



Centre to End All
Sexual Exploitation

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**Brief submitted to the Standing Committee on Status of Women (FEMO)
Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence in Canada**

Intersections and Correlations of Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence with Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation.

CEASE supports women and other individuals who have been trafficked and exploited through the commercial sex industry. We offer a court victim advocate and survivor support program funded by the Alberta Justice and Solicitor General Victims of Crime Fund. We also provide multiple supports for the long journey of healing as individuals strive to create improved futures.

For many, the sexual exploitation and trafficking is experienced within the context and the same dynamics of intimate partner and domestic violence. Familial trafficking whereby family members sexually exploit, physically abuse and sell (traffick) other family members is a less known aspect of human trafficking in Canada. The boyfriend/trafficker relationship is better documented. “Human Trafficking Corridors in Canada”, released February, 2021 by The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking, the Centre estimates that 45 – 55% of traffickers are “boyfriend/Romeo pimps” and 5 – 24% are family members. (the range reflects a knowledge difference between law enforcement and service provider information).ⁱ

“Romeo pimps/boyfriend traffickers tend to introduce psychological and physical abuse over time, making the victim believe they are consenting to their own exploitation and abuse. Romeo pimps position themselves as boyfriends and enter what look like consensual intimate partnerships with individuals before convincing or coercing them into the industry.”ⁱⁱ

In our public educational presentations, we reference the Duluth Model of Power and Controlⁱⁱⁱ to illustrate the dynamics of abuse of power and exploitation. We utilize the UN Definition of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse^{iv} and the UN Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Punish and Suppress Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.”^v. We describe the dynamics of “coercive control” and are encouraged by the work of Sagesse in Alberta to advocate for Canadian Legislation.^{vi}

The individuals CEASE supports, primarily women, have experienced and endured horrific violence. Their perpetrators are charged with a range of offences, depending upon the situation. These include: Trafficking in Persons offences (TIP, forcible confinement, kidnapping, receiving a material benefit, withholding documents); PCEPA offences (procuring, receiving a material benefit, advertising) Sexual Assault offences (aggravated sexual assault, assault with a weapon); Physical Assault offences (choking, assault with a weapon, bodily harm; threats of violence) crimes of intimidation and other offences. Over 40% of our Advocate work is with those where there are significant elements of *human trafficking for sexual exploitation* and 60% is with those who have been the victims of other horrific violence.

Many of the perpetrators were not convicted under the Human Trafficking (TIP) charges. Often the threshold for proving human trafficking “beyond a reasonable doubt” is too high. The Crown, the

Defense and the Judiciary may stay the TIP charges in exchange for guilty pleas on other charges, thus sparing the person from having to testify. It is encouraging that most perpetrators were held accountable for the harm they caused through other Criminal Code Charges, including PCEPA charges and charges related to intimate partner and domestic violence. There is clear evidence that the individuals suffered significant harm and that we need a range of offences to apply and achieve convictions and consequences.

We believe that increased awareness and training about the dynamics of intimate partner and domestic violence can make a difference in the lives of all persons who suffer from the violence of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. Specialized training for law enforcement, crown prosecutors, the judiciary and defense lawyers would transform our criminal justice system. Programs for healing from the multiple physical injuries and complex trauma associated with these crimes of violence is essential. Prevention education about healthy relationships, consent and fostering a culture of respect will make a difference in our society and in the lives of individuals. We could begin to turn the corner on the horrific cost of Gender-Based Violence in all its forms.

CEASE vision is a community of hope, respect and transformation for individuals, families and communities affected by sexual exploitation, sex trafficking and social inequality. We offer programs under three strategies to assist individuals to create improved futures for themselves and their families.

Strategies: (1) Heal the Harm, (2) Build for the Future, (3) Inspire Positive Change. Programs include court support and advocacy, financial empowerment, bursaries, 1:1 coaching and system navigation, poverty relief, transitional support and peer support. CEASE facilitates the Sex Trade Offender Program, an Alternative Measures Program for those arrested for attempting to purchase sexual services and participating in the sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors and adults. www.ceasenow.org

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ⁱ <https://www.canadiancentretoendhumantrafficking.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Human-Trafficking-Corridors-in-Canada-Report.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Eberhard, J., Frost, A. C., and Rerup, C. (2019). "The dark side of routine dynamics: Deceit and the work of romeo pimps", Feldman, M., et al. (Eds.) Routine Dynamics in Action: Replication and Transformation (Research in the Sociology of Organizations, Vol. 61), Emerald Publishing Limited, pp. 99-121.

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.theduluthmodel.org/wheels/understanding-power-control-wheel/>

^{iv} https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_developpement-enjeux_developpement/sexual_exploitation-exploitation_sexuels/index.aspx?lang=eng

^v <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>

^{vi} <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Content/Committee/432/JUST/Brief/BR11112021/br-external/SagesseDomesticViolencePreventionSociety-e.pdf>