



MUNICIPALITY *of the*
COUNTY *of* KINGS

Municipal Message

July 30, 2022

World Day Against Trafficking in Persons:

A message from the Municipality of the County of Kings

Content Warning: This Municipal Message discusses potentially triggering or upsetting content, such as human trafficking, sexualized violence, emotional and physical abuse.

Today is World Day Against Trafficking Persons, a day to bring awareness to the plight of human trafficking worldwide and to highlight victims' rights, health and wellbeing. The Government of Canada defines human trafficking as involving "the recruitment, transportation, harbouring and/or exercising control, direction or influence over the movements of a person in order to exploit that person, typically through sexual exploitation or forced labour."

This year, the United Nations (UN) selected the theme *the use and abuse of technology* to highlight the harmful and helpful ways technology is being used against and with the intent of human trafficking. This is particularly timely throughout the pandemic-related increased reliance on technology. Traffickers abuse technology in different ways, including recruiting, grooming, exploitation, etc., that are all made more accessible, and often more anonymous, online. Despite its capability for harm, technology also provides many new advances for fighting human trafficking, including advances in evidence collecting, education, and new unique ways of supporting victims.

Though the expanding uses of technology have influenced human trafficking to be more internationally accessible, it is still important to remember it occurs everywhere: in our own country, province and region. According to a Statistics Canada report in 2019, Nova Scotia had the highest rate of police-reported human trafficking incidents in Canada that year and the highest rate reported by the province since 2009. Although the rates of human trafficking in cities, particularly Halifax, are often higher, human trafficking can be found in all communities and no one person, community or family is immune. That's why it is so important to know the signs and educate ourselves on all the ways human trafficking can look. The RCMP lists these as possible warning signs a victim of human trafficking might display:

- Appears to be controlled by someone else (for example, being escorted or watched)
- Shows visible signs of branding or scarring (indicating ownership by the trafficker)
- Shows signs of malnourishment
- Doesn't speak on their own behalf
- Doesn't have a passport or other ID
- Isn't familiar with the neighborhood they live or work in
- Is frequently moving or being moved
- Has injuries or bruises from physical abuse

- Expresses fear/intimidation through facial expressions and/or body language

To learn more about this year's theme and more about World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, visit <https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-human-trafficking-day>

To learn more about how to recognize a possible victim of human trafficking visit <https://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/human-trafficking/recognizing-human-trafficking-victims#warning>

If you are/have been trafficked or believe someone you know is being trafficked, you can call or text the 24/7 support line to speak with a member of the Nova Scotia Human Trafficking Team at 902-449-2425 or 1.833.900.1010 to contact the Canadian Human Trafficking Team which is also monitored 24/7.

For general information about human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation, the services and supports available in Nova Scotia, upcoming events, resources and other news, visit <https://www.tessns.ca/> .

For shelter and outreach services for women and children local to Kings County, please visit <https://www.chrysalishouseassociation.org/>