



FACT SHEET

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS: forced prostitution and sexual exploitation in Canada

It's illegal,
it's a human rights violation,
and it's an extreme form of violence against women...

Girls and women are being trafficked into forced prostitution inside Canada, to Canada and across Canadian borders.

Since 1991 the Canadian Women's Foundation has raised funds and invested in over 1,300 community programs to help move women and girls out of poverty, out of violence and into confidence. Now, we are taking a lead on ending the trafficking of girls and women for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

We started by travelling across Canada to conduct in-depth consultations in eight cities with over 260 organizations, 160 women survivors of sex trafficking, and all levels of government.

In 2013, we launched the Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada to develop a national strategy and recommendations for ending trafficking of women and girls in Canada.

Comprised of 24 experts, survivors and community leaders from across Canada, the Task Force collaborated with other experts from across the country, including experiential women, front line community workers, and representatives from law, health and policing sectors)..

The recommendations will be released in the Fall of 2014, and focus on six priority areas:

- Service needs and gaps for trafficked and sexually exploited girls and women
- Public awareness and prevention strategies
- Relevant legal and policy issues
- Sector capacity-building and training
- Government policy and funding
- Philanthropic strategies

Thanks to your support, we are also able to fund programs that help girls and women escape sexual exploitation, and rebuild their lives, as well as programs for women who are in prostitution by circumstance resulting from poverty, addictions, family breakdown and mental health.

To learn more about the programs we're funding, visit canadianwomen.org/trafficking.

Overall the Canadian Women's Foundation is investing nearly \$2 million over three years in programs, research and the Task Force on Trafficking of Women and Girls in Canada.

The solutions to end sex trafficking of girls and women are closely linked with all of our key priorities: helping women move themselves out of poverty, ending violence against women, building strong, resilient girls, and public education and advocacy.

We believe, that through collaboration, understanding, trust, the right kind of investment at the right time, and your support, we can help end trafficking, and develop a strong net of support for women and girls who have experienced sexual exploitation.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IS A SERIOUS ISSUE AROUND THE WORLD AND RIGHT HERE IN CANADA

- Girls and women who are bought and sold from inside Canada are most often marginalized young girls and women (Aboriginal, racialized, immigrant and abuse survivors).
- The anonymity of the Internet helps fuel trafficking by creating conditions that enable luring and trafficking of girls and women for the purposes of forced prostitution.
- Traffickers in Canada can receive an annual financial gain of \$280,000 for each girl or woman they have trafficked and forced into prostitution.¹
- Traffickers receive a higher financial gain for girls under the age of 18, making vulnerable young girls particularly at risk of being forced into prostitution by traffickers.²
- Through reports and our consultations with 260 Canadian organizations and 160 survivors of sex trafficking, we have learned that many girls in Canada are first trafficked into forced prostitution when they are 13-years-old.³
- The Canadian Women's Foundation conducted National Angus Reid public opinion polls that have uncovered the following:
 - 78% of Canadians agree that girls under the age of 16 are not in prostitution by choice⁴
 - 67% of Canadians agree that Canadian girls under the age of 16 are being recruited/trafficked to work in prostitution against their will⁴
 - 70% of Canadians agree that women are brought into Canada from other countries and forced to work in prostitution against their will⁴

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ENDNOTES

- 1 http://www.cisc.gc.ca/products_services/domestic_trafficking_persons/persons_e.html- Organized Crime and Domestic Trafficking in Persons in Canada. Organized Intelligence Service Canada.
- 2 Source: Canadian Women's Foundation national consultations held in 2012 and 2013 in 8 Canadian Cities, with 160 survivors of human trafficking.
- 3 Source: http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/childfam/pubs/tracias_trust_en.pdf - page 3
- 3 Source: http://www.gov.mb.ca/fs/traciastrust/pubs/sacred_lives.pdf - page 15
- 3 Source: http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/youth/pdf/sex_exploit.pdf - page 15
- 4 Source: Angus Reid Omnibus Study, Canadian Women's Foundation, September 2013.
- 5 Source: Invisible Chains - Canada's Underground World of Human Trafficking - Benjamin Perrin - page 67
- 6 Source: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/index.html> Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.