

# Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Within Canada, commercial sexual exploitation (CSE) is the most documented form of human trafficking involving mainly women and girls, but also men and young boys.

Traffickers can range from opportunistic pimps posing as boyfriends to large organized crime operations.

- Traffickers prey on the vulnerability of people, and lure them into the sex trade, where they are forced to perform sexual activities.
  - Human trafficking victims usually work long hours, in dangerous conditions, without being paid or being allowed to keep only a minimal portion of their earnings.
- Traffickers gain control by a variety of means, which includes physical force, threats, psychological and emotional manipulation.

CSE can range from street level prostitution to the production of pornography. These acts of CSE can take place in variety of locations such as nightclubs, massage parlors, strip clubs, escort services, residential brothels or over the internet.

*Example: A trafficker may pose as a boyfriend and shower a young girl with expensive gifts, drugs and alcohol, until one day he tells her she must repay him for these “gifts” and will do so by having sex with clients that he will provide.*

<i>Who?</i>	Mainly women and girls, but also young men and boys.
<i>By Whom?</i>	Pimps posing as boyfriends/girlfriends, gangs & organized crime networks.
<i>What?</i>	Forced into performing sexual activities, working long hours & no pay.
<i>How?</i>	Use of physical force, threats, psychological and emotional manipulation.
<i>Where?</i>	Streets, night clubs, massage parlors, strip clubs, escort services, residential brothels, condo, hotels/motels & online



Commercial Sexual Exploitation can often be perceived as prostitution as there is a connection between the two. Making this distinction between voluntary prostitution and human trafficking is not straightforward.

*\*\*Insert Grooming InfoGraph [Basic Stages of Grooming InfoGraph.jpg](#)*

## Human Trafficking vs. Prostitution

Women, girls, men and young boys can become involved in sex work either by choice or coercion.

When people **choose** to enter sex work, it is usually when they feel as if it's their only viable option given to them at that point in time. When given the choice to voluntarily enter sex work, the individual is able to control their working conditions including their working hours, location(s), and clients and keep the money they make. They are also able to leave the sex industry when they deem it suitable and/or are ready to leave freely.

When people are coerced into entering sex work, it is usually done through the use of threats, physical force or deception. They do not have control over their working conditions, they do not choose their clients, and are forced to give all belongings (i.e. driver's license, health card) and money they make to the trafficker or 'pimp'. Trafficked individuals are under constant control and monitoring, they don't have the option of exiting or feel that leaving would put them or their loved ones in immediate danger.

# Commercial Sexual Exploitation

