015, due, in part, to delays caused by Moazami's decision to change counsel. This was over two years after the eleven complainants testified and nearly four years after many of them gave their initial statements to police. None of the victims chose to provide a victim impact statement. However, the judge commented that she had personally observed the impact that Moazami had upon the victims when they gave their evidence and she took that into consideration when determining his sentence.

Youth are likely to see the sentencing decision as an evaluation of their trafficking experience. Youth may feel satisfied or disappointed. They may also experience a mix of feelings, including: guilt, happiness, sadness, validation, or confusion. It is important that any reaction is validated and processed.

In order to understand the sentence, it may be helpful to explain the principles and factors that a judge must consider. For more information regarding these factors, see **Appendix 14: Sentencing**.



In ***R v Moazami,*** only one youth chose to attend the pronouncement of the sentence. She found it too difficult to hear the judge describe Moazami's treatment of the other victims who were not known to her. She ended up having to leave the proceedings prior to its conclusion.

AFTER COURT: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Safety First

The details of the judgment and sentencing decision will impact the affected youth, particularly as it relates to their safety.

If the accused is found guilty, they may be sentenced to serve time in a correctional centre.

- To be informed of the status of an adult accused/offender being supervised by BC Corrections, youth may want to register for the victim notification program. The Victim Safety Unit runs this program. For more information and an application form, click here.[6]
- If the accused is sentenced to more than two years then the offender will be part of the federal corrections system and youth may want to register with the National Parole Board/Corrections Canada[7] for notification.

However, the accused may also be released if found not guilty. At this point, safety for the youth is the primary concern. Creating a safety plan with the young person may include:

- Developing personal self-protection skills.
- Pursuing protections provided by Section 28/98 in the *Child, Family and Community Services Act* (if youth is still under the age of nineteen).
- Applying for alternative protection orders. For more information, click here[8].
- Youth may also be eligible for protective measures, including security systems or relocation, through the Crime Victim Assistance Program (CVAP).



Long-Term Support Services

If a case proceeds through the full trial process, years may have elapsed since a trafficked youth was first identified. As a result, youth will likely be at varying stages of their rehabilitation process. They may also still be in a precarious situation (due to further exploitation or to factors such as addictions or other mental health barriers).

When a young person has successfully exited their exploitative situation, and emergent and stabilization needs have been met, supports and services will shift to address longer-term needs for successful reintegration. While this may happen at any point during the criminal justice process, the end of it may provide an opportunity for the trafficked youth to finally move beyond their exploitative experience and start to look to the future.

Long-term needs for social integration may include[9]:

- Long-term and permanent housing.
- Life skills training.
- Education upgrading.
- Job seeking and career guidance.
- Long-term trauma informed care and counselling.
- Transition planning including integrating into the local community.
- Building and maintaining a social support network.
- Creating a self-care plan to deal with ongoing impacts of trauma.

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[1] **Office For Victims of Crime,** *Using a Trauma-Informed Approach*, https://www.ovcttac.gov/taskforceguide/eguide/4-supporting-victims/41-using-a-trauma-informed-approach/

[2] **The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,** *Anti-human trafficking manual for criminal justice practitioners* **(Vienna, 2009),** http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2009/anti-human-trafficking-manual.html

[3] **VictimsInfo,** *Get to Know BC Court*, http://www.victimsinfo.ca/about-court/get-to-know-bc-court

[4] **CourtPrep,** www.courtprep.ca

[5] **Anxiety BC,** *Self-Help Strategies for PTSD*, http://www.anxietybc.com/sites/default/files/adult_hmptsd.pdf

[6] *Victim Notification*, http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/if-you-are-a-victim-of-a-crime/victim-of-crime/victim-notification

[7] **Parole Board of Canada,** *Victim's Guide to Information Services*, http://pbc-clcc.gc.ca/victims/pmphlt-eng.shtml

[8] *Peace Bonds and Restraining Orders*, http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal-justice/bcs-criminal-justice-system/if-you-are-a-victim-of-a-crime/victim-of-crime/staying-safe

[9] **OCTIP,** *Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune*, **"Long Term Services",** http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/octiptraining/.



Fuchsia coloured daisies symbolize efforts to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth. Fuchsia is a combination of red (for red light districts) and purple (the national colour for violence prevention).
The daisy is a flower that represents childhood innocence.

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