

# Violence Prevention Grey Bruce Anti-Human Trafficking Committee



## Parent & Youth Human Trafficking Resource Manual

March 2021

# INTRODUCTION

Human Trafficking is a crime that affects communities across Canada, including Grey and Bruce counties.

This resource manual was created by the Violence Prevention Grey Bruce Anti-Human Trafficking Committee to address Human Trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in rural communities. A two year funding grant was obtained through the Safer and Vital Communities grant through the Ministry of Community, Safety and Correctional Services.

The goal of the two year initiative has been to build a coordinated community response to support those at risk of Human Trafficking and those who have experienced Human Trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation in Grey Bruce counties. Public awareness has been increased through education, providing training with agencies and non-traditional partners and providing a community forum. An asset map of local resources has been developed, as well as a universal screening tool for community partners working with vulnerable populations. Care paths have been developed, as well a set of best practices for case management for ongoing support of survivors.

All of this work has been achieved through a collaborative effort with multiple service providers, as well as through consultation with key stakeholders, including Indigenous partners and voices of lived experience.



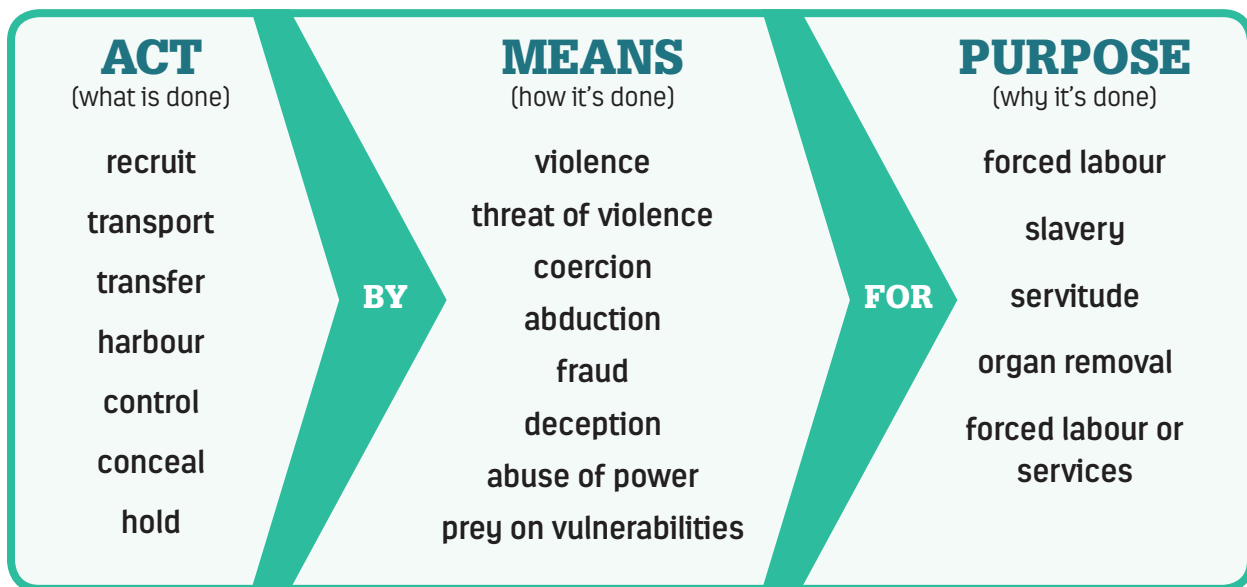
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# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human Trafficking is when a person is manipulated, controlled and/or forced into an act against their will to benefit another person. Human Trafficking can occur with sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage, servitude and organ removal.

Human Trafficking has 3 specific elements:



Adapted from Human Trafficking: Canada Is Not Immune, 2nd Edition (2014)

Although there are several forms of Human Trafficking, the focus of the Safer and Vital communities grant was Human Trafficking through the means of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation is the sale of any sexual act (sexual intercourse, exotic dancing, pornography, massage parlors, etc.) in which the individual is manipulated, forced or controlled into a sexual act to benefit another person.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

Adapted from the Waterloo Region HT Resource Manual: Human Trafficking, It Happens Here 2020.

