

Q&A Summary

- 1. How do I help a family member who is unwilling to admit she is being trafficked while other people know she is being trafficked?**

Answer:

There isn't a simple or direct way to 'fix' the situation. The most important thing you can do is remain a consistent, non-judgmental, caring presence. Many people who are being trafficked don't recognize it as exploitation because it feels like a relationship, which is why leaving can be so difficult. You may not be able to make them see what's happening or convince them to leave, but you can stay connected, show care, and ensure they know they have a safe place to turn when they're ready.

- 2. Is there an age appropriate guide for how to talk to kids around this topic to keep them safe? Or is this something that may be developed in the future?**

Answer:

There are age-appropriate resources available. Some non-governmental organizations have developed guides and information tailored to different age groups, including younger children. One example in Alberta is the Ally Global Foundation, which has produced age-appropriate materials, including resources relevant for Indigenous communities. This is one example among many organizations working to provide practical tools for families, schools, and communities.

- 3. Are there any preventative measures/opportunities taking place in our communities especially in the early stages of life (at school, family centres, within city programs)?**

Answer:

Yes. Prevention efforts do exist in many communities, particularly through schools, family resource centres, youth programs, and municipal initiatives, though availability and consistency vary.

Common prevention approaches include:

- School-based education on healthy relationships, boundaries, online safety, and recognizing grooming
- Family and early-years programs that strengthen caregiver awareness, attachment, and early intervention
- Youth and community programs that reduce isolation through mentorship, after-school activities, and supportive relationships
- Municipal and public-sector initiatives that provide training and cross-sector coordination among educators, health, and social services

Research consistently shows that early education, strong relationships, and connected communities are key protective factors against exploitation.

Key takeaway: Prevention works best when it starts early — but access to these programs still varies by community.

4. Any recommendations/resources for community members to start a program of awareness and prevention?

Answer:

Yes. Community members don't need to start from scratch — many evidence-based resources and partnerships already exist.

Recommended starting points:

- Partner with established organizations rather than creating new content. Groups like the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking and local Indigenous-led organizations offer trusted prevention and awareness materials.
- Use existing, age-appropriate curricula for schools and youth groups that focus on healthy relationships, boundaries, online safety, and recognizing grooming.
- Work through existing community spaces — schools, faith groups, family resource centres, libraries, and youth programs — where trust already exists.
- Keep programs trauma-informed by focusing on awareness, prevention, and resources rather than survivor stories or graphic details.
- Connect to local supports so participants know where to go for help (e.g., local victim services, shelters, the Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline).