



# THE **IMPACT** OF TECHNOLOGY IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING



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# KnowledgeFlow Cybersafety Foundation



**For Kids:** Cybersituational Awareness

**For Parents:** Family Cybersafety Tips

**For Teachers:** Educational Programs

**For Seniors:** Online Safety Training



A close-up, grayscale photograph of a fingerprint on a document. The fingerprint is the central focus, showing clear ridge patterns. In the background, a ruler is visible, with the word 'INCHES' partially legible. The lighting is soft, creating a professional and serious atmosphere.

# TODAY'S OUTLINE

- Digital Human Trafficking
- Prevention and Awareness
- Support and Services



# TECHNOLOGY'S PART IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING



# Human Trafficking: How Technology is Abused



In 2020, **the Internet** was reported to be the #1 place for human trafficking recruitment.

Social media is used by traffickers to gain insight into potential victims' lives.

Traffickers take information from social media to exploit vulnerabilities, manipulate, and groom victims.

-Administration for Children and Families, 2022

# Human Trafficking: How Technology is Abused



Traffickers will use online job boards to target people with financial struggles.

They will often recruit through false advertisements.

-Administration for Children and Families, 2022

# Human Trafficking: How Technology is Abused



Traffickers use adult websites to advertise materials.

They often use cloud applications like Dropbox and Google Drive to distribute and store exploitative content.

-Administration for Children and Families, 2022



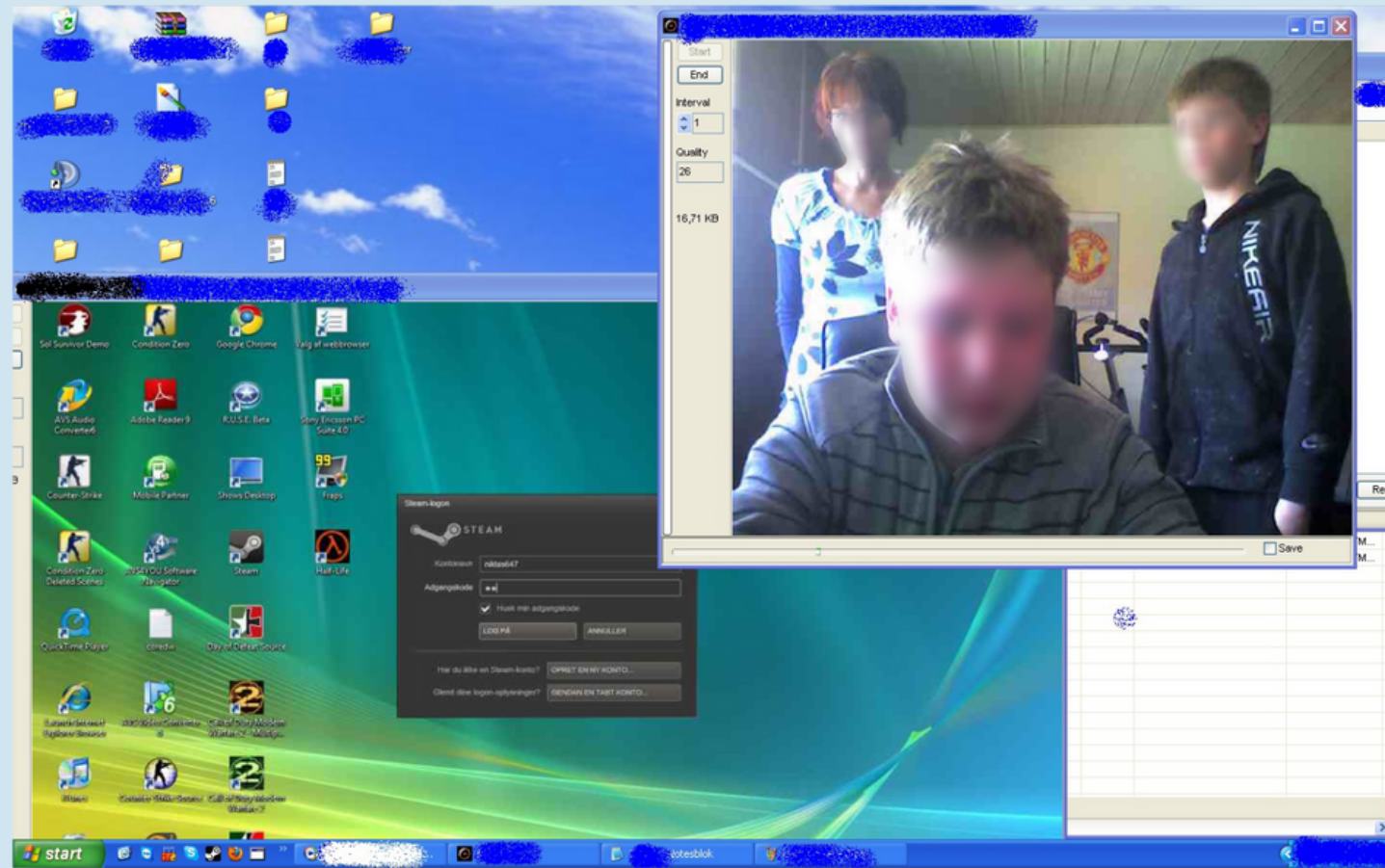
# Human Trafficking: How Technology is Abused



Location-tracking applications and stalkerware are often used to find victim's location.

-United Nations, 2021


# Human Trafficking: How Technology is Abused



Cameras and webcams can allow traffickers to see their victims and surroundings.

-United Nations, 2021

# How Technology Perpetuates Human Trafficking




The internet allows access to larger groups of individuals, not restrained by physical location.



Traffickers can take payments anonymously through cryptocurrencies. Easier to receive and hide with less risk of detection.



Crimes across borders or continents makes finding and accessing evidence more difficult for police. Requires cooperation between different law enforcement agencies.



Cellphone service contract is not necessary if there is access to Wi-Fi. This makes it more difficult for law enforcement to track users, calls, and identity.



Traffickers maintain control by threatening to release intimate photos + videos to friends/family if victims do not comply.



# INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING



# Technologies Used By Law Enforcement

Investigators track cryptocurrency transactions through blockchain analysis tools to monitor transactions and identify those involved in human trafficking.



Data from cell phones and mobile networks help with information and evidence in identifying, tracking, and prosecuting traffickers.

Data analysis tools to monitor online activity, social media platforms, online marketplaces, or classified advertisement websites.



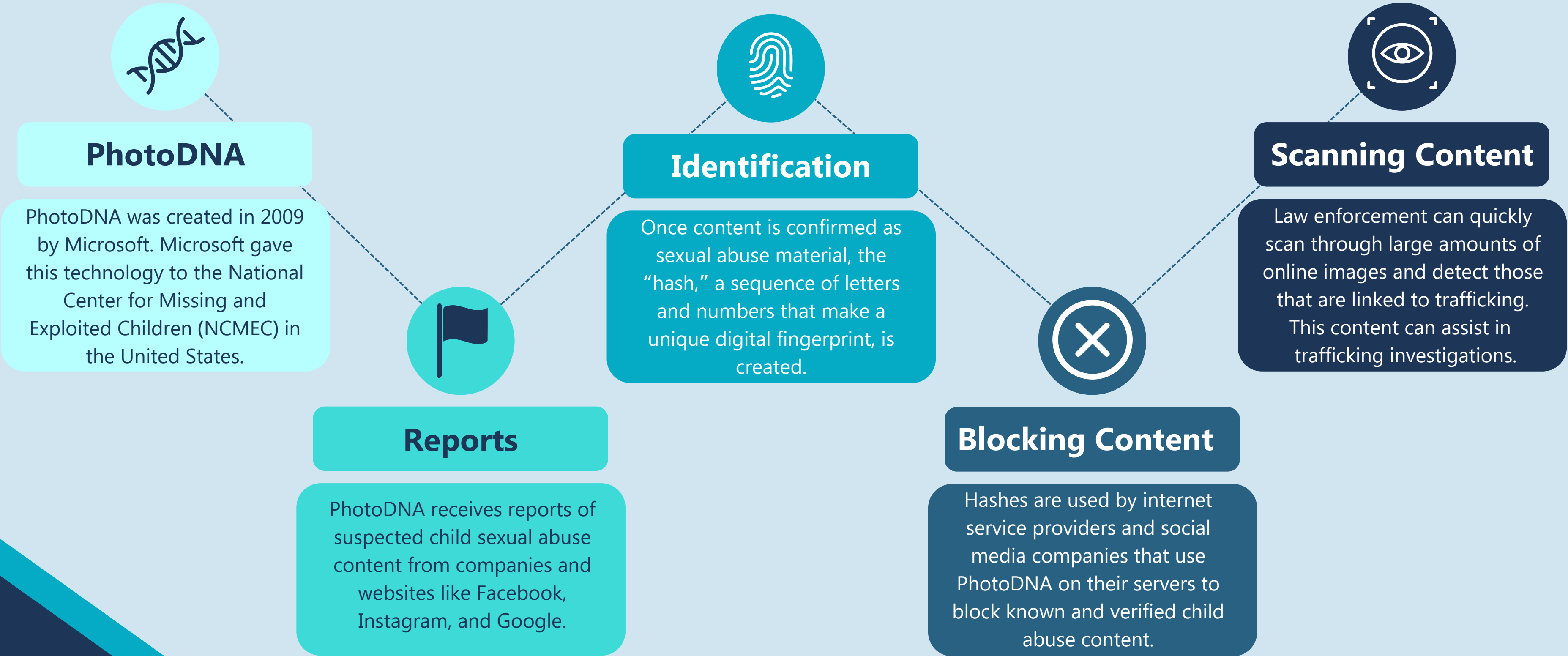
Facial recognition technology is used to identify victims and suspects, matching images from different sources



PhotoDNA and similar databases contribute to improving forensic investigations of trafficking.



# PhotoDNA: How It Works



# Language Analysis

## DataJam

A web scraper tool to compare information contained in escort listings and advertisements to find multiple postings with identical or similar text in different parts of Canada.

Created in 2021, top prize in a technological innovation competition

Suggests that advertisements are not posted by 1 individual sex worker but possibly a trafficker who is part of an organized criminal network.

# Language Analysis

## Machine Learning Algorithms

Each trafficking organization can have multiple templates that they use when they post advertisements, and each template is relatively unique to the organization.

Algorithm analytics identify semantic similarities in various ad descriptions.

Algorithm analytics can help law enforcement agencies to monitor different platforms and identify coded language, unusual posting patterns, or suspicious contact lists.



# Analyzing Digital Evidence

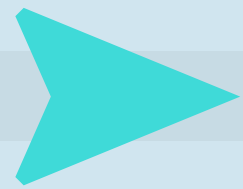
A single human trafficking investigation can have thousands of pieces of digital evidence.

This can include financial transactions, business records, cell phone data, social media profiles, emails, images, audio and video recordings, and more.

Investigators can use data processing to effectively sort through large quantities of data.

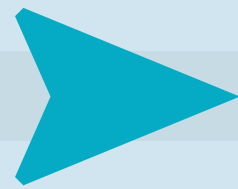
# Analyzing Digital Evidence

## Sorting



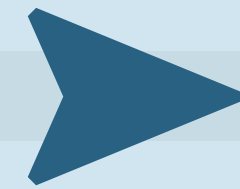
- Data processors sort digital evidence into 3 main groups
- Text, images, and audio recordings

## Enrich



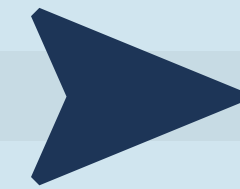
- Each piece of data is passed through a software that organizes and enhances its structure

## Recognition



- Scanners can recognize faces, text, and objects within a set of evidence even if data is heavily edited

## Tracing



- Software can trace an image appearing as a sex advertisement to the device that took it

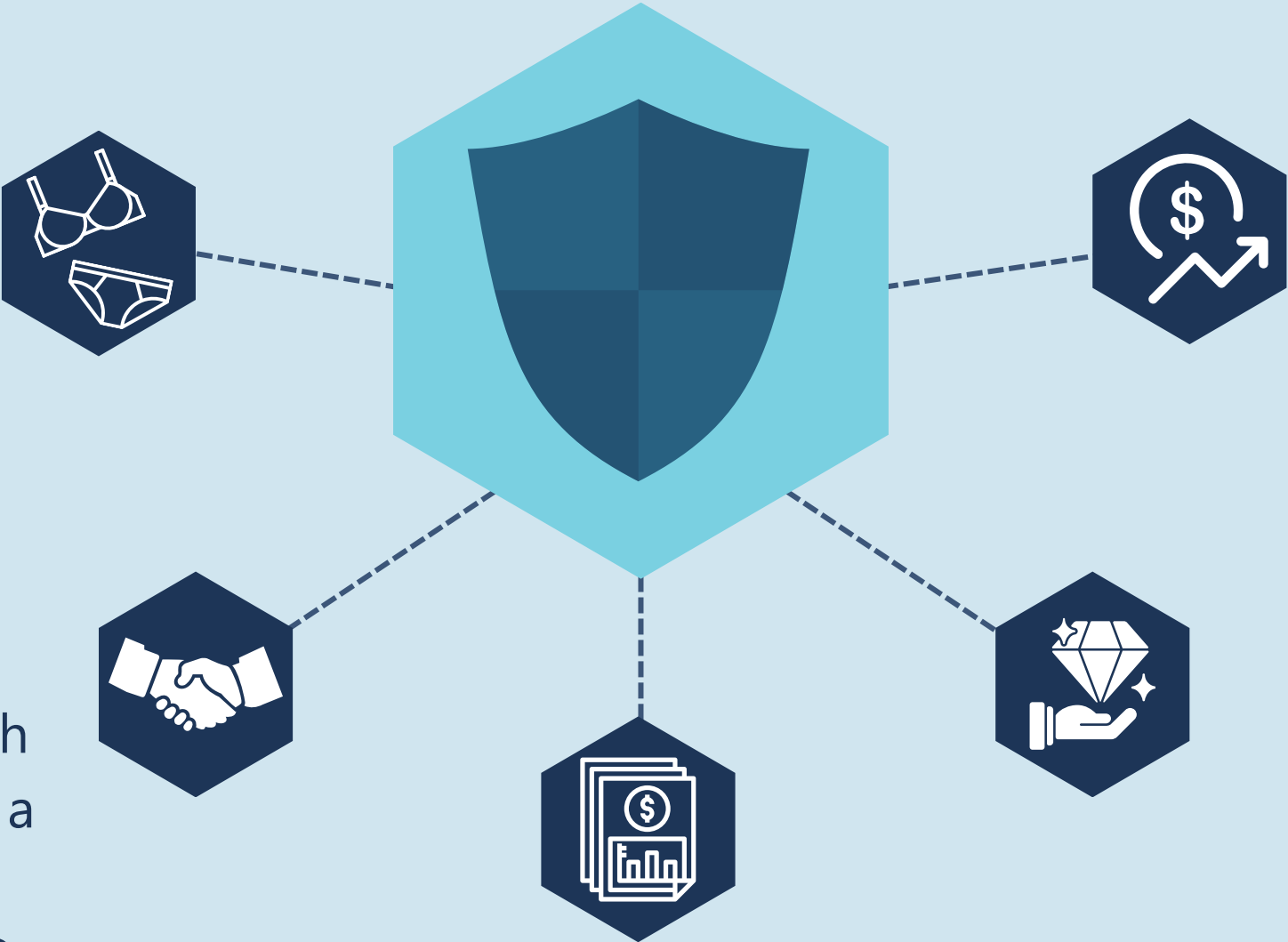
# Financial Investigations: Project PROTECT

## Project PROTECT

A public-private partnership in Canada that aims to combat human trafficking for sexual exploitation by focusing on the money laundering aspect of the crime.

## Anti-Trafficking Partnership

The initiative was developed through collaboration between Timea Nagy, a human trafficking survivor and advocate, a Director Advisor at BMO, FINTRAC, and other organizations.



## Financial Indicators

Banks and businesses now use a list of indicators to identify financial transactions related to human trafficking in the sex trade, reporting these transactions to the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC).

## Increased Reporting

In 2016, nearly 2000 suspicious transaction reports related to Project PROTECT were submitted to FINTRAC, a 350% increase over the previous year.

## Investigative Value

Suspicious transaction reports to FINTRAC have no monetary threshold and include a narrative component, making them valuable for financial intelligence disclosures.



# PREVENTION AND AWARENESS





## STOP CHILD ABUSE TRACE an OBJECT

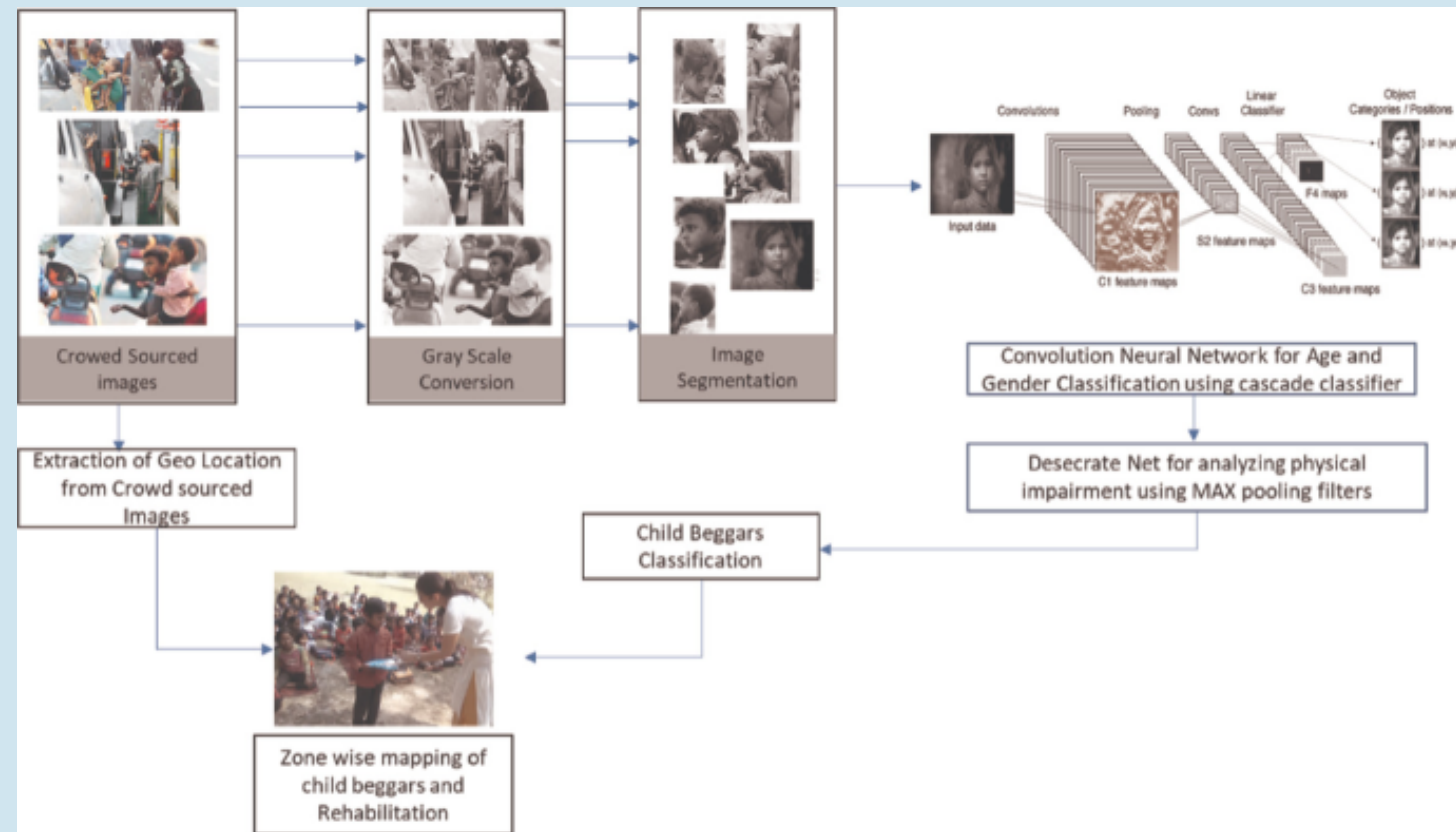


### Crowdsourcing Identification

Stop Child Abuse – Trace an Object is an online campaign by Europol that shows objects which appear in the background of child sexual abuse material footage. Europol asks people to visit this website and to look at the objects.



# Digital Activism in Anti-Trafficking Efforts



## Crowdsourcing



Anti-trafficking groups are increasingly using crowdsourcing techniques to assist in their work.

Volunteers often map out known trafficking areas and contact potential victims.

# Digital Activism in Anti-Trafficking Efforts

## Social Media

Anti-trafficking organizations often create Facebook or other social media pages to expand their audience. Through social media, organizations can share projects, developments, post relevant new stories, connect with similar organizations, and highlight opportunities for involvement.

Twitter is often used for raising awareness of human trafficking, creating support and movement around legislation, and promoting work and volunteer opportunities.



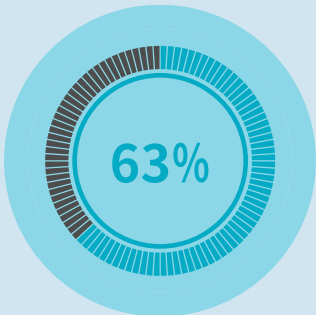
# Thorn - Organization

The first engineering and data science team focused solely on developing new technologies to combat online child sexual abuse.



Thorn's Spotlight tool has been used to identify over 17,000 children.

Uses technology to identify victims of human trafficking.



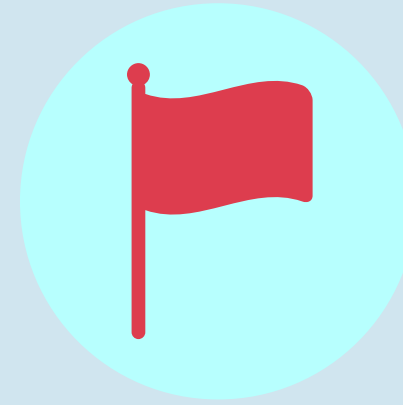
This reduces investigation time by 63%.

Helps law enforcement to find and assist in victim recovery.



Allows platforms to identify, remove, and report child sexual abuse material.





## The STOP APP

The first global app available in multiple languages to report any suspicion or incident of human trafficking and modern slavery. Developed by STOP THE TRAFFIK, a global organization working to prevent human trafficking and exploitation.



## TraffickCam

An app you can use to take a photo of the next hotel room you stay in. This app will submit it to a database available to law enforcement to help identify locations in photos or videos of trafficking victims.



## Truckers Against Trafficking

A mobile network of transportation professionals that assists law enforcement in the recognition and reporting of human trafficking, in order to aid in the recovery of victims and the arrest of their perpetrators.




# Ethical Constraints and Global Concerns

 Macleans.ca  
<https://macleans.ca> > opinion > will-canada-weaken-en... ⋮


## Will Canada weaken encryption with backdoors?

Oct 18, 2019 — In 1998, Canada adopted its official “**cryptography policy**,” which rejected the backdoor approaches being pushed at that time. Since then the ...

 Public Safety Canada / Sécurité publique Canada  
<https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca> > pblctns > index-en ⋮

## International Statement: End-To-End Encryption And Public ...

Dec 23, 2022 — We urge industry to address our serious concerns where encryption is applied in a way that wholly precludes **any legal access to content**.

 Toronto Star  
<https://www.thestar.com> > Opinion > Contributors ⋮

## Government's encryption proposal will undermine public ...

Aug 28, 2019 — Minister of Public Safety Ralph Goodale is demanding that private companies build **backdoors** into their computer.

 Cybersecure Policy Exchange  
<https://www.cybersecurepolicy.ca> > why-canada-must-... ⋮

## Why Canada Must Defend Encryption

Sep 13, 2021 — Although, on the one hand, **encryption ensures the confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity of data**; on the other hand, it raises concerns ...



