

Police, Crown, and Victim Services

A trafficked person may be involved with the criminal justice system either because they have chosen to report their situation to the police, or because they have been identified in a police investigation.

The police are responsible for investigating human trafficking situations and ensuring the safety of trafficked persons throughout the investigation process. The Crown, through the Crown Counsel's office (Crown Attorney's office in some provinces), is responsible for prosecuting criminal offences, including human trafficking offences, as well as ensuring the safety and protection of trafficked persons.

In Canada, anyone may go to the police to report a human trafficking case: the person who has been trafficked, a service provider, or a member of the public. Remember, though, a trafficked person may have fears and other reasons for avoiding authorities, and it is important to ask for the person's consent first before contacting the police.

Victim Services

In Canada, there are numerous programs and services available to victims of crime. Victim services may include helping a trafficked person to:

- access information about victims services options in their region
- navigate the criminal justice system, including court preparation, victim impact statements, and emotional support during investigations and trials
- register to receive information on the offender who harmed them, such as their whereabouts or court dates
- access financial assistance or benefits to attend court or compensate for damages done by the offender
- access services such as counselling, crisis intervention, and shelter



Where to Look

If, as a service provider, you wish to involve the police in a potential human trafficking case (remember: always with the consent of the trafficked person), or you wish to report a case of suspected human trafficking (including child trafficking) call:

- your local police
- [Crime Stoppers](#) at 1-800-222-8477
- The RCMP Human Trafficking National Coordination Centre at 1-855-850-4640

To access victim services across the country, go to the Department of Justice's [Victims Matter website](#) for a victim services directory. Options for victim services in your region may include:

- Victim support phone lines.
- Police-based victim service workers and community-based victim services.
(Note that community victim service workers will usually work with victims of crime regardless of whether or not they wish to report their story to the police or cooperate in an investigation.)
- Victims of crime compensation and financial assistance programs.
- Specialized victims services such as sexual assault programs, domestic violence programs, child Victims programs, and restorative justice programs.

Restorative Justice

Seeks to create just outcomes by repairing the harm caused by crime and violence.

Typically this happens through facilitating a process that addresses victims' needs and holds offenders meaningfully accountable for their actions.

In this approach, crime is understood not only as breaking the law, but as a violation of people and relationships and a disruption of the peace in a community.

