



Women's Rights are Human's Rights: Human Sex Trafficking in Canada 23 May, 2018

We would like to thank members of the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights for giving Family Services of Peel (FSP) Peel Institute on Violence Prevention (PIVP) the opportunity to talk about our work in the Region of Peel to combat Human Sex Trafficking.

We do not consider ourselves to be experts in this area. The issue we are addressing today is at the core of society and reflects gender inequities and the lack of basic human rights for girls and women in Canada and globally.

An expert in human suffering is someone who has lived through the experience. We do not learn fully from hearing about the experiences of others. We learn more from our failures than we do from our successes, such as our failures in love relationships, in friendships, and with co-workers and bosses in the workplace. We learn to survive and move forward.

While we are not experts in human trafficking, we nevertheless have an opportunity to exercise our rights to participate and change the devastating situations of female survivors of human sex trafficking in Canada. With luck and perseverance, we can become a global success story of commitment to doing the right thing.

Allow us to say a few words about society and politics, as we address members of the Canadian political system. People do not think much about building civilizations these days. However, we are gregarious creatures; we cannot be happy in solitude. Aristotle said, "Man is a political animal", because we need society. In a broken society, we are all wild animals. Politics is a complex solution for us to have a society. Politics is not a profession. It is not about making money. Politics is a passion. There is a caring interest that should be central to the practice of politics. Whatever we decide to do to reduce and finally eliminate human sex trafficking must come from a solid collaboration between politicians and civil society. We need a solution viewed with an equity, anti-oppression, and anti-racism lens, rooted in a long-term commitment that stretches beyond future elections.

When we see young people, we wake up to life and the future. Young people are like spring; they have the responsibility of developing the new world and the future of humanity. So, when one meets and learns about young women who have been enslaved and suffered indescribable abuse and violence in the human sex trafficking industry, one's physical body trembles. One suffers emotionally and spiritually, as if a supreme being has suddenly opened one's eyes to the devastating trauma of the victim in front of you.

FSP - PIVP were awarded on September 2017 a three year grant to work on a project named: "*A Survivor Centered Approach to Build Capacity to Address Human Trafficking in Peel*". The goal is to strengthen the capacity of service providers to serve survivors of human trafficking in the Region of Peel. During the first year, we developed a multiple-method process which allowed PIVP to gather comprehensive information and validate the content of information gained.

We applied a theory of change, which asserts that women's rights are human rights and that progressive changes happen when diverse and independent women's movements have vision, strength, resilience and collective power (Women Kind, 2018)¹ to move forward their political agendas. Several Global Agreements,

¹ Womankind Worldwide. (n.d.). Retrieved March 30, 2018, from <https://www.womankind.org.uk/>

such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979)², represent substantial victories for the promotion and protection of women's rights. But this has not created a shift in gender relations; instead, the power dynamics that drive inequality between women and men remain in force at all levels. (UN Women, 2015)³. One of the most pervasive forms of abuse against women is Human Trafficking. While progress was achieved for some women, profound inequalities remain for women of marginalised groups, who face multiple and intersecting discrimination because of their gender and other aspects of their identity. (Paz Arauco, 2014)⁴.

Our work is also grounded in an equity anti-racism and anti-oppression framework developed at the Peel Institute on Violence Prevention (Riutort Monica 2015)⁵. This framework introduces the determinants of health and wellbeing into the strategies of prevention, services, programs, research and policies in Human Sex Trafficking. The determinants of health according to the framework are divided into proximal (race, ethnicity, age, education); intermedia (societal systems such as health, education, police, social and judicial systems); and distal (patriarchy, slavery, genocide). This framework includes the definitions of health according to the aboriginal wheel of health and gender and race at the centre of discrimination in society.

Our interviews and focus groups with Human Trafficking survivors provided a firsthand account of living within the sex industry. All participants in the research are Canadian born, young white women. They consented to join the industry and subsequently, were forced into trafficking. The interviews and focus groups presented two main themes: Powerlessness and lack of support.

