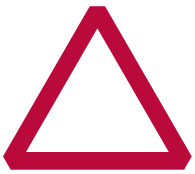
HOW TO HELP STOP
HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Tips for Short-Term Rental Owners

Human trafficking is a pervasive problem that often goes unnoticed. There is a growing trend that traffickers will use short-term rentals instead of hotels and motels due to the greater possibility of anonymity. Short-term rental owners can play a crucial role in combating this crime by learning about human trafficking, how to recognize trafficking signs and how to respond appropriately. This article outlines several ways that short-term rental owners can help prevent human trafficking and what to do if they suspect potential trafficking in their property.

PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The City of Winnipeg, in partnership with the Winnipeg Police Service and The Joy Smith Foundation, is committed to raising awareness about human trafficking. As a short-term rental owner, there is an obligation to report suspected cases of human trafficking or other suspicious activity in your rental properties.

WHERE TO REPORT

- **Immediate Danger, call 911**
- **Winnipeg Police Service non-emergency 204-986-6222**
- **Winnipeg Crime Stoppers 204-786-TIPS (204-786-8477)**

DETER HUMAN TRAFFICKERS FROM CHOOSING YOUR RENTAL

There are several steps that you can take to deter human traffickers from choosing your rental property in the first place.

- Screen your bookings carefully including guest reviews from other short-term rentals where they have stayed in the past.
- Don't accept last-minute bookings.
- Be cautious before accepting a booking from renters that are from the same area as your rental.
- Install cameras on the outside of your property to record those coming and going.
- Use devices that monitor sound levels inside and outside of your property.
- Do not allow guests to have unregistered guests on your property.
- Gather information about your renters including the names of all guests, photo identification and license plate numbers.
- State clearly in your listing that you are committed to preventing human trafficking and other illegal activities in your neighbourhood. State that you will report any suspicious activity and may even allow access to local authorities without notification.
- Join a neighbourhood watch and state it clearly in your listing.

HOW TO HELP STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN YOUR RENTAL

Traffickers want to fly under the radar, so they often use short-term rentals like yours to run their illegal activities. While it can be difficult to spot a human trafficker, there are several signs that you can look out for. These indications may seem harmless on their own, but in combination, they may be a sign of human trafficking:

- Frequent use of short-term rentals.
- Last minute bookings – this is a big red flag!
- Several bookings that are close to the same time in the same location.
- Several people entering and leaving your property.
- Individuals that appear to be under the control of another person – especially where there is an age difference.
- Individuals who dress inappropriately (especially for their age).
- A group of people are picked up from your property, taken somewhere else, then brought back at around the same time every day.
- People arriving and departing from your property with backpacks.
- The presence of a large amount of condoms, condom wrappers, bottles of lubricant and lotions in the garbage upon check out.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT A POTENTIAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING SITUATION IN YOUR PROPERTY

If you encounter a situation in your rental that could potentially be human trafficking, you are obligated to report it. Never put yourself in harm's way by approaching a guest if you are concerned. If you think something is suspicious, don't say or do anything that may put you or your family in danger. Simply call the police immediately and let them handle it.

As a short-term rental owner, you have a responsibility to help prevent human trafficking in your community. By partnering with the community and law enforcement, deterring human traffickers from choosing your rental, recognizing red flags, and responding appropriately, you can make a significant difference in the fight against human trafficking. Remember, your actions could save lives.

It is also a good idea to ask your neighbors to be your eyes and ears and to report anything suspicious to the police.

If you would like to learn more about human trafficking and how you can help to prevent this from happening in your community, visit **joysmithfoundation.com**

JOY SMITH FOUNDATION

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FACTS ABOUT

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

Right now, less than 1 km from where you are, someone is being trafficked!

Often described as modern-day slavery, human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, or harbouring of persons for the purpose of exploitation, typically in the sex trade or through forced labour.

It's a growing Canadian problem that goes largely unnoticed because victims are first lured by false trust and then have their ability to make decisions taken from them with threats, coercion and manipulation.

Unfortunately, it is a lucrative criminal enterprise. Traffickers actively recruit in Canadian urban and rural areas. Knowledge is our greatest protection. The more we know and understand about human trafficking, the more we can do to prevent it.

The Joy Smith Foundation and our National Human Trafficking Education Centre work to prevent human trafficking and build awareness by providing easily accessible education. We also offer Intervention Programming.

The most important first step you can take toward helping combat this issue is to KNOW THE FACTS!

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

According to the United Nations, human trafficking is "a crime that trades in people and exploits them for profit. People of all genders, ages and backgrounds can become victims of this crime, which occurs in every region of the world. Traffickers use violence, fraudulent employment agencies, and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick, coerce and deceive their victims.

Organized networks or individuals behind this lucrative crime take advantage of people who are vulnerable, desperate or simply seeking a better life."

In Canada, youth and adults are manipulated by acquaintances, 'friends' or sometimes a family member and forced into the sex trade or labour market, which only benefits the perpetrator.

13
is the average age of entry into sex trafficking

$280,000
is the annual revenue one victim of human trafficking generates for a trafficker

93%
of sex trafficking victims in Canada are Canadian-born

FACTS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN CANADA

WHO IS BEING TRAFFICKED?

Ninety-three percent of Canada's sex trafficking victims are Canadian-born. Youth and children are vulnerable if they aren't taught about this crime and are unaware of the malicious tactics used by predators. It's no accident. They are targeted and manipulated into this life by people they thought they could depend on. It's an act of ultimate betrayal. Our goal is to educate Canadians to recognize the signs and prevent this from happening.

WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

Individuals are lured because they are unaware of this possibility or the malicious intent and tactics used by predators. It's an act of betrayal that changes the lives of individuals and their families forever. Education and awareness can help.

HOW DOES IT HAPPEN?

Trafficked persons do not choose this life. They are lured into these circumstances with lies and manipulation. Perpetrators work to gain their victims' trust with promises and gifts, with the goal to have them under their complete control.

WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN?

This crime can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time. It occurs in large urban cities and smaller rural communities across the country. It is happening right now in EVERY community across Canada. It is far more prevalent than people realize.

We want to raise awareness to STOP IT!

When you see the signs and who is vulnerable, you are empowered to take the steps and strategies to prevent this crime from occurring.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Educate yourself about the issue.
- Learn who's at risk and the signs of human trafficking.
- Know what actions to take, if you suspect something.
- Have conversations with your friends and family to raise awareness and stop this crime from happening.
- Get involved by fundraising or volunteering.

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ZERO TOLERANCE FOR
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Our Property is a Safe Haven



This rental property is committed to preventing human trafficking and other illegal activities from happening in this neighbourhood.

This property may be equipped with cameras outside to record those coming and going. We will report any suspicious activity and may allow access to local authorities without notification.

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