For many Canadians, the idea of Human Trafficking happening in their communities seems far fetched. Human Trafficking is often viewed as being an international issue. In reality, over 90% of Human Trafficking cases are occurring within Canada's borders.(16) Ontario accounts for nearly 70% of all reported Human Trafficking incidents in Canada. Human Trafficking is a bigger problem than most people realize.

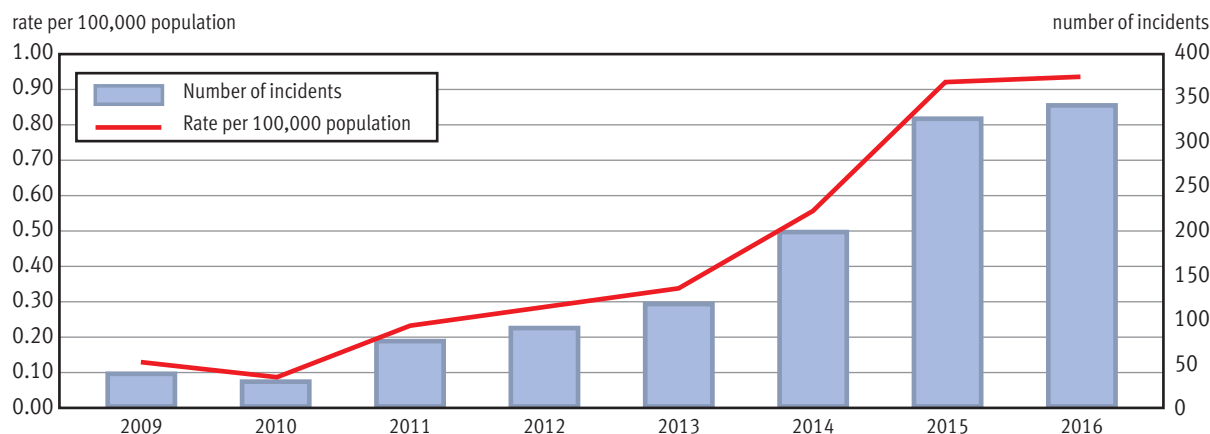
It is difficult to measure exactly how prevalent Human Trafficking is here in Canada. Sex trafficking is only officially recorded when it comes into contact with law enforcement or federal agencies, which poses great limitations since it's difficult to identify victims, and not all victims come forward to police.

## Human Trafficking rates are on the rise

From 2009 to 2016, there were a total of 865 trafficked individuals who became known to police in Canada. The rates of police reported incidents have been increasing rapidly in Canada from 41 police reported incidents in 2009 up to 340 in 2016 (see chart below). Whether this is due to a true increase in the crime, or more of a reflection of improved detection, reporting and investigation of Human Trafficking is unclear.

Chart 1

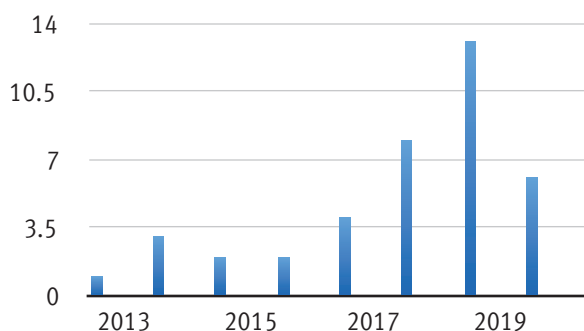
Police-reported human trafficking incidents in Canada, 2009 to 2016



Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Uniform Crime Reporting Survey not just a big city problem. It's also happening throughout Grey and Bruce counties.

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN GREY BRUCE

Although data on Human Trafficking occurrences is limited in Grey Bruce, there has been an increase in reported incidents over the past few years. An increase in reported cases of Human Trafficking in Grey Bruce can help to more accurately represent the prevalence of Human Trafficking moving forward. Increased awareness in the community on HT and collaborative efforts between police services and service providers can help to more accurately identify the prevalence of Human Trafficking going forward.



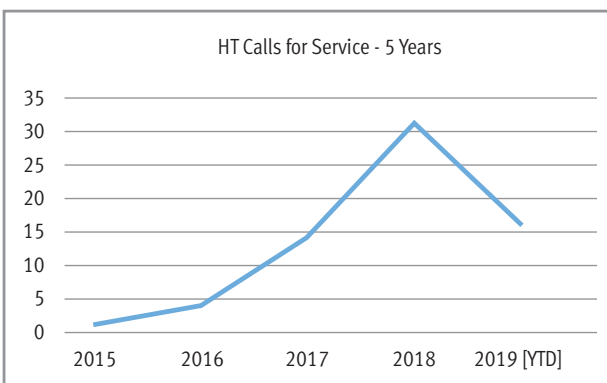
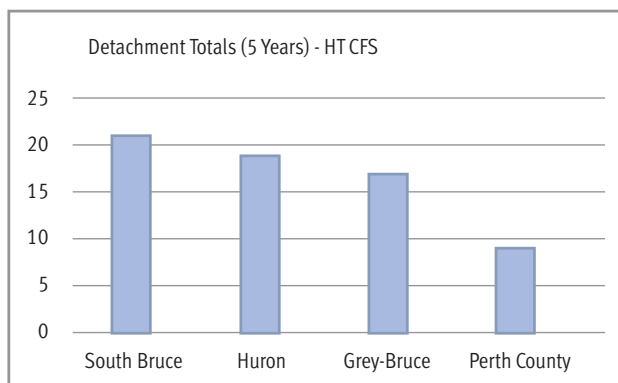
**Reported cases of  
Human Trafficking  
through Victim Service  
Bruce Grey Perth (2013-  
2020)**

**Data from the OPP  
Regional Analytical  
Report for South Bruce,  
Huron, Grey/ Bruce  
and Perth County  
Detachments (2019)**

Detachment	Total CFS
South Bruce	21
Huron County	19
Grey-Bruce	17
Perth County	9

Year	Total CFS
2015	1
2016	4
2017	14
2018	31
2019 (YTD)	16





# IT'S NOT JUST A BIG CITY PROBLEM. WHY ARE GREY AND BRUCE COUNTIES VULNERABLE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human Trafficking occurs in communities across Canada, both big cities and small rural communities. Is it happening in Grey Bruce? Yes, and it is important to understand what makes Grey Bruce counties vulnerable to these occurrences.

Grey and Bruce Counties are predominantly rural and comprise an area roughly equivalent to the size of Prince Edward Island. There are a number of geographic, socioeconomic, and historical factors that make some of the residents of Grey and Bruce counties particularly vulnerable to Human Trafficking.

In terms of geography, this large rural area has easy and direct driving routes to several larger urban centres, including the GTA, as well as other urban centres in Southwestern Ontario. These routes allow traffickers easy access into and out of the region, as well as numerous backroads on which to travel in order to avoid detection.



## Geographic Risk Factors:

- Isolation, ability to move around undetected, communities have a false sense of security
- Access to numerous waterways- North, East and West coasts, difficult to monitor traffic
- Tourist industry and transient population (especially in port towns such as Meaford, Owen Sound, Port Elgin, Kincardine and Tobermory)
- Homeland to Saugeen First Nation & Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation (see page 10 for more details)
- Direct line into and out of the city (via highway 6, 10, 26 & 400)

# SOCIO-ECONOMIC RISK FACTORS

The health status (both physically and mentally) of Canadians is greatly impacted by income and social equity. Access to education, health care, healthy food, and safe and affordable housing has an effect on our overall wellbeing. The healthiest populations are those in societies which are prosperous and have an equitable distribution of wealth. Disparities in socioeconomic status influences how Human Trafficking impacts our communities and who will be most at risk.

