

Key Themes

- Trafficking is organized and mobile. It operates on a business model, with inter-provincial corridors; movement increases control and isolation. Coordinated responses across provinces and sectors are essential.
- Online grooming is the primary doorway. It's not people being snatched off the streets; social platforms and gaming create access to youth; traffickers study posts to mirror needs and gain trust.
- Parents: be involved and set boundaries. Keep devices in common spaces, know online "friends," ask questions, set firm rules—safety over popularity.
- Survivor-centered support. They're the expert of their own life. Meet people where they are; be non-judgmental; offer options (harm reduction and abstinence) and consistent presence.
- Community duty to notice and act. Two words: Increase awareness. Open your eyes, speak up, educate others; demand also must be addressed.
- Practice scenarios. Prepare youth for real-world moments (e.g., bars/parties): "What would you do? Who would you call?" Awareness + planning builds confidence.

Key Statistics (as shared by panelists)

- Typical targeted age range around 15 to 23 for online grooming.
- In the Philippines, some clients can pay 20-30 US dollars to be released quickly—highlighting enforcement gaps.

Quotes from Panelists

- "Trafficking itself operates... on a business model." – Staff Sergeant Gordon MacDonald, ALERT - Human Trafficking & Counter Exploitation
- "It's a lot easier for a trafficker to recruit online." – Inspector Colleen Bowers, Calgary Police Service
- "They're the expert of their own life... We're not the saviours." – Kaitlin Bick, Victim Services Toronto
- "My advice... summed up in two words, increase awareness." – Peter Slocombe, Rescue Operations

Tangible Actions You Can Take

- Parents/Caregivers: Review device rules; audit social profiles and "friends"; agree on safety scripts.
- Educators/Youth-facing staff: Learn local resources; ask caring, direct questions; normalize help-seeking.
- Community Members/Businesses/Faith groups: Host awareness trainings; post resources; practice "see something, say something" with trauma-informed care.
- All of us: Lead with kindness; ask hard questions; keep showing up.

Reflections to Sit With

- Where in my life or community might someone be experiencing vulnerability or isolation — and how can I show up with curiosity, care, and without judgment?
- What conversations could I open (with a child, a teen, a friend, a colleague) about online relationships, safety, and trust — and what would it take to make those conversations feel safe rather than scary?
- If I noticed something that didn't feel right — would I speak up?
What support, courage, or clarity would I need in order to act?

Resource Hub + Replay

UprootingTrafficking.com/resource-hub