

OneChild x Meta

#Beh1ndTheScr3ens

Empower youth. Expose traffickers. Educate us all.



A Student-Led Campaign to Commemorate
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day 2022

Dear Educator,

Thank you for your interest in mobilizing your students around [#Beh1ndTheScr3ens](#), the first-ever, national, youth-led awareness campaign on child sex trafficking to commemorate February 22nd, National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

To support this campaign, we are providing you with:

1) A short video called [Why_13?](#) to show in your classroom that was created by our Youth Advisory Squad (a group of passionate students ages 14-17 from Ontario). They discuss the realities of child sex trafficking in Canada, the campaign and how students can participate on February 22nd in a day of action.

2) This e-toolkit- informed by survivors of sex trafficking- to assist you in educating your students on what child sex trafficking is, the scope and scale of the problem, how it happens, how to spot it, and what to do if it is happening to them. At OneChild, we believe that human trafficking, including child sex trafficking are complex and sensitive issues that require care and competency when asking young people to take part in awareness raising. We believe that providing this e-toolkit is part of responsible activism, so that if your students choose to fight alongside us and join us on February 22nd, they will have an understanding of what they're fighting for! This toolkit will provide you with some questions to get the conversation started, additional resources, hotlines, as well as some guiding principles to assist you in supporting a student you believe may be a victim of sex trafficking.

Thank you again for devoting your time and energy to empowering your students to protect themselves and their peers.



What is #Beh1ndTheScr3ens?

The first-ever, national, youth-led campaign to draw awareness to the issue of child sex trafficking in Canada. It involves:

a) The release of 4 youth-created videos to be featured on screens in schools across Ontario and across Facebook and Instagram. These videos aim to raise awareness among children, educators, and parents on the tactics used by predators such as sex traffickers and sextortionists to lure and groom children on and offline, and how children can seek help.

For the month of February, we're partnering with Meta to release social media videos that were created with youth, to help other youth understand that although the conversations that we're having behind the screens may seem harmless at first; there is danger and you can get help.

b) A youth-driven social media challenge to make a symbolic statement and draw attention to how children are victimized by sex trafficking in Canada.

What are we asking your students to do?

On February 22nd, help us make a powerful statement by writing the number "13" on their face masks, to raise awareness about how the average age of recruitment into sex trafficking in Ontario is 13 year old. They can share their pictures with us by tagging us @onechildnetwork on Instagram, and adding #BeH1ndTheScr3ens, or sending us a DM to be featured on our social media and inspire others to do the same. They can tag others.

What are we asking you to do?

Show the [Why 13?](#) Video to your class/school club, and use this toolkit to start the conversation and introduce the campaign.



Guiding Discussion Questions

Use the following questions to introduce the topic and facilitate a discussion with your students



ONE CHILD EXPLOITED IS ONE CHILD TOO MANY.

1. What is Human Trafficking? What is Child Sex Trafficking?

Simplified definition: Human trafficking is the exploitation of a human being for someone else's gain. It usually involves someone being forced to provide labour or sexual services, often through force, coercion, or deception.

OneChild is particularly focused on human trafficking of children for the purposes of sexual exploitation. Child sex trafficking occurs when the someone under the age of 18 is exploited for sex.



Children can't consent! It's always sexual exploitation.

This is a good time to remind your students that people under 18 can't legally consent to involvement in the sex trade. Some victims become aware of the danger of their situation but avoid seeking help because their trafficker may tell them the police won't do anything since they had initially consented. This is a lie. An adult who introduces you to the sex trade when you're under 18, is exploitation regardless of if you say yes at any time.

Legal Definition: Under Article 4(a) of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person's, human trafficking is defined as "the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs"

Article 4(b) asserts that consent shall be irrelevant if any of the above stated means are used.

Article 4(c) asserts that if the victim is under the age of 18 it shall be considered trafficking even if the means outlined in 4(a) are not used.

This legal definition has been adopted into Canada's criminal code.



2. What is the state of Human Trafficking in Ontario and across Canada?

Some statistics:

- According to the Canadian Government, there were 511 cases of human trafficking in Canada in 2019.
- Between 2009 - 2016, 66% of cases in Canada were reported in Ontario.
- Between 2009 and 2016, the majority of victims/survivors (95%) were female .
- Between 2009 and 2016, over a quarter (27%) of victims/survivors in cases reported to police under the age of 18.

(Trafficking in Person in Canada, Statistics Canada, 2016)

- The average age a child is first trafficked into the sex industry in Canada is 13 years old.