Socioeconomic factors work in two different ways in our region. On the one hand, high poverty rates in much of our region create situations that leave those living in poverty at higher risk of being trafficked. In Grey Bruce, 17% of youth under the age of 17 live in poverty (PTF). Risk factors associated with poverty include higher rates of mental illness and addictions, and higher rates of family breakdown and CAS involvement.

On the other hand, lucrative local industries, including the tourism industry and the power generation industry, create transient populations with disposable income. Since the issue of Human Trafficking is not widely understood in the general population, this may create a potential market for the traffickers to identify and exploit.

## Self-reported Health in Grey Bruce:

- 37% of low income residents, and 67% of high income residents report their health as being very good or excellent
- 49% of low income residents and 79% of high income residents report their mental health as being very good or excellent
- 83% of low income residents and 99% of high income residents reported feeling satisfied or very satisfied with their lives

Source: Income and Health in Grey Bruce: How do the Highest and Lowest Income Groups Fare? Grey Bruce Health Unit, 2018

## Who is most at risk of Human Trafficking?

**High Risk Groups:** homeless youth, young women and girls, Indigenous women and girls, youth in care, individuals with mental health problems, individuals with addiction issues, new immigrants and LGBTQ2S youth.

**Main Risk Factors:** mental health issues, body image issues, low self-esteem, learning disabilities, social isolation, abuse or lack of support from family, violence in the home, poverty, need for survival, desire for a better life, intergenerational trauma and the implications of Colonialism.



# COLONIALISM AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

It is important to recognize that our region includes two Indigenous reserves, as well as an urban Indigenous and Metis population, and that members of these communities may be at higher risk of being trafficked.

From the early days of colonization images of Indigenous women have been constructed in relation to images of settlers, portrayed as sexually available, lustful and out of control... As a consequence those images foster cultural attitudes that encourage sexual, physical, verbal or psychological violence against Indigenous women (Acoose 1995, p. 55).

The ongoing effects of Colonialism and systemic racism have left Indigenous populations particularly at risk of being victims of Human Trafficking.

Colonialism and traditional Western ideologies labelled Indigenous women as inherently being sexually permissive and less valuable than non-Indigenous women. This view point normalized the use of violence against Indigenous women and girls, going against the values of traditional Indigenous Matrilineal societies.

As a result, Indigenous and Metis women and girls are disproportionately represented among Human Trafficking victims. Indigenous women make up 4% of the Canadian female population but roughly 50% of trafficking victims. Indigenous girls under the age of 18 make up 25% of Human Trafficking victims. (Canadian Women's Foundation, 2014).

Colonialism has resulted in increased systemic inequalities and systemic violence for Indigenous women and girls. This plays a significant role in the increased vulnerability of Indigenous women and girls to Human Trafficking. The effects of Colonialism has resulted in Indigenous women and girls having less access to social supports and services. This increases the risk of Indigenous women and girls being recruited into Human Trafficking. (Globe and Mail, 2016).

## What is Colonization?

Colonization is the attempted or actual imposition of policies, laws, morals, economics, cultures or systems and institutions put in place by settler governments to support and continue the occupation of Indigenous territories, the subjugation of Indigenous Nations, and the resulting internalized and externalized throughout patterns that support this occupation and subjugation.

Colonialism is the ideology advocating colonization. Colonialism generally refers to the process by which Europeans invaded and occupied Indigenous national territories.

How does Colonial Violence impact Indigenous women, girls, and LGBTQ2S people differently?

Dr. Sarah Hunt says "Colonialism relies on the widespread dehumanization of all Indigenous people - our children, two-spirits, men and women - so colonial violence could be understood to impact all of us at the level of our denied humanity. Yet this dehumanization is felt most acutely in the bodies of Indigenous girls, women, two spirit and transgender people, as physical and sexual violence against us continues to be accepted as normal".

# WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS AND RECRUITERS?

Traffickers (also commonly referred to as pimps) are usually male Canadian citizens between age 19-32. Traffickers may often pose as an intimate partner (boyfriend/husband) to gain the trust of their victim or they could be a complete stranger. Traffickers could be involved in criminal organizations (gangs, drug or weapon trafficking), or could be business owners, peers, family members, diplomats, farm owners, factory operators, large or small companies.

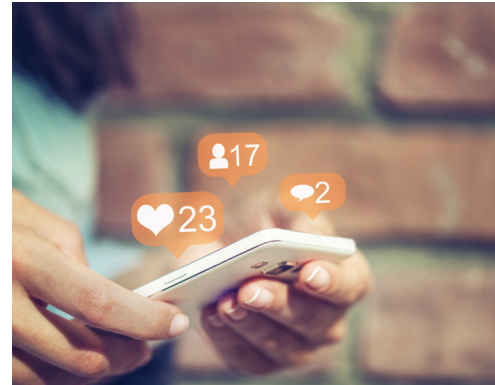


Often traffickers recruit their own victims. Sometimes they use recruiters to prey on their victims. At times, other victims can be promoted to recruiter, who is referred to in “the game” as a “bottom bitch”. She has proven herself to be trustworthy to the trafficker, has generally been there the longest, and has many responsibilities. The amount of sexual acts (known as tricks) she is required to perform decreases if she is able to recruit new girls. She also experiences less violence based on her ability to control, maintain and recruit new girls. She may pose as a friend to vulnerable youth, gaining their trust before introducing them to the trafficker. Women who have aged out of “the game” can also be recruiters and are referred to as “mother hens”. They assist their previous traffickers with recruitment and supervision of their victims. They may appear to be a parent or guardian to the young victim making them less easily detected than the male trafficker.

# STAGES OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

## 1. LURING

During this phase a trafficker identifies a vulnerable person as a potential victim. They may reach out online or through social media or through social connections to find someone who is insecure, has weak social ties, or who wants to live a better life. In this phase the trafficker is learning as much about their victim as possible: their hopes, fears, insecurities.



## 2. GROOMING

This phase is similar to the honeymoon phase of a relationship. The trafficker showers the victim with attention, gifts, and promises of a better life while continuing to collect information and possibly introducing the victim to drugs. The trafficker increases their ability to manipulate the victim by making them think that the trafficker is the only person who understands and accepts the victim. This also begins to weaken the victim's connections with their friends and family.



## 3. COERCION & MANIPULATION

When the trafficker has positioned themselves as the primary connection in the victim's life, the honeymoon is over. The trafficker acts differently, attacks the victim's vulnerabilities, breaks down their self-esteem and remaining connection to other supports. During this phase the trafficker begins to connect sex with gifts or money. The trafficker withholds the positive attention, love, or drugs from the victim while blaming them for the change. This stokes the victim's fears as the trafficker manipulates them to 'make it up to him/her'.



## 4. SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

In the final phase, the trafficker forces the victim to have sex with other people for drugs or money. Traffickers will often convince the victim that they owe it to him/her for the gifts, money, and drugs they gave them during the previous phases of their relationship. This is referred to as a 'debt bond'. The trafficker will continue to break the victim down emotionally and mentally, withholding things like food or drugs, and convincing them that they will be arrested or shunned if they leave or tell anyone. The trafficker may also directly threaten the victim or their family and friends.



# HOW TO RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*Adapted from the Waterloo Region HT Resource Manual: Human Trafficking, It Happens Here 2020.*

In order for parents and to protect their children from Human Trafficking, it is important to recognize the warning signs. While these general signs are related to Human Trafficking, remember that they can also be signs of other things and are not necessarily “proof” that someone is being lured/groomed or trafficked.

