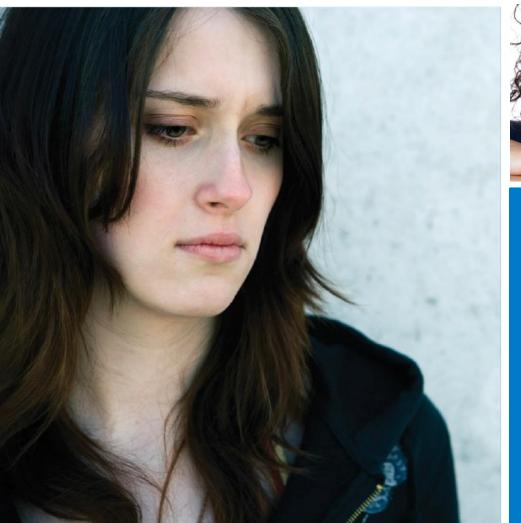
Supporting Sexually Exploited Young Women to Independence







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







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.**

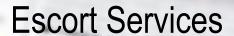
Source: 101 Things You Need to Know About Youth Homelessness, St. Thomas University.











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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?

