

Sex-Trafficking 101

Sex-Trafficking & Sex Work

Myth

Sex-trafficking and sex work are the same and all people involved need to be either saved or arrested

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Fact

The difference is consent! There is no consent when a person is manipulated and forced into trafficking, but sex workers choose their profession and need #RightsNotRescue

Sex-Trafficking 101

Ability to Leave Sex-Trafficking

Myth

Survivors of sex-trafficking can easily leave any time if they contact the police or other designated community supports

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Fact

Sex-trafficking uses manipulation, coercion, threats, isolation, and violence to control and overpower survivors and make it very difficult to leave even with supports

Sex-Trafficking 101

Sex-Trafficking & Awareness

Myth

Survivors of sex-trafficking can always clearly recognize that they are being trafficked and exploited

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Fact

Many survivors have a hard time recognizing they are being trafficked both during and after as a result of grooming, manipulation, and societal misconceptions about sex-trafficking

Sex-Trafficking 101

Sex-Trafficking & Gender of Survivors

Myth

Only women and girls are forced into sex-trafficking

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Fact

It is true that the majority of survivors are women and girls (93-97%), but people of all genders can be targeted, trafficked, and exploited

Sex-Trafficking 101

Sex-Trafficking & Gender of Perpetrators

Myth

Those involved in the organization and abuse of sex-trafficking are always men

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Fact

While the majority of perpetrators involved in sex-trafficking are men (81%), people of other genders do also participate in this violence

Sex-Trafficking 101

Sex-Trafficking & Borders

Myth

Sex-trafficking happens when a person is transported against their will from one country to another for the purpose of sexual exploitation

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Fact

The vast majority of sex-trafficking in Canada (over 90%) is domestic human trafficking, meaning that the survivors were not transported across international borders

Sex-Trafficking 101

Sex-Trafficking & Physical Violence

Myth

Physical violence and force is always used to kidnap the survivor for sex-trafficking and keep them isolated from the rest of society

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Fact

Physical force and kidnapping is not the only tool perpetrators use to control others. Coercion, manipulation, threats, and blackmail are also tools used

Sex-Trafficking 101

Sex-Trafficking & Relationships

Myth

Traffickers are always strangers to the person being trafficked when the exploitation begins

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Fact

The perpetrators are often in romantic relationships, friendships, familial relationships with (or otherwise connected to) the survivor when the exploitation starts

Sex-Trafficking 101

Sex-Trafficking & Warning Signs

Myth

When someone is targeting you for sex-trafficking, the signs are obvious and should be easily recognized

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Fact

Grooming (establishing a dependent relationship in order to manipulate and control) is common in sex-trafficking and can be very subtle and gradual