

Policy Name:	HUMAN TRAFFICKING		
Policy #:	OP 4.38.1	Last Updated:	2022-06-08
Issued By:	INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
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RELATED POLICIES

OP 4.15 *Cyber and Technology Crimes*

OP 4.34.10 *Sexual Offences*

OP 4.52.1 *Vulnerable Persons – Trauma Informed Practices*

OP 4.52.3 *Vulnerable Persons – Sex Workers*

OP 4.52.4 *Vulnerable Persons – Victims of Crime*

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. To ensure Surrey Police Service (SPS) identifies, prevents, deters, and investigates Human Trafficking incidents.
- 1.2. To provide police-based and community-based victim services referrals to victims of Human Trafficking.
- 1.3. To provide a trauma-informed and comprehensive response to investigations related to Human Trafficking for the purpose of exploiting persons and those facilitating their exploitation for a sexual and/or a forced labour purpose.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This policy applies to all Members.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. Human Trafficking, also referred to as Trafficking in Persons, involves 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. Human Trafficking is a serious crime that exploits the most vulnerable. Those who are likely to be at-risk include:

- i. Indigenous women and girls; migrants and new immigrants; persons identifying as LGBTQIA2S+; persons living with disabilities; children in the child welfare system; at-risk youth; those who are socially or economically disadvantaged; and
- ii. migrant workers who may be particularly vulnerable to forced labour exploitation and abuse due to many factors, such as language barriers, working in isolated/remote areas, lack of access to services and support, and lack of access to accurate information about their rights.

3.2. Complaints must be considered a priority, reviewed for safety concerns, and assigned to an appropriate investigative priority.

3.3. When investigating incidents of Human Trafficking, Members will develop victim protection and support mechanisms (see OP 4.52.4 *Vulnerable Persons – Victims of Crime*).

3.4. Members will ensure that the victims are advised of, and introduced to, available services (see OP 6.1.1 *Victim Services*).

3.5. Laws pertaining to Human Trafficking including, but are not limited to, these *Criminal Code* offences:

- i. Trafficking in Persons (section 279.01);
- ii. Trafficking of a Person Under the Age of Eighteen Years (section 279.011);
- iii. Receiving a Financial or Other Material Benefit for the Purposes of Committing or Facilitating Trafficking in Persons – Adult Victim (subsection 279.02(1));
- iv. Receiving a Financial or Other Material Benefit for the Purposes of Committing or Facilitating Trafficking in Persons – Child Victim (subsection 279.02(2));
- v. Withholding or Destroying a Person’s Identity Documents (for example, a passport) for the Purposes of Committing or Facilitating Trafficking of that Person – Adult Victim (subsection 279.03(1)); and,
- vi. Withholding or Destroying a Person’s Identity Documents (for example, a passport) for the Purposes of Committing or Facilitating Trafficking of that Person – Child Victim (subsection 279.03(2)).

3.6. Human Trafficking is about exploitation and does not necessarily involve the physical transportation of a person.

3.7. When investigation Human Trafficking offences, Members must also determine whether there is evidence to support sexual assault charges under the *Criminal Code* (see OP 4.34.10 *Sexual Offences*).

- 3.8. Children and youth are at a higher risk of exploitation by human traffickers, therefore consult the Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) as necessary.
- 3.9. Members will follow policy OP 4.30.1 *Statements – Children* when interviewing children.
- 3.10. In many cases, the material associated with Human Trafficking offences is created or stored on computer systems and associated storage media. To properly collect and preserve this evidence, Members must contact the Special Victims Unit (SVU) prior to handling any computer equipment believed to be involved in a Human Trafficking offence. SVU will determine if the Digital Forensics Unit (DFU) will be contacted to assist in the collection of any evidence.
- 3.11. Unless attached to SVU or trained in digital forensics, Members must not attempt to gain access (search), in any manner, the contents of a suspect's computer or any other seized digital media, such as external memory devices, cellular telephones, and cameras.
- 3.12. Do not send child pornography material/evidence via interdepartmental mail or email or view on SPS computers. See OP 4.15 *Cyber and Technology Crimes* for processing suspected child pornography.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. The Member assigned to a Human Trafficking investigation will be responsible for conducting the initial investigation, notifying a Supervisor, notifying the SVU Supervisor and securing/preserving all physical evidence.
- 4.2. The Frontline Supervisor will be responsible for the quality and thoroughness of the Frontline response by attending the scene if necessary, providing guidance and assistance in the preliminary investigation and ensuring that all necessary action has been taken.
- 4.3. SVU will be responsible for co-ordinating all SPS investigations related to Human Trafficking for the purpose of exploiting persons or facilitating their exploitation for a sexual and/or a forced labour purpose and liaising with other law enforcement agencies.
- 4.4. SVU or another appropriate unit from the Investigative Services Bureau may assume control of the investigation, dependent on the circumstances and complexity of the investigation.
- 4.5. SVU will be responsible for:
- i. investigations of persons where Human Trafficking for a sexual purpose and/or forced labour purpose is alleged or suspected;
 - ii. the apprehension and taking to a place of safety persons under the age of sixteen (16) years, where Human Trafficking for a sexual and/or a forced labour purpose is alleged or suspected;
 - iii. assisting with providing victim support services and management when required; and

iv. arrest and prosecution of offenders involved in Human Trafficking for a sexual and/or a forced labour purpose.

4.6. SVU will share intelligence and collaborate with the RCMP's provincial Counter Exploitation Unit during Human Trafficking investigations.

4.7. SVU will work with Victim Services and community-based organizations to ensure ongoing support is provided for victims of Human Trafficking.

APPENDIX A: HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCES

- VictimLinkBC is a toll-free, confidential, multilingual service available across B.C. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be accessed by calling or texting 800-563-0808 or sending an email to VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca. VictimLinkBC provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence, including victims of Human Trafficking exploited for labour or sexual services.
- Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking is a 24/7 multilingual hotline: 833-993-7867, info@CCTEHT.ca, www.canadiancentretoendhumantrafficking.ca.
- Illuminate (formerly Deborah's Gate Salvation Army) assists with victim management and exit strategies: 24/7 phonenumber 604-347-9500, toll-free 855-332-4283, connect@illuminateht.com, www.illuminateht.com.
- RCMP Provincial Counter Exploitation Unit in B.C.: Cpl. Marlies Dick **S. 15**
[REDACTED]
- Sophie's Place is a child and youth advocacy centre dedicated to supporting victims of physical and/or sexual abuse: 604-588-0727, spinfo@the-centre.org.

APPENDIX B: DEFINITIONS

“Human Trafficking” means 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. Human trafficking is a heinous crime that exploits the most vulnerable. The victims, who are mostly women and children, are deprived of their normal lives and compelled to provide labour or sexual services, through a variety of coercive practices, often for the direct profit of their perpetrators.

“LGBTQIA2S+” means individuals identifying as either lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex, asexual, and two-spirit.

“Member” means a Sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

“Trafficking in Persons” see “Human Trafficking”.

APPENDIX C: REFERENCES

Criminal Code, R.S.C. 1985 c. C-46

Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, S.C. 2001, c. 27

Public Safety Canada – Human Trafficking (www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/cntrng-crm/hmn-trffckng/index-en.aspx)