



As per your request, the Sexual Exploitation Working Group is happy to submit the following five recommendations to assist with the Standing Committee On Justice and Human Rights study on human trafficking.

- We recommend the creation of more safe spaces for women and men in crises. For example, ensuring that women's shelters are funded to increase capacity to provide emergency shelter for trafficked women. To our knowledge, there are no specific shelters for men who have been sexually exploited, trafficked, which is a clear gap in service that must be researched and funded.

The Alberta Solicitor General Victims of Crime Funding was granted to an Edmonton-area women's shelter to provide bed capacity for a trafficked woman. (The MPS went to visit this shelter while in Edmonton.) Ron was part of that visit and may have something to add.

- We recommend increased efforts and investment in the area of prevention. For example, programs focused on educating youth about how to avoid becoming trapped in human trafficking and working to prevent youth from trafficking their peers. Similar programs can be found in Richmond, VA (The Prevention Project: <http://www.prevention-project.org/home/>) and Austin, TX (Girls with Grit: <https://www.girls-with-grit.org/programs/>)

- We recommend the promotion of a National Day of Awareness around human trafficking across Canada. Edmonton has declared a Sexual Exploitation Week of Awareness since 2004 while Ontario recently declared Human Trafficking Awareness Day on Feb. 22. A unified, national focus on this issue on a single day would increase the effectiveness of educational efforts from coast to coast to coast.

- We recommend increased support for the creation and funding of a national hotline being developed by the Centre to End Human Trafficking, which is targeted to launch in the Fall of 2018. The Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline will respond to all forms of human trafficking including both sex and labour trafficking. The hotline will use a victim-centered approach to connect human trafficking victims and survivors with emergency, transition, and long-term supports and services. The hotline will act as a central response and referral mechanism, offering 24/7, multilingual access to a safe and confidential space to ask for help, connect to services, and, report tips.

The hotline will also contribute to The Centre's capacity to share knowledge, statistics, and resources with a wider public, including civil society, policy-makers, and law enforcement.

- We recommend consistent and sustainable funding for trauma therapy and supportive housing . It is essential that emergency service providers are financially able to meet the basic needs of exploited women, in order to help them exit the sex trade. These funds should be disbursed through a non- profit organization that is focused on working with persons who are victims of sexual exploitation.

Should you require any further information from us, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Gray,  
Committee Member,  
Sexual Exploitation Working Group [SEWG]