HUMAN TRAFFICKING

early signs, prevention strategies, and survival

Presentation Outline

If you feel uncomfortable at any point in this presentation, please let the teacher know.

What is Human Trafficking?

THE BASICS:

Human trafficking is modern day slavery.

Victims are subjected to force, fraud, and/ or coersion for the purpose of making money for someone else.

This can include many types of trafficking, and in Canada the majority of human trafficking is done in the form of domestic sex trafficking.

Human trafficking occurs wherever there are people, but especially in places near highways or airports, and with high human population densities.

Domestic Sex Trafficking - A Survivor's Perspective | Karly Church | TEDxOshawaED

Karly Church talks about the stages of exploitation while drawing on her personal experiences.

Guiding Questions

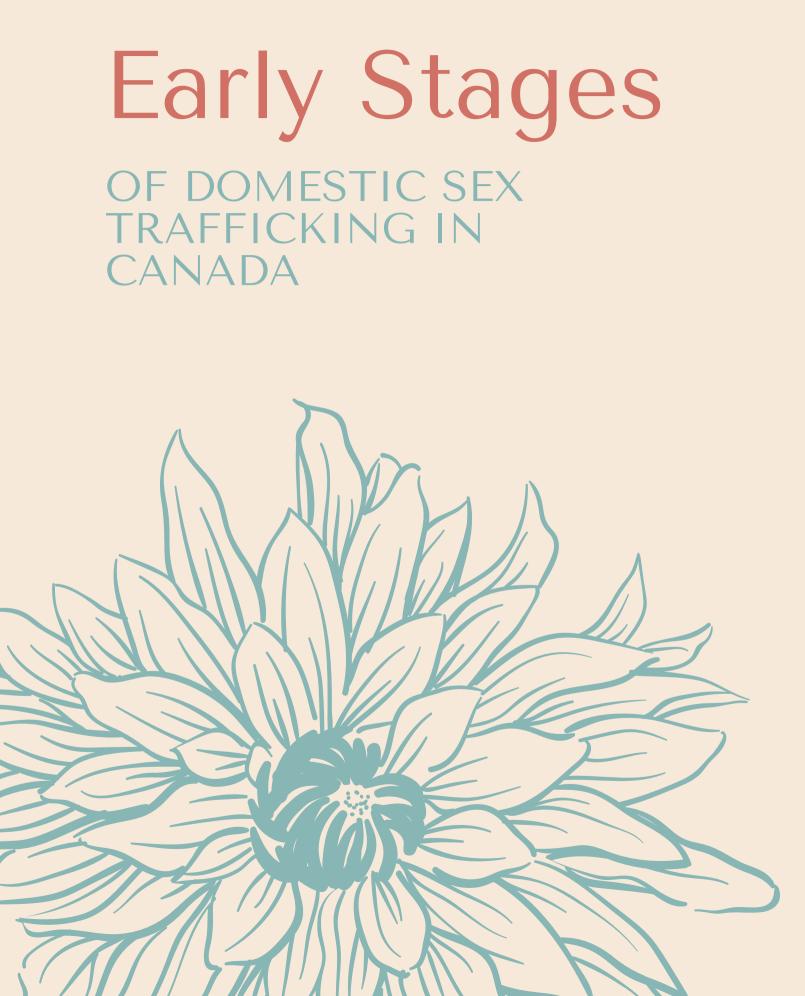## PERSONAL PERSPECTIVES

- Does this example align with what you thought human trafficking looked like? Explain.
- Are you surprised to hear this happened in Canada? Why or why not?
- What surprised you most about this video?

FURTHER SPECULATIONS

- What do you think was the most important point raised in that video? Why was it so important?
- Compare and contrast Karly's experiences with how the media typically portrays human trafficking. How does this help or hurt survivors?
- What new questions did this video raise for you?

Early Stages

OF DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

LURING

At this stage, traffickers are looking for someone who is vulnerable.

GROOMING

At this stage, the trafficker(s) isolate their victim, develop their trust, and then exploit them.

COERCION AND MANIPULATION

At this stage, the trafficker(s) start pushing their victim to do something they may be uncomfortable with, and slowly condition them to believe it is normal; they will likely continue to escalate this

1. Luring

- trafficker looks for vulnerable people
- individual risk factors
- systemic risk factors
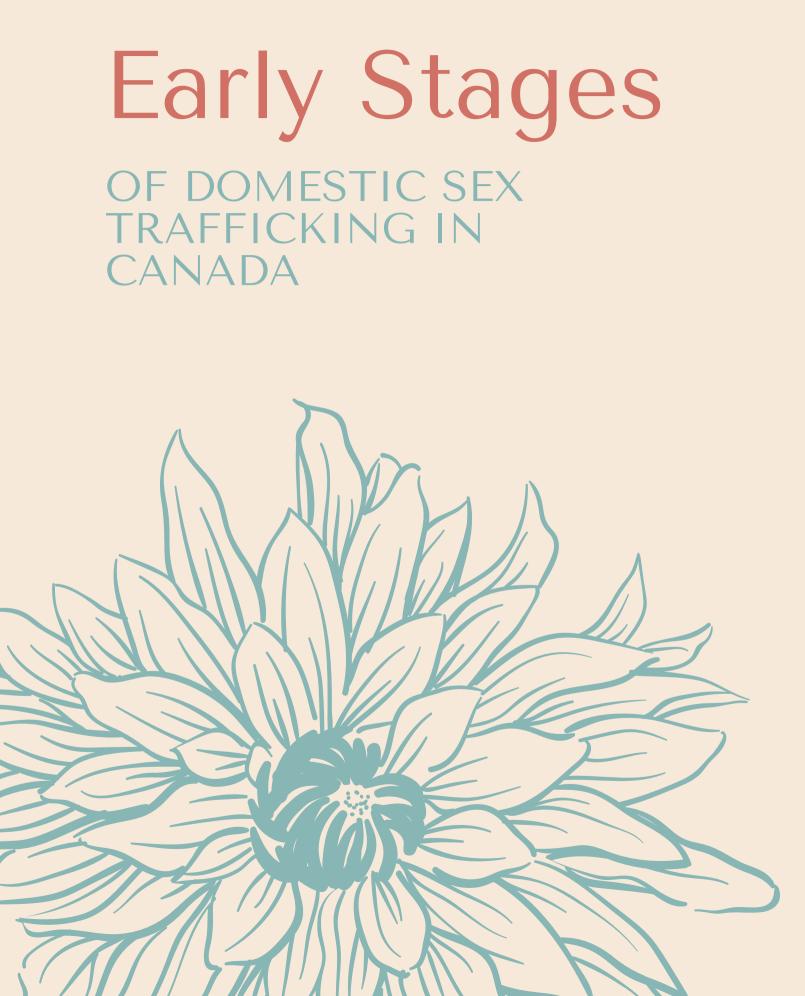- gather information and meet needs

1. Luring

- individual risk factors
  - low self- esteem
  - low education or income
  - heavy drug or alcohol use
  - anger and hostility
  - lack of family structure or support
  - young age
  - history of childhood abuse

1. Luring

- systemic risk factors
    - legacy of colonialism
    - racism
    - gender inequality
    - addiction
    - political instability

1. Luring

- gather information and meet needs
  - finding out as much information about potential victims as possible
  - using that information to provide insightful and thoughtful responses, presents, and support

Early Stages

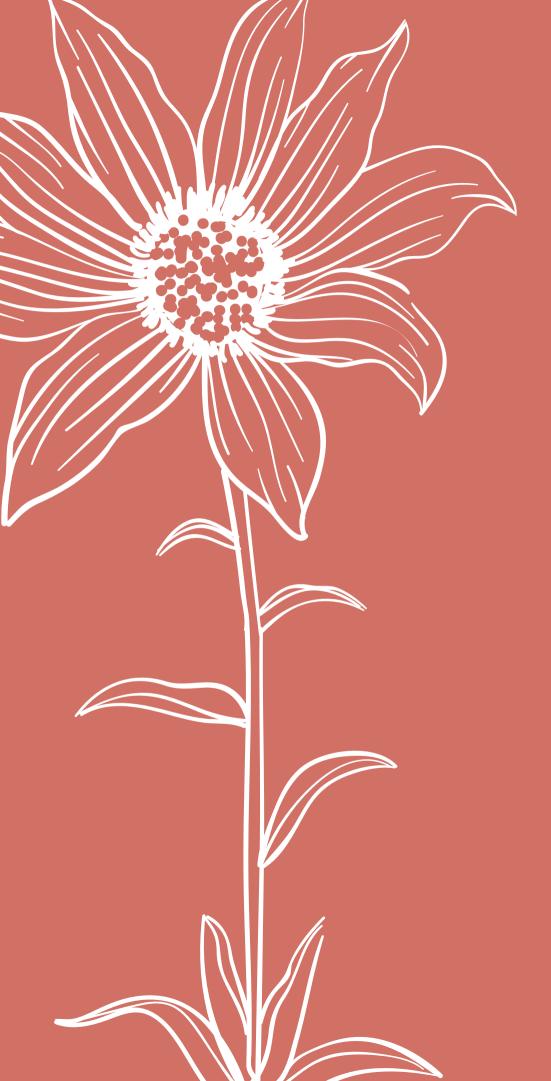## OF DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

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COERCION AND MANIPULATION

At this stage, the trafficker(s) start pushing their victim to do something they may be uncomfortable with, and slowly condition them to believe it is normal; they will likely continue to escalate this.

2. Grooming

- sometimes known as the honeymoon phase
- promises of a better life
- isolation

2. Grooming

- sometimes known as the honeymoon phase
    - bonding over common interests
    - pose as great listeners
    - compliments
    - "love-bombing"
    - push for long-term commitment

2. Grooming

- promises of a better life
  - could include housing
  - family
  - expensive gifts
  - romantic security
  - could provide drugs or alcohol under the guise of having fun

2. Grooming

- isolation
- creates a sense of dependency
  - may start to pick fights with victim's family, friends
  - may insist the victim stop working, going to school; "there's no need, I will provide for you"
  - may gaslight victim into believing no one else loves or cares for them

Early Stages

OF DOMESTIC SEX TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

LURING

At this stage, the trafficker(s) are looking for someone who is vulnerable

GROOMING

At this stage, the trafficker(s) isolate their victim, develop their trust, and then exploit them

COERCION AND MANIPULATION

At this stage, the trafficker(s) start pushing their victim to do something they may be slightly uncomfortable with, and slowly condition them to believe it is normal; they will likely continue to escalate this

3. Coercion/ Manipulation

- withdrawal
- desensitizing
- conditioning
- maintaining control

3. Coercion/ Manipulation

- withdrawal
  - the trafficker(s) begin to withdraw love, compliments, presents
  - picking fights, acting angry
  - behaviour becomes erratic and difficult to predict
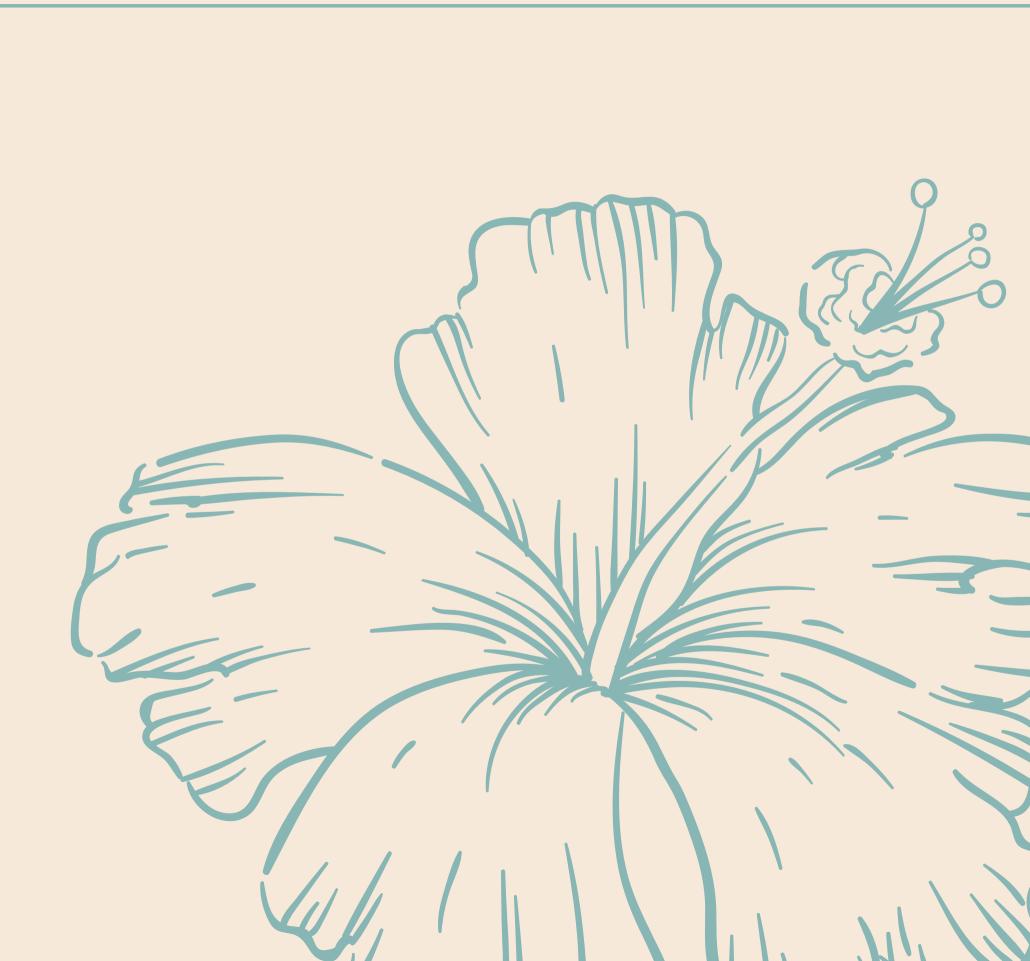- this makes the victim feel that they have done something wrong, and must fix the situation

3. Coercion/ Manipulation

- desensitizing
    - the trafficker(s) ask for something that the victim is uncomfortable with, often making them feel that their discomfort is silly or juvenile
        - they may also insinuate that this is a one- time ask
    - over time, the asks get bigger

3. Coercion/ Manipulation

- conditioning
  - the trafficker(s) begin to "reward" sex (going on shopping sprees, giving gifts or money)
  - sex for money will be normalized
  - it may be positioned as a temporary thing, or a way to "pay back"

3. Coercion/ Manipulation

- maintaining control
  - the trafficker(s) use some or all of the tactics already mentioned to keep the victim in a trafficking situation
  - they may use physical force, but in many cases it is not necessary
  - often, losing the illusion of love is enough

Once a trafficker has successfully gone through these steps, their victim has been trafficked, and getting out becomes significantly more difficult.

QUESTIONS TO SCREEN FOR POTENTIAL SEX TRAFFICKING SITUATIONS

- Is someone in the relationship doing things that they don't feel comfortable doing?

- Could they leave the relationship if they wanted to?

- Does someone, other than a dependant, take all the money they make from having sex?

GENERAL CLUES TO HELP IDENTIFY VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

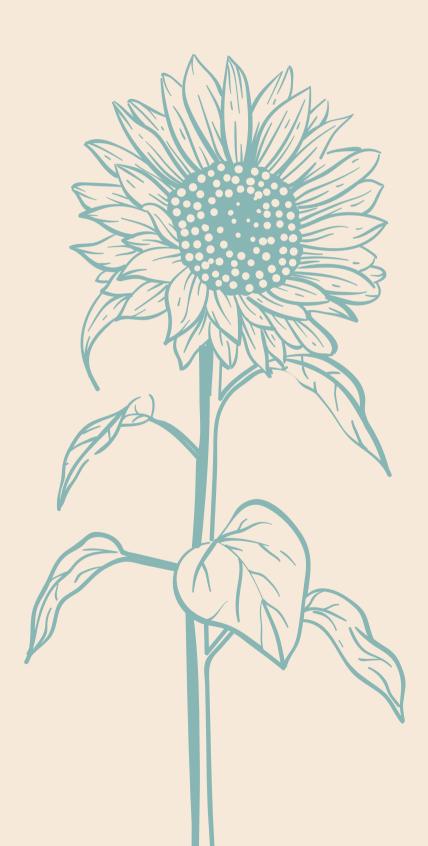Victims of human trafficking may exhibit any of the following:

- evidence of being controlled either physically or psychologically
- inability to move freely (between home and work, etc)
- inability to speak for oneself or share own personal information
- someone else speaks for them at all times
- loss of identification documents (ID or passport)
- few or no personal possessions
- owe a large debt that the individual is unable to pay off
- loss of sense of time or space, not knowing where they are or what city or province they may be in

Prevention

PERSONAL

- education
- know the signs
- question experiences
- know what to look for in others

SYSTEMIC

- advocate for funding
- socioeconomic opportunities
- create space
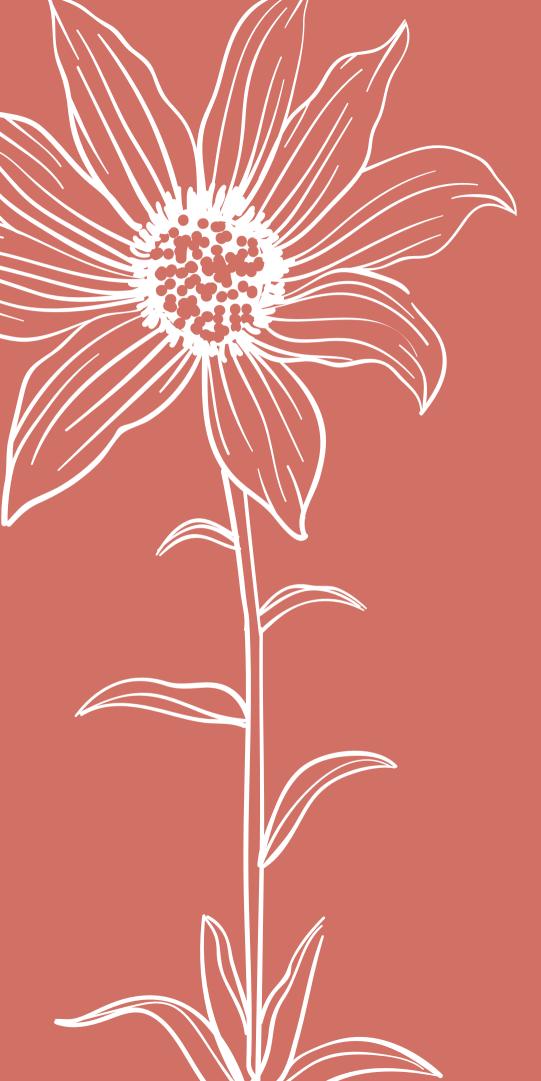- challenge trafficking on every level

Personal Prevention

The best way to prevent human trafficking is to know the signs. Educating yourself and others can help with recognizing the signs of human trafficking earlier, which increases the likelihood of preventing victimization. It also increases your chances of noticing if other people are being victimized.

It is important to question warning signs in your own relationships, even if it is difficult.

News article on successful story of flight attendant's intervention

Systemic Prevention

Human trafficking occurs on a systemic level because of conditions that leave certain populations vulnerable. By advocating for funding to organizations, foundations, and initiatives that deal with human trafficking, we can start to make a societal difference.

We can also create socioeconomic opportunities for marginalised communities, and make more space for youth in our own communities. This will make it harder to exploit them.

Finally, we can challenge trafficking on a municipal, provincial, and federal level by participating in politics by voting and asking our representatives to help.

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline

1 833 900 1010

- 24/7
- bilingual
- anonymous and confidential
- toll free
- online chat function

SERVICES

- counselling, answering questions
- connection to resources within the community
- help prepare a long- term safety and escape plan

FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911

Please note in Ontario, texting 911 does not work!