

Supporting Sexually Exploited Young Women to Independence



**Canadian Alliance to
End Homelessness
November 2015**

The Context

- Human trafficking included in the Criminal Code and includes forced labour and sex trafficking. There are 3 major elements:
 - Control
 - Exploitation and
 - Threat to Safety
- Nightmare of exploitation regardless of whether cases can be proven in court.
- Homeless youth are at greatest risk for sex trafficking

Statistics

As of January 2015:

- 85 completed human trafficking specific cases where convictions were secured (majority are sex-trafficked)
- 151 individuals convicted of human trafficking specific and/or HT related offences (i.e. forcible confinement, sexual assault, procuring, etc.) in HT specific cases.

Statistics

- 2011 – 2013, 551 human trafficking cases in Ontario (majority are sex-trafficked)
- Since Feb. 2014, Toronto Police Services Sex Trafficking team reports:
 - 94 arrests,
 - 267 occurrences, and
 - 730 charges laid
- Covenant House supported 46 victims of sex trafficking last year – a 130% increase



TORONTO
2,000/night

Source: 101 Things You Need to Know About Youth Homelessness, St. Thomas University.

CANADA
40,000/year

The State of Homelessness in Canada 2014,
The Homeless Hub.



64% of homeless youth
report being victims of
VIOLENT CRIME
at least once.

Surviving Crime and Violence Street
Youth and Victimization in Toronto.
JCFY and Homeless Hub

42% have been
**SEXUALLY
ASSAULTED**
or threatened with
sexual assault.


Source: No Way Home, The Fifth Estate,
CBC.

33% have been
**ATTACKED
or STABBED**
with a knife.

Source: 101 Things You Need to Know About Youth
Homelessness, St. Thomas University.

More than 66%
have been threatened with
SERIOUS HARM.

Source: 101 Things You Need to Know About Youth
Homelessness, St. Thomas University.

A young woman with bright pink hair is lying on a sidewalk, resting her head on her hand. She is wearing a black t-shirt, blue jeans, and black fishnet stockings with large circular cutouts. A green cup is on the ground next to her. The background shows a concrete wall and a red bag.

no fixed address + no shower + no clean clothes + no food +
no phone + limited or no work experience + limited education

= NO JOB + NO MONEY

Strip Clubs

Massage Parlours

XXX DVD XXX

Bachelor Parties

PEEP SHOW
OPEN 24 HRS

DVD

PEEP SHOW
DVD
VIDEO

FOR SALE

SEX TRADE

Escort Services

Hotels, Condos

● **LOOKING FOR YOU,** company seeks individuals for meaningful long-term relationships. Call us now on

Backpages



Drug Houses
Gang Spaces

Adult Industry



Victims are lured from
right under our noses...

PARKS



SCHOOL



LIBRARIES



FOOD
COURTS



BUS
DEPOTS



SHOPS
MALLS

Strategy & Service Model

Urban Response Model

Five pillars of our comprehensive, integrated approach to countering sex trafficking:

- Prevention & Early Intervention
- Crisis Intervention
- Stabilization
- Transition
- Independence

1. Prevention & Early Intervention

- Raise awareness of the signs of luring (parents, teachers)
- Prevention = girls 10 to 15 years of age
- Early Intervention = girls 16 to 24 years of age
- How:
 - In-school presentations
 - Online resources
 - Training medical professionals, hotel industry, teachers, city licensing staff, etc.

2. Crisis Intervention

- Establish protocols & network of services, provide immediate safety & support
- Target is youth who are sexually exploited
- How:
 - 24/7 response
 - Designated safe beds
 - Coordinated referral systems
 - Outreach

3. Stabilization

- Connect victims to supports
- Girls 16 to 24 who have been exploited and who want to make a change
- How:
 - Court preparation & support
 - Addiction & trauma counselling
 - Immigration, healthcare issues
 - Case management

4. Transition

- Create individual plans for victims to successfully exit
- Young women 16 to 24 who are ready to transition out
- How:
 - 2-year transitional community living or other housing
 - Educational programs
 - Employment training
 - Addiction & trauma counselling
 - Case management, peer support, healthcare
 - Legal support

5. Independence

- Successfully re-integrate victims into community
- Target is girls 16 to 24 ready to live independently
- How:
 - Housing support
 - Access to employment services
 - Mentoring & peer support
 - Aftercare

Research

- To inform evaluation & outcomes of each pillar
- Covenant House internal research experts
 - Identify service gaps in our response model
 - Evaluate clinical model of Covenant House
- Knowledge transfer:
 - Will create online “Centre of Excellence” to share research

Housing Model -Transition to Independence

Key Program Elements

Clinical Assumptions

- Clinical issues manifested in youth who have experienced sexual exploitation are in 4 key areas (Williamson et al., 2010):
 1. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder(PTSD) – 50 – 75% of women report symptoms
 2. Anxiety and Mood Disorders
 3. Substance Related Disorders
 4. Complex Trauma

Therapeutic Response Model

- Evidence informed practice suggests that a two pronged approach is most effective (Clawson et al., 2008) – trauma informed and trauma specific
- Critical that housing is provided through a trauma informed lens
- Critical that trauma specific services are delivered through partnerships not the housing provider

Trauma Informed

- Understanding of the role that violence and victimization plays in their lives
- Behaviors, symptoms seen as coping mechanisms
- Service relationship - trusting, collaborative
- Primary goals – empowerment and recovery

Health Promotion

- Dedicated health promotion coordinator position
- Participatory action intervention -youth engaged in identifying barriers and solutions to healthy outcomes
- Use of peer mentors is key
- Peers used to engage youth in the program, provide social connections, prevent relapse

Facility/Staffing Model

- House in the community that can accommodate 7 women
- Youth will have their own room and bathroom
- Common space available for meetings, communal gatherings, life skills activities
- Safety/ security issues need to be addressed
- Proximity to Covenant House hub of services – health care clinic, vocational supports, school,
- Staffing model – live in house mentor plus child and youth workers, human trafficking specialists

Thank you

Questions?