

**Submission to the House of Commons
Standing Committee on Justice and
Human Rights:
Human Trafficking in Canada**

Submitted on: June 15, 2018

**Submitted by: The Not In My City Initiative
Founded by Paul Brandt**

1. Background: “Not In My City Initiative”

[Not In My City](#) is an initiative championed by Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame honouree and Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Award recipient Paul Brandt, in cooperation with Mount Royal University. Not In My City is geared toward raising awareness and collective action on Human Trafficking in Calgary, Alberta and moving across Canada with a focus on ending Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking.

Not In My City has been working over the past year to bring awareness and collective action to this issue. In July 2017, Not In My City hosted an event in Calgary bringing more than 400 individuals from Calgary, provincially and nationally to understand the devastating impact of this crime. They will hold another event on June 20, 2018. Substantial progress has been made in bringing key stakeholders together to engage, commit and collectively build an action plan to prevent and end sexual exploitation and sex trafficking.

Partners and supporters include a growing list of visionary businesses, organizations and First Nations groups, along with sectors including Police, Health, Children’s Services and not-for-profit agencies in and around Calgary.

In one short year, Not In My City has been able to go from talking about an issue to doing something about it. People are having meaningful conversations, organizations are sitting together at the table, and they are starting to address the issue of sexual exploitation and sex trafficking with a sense of urgency, collaboration and purpose.

This is not an easy topic for people to talk or think about. When people first hear about the issue of the sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of children in Canada, they don’t believe it actually happens. Disbelief changes to “we have to do something.” Once you know about the issue, there’s really only one side to stand on it, and every day this group has more allies standing with them to say, #NotInMyCity.

2. Progress to Date:

Following the strong and unified community response in the early months to the mission of *Not In My City*, a decision was made by Paul Brandt and his Advisory team to put in place a process to consult with community partners to ensure that “going forward”, strategies would be collaborative, intentional and impactful.

- **Mid-October to January 2018:**

Meetings occurred with many individuals who provided expertise and perspective on the issue of Human Trafficking from the National, Provincial and Regional levels. This included consultation with senior individuals from the Provincial Government in Alberta, City officials, First Nations, representatives from the sectors of Police, Justice, Children’s Services, Health, Education and not for profit community agencies who provide direct services to individuals impacted by sexual exploitation and trafficking. The intent of this process was to: understand what programs, services and legislation are effective; identify barriers and challenges; define what additional supports and resources are required within the community; and identify what needs to be done differently and more effectively at the community, organizational and government levels. **Key learnings** from this extensive process included:

- Definition of human trafficking is not clear. Confusing and open to interpretation.
- Difficult to systematically quantify actual incidence of human trafficking.
- Need to increase community awareness and engagement.
- Need to review the effectiveness of the Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act (PSECA).
- Need to provide an integrated response and continuity of care among agencies at regional and provincial levels.
- Engagement with Indigenous populations.
- Focus on early intervention strategies.
- Identify populations that need more training and create new training opportunities.
- Access to mental health and addiction services.
- Need for research and the establishment of leading practices.

Human Trafficking: An urgent issue. Our shared responsibility. Charting the way forward.



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MAJOR RISK FACTORS → Mental health issues; body image issues; learning disabilities; social isolation; child abuse experience; poverty; living in provincial care, group homes or foster care; history of running away (frequently correlated to histories of violence or neglect). New immigrants, LGBTQ youth and, most particularly, Aboriginal girls, are over-represented among victims.

KEY LEARNINGS

Gleaned Oct. 25-Dec. 19, 2017, in 25 meetings with individuals who provided expertise and perspective on the issue of human trafficking at the national, provincial and regional levels.

- Definition of human trafficking is not clear. Confusing and open to interpretation**
→ limited/no understanding of the issue hampers identifying where it fits within organizational mandates and the development of an effective, coordinated response
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- Need to review the effectiveness of the Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act (PSECA)**
→ standardizing knowledge, to ensure needs are addressed consistently and effectively, and to ensure relevance of the 14-year-old act
- Need to provide an integrated response and continuity of care among agencies at regional and provincial levels**
→ provision of an integrated, wrap-around approach, working in the best interest of the individual, to avoid gaps, minimize delays, capitalize on existing expertise and deliver the greatest impact
- Engagement with Indigenous populations**
→ Indigenous youth and adults are currently over-represented and under-served.
- Focus on early intervention strategies**
→ need to understand what makes certain populations at greater risk and develop/implement strategies accordingly
- Identify populations that need more training and create new training opportunities**
→ investing in frontline capacity to grow understanding of the issue, facilitating an informed and collaborative response
- Access to mental health and addiction services**
→ trauma-informed, timely and coordinated services needed
- Need for research and the establishment of leading practices**
→ integrate/translate science into policy and practice to deliver evidence-based practices with improved outcomes

GOING FORWARD
Emerging Priorities for Strategy Planning and Action

COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND ENGAGEMENT

- understanding of definition and scope of human trafficking
- consistent, intentional and strategic messaging
- innovative partnerships, networks and alliances
- cultural shift in the community

TRAINING

- apply science to policy and practice
- build capacity of frontline
- current, responsive and relevant
- continued advancement of specialized expertise

VICTIM SERVICES

- collaborative model of practice
- broad continuum of care with multiple points of access
- evidence-based, client-centred and trauma-informed
- equitable access to services in rural and Indigenous communities

LEADING PRACTICES

- advancing excellence in practice
- participation in and promotion of research
- inclusive/respectful partnerships
- engage/partner with Indigenous populations
- collective leadership
- leverage, align and facilitate capacity

Positively change lives by preventing and ending human trafficking

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (Palermo Protocol, 2000)

- The Act (What is Done): Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons.
- The Means (How it is Done): Threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payments of benefits to a person in control of the victim.
- The Purpose (Why it is Done): For the purpose of exploitation, which includes exploiting the prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

Criminal Code of Canada Section 279.01 — Trafficking in Persons

Every person who recruits, transports, receives, holds, conceals or harbours a person, or exercises control, direction or influence over the movements of a person, for the purpose of exploiting them or facilitating their exploitation is guilty of an indictable offence.

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Human trafficking is slavery. It's the recruitment, control and use of people for their bodies and for their labour.

*(Schematic attached for your information and easier readability)

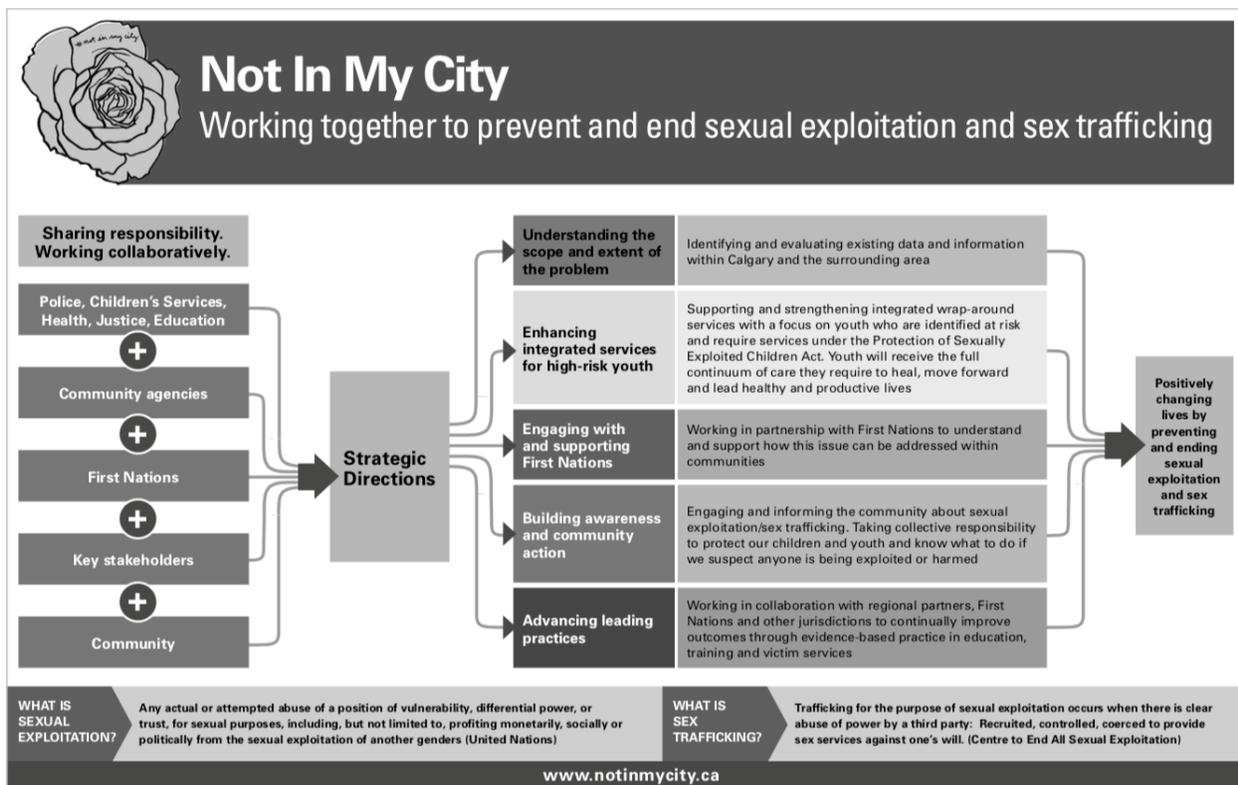
• Engagement with Sector Representatives and Key Stakeholders:

In mid-January 2018, *Not In My City* met with senior representatives from the Calgary Police Service, RCMP, Crown, Children's Services, Alberta Health Services, Education, First Nations, City of Calgary, and the Ministry of Community and Social Services to review and validate information obtained through the consultation process, discuss priorities and map out a collaborative strategy for moving forward. This was followed up by a Planning Session at the end of February 2018. The meetings represented the first time all systems had been in the same room to discuss this issue, the impact on vulnerable individuals and the responsibility to work together in developing a collective action plan across organizations in partnership with the community.

3. Identification and Mobilization of Five Strategic Directions:

From information obtained in the planning session and consultation process, a decision was made that the work of *Not In My City*, will target Sexual Exploitation/Sex Trafficking focusing on Prevention/Early Intervention strategies. Five Strategic Directions have been identified:

1. **Understanding the Scope and Extent of the Problem** - Identifying and evaluating existing data and information within Calgary and the surrounding area.
2. **Enhancing Integrated Services for High-Risk Youth** - Supporting and strengthening integrated wrap-around services with a focus on youth who are identified at risk and require services under the Protection of Sexually Exploited Children Act. Youth will receive the full continuum of care they require to heal, move forward and lead healthy and productive lives.
3. **Engaging with and Supporting First Nations** - Working in partnership with First Nations to understand and support how this issue can be addressed within communities.
4. **Building Awareness and Community Action** - Engaging and informing the community about sexual exploitation/sex trafficking. Taking collective responsibility to protect our children and youth and know what to do if we suspect anyone is being exploited or harmed.
5. **Advancing Leading Practices** - Working in collaboration with regional partners, First Nations and other jurisdictions to continually improve outcomes through evidence-based practice in education, training and victim services.



*(Schematic attached for your information and easier readability)

- **Moving Forward:**

Work is currently underway in developing an Operation Plan with strategies and outcomes for each of the Strategic Directions.