(Government of Ontario, 2021)

An Underreported Crime

Police-collected data is only what has been reported to, and processed by, police. Due to the sensitive nature of human and sex trafficking, these crimes are known for being significantly underreported. In comparison to the above statistics, 266 service agencies in Canada collectively identified over 5 500 trafficked / sexually exploited girls under 18 seeking victim supports in 2012 alone.

3. Who can be a sex trafficker? Who can be a victim?

Anyone can be a sex trafficker and anyone can be a victim. Though there may be things that put us at greater risk of being victimized, it's important for students to acknowledge that it can truly be anyone.

Most of the risk factors for victimization are connected to systems of oppression; for example class, race or gender. This might be a good time to open up this conversation to your students. Why might these systems of oppression contribute to a higher risk of victimization?

As for sex traffickers, people that end up in this position are often those who have grown up around similar experiences, have been victimized themselves or are simply opportunists looking for the easiest way to make money. If you think about what "type of people" check these boxes, it's easy to see that quite literally any person could be a trafficker.

Example: Homelessness

Homeless children are at a greater risk of being sex trafficked. How does class oppression in this instance contribute to the heightened risk? Answers could look something like; because we have been conditioned to not care when homeless people are violated or go missing, or maybe we assume that they've put themselves in that position and therefore are not deserving of protection. Oftentimes the people who are the most at-risk are the people who are least protected by society. Encourage your students to think critically about society's part in this. You could aid the question with what harmful assumptions do we make about homelessness? How does our society treat people without jobs or homes? And then pull out how these answers are connected to their heightened risk.

4. How do traffickers recruit their victims? What are traffickers offering their victims?

Traffickers look for any vulnerabilities in children to take advantage of, meaning they can look for systemic vulnerabilities as well as vulnerabilities that we all experience simply due to the growing pains of being a human! They can offer anything from helping to fulfill basic needs such as food or shelter, to offering emotional support and security. This is how they gain the trust of their victims. Essentially, if a target has needs that aren't being met, a trafficker will try to offer them whatever it is they aren't getting elsewhere.

For example, traffickers might look for children who are exhibiting low self esteem, loneliness, bullying or have absent parents. They look for where they're hurting and start the trafficking process by being what they need in that moment. So depending on the child's situation a trafficker might choose to pose as a friend, a romantic interest or take a more protective role.

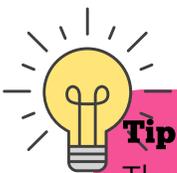
What is Peer-to-Peer Sex Trafficking?

This form of trafficking happens when one child recruits and/or exploits another child. This is typically a child who has been previously trafficked and now is expected to recruit on behalf of their trafficker. This is a prime example of a trafficker always looking to find the right fit to appeal to any particular victim. Peer-to-peer trafficking can be very difficult for youth to spot as they tend to be quicker to trust people their own age. Encouraging your students to be vigilant of changes in their peers that may indicate trafficking red flags may help them identify if they themselves later become the target of exploitation.

5. How do traffickers maintain control of their victims?

Some of your students might be wondering how traffickers control their victims if not with physical chains. Although it's possible that a victim may experience physical confinement, typically that is not the case. Here are ways traffickers control their victims that you can discuss with your class:

- **Emotional Manipulation:** One of the most common ways traffickers maintain control is the same way any abusive relationship maintains control, master manipulation. Ask you students to put themselves in the shoes of a young girl who feels she is in love with her trafficker at the time that he introduces the sex trade to her. Oftentimes the trafficker will play on their victim's emotions, accuse them of not caring for them if they don't do this. The traffickers put in the most work to get their victim to see their first customer, and after that it is a cycle of shame, dependency and other means of control.
- **Trauma Bonds:** This is a psychological response to abuse whereby the victim forms an unhealthy bond with the person abusing them. This can look a bit like stockholm syndrome.
- **Sextortion:** This is the act of threatening to release sexually explicit photos or videos of the victim to their friends, family, school, community or the general public.
- **Physical Violence:** It's very common that traffickers will use physical violence to keep their victims in a constant state of fear
- **Isolation:** Traffickers will often try to isolate a victim from their community, family and friends to make their victim feel dependent on them and disconnected from opportunities to ask for help.
- **Financial control:** Traffickers might gain control of their victim's finances making them dependent on them for simple needs like shelter, food and clothing
- **Exploitation of drug dependency:** Traffickers might exploit a current drug dependency or aim to create one by introducing drugs into their victim's life



Tip

There really is no limit to how traffickers control their victims. Discuss with your students other ways traffickers might do this or how many of these forms of control operate together to create feelings of being trapped for the victim. The intention here is not to scare your students but rather to develop some compassion for people who experience this and get your students thinking about how small red-flags in a relationship can build up to a point where you feel you can't escape a dangerous situation.



6. Where are children recruited? Where are they trafficked?

Recruiting can really happen anywhere. These days it is happening more frequently online, particularly on popular social media platforms. In the early stages of sex trafficking, traffickers want to get to know the youth, begin a relationship with them so the youth will trust them. These initial conversations can therefore happen anywhere youth are - at school, at the mall, at the movie theater, on Snapchat, Instagram, Discord. It's less important where it happens and more important how it happens, so that your students can identify red-flags no matter where the communication starts.

Likewise, where kids are trafficked is equally as versatile. Maybe it's in hotels, maybe it's in a residential home, maybe it's online in chat rooms or pornography sites. Again, where they are trafficked can't be pinpointed and therefore can't be the crux of victim-identification. But it should be clear that there is no one place that is free of the possibility of being trafficked. If you are feeling unsafe in any area, you should get out and get help as soon as you can.

7. What are some red flags to keep in mind as students navigate new relationships?

As intended, it can be difficult to tell the difference between a genuine connection, and a predator who is mimicking a genuine connection. Here are some questions, a child can ask themselves to identify any red flags:

- ▶ Are they trying to isolate you from the other important people in your life?
- ▶ Are they giving you lavish gifts that you can't return the favour for?
- ▶ Do they make you feel indebted to them?
- ▶ Are they asking you to do things you're not totally comfortable with doing?
- ▶ Are they encouraging you to do hard drugs?

For other potential red flags, see [here](#).



Tip

Ask your students to share red flags they look for when meeting new people! As a generation that has grown up online, we're certain they have some habits they've created along the way to keep themselves safe

8. What is the Ontario Government doing?

At OneChild, we believe that children should be made aware of the protections provided by their governments, schools, and overall community. We also believe that because this issue is happening to them, they must have power to influence those protections for the better.

As of January 31, 2022, the Ontario government mandated that all provincially-funded school boards, school authorities, and provincial schools introduce anti-sex trafficking protocols. These protocols must have support procedures for students, strategies about raising awareness around the complexity of the issue, and approaches to support accountability and evaluation.

This Memorandum states several principles of the program including fostering student voice, school-based prevention, and the promotion of equitable and culturally safe responses.

#Beh1ndTheScr3ens puts student voice at the centre. Take the conversation further- ask your students what they would like to see done in their schools to combat sex trafficking and remind them that their voice counts! They can share their ideas with at youth@onechild.ca or DM'ing us on Instagram.

Prioritizing Student Voice
"Students are at the centre of this work and should be involved in efforts to develop actions against sex trafficking. Invite student groups to participate and inform the design, development, delivery and implementation of anti-sex trafficking protocols.

Recognize that students with lived experience are experts and, if willing and appropriately supported through trauma-informed approaches, could share their story and insights as part of efforts to build awareness and empower students."

- Ontario Government,
Policy/Program
Memorandum 166

9. Can we use social media to combat Child Sex Trafficking?

How?

Of course! Social media is great for spreading awareness and educating others! [#Beh1indTheScr3ens](#) is one way that students can share what they've learned with others and be a voice for change in our online communities. However, it's important to make sure that what they're sharing is accurate and sensitive to those involved.

While some platforms, like Meta, are working to detect, report, and prevent this kind of behavior in the first place, you can also take action by reporting and blocking suspicious behaviour. [Learn more](#) about how to stay safe on Facebook and Instagram.

Another way we can use social media to combat child sex trafficking is practicing safe and kind online etiquette.

- Don't participate in bullying trends online
- Keep your accounts private so you can screen who has access to your content
- Practice stranger safety
 - We know that in 2022 avoiding meeting strangers online is a bit of a big ask; so how can we make sure the strangers we meet online are safe? Ask your students if they might have some ideas already! Some ideas on our end are holding off on sharing personal or identifying information, reflecting on the type of questions they're asking and why they've shown an interest in you in particular, what kind of profile and mutual friends do they have and are they being explicitly sexual?

10. How can you get help?

- If you are in immediate danger, call 911
- Tell a trusted adult, whether that be a parent, family member, school counselor or teacher - if there is someone you trust to help navigate the situation, reach out for the support you need
- If you believe that you or someone you know has been a victim of sex trafficking and/or need support, call the [Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline](#): 1-833-900-1010 or chat with them.
- If you or someone you know has been a victim of [sextortion or leaked intimate images/photos](#) contact [Cybertip.ca](#).
- Don't want to report to a hotline but need help, get connected to additional support services here

Learn More

Visit these websites to learn more about the issue!