Indicators that someone is being lured/groomed or already involved in sex trafficking.

- sudden change in behaviour (e.g. skipping school, falling grades, withdrawn, secretive)
- sudden change in appearance (e.g. wearing clothing that is not age appropriate)
- suddenly being given expensive things (e.g. clothing, purses, jewelry, hair, nails)
- suddenly being showered with attention
- isolated or turned against family and friends
- new boyfriend who they won't introduce to you
- staying out late, missing curfew
- becomes defensive when questioned about changes in appearance and behaviour
- Use of new lingo or slang
- Inconsistencies in their story
- Excessive amounts of cash
- Signs of branding, tattoos with male names

Keep in mind that while the above listed signs are related to Human Trafficking, they don't necessarily mean that your child is being lured/groomed or trafficked.

# VIOLENCE PREVENTION GREY BRUCE PROTOCOL



Violence Prevention Grey Bruce is made up of over 30 member organizations from the justice, corrections, child welfare, violence against women, education and social service sectors, working in Grey, Bruce, Nawash, Saugeen and Owen Sound collaborate to end prevent violence in all its forms.

VPGB has created a Community Response Protocol on Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence in order to coordinate services and supports in Grey Bruce. Working together is critical for victim safety and offender accountability.

Responding to Human Trafficking requires a coordinated response in order to meet the needs of those who have been impacted by this crime. Additional Human Trafficking specific resources can be found at [www.vpgb.ca](http://www.vpgb.ca).



# YOUTH RESOURCE: REDUCING THE RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*Adapted from the Waterloo Region HT Resource Manual: Human Trafficking, It Happens Here 2020.*

## How to help a friend you think is being exploited

- Don't take matters into your own hands – your personal safety could be at risk. Those involved in Human Trafficking often use violence, so it is important to keep yourself safe
- If it is safe to do so, provide support to your friend in a non-judgmental, compassionate manner – let them know that you care and that you are there for them
- Let them know about the resources that are available in the community (see page 18)
- Approach a safe adult, such as a school resource officer, for help
- Contact Crime Stoppers to report anonymously
- If you or the other person are ever in immediate danger or crisis, call 911

## What to do if you are ever approached by a trafficker or recruiter

Whether it be at the mall, online, at school – anywhere, remember: Never provide personal information about yourself, friends or family (e.g. address, sports teams you belong to, where your parents work, etc.)

- Walk away and get help
- Report to police
- Contact Crime Stoppers
- Speak to a trusted adult or speak to a counsellor
- Tell your friends and family
- Try to get a physical description of the person or any other information that might help police locate them



# SAFETY TIPS

Traffickers often use social media to identify and lure young people into Human Trafficking. In addition, young people are often targeted at parties and social gatherings.

## How to stay safe online...

- Ensure all social media accounts are private
- Never “add” or “friend” people that you don’t know
- Do not provide any personal information online (including your home address, phone number, etc.)
- Be careful who you trust online – a person may not be who they say they are
- Never agree to meet someone in person without checking with your parents/ caregivers
- Be wary of ads/promises to “make easy money” or “work as a team/together”

## How to stay safe at a party...

- Ensure someone knows where you are at all times
- Use the ‘buddy system’; always stay close to trusted friends
- Keep your phone charged and always close by
- Don’t leave drinks unattended or accept drinks from a stranger
- Always keep in mind that your judgment may be impaired if you have been drinking or taking drugs. Drugs can be stronger than you may expect. It also may not be the drug you think it is.
- If you ever feel unsafe, leave to go somewhere you are more comfortable
- Never go somewhere alone with a person you have just met

# BUILDING A TRUSTING RELATIONSHIP WITH TRAFFICKED PERSONS

If someone you care about opens up about their experience with Human Trafficking it is important to remain calm and non-judgemental. For HT survivors, building trust can be challenging, even with friends and family. Opening up takes a lot of courage.



## Tips for building a trusting relationship:

- Be patient
- Let go of any expectations you have
- Challenge and change any inaccurate attitudes and beliefs that you may have about trafficking victims
- Provide support and empowerment
- Build on their strengths
- Believe the person
- Actively listen to their comments and concerns
- Support their decisions
- Take their fears seriously

# NEW ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM THROUGH ONTARIO'S ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMUNITY SUPPORTS FUND



## Ontario's new Anti-Human Trafficking Strategy

**#KnowHumanTrafficking**



The Women's Centre Grey Bruce Anti-Human Trafficking Youth program is aimed at supporting children and youth under 16 years who are victims and/ or survivors of Human Trafficking. Services will include: 24/7 Crisis Lines support, residential support, individual and group counselling, court support, public education in schools and to the general community, and an online resource centre. The program will partner with community agencies to provide additional wrap-around support to clients'.

For more information, please refer to page 22 or visit the Women's Centre's website:  
<https://www.thewomenscentre.org/services/anti-human-trafficking-program/>

# EMERGENCY RESOURCES IN GREY AND BRUCE

## Crisis Services

Victim Service Bruce Grey Perth (including access to the Victim Quick Response Program+)	1-866-376-9852
Bruce Grey Children and Family Services (under 16 years old)	1-855-322-4453
Sexual Assault and Partner Abuse Care Centre	519-376-2121 ext. 2458
Immediate Emergency Response	911

## Police Services

Grey Bruce OPP	1-888-310-1122
South Bruce OPP	1-888-310-1122
Hanover Police Service	519-364-2411
Owen Sound Police Services	519-376-1234
Neyaashiinigmiing First Nation Police	519-534-1233
Saugeen Shores Police Service	519-832-2500
West Grey Police Service	519-369-3046

## Shelters/Emergency Housing

YMCA Owen Sound Grey Bruce-Housing Services	519-371-9230
Smile Society pet fostering program:	519-374-7405 smilesociety@gmail.com
Safe N' Sound (4:30pm to 10:00pm)	519-470-2222
Kabaeshiwim Respite Women's Shelter (Saugeen First Nation)	519-797-3677
The Women's House Serving Bruce Grey	1-800-265-3026
The Women's Centre Grey & Bruce	1-800-265-3722

## Helplines

Chrysallis Network National Human Trafficking Helpline	1-866-528-7109
The Women's Centre Anti-Human Trafficking Crisis Line –	519-371-5818, Text Line : 226-668-0357
National Human Trafficking Helpline	1-833-999-9211
Kids Help Phone	1-800-668-6868
Ontario 211 Community and Social Services Helpline	211

# COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION TERMINOLOGY

- **Bottom Bitch:** a pimp who has more than one woman under his control will often appoint one woman to supervise the others, report rule violations, and often help inflict punishment
- **Mother Hen:** Has the same role as a bottom bitch, but is an older woman who has aged out of the game.
- **Caught a Case:** a term that refers to when a pimp or when a victim has been arrested and charged
- **Circuit:** A series of cities among which prostituted people are moved.
- **Daddy:** what pimps require the woman to call them
- **Date:** describes a prostitution customer or the activity of prostitution
- **Seasoning:** A combination of psychological manipulation, intimidation, gang rape, sodomy, beatings, deprivation of food or sleep, isolation from friends or family and other sources of support and threatening or holding hostage of a victim's children. Seasoning is designed to break down a victim's resistance and ensure compliance
- **Square:** anyone not involved in the life of prostitution
- **Stable:** group of people under the control of a single pimp
- **The Game:** the sex industry
- **Trick:** describes both the act or prostitution and the person buying it
- **Turn out:** used to describe both being forced in prostitution and a person newly involved in prostitution

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Trafficking of Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada; Submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, Native Women's Association of Canada

Dr Sarah Hunt, Assistant Professor UBC  
Representing Colonial Violence: Trafficking, Sex Work, and the Violence of Law

