

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF YOUTH

SAFER SELF

IN ABBOTSFORD



YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE

WHAT IS **SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**?

- Sexual exploitation is the *exchange of any sexual act* for:
 - love
 - acceptance
 - money
 - drugs
 - food
 - shelter
 - transportation



WHAT IS **SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

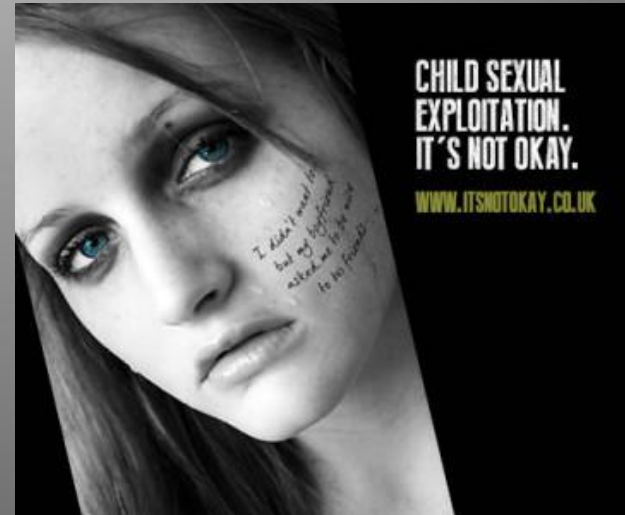
- Sexual exploitation of children and youth is not a female specific issue. Males and transgendered youth are also sexually exploited.





Types of Sexual Exploitation:

- Sex for shelter/food
- Sex for drugs/alcohol
- Indoor venue (massage parlors/businesses, Craigslist)
- Street trade
- Peer/boyfriend supported
- Family supported



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INTEGRITY

HONOUR

COURAGE

SERVICE



THE TRUTH ABOUT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

#1: It can happen to any youth

#2: It happens in all countries around the world

#3: It's not usually a one-time incident

#4: Traffickers and exploiters can be anyone

#5: Drug and alcohol addiction is not always a factor

#6: It's difficult to exit

#7: There are many ways a youth can be exploited

#8: It's NEVER the youths' fault

FACTS ABOUT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- 12-14 is the average age that children reported their first experience of being exploited through the sex trade
- Vancouver is a trafficking hub
- Online exploitation of youth = less visible on the street
- LGBTQ2S & Indigenous youth are more likely to be sexually exploited than their heterosexual peers
- Exploited due to a lack of opportunities, skills & gaps in key areas of development
- It's happening in our own communities!

WHO'S EXPLOITING YOUTH

- Both male and female
- Family members
- Peers
- May pose as boyfriend or friend
- People online
- Manipulative
- Controlling
- Often associated with other criminal activities
- They watch for youth who are vulnerable



For more information visit us at:

saferself.ca



Chatham-Kent
Community
& Services



WHO'S MOST VULNERABLE



- LGBTQ2S & Indigenous youth
- Immigrant youth or newcomers
- Have experienced abuse
- Mental health
- Drug & alcohol addiction
- Youth who lack culturally appropriate programming
- Isolated
- Low self-esteem
- Dropping out or being “kicked out” of school
- Left/leaving home at an early age

APPEASEMENT VS. CONSENT

APPEASEMENT

- Given one of two options: do what I say or face the consequences
- Focus is for the benefit of the person enforcing the choice
- Made under duress
- Consequences harshly enforced

CONSENT

- Given multiple viable options to choose from
- Focus is on the benefit and agency of the person making the choice
- Safe environment to think about it
- Consequences natural part of life and usually don't involve violence or death

WHERE YOUTH ARE BEING EXPLOITED

- Hotel Parties
- Basement Suite Parties
- Online
- School
- In our homes



ONLINE EXPLOITATION



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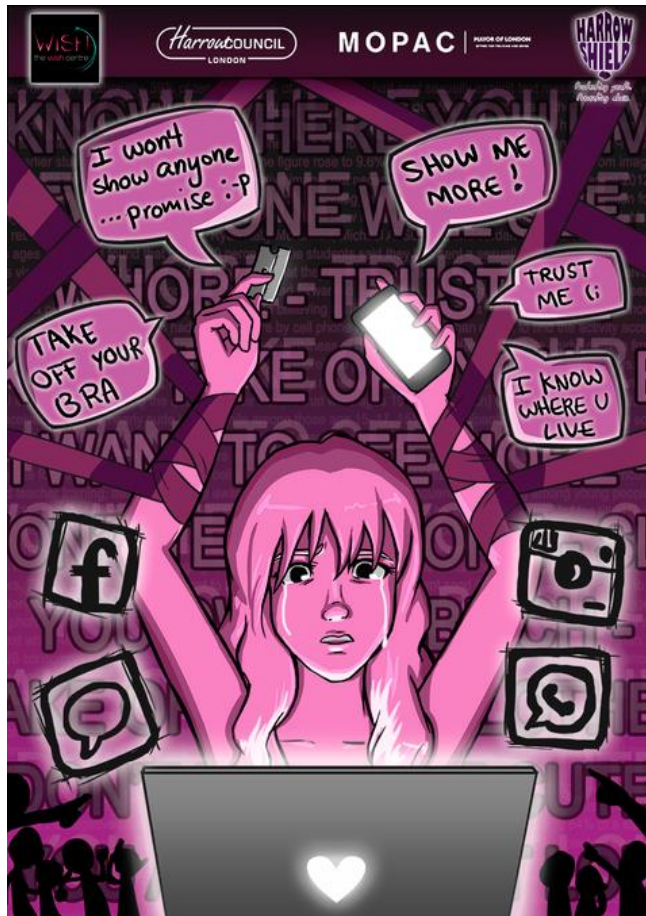
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ONLINE PERPETRATORS

