

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) has identified the following principles to guide responses to trafficking.

- **Non-punitive:** Measures must not penalize trafficked persons.
- **Human rights:** Measures must be guided by and be respectful of the human rights of trafficked persons.
- **Economic rights:** Measures must be guided by and be respectful of the economic rights of trafficked persons.
- **Supportive services:** There is a need for supportive services for trafficked persons.
- **Gender and race analysis:** A gender and race analysis should be brought to any consideration of trafficking issues.
- **Inclusive of trafficked persons:** Discussions about trafficked persons should include trafficked persons themselves.

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CCR ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROJECT

The CCR has been working to raise awareness about trafficking and to advocate for measures to protect trafficked persons in Canada. A report on the results of consultations including recommendations can be found at www.trafficking.ca. The CCR's work is being overseen by a sub-committee on trafficking of our Gender Issues Core Group.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the CCR's anti-trafficking website at www.trafficking.ca

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. Read our report *Trafficking in women and girls* (on our web site.)
2. Contact a local group and get involved in local initiatives against trafficking.
3. Join the CCR and add your voice in asking for policies that protect the rights of trafficked persons.

LOCAL CONTACT

TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

TRAFFICKING HAPPENS IN CANADA

- A woman is brought into Canada to work as a domestic servant. Her passport is taken away from her and she is forced to work long hours while receiving no pay.
- A child is brought into Canada with a family. He is not sent to school: instead he is made to work in the home.
- A group of women are brought into Canada. They know that they will be expected to offer sexual services. However, when they arrive they find that the working conditions are much worse than they expected: they are kept locked up and paid virtually nothing.

These types of situations happen in Canada. They happen in small towns and communities as well as big cities.

CANADIAN COUNCIL
FOR REFUGEES



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WHAT IS TRAFFICKING?

Trafficking:

- **Involves the exploitation of people, often through forced labour.** Those who are trafficked may be forced into sex work, but they may also be forced to do domestic work, or to work in the service industry (e.g. restaurants) or in manufacturing.
- **Often involves the transportation of victims across borders or within a country.** People who are far from their home communities are much easier to exploit, because of their isolation in an unfamiliar community. This is true of people brought into Canada, but also people transported within Canada, such as aboriginal people separated from their nation.
- **Exploits the vulnerable.** This is why women and children are the principal victims. Traffickers often rely on the very limited options available to people, especially women, in desperately poor communities. Trafficked persons are often unaware of the rights they do have and traffickers will try to keep them ignorant.

Governments have defined trafficking in persons as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.” United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children (also known as the Palermo Protocol).

TRAFFICKING VS. SMUGGLING

- A person who is trafficked is kept under the control of traffickers and exploited in some way, sometimes after having been transported across a border.
- A person who is smuggled receives help in getting into a country, usually in exchange for money, and that is the end of the relationship with the smuggler.

RIGHTS FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS!

The Canadian Council for Refugees considers that responses to trafficking should be first and foremost about protecting the rights of trafficked persons.

Unfortunately the Canadian government’s response so far has focused on criminalizing trafficking and enforcing the law, and there are no mechanisms to protect victims of trafficking. The *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act* criminalizes trafficking in persons but the only provision in the law for victims of trafficking is one that makes victims more likely to be put in detention.*

This means that when a situation of trafficking comes to light, the victims are often simply detained and deported. As a result, trafficked persons have little incentive to speak out about their plight.

* *Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations*, 245(f) and 249(c).