- A High Risk Youth working group has been formed with key stakeholders to understand what current services are currently in place, opportunities to leverage/streamline and areas requiring additional support and resources. By providing an integrated wrap a round approach for our high risk youth, our intent is to ensure they are able to move forward to lead healthy, productive lives versus continuing on a path of further harm.
- A Consultation gathering is being planned to meet with First Nations to start the conversation and process on what this issue means for First Nations within Treaty 7 and how we can collectively create a respective and supportive working partnership to effectively address this issue within their communities. Currently within Canada, there is gross over-representation of Indigenous people in human trafficking cases. Although they only make up 4% of Canada’s population, they make up over 50% of sex trafficking victims. They are over represented and under served with a direct link to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Girls and Women with Canada.
- *Not In My City* will host their second event in Calgary on June 20th to continue to bring awareness and community action to the issue of Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking.
- On June 20th, as well, a press conference will be held announcing the partnership between the Calgary Airport Authority and *Not In My City*.
- Work is currently underway to build out strategies for the five Strategic Directions.

It is the initiative’s strong belief that it will take a “whole community” involving passionate individuals, committed and innovative organizations, corporate champions and all levels of government working together to bring about transformational and sustainable change at the grassroots, practice, policy and legislative levels.

Recommendations to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights:

1. Need clarity on the definition of Human Trafficking. Currently there is great confusion and misunderstanding among the public and public sector serving organizations on the reality and impact of this crime. The lack of a consistent/clear definition is the number one priority across this country impeding progress on this issue. Without a clear understanding, there is no awareness of what this looks like in communities, how to prevent and most importantly how to consistently quantify the actual incidence of Human Trafficking. Without consistent data that comes from everyone working from the same base and understanding, we do not have a clear picture of the severity, urgency and devastation to individuals.

2. Issue needs to be addressed from a prevention/early intervention strategy. We have research that has informed us that the early experiences we have in our lives affect the architecture of the developing brain in ways that make people more resilient or more vulnerable to a host of poor outcomes including sexual exploitation/trafficking. By providing children and youth with positive experiences, support and early intervention strategies they can build strong foundations for resilience and healthy development. More focus and support need to be invested in the early years to support successful outcomes.
3. Services to victims of Human Trafficking need to be evidence-based, trauma-informed and client centred. Agencies need to work together in collaborative models of practice with the focus always to serve the best interests of the victim/client. Currently services, are fragmented and siloed with many agencies competing for dollars. While many front-line/grass roots agencies are working hard, they do not have the capacity to provide access to comprehensive/wrap a round services on their own. Change needs to happen across sectors to create a broad continuum of care with multiple points of access creating capacity, efficiencies and a comprehensive model of service delivery. This involves a collaborative strategy within communities involving government, community, the sectors of Police, Justice, Health, Education, Children's Services, not for profit agencies and inclusion of Immigrant and Indigenous communities all working together to effect positive change. Funding dollars need to support collaborative strategies and leadership not individual projects.
4. Access to mental health and addiction services that are trauma-informed, timely and coordinated. RCMP have identified that Human Trafficking victims are some of the most damaged victims they work with. Consistently, agencies on the front line report they are unable to access mental health and addiction services for their clients. This needs to be considered a priority to ensure victims are provided with the necessary supports and resources to heal and move forward.
5. Need for continued research and the establishment of leading practices in this country. While good work is being done by many groups across Canada, it is difficult to access/find what is considered leading practice in the areas of practice, training, education and research. This leads to fragmentation and a duplication of effort and resources in funding, developing and implementing services and programs. Consideration should be given to supporting Centres of Excellence across the country that focus on the continued development of leading practice and research.
6. It was proposed by the Young Liberals of Canada on April 21, 2018 that decriminalization of sex work be a priority for the Liberal Government in the 2019 Platform. They argue that the current regime put sex workers at risk and does not address underlying issues such as access to sexual health and the relationship with police. Not In My City is deeply concerned and opposed to this position based on the evidence from other countries where sex work has been decriminalized. Mr. Josi Mendes presenting to the Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights in July, 2014 stated that the situation for sex workers in Germany, decreased in quality, in assistance, in all ways after the legalization. Of the estimated 400,000 sex workers, only 44 were registered on the official Social Service Registry as covered by social insurance. Furthermore, given the high percentage of Indigenous girls and women who are disproportionately represented as human trafficking victims in Canada, there is a huge risk to our First Nations communities should the legalization of the sex trade