- Target all genders
- Anonymous
- Master manipulators
- Wants to be your friend (at first)
- Uses tactics to groom you



SOCIAL MEDIA RED FLAGS



- Asking sexual or overly personal questions
- Sending or asking for sexual content
- Using pity/guilt to gain compliance
- Using information shared in confidence to try to embarrass or hurt you
- Offering money or gifts to do something you are uncomfortable with
- Not taking no for an answer
- Threats and blackmail

Sex **t**ortion

HOW EASILY IT CAN HAPPEN

I'm seeing a guy

Good then come over BC ur seeing me not him

No, I'm not going over

It's not over and you will come over tonight. Even if it means after your date. And if you f--k him and don't come over tonight then the videos you don't want out go out. I'm not playing any f--king games

Talk about immature ... Are you sure you're 25? I'm not your girlfriend

It's not immature, it's called f--king leverage. It's called blackmail. That makes me highly intelligent. Not immature. So I don't give a shit how much you want to f--king argue this fact, if you are not here by 930 by yourself then all the videos go out. There is no if's and or butts.

I'm seeing someone there for I'm not f--king you.

OK videos are going out then, and pics at your work

And I'm going to the cops

Call them. Nothing not even the government could stop when I want to do when I want to do it. That's the great thing about the internet as well as social media. Once it's on it's on it.

WARNING SIGNS

- **Attitudes**
 - Becomes withdrawn
 - secretive
 - mood swings
 - protective of new relationships
- **Behaviours**
 - Hanging out with new friends
 - wears expensive clothing or gets new nails
 - receives phone calls from blocked or private numbers
 - has online relationship with someone
 - older boyfriend/girlfriend
 - does not attend school
- **Physical Abuse**
 - Unexplained bruises, cuts, scars, scrapes, scratches

What APD is doing...



- Identifying the at risk youth
- Trying to ensure safety of these youths
- Making contact with their parents
- Providing education/awareness targeting high risk girls in Abbotsford high schools
- Connecting high risk youth with community resources and supports
- Attempting to gain victim cooperation in offences
- Liaising/working with community partners (youth probation, ACS SEY program, SD #34, Cyrus Centre, MCFD, Youth Crown and Probation etc.)
- Forwarding criminal charges when possible

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It's all about you...



- You make the rules
- Ummmm, but they bought the phone/ipod?
- A free app to download? Sure!
- YOU are the parent!
- Educate yourselves



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What You Can Do...



LISTEN

- What are they trying to tell you?
 - Did they go out and 'party?' What did that look like?
 - Did they go home that night?
 - Who were they with? Kids from their school?
 - What drugs did they use?
-
- Ask questions/obtain as much information as possible (names, license plates If possible)
 - Familiarize yourself with lingo
 - Familiarize yourself with popular Apps (Backpage, Snapchat, Twine, House Party etc.)
 - Link high risk youth to supportive school/community services or programs
 - Report concerns to School Admin and contact SLO
 - Refer them to school and/or community resources

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**“We’re not trying to
be our kid’s best
friend, we’re trying
to be their **best
parent.**”**

WEB & SUPPORT RESOURCES

Abbotsford SEY:

<http://www.saferself.ca>

Children of the Street Society:

<http://www.childrenofthestreet.com>

ACS Victim Services:

<https://www.abbotsfordcommunityservices.com/programs/victims-abuse-violence/sexual-abuse-intervention-program>

Parent Toolkit:

<https://www.childrenofthestreet.com/parent-toolkit>

Online Parent Resources:

<https://saferchoolstogether.com/parent-resources/>

Password: SSTPAL2018

CONTACTS FOR EXPLOITED YOUTH

- APD Contacts
 - Cst Mary Boonstra: (604) 864-4824
- SEY Contact
 - Sheila Lum: (604) 556-4619

