

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Native Women's  
Association of Canada

L'Association des  
femmes autochtones  
du Canada



## Background

- Indigenous women are overrepresented as victims of human trafficking, they make up four per cent of the Canadian female population but roughly 50% of trafficking victims.<sup>1</sup>
- This overrepresentation can be attributed to past and ongoing colonization, which has forced Indigenous women into precarious social and economic positions.
- Youth: 25% of all trafficked women are under 18.<sup>2</sup> In addition to being below the age of consent, youth experience increase rates of precarious housing and employment situations, especially when they are in or transitioning out of the Child Welfare System.
- LGBTQ+ and Two-Spirited People: These communities face higher rates of trafficking and exploitation, as they experience a lack of support and multiple forms of marginalization, sometimes from within their own communities.<sup>3</sup>

## Defining Human Trafficking

- Public Safety Canada defines Human Trafficking as *the recruitment, transportation, harbouring and/or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person, typically through sexual exploitation or forced labour.*<sup>4</sup>
- Human Trafficking, sexual exploitation, survival sex, and sex work are distinct experiences with a range of impacts that require targeted supports and policy responses.

## SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

- NWAC believes that all Indigenous women are valuable, mournable, and entitled to autonomy and support.
- Women impacted by the distinct experiences of human trafficking, survival sex, sexual exploitation, and sex work need to have stigma-free and equal access to appropriate programs and services.
- This includes justice services, health services (including reproductive justice, trans care, mental health care, STBBI/HIV testing and treatment, drug treatment, and basic preventative medicine), economic security, and housing.

**TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE  
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### Works Cited

- 1 Canadian Women's Foundation, "NO MORE" - Ending Sex-Trafficking (2014). [Available online.](#)
- 2 Statistics Canada, Trafficking in persons in Canada, 2014. (2016) [Available online.](#)
- 3 See Ayden Scheim et al. "Barriers to well-being for Aboriginal gender-diverse people: Results from the Trans PULSE Project in Ontario, Canada." *Ethnicity and Inequalities in Health and Social Care* (Vol. 6 No. 4, 2013). Other sources available.
- 4 Public Safety Canada, "National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking" (2012). [Available online.](#)