

Individual Actions

Why

All community action depends on individual actions taken by citizens who are aware and informed. Individuals can educate themselves about the potential indicators, supports and services available in their community. Individuals can act as agents of change to advocate and build communities that are safe from human trafficking and exploitation.

How

The following are some self-directed actions that any individual in a community can take in order to contribute to raising awareness on human trafficking and exploitation, and consequently prevent and fight it.

1. **Take the online training [Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune](#) and learn to look for and understand the indicators of human trafficking.**
2. **Set up Google Alerts to receive current local and national news on human trafficking.**
3. **Learn more about specific actions being taken in your community regarding human trafficking and exploitation by:**
 - Researching on the internet
 - Contacting your local federal Member of Parliament, member of the provincial Legislative Assembly, municipal government representative, Chief or member of Band Council.
4. **Volunteer for a local organization that is involved in issues of human trafficking, exploitation, human rights, and other related issues.**

TAKING ACTION: Concerned Citizen Assists Trafficked Women in Vancouver

“In January 2010, four Filipina women were rescued in Vancouver with the help of members of a Roman Catholic Church, a local NGO, the police, and the B.C. Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons (OCTIP). Their exploitation could have very well continued, however, had it not been for an average Canadian who first identified the case.

In 2009, the four women had entered Canada legally in response to a promise of work from a businessman in Calgary.He demanded that the women work up to sixteen hours a day- and for little pay- as cleaners in a gift shop.....In late 2009, the four women were transported to a hotel in Vancouver, also owned by their employer, where they performed the same services under the same conditions, except that they were permitted to attend church on Sundays. Fortunately, a member of the church congregation who recognized the signs of human trafficking befriended the Filipina visitors. The Filipinas confided enough in this woman to set off warning bells, and she put them in touch with a member of the church who was part of a committee to stop human trafficking. The church contacted OCTIP, who acted promptly. Within twenty-four hours, the Filipinas were in a specialized NGO shelter and had access to a lawyer.”

Benjamin Perrin, *Invisible Chains: Canada's Underground World of Human Trafficking* 2010, Ontario Viking Canada pg. 234-235



How

5. **Raise awareness about human trafficking and exploitation:**
 - Be a voice! Tell people about what you have learned. Awareness of the issue is important. Share your knowledge with your immediate circle of family and friends and spread the word on social media!
 - Distribute public awareness materials about human trafficking to other community members (see the Resources section and Get Informed.)

6. **Be a Welcoming Community:**
 - Welcome and get to know foreign workers and other newcomers in your community. Ensure that they are familiar with employment and human rights standards in Canada.
 - **Use your buying power:**
 - Learn more about the products and services you are buying. Make sure that trafficked persons were not involved in the production of these goods and services.
 - Purchase items made by trafficking survivors such as from Jewel Girls (<http://fairgirls.org/>) or Made by Survivors (<http://madebysurvivors.com/>).

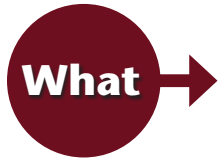
7. **Donate!**
 - Give both time and money to current initiatives and campaigns involved in combating the issue of human trafficking in your community.



What

What might help individuals in your community to take action? Check out the following resources.

- [Human Trafficking: Canada is Not Immune Online Training](#)
- **Google Alerts**
You can set up your Google Alerts to deliver news about human trafficking.
<http://www.google.ca/alerts>
- **Slavery Footprint**
Slavery Footprint allows people to conceptualize how much of what they consume comes from the work of people trafficked and exploited for labour.
<http://slaveryfootprint.org/>
- **Jewel Girls**
<http://fairgirls.org/>
- **Made by Survivors**
<http://madebysurvivors.com/>



- **Benjamin Perrin, Invisible Chains: Canada's Underground World of Human Trafficking 2010, Ontario Viking Canada**
Pages 234 – 240: An Action Plan for You
Pages 232 – 234: An Action Plan for Parents/internet safety for kids

Reflecting

1. What do I need to learn about the issue of human trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation? How does it affect me, my family and community members?
2. How can I educate myself on these issues?
3. Who can I partner with to combat these issues in my community?
4. What actions can I take on my own?
5. What actions can I encourage others to take?