Powerlessness

Wherever mothers of survivors turned, to try to help their daughters, they did not get help (examples - police, health services, counselling services).

"So, you know for me, there is absolutely no support. There are no services at the front end to help us parents to prevent this from happening. And I knew in my mind that this could happen to her. And I still could not stop it. I could not stop it with the help of police. I could not stop it with the help of social workers. I could not stop it with the help from Peel Children Centre. It is like a snowballing effect; there is nothing in place to help us parents to help stop this process." Mother of Survivor.

Lack of Assistance

Not being heard-misunderstood when they sought assistance.

"I guess my problem is what really pissed me off was I am kind of differentiated, my trauma is not as big as the other girls, ok yeah I was in only five months. Ok yeah my parents. I was lucky that they got me out, all in all, but we all made the same choices to come out, we all had the same trauma as we have gone through the same thing." (Survivor)

What is Human Trafficking?

² UN Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, CEDAW, 1979)

³ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Retrieved May 2018

UN Women Transforming Economies, Realizing Rights (2015 -2016)

⁴ Paz Arauco, V (2014) Strengthening Social Justice to address intersecting inequalities post 2015. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assessments/publications-opinion-files/9213.pdf> (Retrieved March 2018).

⁵ Monica Riutort 2015. Equity, anti-oppression, anti-racism framework

“Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by improper means (such as force, abduction, fraud, coercion, deception, repeated provision of a controlled substance) for an illegal purpose, including sexual exploitation or forced labour.”, (Ontario Taking Steps to End Human Trafficking, Ministry of the Status of Women, 2016)⁶.

The RCMP defines two concepts: a) International Human Trafficking and b) Domestic Human Trafficking

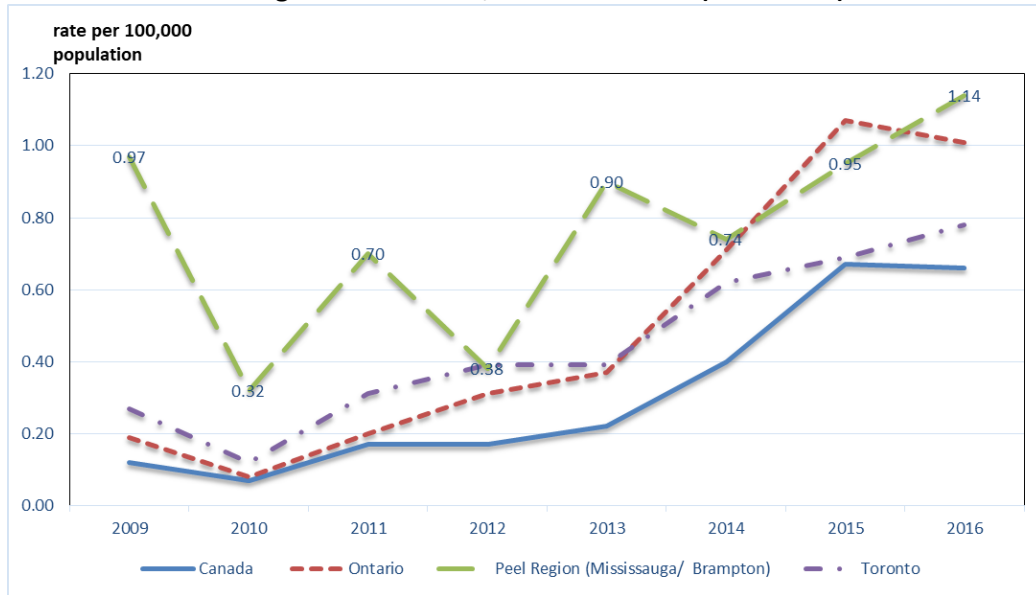
Population Data Analysis

There are many questions raised about the inadequacy of human trafficking statistics. The responses are often linked to the fact that human trafficking is a “hidden” phenomenon because it is illegal. (Andreas, & Greenhill, 2010).⁷

Here is a comparison of Trafficking in Persons rate (2009-2016) for Canada, Ontario, Peel Region (Mississauga/ Brampton) and Toronto.⁸

Chart 1 shows that Peel Region (Mississauga/Brampton) has higher rates in general of human trafficking, actual incidents, and total persons charged, compared to Canada, Ontario, and Toronto, especially during the years from 2009 – 2016.

