



Know the Signs

SEX TRAFFICKING PREVENTION FOR PARENTS



Every year, thousands of Canadian families are impacted by human trafficking. Many think it could never happen to their family but the reality is that human trafficking happens in rural and urban communities across Canada.

It can happen anywhere at anytime. Less than a kilometre from where you live today, someone is being trafficked.



The Joy Smith Foundation is Canada's leading authority on human trafficking prevention, intervention, and support for survivors of this horrific crime. It's a responsibility we take seriously. Over the years, the Joy Smith Foundation has helped over 6000 human trafficking survivors and their families restore their lives by reuniting, healing, and integrating back into their communities.

In the fall of 2021, the Joy Smith Foundation proudly opened the National Human Trafficking Education Centre – a unique online hub offering educational resources to help Canadians understand and fight human trafficking.

The Centre offers free and fee-based programs to all who play a role in the prevention and intervention of human trafficking. Customized courses are available for parents, teachers, social workers and first responders, as well as kids, youth and young adults.

Education is our greatest weapon as we work together to end human trafficking.



KNOW THE SIGNS

Every day, our unaware youth are lured, and manipulated by skilled human traffickers into the sex trafficking world. What starts as a seemingly innocent conversation online or in real life can quickly turn into something sinister that affects lives forever.

When we know who is most vulnerable, and the signs to watch for, we can take steps to prevent it from happening. Educate yourself about the issue, how to recognize who's at risk and how to effectively intervene when you suspect something isn't right.



Signs that your student or child is being groomed:

- ▶ Sudden interest in a boy or man who is several years older
- ▶ New clothing, jewelry, or gifts without having the money to purchase these items
- ▶ Frequent sleepovers at a friends' house
- ▶ Sudden change in style of dress or makeup
- ▶ New circle of friends and isolation from their old group of friends
- ▶ Change in attitude toward school, regular activities, friends, and family
- ▶ Grades are dropping
- ▶ Unexplained cuts and bruises
- ▶ Using two cell phones



PROMOTE ONLINE SAFETY

Traffickers use the Internet and social media platforms to find youth and get to know them, with the intention of building their trust and meeting them in real life.

Keep your computer in common spaces to keep track of what is going on. Monitor your child's time spent on the computer and on their cellphone. Coach your children not to give out computer passwords, their real name, house and school address and any other personal contact information over the internet, including social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and others.

Never send a photograph or video of your child in an email unless you know the person and are confident they are a legitimate individual.



SEXTING

Make sure your children or students understand the real danger and long-term consequences of sexting. These are important points to share:

- ▶ Any nude or sexual photo or video of any individual under the age of 18 is considered child pornography by law.
- ▶ Sending, keeping, or distributing a nude or sexual photo or video of anyone under the age of 18 are offences that can lead up to charges under the Canadian Criminal Code.
- ▶ If an image or video is online and no longer in control of the intended recipient, it is critical to notify your local police department or report it to cypertip.ca.





HERE TO HELP

Contact us if you have questions or need help.

There is hope! Survivors can heal. Families can be reunited. Justice can be served.

Sign up for our free **Know the Signs parenting course today!**

I came from a middle-class family. My parents are wonderful. Looking back, I never thought that I would ever land up as a victim of human trafficking. I got out of being trafficked but the guilt and anger still remained with me. It was when I was sitting in a presentation by Mrs. Smith about human trafficking and how the traffickers work that I came to realize that it was not my fault. The education program that the Joy Smith Foundation puts forward is such a help to me as a trafficked survivor. It changed my life. The Joy Smith Foundation helped me to rebuild my life. I am now so happy to help out any way I can to be a part of this wonderful Foundation that helped me to restore my life.

– SURVIVOR



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