- [OneChild](#)
- [Covenant House Toronto](#)
- [Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking](#)
- [Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#)
- [Statistics Canada](#)
- [Get Digital](#)

Responding to Potential Victims of Sex Trafficking

As an educational professional, you are uniquely poised to identify and assist victims.

Be sure to follow all school board protocols/policies specific to sex trafficking. In the absence of these, follow all protocols/ policies pertaining to reporting child abuse, neglect, endangerment or criminal activity. Prior to questioning a student, consult your board's policies regarding whether the presence of a parent/guardian is required.

Where appropriate, consider the following Do's and Don'ts when interacting with potential victims and reporting a potential trafficking situation.

We'd like to give special thanks Survivor and Sex Trafficking Prevention Specialist, Alexandra Ford for her guidance and expertise in developing these guidelines.

Do's

- Call 911, if you believe that a student is in immediate danger.
- Contact the Canadian National Human Trafficking Hotline or call 1-833-900-1010 to obtain assistance assessing the situation, reporting the incident, or locating victim services. This service is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. It is confidential, anonymous, and independent of the police or government.
- Contact Cybertip.ca to report sexortion or leaked intimate photos/video.
- Exercise caution as to avoid risk to the student or yourself.
- Keep in mind that it is rare for a student to make a disclosure. Victims often do not use the word "trafficking". Others may not see themselves as victims.
- Develop a rapport with the student, and keep asking questions. You may not get an answer, or you may get dismissed or brushed off. Keep in mind that it often takes a number of efforts before someone feels safe or comfortable enough to share.
- Be non-judgemental of the student's answers. Instead, offer support, resources, ask open ended questions such as 'how can I help?'
- Watch your body language. Anyone who has experienced trauma, especially ongoing trauma, becomes highly attuned to the body language of those around them. It is often a 'superpower' that develops to help keep them safe while they are in dangerous or unhealthy situations. Maintain an open stance. Sit down when possible, so you are not standing over the student. Allow room for a clear exit, so they do not feel trapped.
- Share information about students among fellow teachers. You never know who may have a piece of information that clarifies a situation or signals trouble. The teacher who has the closest relationship with the child is the best to approach.

In these situations, questions are the golden rule and students are the expert on themselves and their experience. Our job as caring adults in their lives is to guide them to recognize what they already know. Some questions to ask:

- Are you being forced to do something you don't want to do?
- Do you ever feel unsafe?
- How are you making money?
- Who keeps the money you make?
- If there is obvious new clothes or jewelry, you could ask who they got them from
- How can I help? // Do you want help?

Each situation of trafficking is different, and there is no one size fits all path to helping your student; ask them what they personally need from you in their unique situation.

Get them to ask themselves some questions:

- Would they want their best friend treated the way they are being treated?
- How would they help a friend who seemed to be in a dangerous situation?
- How does someone you just met earn your trust?

DON'TS

- Question motives.
 - Youth often can't explain why they made the decisions they did; their brains are not fully able to comprehend consequences in the same way an adults brain is. A disclosure of victimization is not the time to figure out the 'why's' as to how they ended up being victimized.
- Dispute facts.
 - This is their story. Let them tell it.
- Expect full disclosures.
 - Youth may share small tidbits of a story to try and measure your reaction to it. If they deem you safe, they may then choose to share more. Remember, if they don't share the whole story the first time, that doesn't mean they weren't telling the truth.
- React with disgust or shock.
 - When a youth discloses to you, they have determined that you are a safe person to share with. Oftentimes, you only get one shot to handle that disclosure before they shut down.
- Expect youth to recognize/adopt victim status.
 - Even a youth who is disclosing may not recognize they are being victimized. They may be testing the waters to determine what someone else thinks, but they may be heavily convinced that they are 'living the life' and 'in total control' of their situation. Asking important questions like 'do you feel safe?' 'how often do you feel unsafe?' and 'who keeps the money?'
- Don't use terminology or labels before the student does. It's not useful to force a label on someone, even if you have determined through what they have shared that they have been a victim of sexual exploitation. It is important for them to come to that on their own and not have forced upon them. For example, terms like trafficking, victim, abuser or assault should not be used unless the student you are speaking to identifies it or themselves as such.

Ending the sexual exploitation of children will require a united front. We believe that everyone, young or older, from various professions, can play a powerful role in prevention, especially educators.

We thank you for championing #Beh1ndTheScr3ens in your school and mobilizing your students to protect themselves and their peers. If you have any questions or need further support, you may reach us at info@onechild.ca or 905.886.2222.

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In partnership with  Meta