



**“REACH EVERY VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING, LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND.”
July 30, 2023**

This is the theme of this year’s campaign for World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, observed on July 30. The goal of the campaign is “to raise awareness of disturbing developments and trends identified by [UNODC](#) and calls on governments, law enforcement, public services, and civil society to assess and enhance their efforts to strengthen prevention, identify and support victims, and end impunity.”

Why in today’s society does human trafficking continue to increase? Upon viewing the recent film, *Sound of Freedom*, many were shocked that child trafficking is so rampant globally. The content of the film raises many unanswered questions, it is controversial, but has people interested in discussing this issue.

Who has the power in our world today? Economic gains appear to be the central goal of trafficking humans for labour, sex or organ buying, not the dignity of a human being. The imbalance of power, pleasure, and privilege reigns supreme, the gap between rich and poor is expanding and increasing numbers of the poor, and innocent children, youth, and adults who are marginalized and the most vulnerable are being targeted by predators. Reducing any person to a commodity or object to be used, abused, and discarded for one’s own selfish pleasure and profit is unacceptable in any culture. Yet trafficking is gaining momentum and needs to be stopped. Globally there is little discussion about ending demand which is its driving force. There is no equality for all with this imbalance of power and control.

As we observe throughout the world a day against trafficking in persons, let us in Canada recommit ourselves to endorsing our equality law, PCEPA (Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act) which grants prostituted persons immunity while holding those who cause the harm accountable. Child trafficking in Canada is different than in the movie, *Sound of Freedom*. Here it is sexual exploitation which mirrors adult prostitution, with organized crime and gangs targeting children and youth because they are more profitable and easier to manipulate and control. This problem will not be solved until those who are buying and destroying lives are held accountable and punished for their actions.

“To end human trafficking, we cannot allow this crime to be met with increasing indifference and impunity.”

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