Chart 1: Trafficking in Persons Rate, Actual incidents (2009-2016)



Magnitude of the problem

Human trafficking is a social issue of growing concern across the globe. The estimated number of individuals affected by human trafficking worldwide is 20.9 million people (Hemmings et al., 2016)⁹. It is the fastest growing area of organized crime and the third largest income revenue stream for systematized crime,

⁶ Ontario Ministry on the Status of Women (2016) Ontario Strategy to End Human Trafficking. <https://www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/humantrafficking/index.aspx> Retrieved May 2018

⁷ Andreas, P & Greenhill M. (eds.) American Journal of Preventative Medicine 44(3).283-289 9.10.1016/j.amepre.2012.10.025. Sex, Drugs and Body Counts: The Politics of Numbers in Global Crime and Conflict Ithaca: Cornell University Press (2010) pp. 46-74

⁸ Data source: Statistics Canada, CANSIM Table 252-0051 and CANSIM Table 252-0077 1, 2, 30

⁹ Hemmings S., Jakobowitz S., Abas M., Bick D., Howard L., Stanley N., Zimmerman C. and Oram S (2016). Responding to the Health Needs of Survivors of Human Trafficking: A Systematic Review. BMC health service research. 16:320 DOI 10.1186/s12913-016-15388

after narcotics and arms sales. The global sex trade is worth around \$32 billion annually. What makes this business unique is that women and girls sold into sex trafficking earn profits for their pimps and traffickers over a great number of years, unlike the profits earned from drugs and narcotics that are sold and used only once. (Deshpande & Nawal, 2013)¹⁰.

Who is Being Trafficked?

The victims of human trafficking include men and women; however, women represent the majority. “Although men may also be impacted by such forms of violence, women continue to be the primary victims of these abuses, thus making gender a key health determinant of violence” (Riutort, Rupnarain & Masoud, n.d)¹¹. Victims of human trafficking have diverse educational and economic backgrounds, but individuals in vulnerable states, such as low economic status, indigenous population and people with disabilities will have increased vulnerability of becoming victims of human trafficking.

Many come from homes that lack positive masculine influence, which at this point, has not been generally discussed in sex trafficking literature (Barrett, 2013)¹². Runaway and homeless youth as well as lesbian, gay, transgender and bisexual individuals are placed at an increased risk of human trafficking (National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments, 2017)¹³.

In Canada, there exists local and national trafficking which include women and girls from Aboriginal communities which are particularly vulnerable (Trafficking in Persons Report, 2016)¹⁴. In many provinces, such as British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba, over 50% of the trafficking victims are Aboriginal women and girls (Barrett, 2013). Indigenous communities are often targets of discrimination, suffering from the difficult legacy of colonization. Due to this discrimination, Indigenous women are more likely than other, non-Indigenous Canadians, to experience discrimination, poverty, poor living conditions, and violent crimes (The National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, 2017).

Few researchers have examined sex trafficking of women with disabilities. A recent study done in the U.S. reveals a disproportionate risk for exploitation for girls with intellectual disabilities. This includes endangering circumstances which create vulnerability and the perpetrator-victim dynamics that complicate prevention and intervention. Some specific vulnerabilities include lack of awareness of exploitation on the part of the victim, the inability of victims to self-identify the exploitation, and the relative ease with which traffickers manipulate these girls and women. (Groce, 2004; Phasha & Myaka, 2014; Reid, Huard, & Haskell, 2015)¹⁵.