become a reality where Canada will conceivably become a destination of choice for organized crime and sex tourism. This is not in the best interest of Canadians, especially our First Nations communities. We ask that the Committee not support the proposal to decriminalize sex work in Canada.

Respectfully submitted by: Not In My City Initiative

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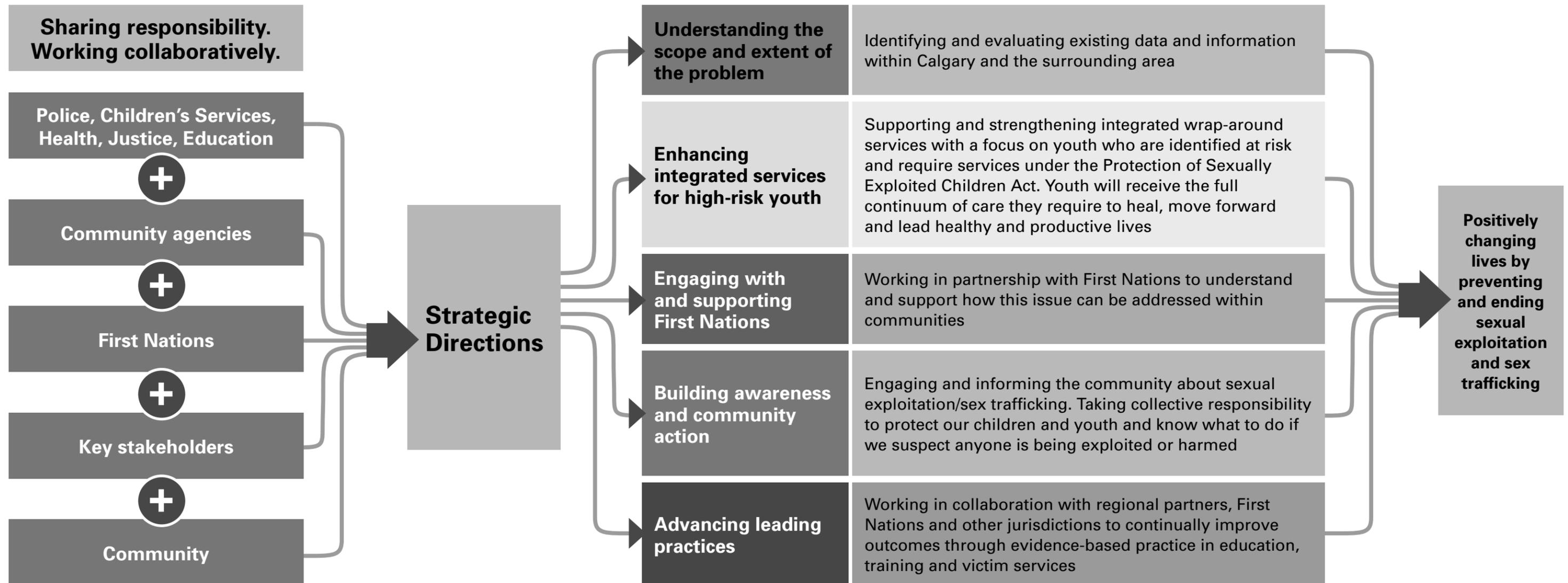
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Not In My City

Working together to prevent and end sexual exploitation and sex trafficking



WHAT IS SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another genders (United Nations)

WHAT IS SEX TRAFFICKING?

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation occurs when there is clear abuse of power by a third party: Recruited, controlled, coerced to provide sex services against one's will. (Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation)