

Key Themes

- Trafficking is happening here in Canada — most victims are domestic, across all communities.
- Exploitation is primarily relational, often by someone known, trusted, or loved.
- Grooming often begins with meeting emotional needs, creating attachment before exploitation.
- Digital platforms (games, chat apps, social media) are now major grooming environments.
- Precarious immigration status increases vulnerability and can be used as a tool of control.
- Effective response requires coordinated systems — justice, services, community, and survivor-led supports working together.
- Globally, contexts differ — but root drivers repeat: vulnerability, inequality, crisis, and demand.

Key Statistics (as shared by panelists)

- ~80% of trafficking victims in Canada are domestic.
- Average age of entry into sex trafficking: 13–14.
- Since 2019, the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline has received 23,000+ contacts, identifying ~2,300 cases involving 3,300+ survivors — ~70% related to sex trafficking.
- Identified labor trafficking cases have increased by ~300% compared to the previous three-year average.

Quotes from Panelists

- “Education is our strongest weapon.” — Shae Invidiata, Free-Them
- “Exploitation is usually by someone they know... not what we see in movies.” — Julia Drydyk, The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking
- “Status becomes both the method of control and the barrier to support.” — Jovana Blagovcanin, FCJ Refugee Centre
- “Success happens when responses are integrated.” — Cheryl Hotchkiss, International Justice Mission (IJM) Canada
- “Forms shift, but the roots remain: vulnerability, inequality, demand.” — Monica McIntyre, Aftercare International

Tangible Actions You Can Take

- Save and share the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline: 1-833-900-1010 (confidential, 24/7).
- Speak with one young person this month about online safety and healthy relationships.
- Watch for patterns, not isolated signs (new gifts, secrecy, sudden changes in behaviour).
- If someone has precarious status, connect them to a community legal or immigrant support clinic (not police first).
- Identify one organization to learn from, support, or collaborate with locally.

Reflections to Sit With

- Who in my life may need more safety, patience, or listening?
- Where might I have missed a sign before — and what might I notice differently now?
- How can I communicate clearly to young people: “You can come to me. No judgment.”

Resource Hub + Replay

UprootingTrafficking.com/resource-hub