International Trafficking in Canada

One of the greatest challenges in the fight against human trafficking is lifting the veil of silence that allows this oppressive behavior to flourish. Lack of understanding regarding the scope and severity of the problem has contributed to its dramatic rise. Traffickers have benefitted from the lack of public awareness by

¹⁰ Deshpande Neha A., Nour Nawal M. (2013) Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls. Review in *Obstetrics & Gynecology*. 2013; 6 (1): e22 – e27

¹¹ Riutort, M., Rupnarain, S., and Masoud, L. (n.d.). Framework on anti-racism, anti-oppression and Equity: Factoring the determinants of health and persisting inequities in services delivered for survivors of violence in Canada. Mississauga, ON. Canada. Peel Institute on Violence Prevention - Family Service of Peel

¹² Barret N. (2013) An Assessment of Sex Trafficking in Canada. Canadian Women’s Foundation

¹³ National Center of Safe Supportive Learning Environments (2017). Risk Factors and Indicators.

¹⁴ Department of State. (2016, June). Trafficking in persons report. Retrieved Nov. 2, 2017, from <https://www.state.gov/documents/organization/258876.pdf>

¹⁵ Groce, 2004; Phasha & Myaka, 2014; Reid, Huard, & Haskell, 2015, Sex Trafficking of Girls With Intellectual Disabilities: An Exploratory Mixed Methods Study, 2016

entrapping more victims and avoiding the consequences of law enforcement officials and the judicial system. (Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice (2017)¹⁶.

Sex workers want to avoid contact with law enforcement. The Federal, provincial, regional and local governments have allocated millions of dollars to combat human trafficking, while at the same time, refusing to finance safety measures to protect women working in the sex industry. Much of the government funding “has been allocated to police and law enforcement to use to conduct periodic investigations and raids on sex work establishments in the name of anti- human trafficking” (Lam, 2016)¹⁷. These conditions encourage women to work and live in isolation and to avoid mainstream service protections. They encourage the targeting of migrant sex workers and create a climate of impunity for predators who are aware of the vulnerabilities the workers face because of their risks of deportation (Lam, 2016).

Sex Trafficking and Prostitution: The Central issue of Consent

If a woman’s consent to emigrate freely to another country often makes the legal identification of trafficking unclear, it becomes even more complex when this migratory strategy includes an independent decision to work as a prostitute in the host country. When a girl of high school age agrees to go into prostitution to increase her buying power of expensive goods, she can end up being trafficked from one place to another or from one country to the next. The relationship between prostitution and trafficking and the distinction, where it exists, between enforced and voluntary prostitution, are controversial matters. (Boaventura, Gomes & Duarte, 2010)¹⁸.

Prostitution is engaging in sexual activity with someone by choice for payment. Unlike sex-trafficked victims, society does not usually look favorably upon those in the business of prostitution. (Carter, 2017)¹⁹.

Women being trafficked in the ever-growing global sex industry are recognized as "true" victims. Clearly, human trafficking is the illegal movement of people, typically for the purposes of forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. (Carter, 2017)

Rightfully so, we have waged a war on human trafficking, which is commonly seen as modern-day slavery. However, there appears to be a thin-line between the two situations: prostitution and being trafficked for sex.

According to services providers working with human trafficking survivors, there are three types of survivors according to their level of consent: a) Slavery – no consent; b) Human Trafficking – consent without full understanding of consequences. Majority of cases; c) Call girls, massage parlors, prostitution - full consent. Women could stay in the industry up to ten years and more. (Linder, Jacqueline 2018)²⁰

Needs

Minimal evidence-based research exists on the needs of victims of human trafficking, and the services that are available to them. It is significant that the health needs of this population are similar to the needs of other marginalized groups, such as migrant labourers, victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence, and

¹⁶ Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice (2017) Equality Now Sands of Silence, Waves of Courage: Lifting the Veil on Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls. Workshop presentation New York).

¹⁷ Lam E. (2016) Anti-Trafficking campaign harms migrant sex workers. NOW magazine. February 10, 2016

¹⁸ Boa Ventura de Sousa Santos, Conceição Gomes and Madalena Duarte. Translated by Sheena Caldwell. (2010). The Sexual Trafficking of Women: Representations of Illegality and Victimization . RCCS Annual Review [Online], 2 | 2010, Online since 01 October 2010, connection on 29 March 2018. URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/rccsar/247>; DOI: 10.4000/rccsar.247

¹⁹ Carter V. (2007) The Thin Line between Prostitution and Trafficking. Ethicdaily.com. Columns on Cultural and Media <http://www.ethicsdaily.com/the-thin-line-between-prostitution-and-sex-trafficking-cms-23829>

²⁰ (Linder, Jacqueline 2018)

victims of torture (Williamson, Dutch & Clawson, 2008)²¹. Due to the fact that there is little research reported, similar populations can be examined to provide a foundation for the treatment of this population (Williamson et al., 2008IPID).

The effects of human trafficking can result in numerous physical, emotional and mental health needs for survivors; these effects are substantial and long-term (Powell, Asbill, Louis & Stoklosa, 2017²²). In the research, there are common needs seen among most victims of human trafficking. These include “emotional and moral support, legal assistance, safe housing, high school diploma or General Education Diploma assistance, identification documentation, job training, resume and job search assistance, medical and dental appointments, cell phone assistance, child care, transportation, safety planning, and clothing and food assistance” (Wirsing, 2012)²³. However, this does not include everything, and new needs may arise with each client.

Emotional and mental health needs may be the most critical of them all, as it is the most debilitating on their everyday lives. All of the literature emphasizes that many survivors experience Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, self-hatred, dissociation, despair, and difficulty with interpersonal and intimate relationships (Williamson et al., 2008). In addition to this, survivors have been known to suffer from other mood disorders, including panic attacks, obsessive compulsive disorders, fearfulness, and hopelessness about the future (Williamson et al., 2008). In one study of over 100 trafficked women, 41.5% reported attempted suicide (Powell et al., 2017). Victims of human trafficking have often been involved in very traumatic experiences, such as extreme violence, death threats, serious injury, rape, and psychological abuse (Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, n.d.)²⁴. Having been exposed to this type of trauma may lead to a multitude of emotional and psychological symptoms. It is, however, important to remember that not all victims experience trauma in the same way.

In a study performed by Hopper (2017)²⁵, “the large majority of youth in this sample (91%) reported a history of victimization prior to the trafficking experience, including directly experiencing physical, sexual, or verbal/psychological abuse, as well as witnessing violence”. Having experienced victimization in the home, they were already vulnerable and at risk of being trafficked. This further demonstrates the need to provide adequate emotional support to these individuals, after their escape from trafficking, as they will now have increased trauma.

Consideration needs to be given to how trauma is defined and treated in different cultures. For example, Western psychologists derive certain criteria (such as independence, self-containment, and autonomy) for psychologically healthy individuals based on a rigid normative stance, derived mostly from studies of white males. This rigid normative stance values certain cultural and gender identity formations more than others. Thus, many minorities, especially minority women, risk being defined as pathological. (Machery, 2010)²⁶

Physical health needs are also of great concern to post-trafficking victims, because their activities of daily living have been affected. Children who are involved in sex trafficking may be more prone to physical

²¹ Williamson, E., Dutch, N., & Clawson, H. C. (2008). Evidence-based mental health treatment for the victims of human trafficking. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, DC

²² Powell, C., Asbill, M., Louis, E., & Stoklosa, H. (2017). Identifying gaps in human trafficking mental health service provision

²³ Wirsing, Knowles E. (2012). Outreach, collaboration and services to survivors of human

trafficking: The Salvation Army ATOP-IT program’s work in Chicago, Illinois. *Social Work & Christianity*, 39(4), 466-480.

²⁴ Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (n.d). Unmet needs: emotional support and care after trafficking.

²⁵ Hopper, E. (2017). Polyvictimization and developmental trauma adaptations in sex trafficked youth. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, (10)2, 161–173. Doi: 10.1007/s40653-016-0114-zv

²⁶ Machery, E (2010). Explaining why experimental behavior varies across cultures: A missing step in “The weirdest people in the world?” *Journal of Behavioral and Brain Sciences*. Mississauga News May (2012) <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/3125559-taking-steps-to-counter-human-trafficking/> Retrieved April 2018

illness because of their immature physical systems (Bernat & Winkeller, 2010)²⁷. There are a number of physical issues associated with trafficking victims which include headaches, stomach aches, difficulty breathing, and hair falling out, frequent colds, low blood pressure, sexually transmitted diseases, frequent urinary tract infections, and issues with bowel incontinence (Hopper, 2017)²⁸.

Services

Peer-to-Peer Support

There is a necessity for the victims of human trafficking to have contact with others who also have been victims of human trafficking. Often, victims are unwilling to acknowledge the trauma and exploitation they have experienced. As a result, many survivors are reluctant to seek treatment. However, when working with others who have had similar experiences, many individuals feel more at ease. (Hickle & Roe-Sepowitz 2013)²⁹.

Therapeutic Supports

Considering the number of human trafficking survivors suffering from PTSD and other mood and anxiety disorders, there are several therapeutic supports that have been found to be successful in managing the psychological consequences of human trafficking; the most prominent of these therapies being behavioural, cognitive and psychodynamic. (Williamson et al., 2008)³⁰.

Family Support

Involving the family in helping victims post-trafficking is an important need, as family members can be a great support system for them. However, many family members may not have a full understanding of human trafficking, and this can cause the family to place a stigma on the victim, causing them to feel embarrassed or ashamed. (Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, n.d.)³¹.

Medical Services

One of the main issues for medical services, including emergency department and other hospital services, is the lack of personal skills to identify survivors of human trafficking at the point of care, and provide them with adequate services, including appropriate referral and follow up. In the U.S., several screening tools for healthcare professionals have been proposed. A recent study in the U.S. examined the effectiveness of screening tools in emergency departments to identify victims of sex trafficking. The conclusion of this study is that identifying victims of sex trafficking through a single questionnaire may be sufficient to recognize all adult victims of sex trafficking. (Mumma, Scofield, Mendoza, Toofan, Youngunpipatkul & Hernandez, 2017)³².

Housing Services

Victims of sex trafficking are often offered apartments or rooms to live in while they work for their pimps, which makes escaping the trade rather difficult, due to fear of homelessness and feelings of dependency on their pimps. Surveys provided to fourteen different agencies that work with sex trafficking victims in California showed that housing was the biggest need, "with 43% of the respondents indicating this as a specific need for the victims." Safe housing services give women an opportunity to start fresh, repair their damaged emotional, mental, and physical health through counselling, as well as having a support system to help them find stable employment. This inevitably decreases the chances of their returning to the sex trade.

²⁷ Bernat, F., & Winkeller, H. (2010). Human sex trafficking: The global becomes local. *Women & Criminal Justice*, 20(1-2), 186-192.

²⁸ Hopper, E. (2017). Polyvictimization and developmental trauma adaptations in sex trafficked youth. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, (10)2, 161—173. Doi: 10.1007/s40653-016-0114-zv

²⁹ Hickle, Kristine E and Roe-Sepowitz, Dominique E (2014) Putting the pieces back together: a group intervention for sexually exploited adolescent girls. *Social Work with Groups*, 37 (2). Pp.99-113. ISSN 0160-9513

³⁰ Williamson, E., Dutch, N., & Clawson, H. C. (2008). Evidence-based mental health treatment for the victims of human trafficking. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, DC

³¹ Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (n.d). Unmet needs: emotional support and care after trafficking.

³² Mumma, BE, Scofield ME, Mendoza LP, Toofan Y, Youngunpipatkul J, Hernandez, B (2017) Screening for victims of sex trafficking in the Emergency Department: A Pilot Program. *West J Emergency Medicine* 2017 Jun; 19(4): 616-620. Doi: 10.5811/Westjem.2017.2.31924

Unfortunately, as of now, housing services for human trafficking victims remain scarce in Canada, and the services that are available are inadequate, which further strengthens the sex trade. Some of the major issues with current housing services are the 'male-centered' housing models which enforce strict curfews, the lack of emotional support towards women's healing, and failure to provide resources for women to find employment (Chettiar, Deering, Lazarus, Nabess & Shannon, 2011)³³.

Services for Men

There is a lack of services available for men, and this is often because of the assumption that men do not seek psychological help, because of the stigma of showing emotions. This represents a large area of unmet needs, because "Men who have been trafficked have similar mental health problems and needs as trafficked women" (Global Alliance Against Trafficking in Women, n.d.)³⁴. As the needs are similar for both men and women, it is important that there are services available equally to all.

Substance Abuse

Those patients suffering from substance abuse will need therapeutic supports as well. It is important to not only address the substance abuse itself, but also the underlying trauma that caused the substance abuse, or the treatment is not likely to be effective (Williamson et al., 2008)³⁵. Other services available, as stated by the Department of Justice Canada (n.d), include community service agencies, detox programs and treatment centres, hospital services, and housing. Combining trauma and substance abuse treatment are recommended as they are mutually exclusive. (Covington S. 2008)³⁶.

Employment

Many of these individuals may lack the skills necessary to obtain jobs and achieve economic stability after escaping trafficking. In many cases, clients do not receive the full array of the integration services they need, such as assistance in finding and maintaining employment, finding affordable and long-term housing, and help with citizenship status (Powell et al., 2017)³⁷. Resolving these basic necessities will increase the likelihood of consistent use of services, but without them, some of these individuals will end up back in the trafficking system. Providing ways for victims to have access to services is critical in ensuring that clients continue their care and pursue a healthy path to recovery.

Services, programs, training, policies and other resources are still in the process of building survivors' resilience into the development and implementation of resources. There is still insufficient information and a lack of understanding that survivors will never be the same after the trauma and distressing experience. What triggers their reactions? How do they relate to males after the trafficking ends? Every transformational journey is unique, but heroic survivors have two things in common. First, they integrate the traumatic experience into their public identities and make the experience a defining part of their life stories. Second, they talk or write about it in a way that has an inspiring effect on others.

Conclusions

³³ Lazarus, L., Chettiar, J., Deering, K., Nabess, R., & Shannon, K. (2011). Risky health environments: Women sex workers' struggles to find safe, secure and non-exploitative housing in Canada's poorest postal code. *Social Science & Medicine*, 73(11), 1600-1607. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2011.09.015> Retrieved from <http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=https://search.proquest.com/docview/923956174?accountid=15182>

³⁴ Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (n.d). Unmet needs: emotional support and care after trafficking.

³⁵ Williamson, E., Dutch, N., & Clawson, H. C. (2008). Evidence-based mental health treatment for the victims of human trafficking. Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Washington, DC

³⁶ Covington S. (2008) Women and Addiction: A Trauma-Informed Approach, *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*.

³⁷ Powell, C., Asbill, M., Louis, E., & Stoklosa, H. (2017). Identifying gaps in human trafficking mental health service provision

While society's acceptance of nonconforming behaviours has grown, consumerism drives many people in today's society. Many young people have adopted a casual view of commercial sex. As a result, more young people from non-functional homes are participating in sex industry activities than ever before. Understanding the roots of vulnerability is invaluable, whether safeguarding young people from exploitation or helping them escape it.

Billions of dollars are made by human trafficking. The victims may be enticed to work in the sex trade, because they don't value themselves. The only value they are aware of is making money to buy the things that they don't have, in the false belief that those material things will make a difference in their lives. They have learned that money is made by selling their bodies. What they need to learn is that they have a value which is of far greater significance. They can't recognize that value, because they may have been raised to believe they are worthless. To gain self-esteem, they need a program that will help them identify the strengths they have within themselves, and the talents that they were born with, talents that can help them earn an honest living.

We assert that women's rights are human rights and that progressive changes happen when diverse and independent women's movements have vision, strength, resilience and collective power. There is a growing need to analyse the effect of the feminization of poverty and the impact it has on human trafficking and prostitution.

Our studies documented the lack of services and programs at all levels for survivors of Human Sex Trafficking. Even when there is the good intention to assist the deficiency of knowledge and understanding of the complexity of the issues, the level of violence encountered by survivors impedes proper interventions.

While trafficking in persons has become a worldwide concern, current data collection activities reveal many shortcomings: Data are limited in scope, incomparable and insufficient to ascertain the true extent of the problem in Canada.

There are different views on what constitutes trafficking, and those working in the field usually walk the fine-line of language and definitions that apply to human trafficking and prostitution.

Early identification of human trafficking survivors is needed. The development of trauma screening tools should be of great assistance to professionals who are working in human trafficking.

All services need to be mobile and available at the place that is geographically close to survivors. Travelling long distances to receive services is not an option for women who are trafficked. This leaves room for further research, **especially with survivors themselves**. Overall, the services found to be most effective regarding treatment of this population are peer-to-peer support, physical health support, and reintegration services and mobile clinical services. Services and programs should be mobile to reach a population which is transient.

Strategies for housing services need to be developed, considering the particular needs of this population. There is a need for the development of residential treatment centers, group homes, foster care agencies and homeless and runaway youth shelters that can help victims in their transitional period to recovery.

An area which needs further development is education and awareness training for professionals and the general public. Online training and other modalities of training that have been developed do not all have proper evaluation processes attached to them. There is a great need to develop evaluations which measure impact.

Recommendations

1. Collaboration and Communication

A National system should be created to lead collaboration and communication among all sectors.

Human Trafficking has been defined as a process, not an event. If we are to be able to have any long-term impact on the problem, we must use research to identify the most cost-effective areas of intervention.

The focus of intervention should be prevention and support for survivors. The more structural elements of prevention have yet to be adequately sourced, including awareness-raising campaigns, education campaigns, and training.

The Government of Canada has developed and implemented its tools for the prosecution of traffickers, thereby responding to most of the prosecution recommendations of the UN Protocol 2000, however, there is no nation in which legal and police prosecution can be shown to have reduced the aggregate amount of trafficking, including United States and Canada.

2. Training

Training at all levels needs to be developed and implemented. We need a robust social and healthcare system response. This, however, requires a workforce that is aware of the health and social impacts of this issue; educated about how to identify and treat affected individuals in a compassionate, culturally aware, and trauma-informed manner; and trained about how to collaborate efficiently with law enforcement, case management, and advocacy partners.

3. Education and Outreach

Raise awareness and understanding of the needs of survivors of human sex trafficking among services providers and General Public.

Peer to Peer Support Groups for survivors where they will have some of their needs met by other survivors who have had life experiences.

4. Role of Government and Civil Society

Reduce or eliminate the expectation that government alone is responsible to eliminate social issues like Human Sex Trafficking by developing meaningful purposeful relationships with knowledgeable organizations that are currently addressing Human Trafficking. Develop together strategies to assist in extracting victims who are currently embedded in Human Trafficking

Realizing that you can't legislate morality, develop compressive legislation which contributes to the reduction of the profitability of Human Trafficking and protect survivors.

To finalize, we would like to recognize that being alive is a miracle, nothing is worth more than life. Life is not bought in a supermarket. We have to fight for human happiness. We are strange monkeys, because nature has given us a conscience. Perhaps the best teaching is to tell our young people, "FIGHT FOR HAPPINESS". What does it mean to be happy? It is an issue of living in balance, to commit to life, to realize that being alive is a miracle.

To work in Human Sex Trafficking requires a great degree of commitment. We need to believe in our young women. We all need to understand that life is a struggle. All social progress requires struggle.

There are only phenomenal causes, not phenomenal men or women. To fight against human sex trafficking is an extraordinary cause. Let's join in building a better society, a better culture and better values.

Let's make sure that future generations of young women are happy, and that they have a commitment to life and are thankful to be alive.

Thank you.