

Sex Trafficking Awareness

Trigger Warning: this document contains potentially distressing information.

Sex trafficking is a crime under the Criminal Code of Canada. It includes everything from grooming, holding, moving or giving someone away for sex. It can involve physical force, coercion or deception. Anyone can be targeted for sex trafficking. However, Indigenous and non-Indigenous women and girls are the most likely to be targeted.

Grooming happens when a trafficker targets a victim/youth. They buy (or promise to buy) clothes, jewellery, manicures, etc. to gain trust and affection. Once trust is gained, the trafficker starts telling the victim they “owe them.” This guilt can lead to the trafficker selling the victim for sex.

Caring adults and students within schools can promote a sense of student belonging, increase protective factors, help to reduce risk factors associated with sex trafficking and support early intervention through identification and appropriate response, including connecting impacted students to supportive services.

SIGNS OF SEX TRAFFICKING



Suddenly having a new or second cellphone with a secret number



Withdrawing from family and friends



Suddenly spending time with an older person or people



Wearing more sexualized clothing



Having a new partner or friend they won't introduce to friends/family



Having new clothing, jewelry, etc. that they can't afford to buy



Frequently missing



Absences from school or a decline in school performance



Being secretive about their activities



Signs of physical abuse such as bruising, cigarette burns, fractures etc.



Accessing technology in high frequency, long durations and with intense focus, in the absence of parental controls and supervision. Being very secretive of on and offline contact, content and conduct.

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WATCH FOR SIGNS OF SEX TRAFFICKING AROUND YOURSELF AND YOUR FRIENDS

Talk to a trusted adult such as a parent, caregiver, teacher or principal if you have concerns about something like this happening to you or your friends. See the list of resources available at childprotection.kpdsb.ca or call the **Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-833-900-1010**.

If a friend talks to you about a sex trafficking situation, listen without judgement and believe what they are saying. Discuss how and who else you can share this with for more help—the police, a trusted adult, teacher or school principal, and/or the Canadian Human Trafficking hotline.

HELP PREVENT SEX TRAFFICKING:

- Learn about healthy relationships.
- Be open when discussing relationships with trusted adults, parents/guardians.
- Be aware of others asking you to keep your activities, online or offline, a secret from your friends, parents and teachers.
- Be wary of others expecting you to always be online/available, to skip classes or to stay away from your home.
- Educate yourself! Be aware of the signs of sex trafficking.
- Know what to do if you think that you or a friend is being groomed.

MYTH

Sex trafficking starts with being kidnapped, or held against your will by sex traffickers

TRUTH

Sex trafficking can begin with grooming behaviour in a seemingly normal intimate relationship

MYTH

Sex trafficking only occurs between males trafficking females

TRUTH

Males can also be trafficked; in some cases females are used to groom other females



RESOURCES

There are many resources available for youth, parents and concerned adults regarding the prevention of sex trafficking and how to get help if you or someone you know may be in a dangerous situation. For a list of local and national resources, please visit childprotection.kpdsb.ca.

**CANADIAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE:
1-833-900-1010**

To view the complete Keewatin Patricia District School Board Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol document, please visit kpdsb.ca/pages/view/child-protection.