



# HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

## RED FLAGS

- Nice nails, hair and make-up, possibly incongruent with rest of appearance
- Unexplained tattoos, scars, or injuries
- Numerous inconsistencies in story
- Habitual running away
- Reference to frequent travel or stays in hotels
- Multiple cell phones, sims cards, lots of cash
- Or, no identification documents and no money
- Tired from working excessively long and/or unusual hours
- Interest in pornography or other parts of the sex industry
- Demonstrates insider knowledge

## CONVERSATION STARTERS IF YOU SUSPECT A RELATIONSHIP IS EXPLOITIVE

Do you have a boyfriend? How old is he?

Do you know your boyfriend's full name?

Is he controlling? Does he want to know where you are at all times?

Does he not let you see or talk to friends or family

Did he threaten you or someone you know?

Is he abusive or aggressive, does he flip between being really kind and then really mean?

Did he tell you he knows how to make a lot of money?

Does he buy you nice things, say you could get a condo together, travel or make other big promises?

Does he keep all/most of your money?

Does he talk about the sex industry?

Did he show you pornography?

Does he ask you to do sexual favours for others?

## SEX TRAFFICKING

Sex trafficking takes place when some means (including taking advantage of a person's particular vulnerabilities) are used as a way of controlling someone in order to cause them to believe they have no choice but to carry out a sexual service.

**Under 16? It's exploitation.**



## ASK:

Have you ever felt forced or pressured to exchange sexual acts for something you needed or valued?

## DO'S

Be non-judgmental  
Recognize the various symptoms of trauma exhibited as coping mechanisms  
Allow for choice, meet them where they are at and on their terms  
Use empowering, client-centered, anti-oppressive practice  
Be mindful of your language, use their words

## DON'TS

React verbally/physically to communicate disgust, disdain or shock; instead offer containment  
Switch between treating the person as a perpetrator and a victim; instead be consistent  
Dispute the facts or comment on motivation; instead just listen  
Expect the person to recognize their situation as exploitive or as a victim in need of rescuing  
Assume sole responsibility for meeting their complex needs; know your resources

## VICTIM SERVICES NIAGARA

Victim Services Niagara is available to victims, vulnerable persons and service providers supporting victims of human trafficking.

CRISIS INTERVENTION, SAFETY PLANNING, FINANCIAL SUPPORT (VQRP) & HELP NAVIGATING/ACCESSING SERVICES, AVOCACY, NON-JUDGEMENTAL APPROACH



SEXUAL EXPLOITATION CAN TAKE PLACE IN...

**street prostitution**  
**escorting**  
**survival sex**  
**pornography**  
**stripping/exotic dancing**  
**lap dancing**  
**erotic/nude massage**  
**internet/phone based exploitation (social media/dating sites)**  
**parties**  
**gang-based prostitution**  
**interfamilial pimping**  
**sugar daddy's**

## CONTACT

### PROTECTION

Niagara Regional Police Service  
For emergency call 911\*  
(905) 688-4111

### SUPPORT

Victim Services Niagara  
(905) 688-4111 ext. 5084  
[info@victimservicesniagara.on.ca](mailto:info@victimservicesniagara.on.ca)  
or  
**Please contact our 24 hour 7 days a week referral line (905) 682-2626**

Anti-Human Trafficking Coordinator  
Email *(not monitored 24/7)*  
[danielle@victimservicesniagara.on.ca](mailto:danielle@victimservicesniagara.on.ca)

Location: Police Headquarters  
5700 Valley Way in Niagara Falls  
Ontario, L2E 1X8