Commissariat à la protection de la vie privée

<https://www.priv.gc.ca> > news-and-announcements ⋮

## Announcement: Clearview AI ordered to comply ...

Dec 14, 2021 — While **Clearview** stopped offering its services in **Canada** during the investigation, it had refused to cease the collection and use of **Canadians'** ...

<https://www.priv.gc.ca> > opc-news > nr-c\_210610 ⋮

## News release: RCMP's use of Clearview AI's facial ...

Jun 10, 2021 — **Clearview AI** was found to have violated **Canada's** federal private sector privacy law by creating a databank of more than three billion images ...

# Parent With Purpose - Prevention is Easier Than Rescue

## ABOUT



- Founded 2014 by Lynda Harlos, mother of sex trafficking victim
- Dedicated to educating parents and families about domestic sex trafficking

## PREVENTION



- Giving parents the resources they need to build trafficking-proof relationships with their children
- Free sex trafficking prevention workshops, courses, and other tools

## PARENTING



- Parenting talk show: discussing everyday parenting issues
- Engaging games and tools for parents and caregivers around safety and consent

# Social Media Safety Tips For Youth



## Privacy

Keep your profile private to limit strangers' access to your content. Avoid adding/sharing personal information like your birthday, phone number, address, or school name on your account.

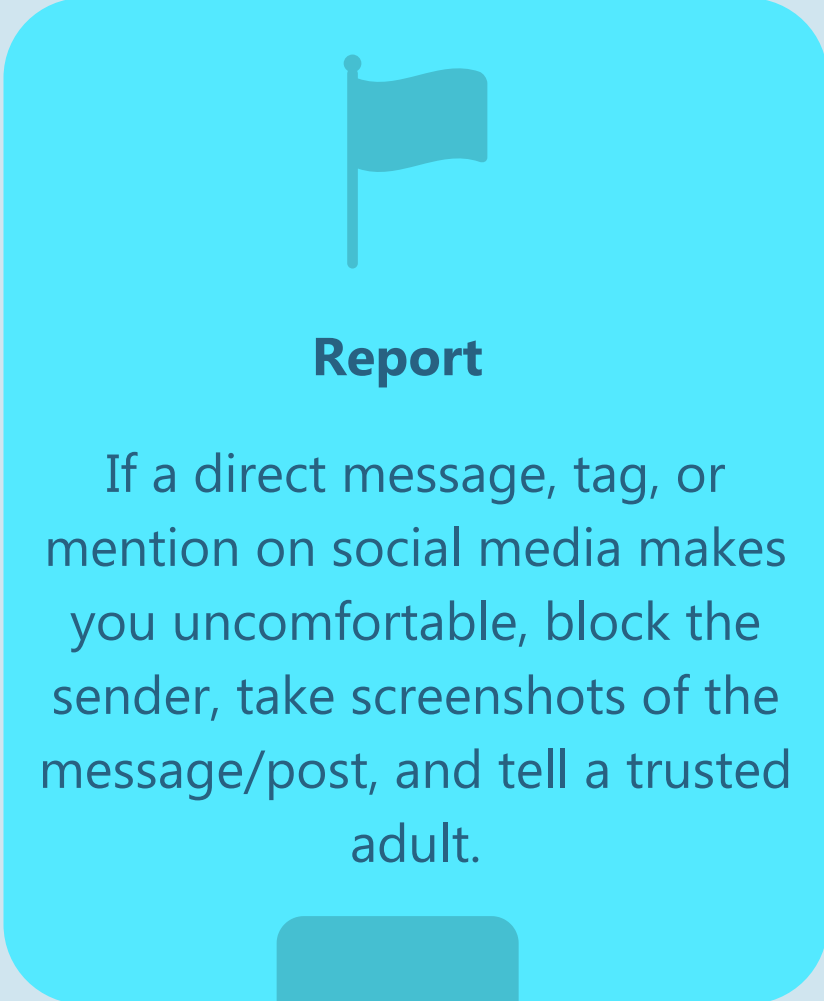
01

02



## Friend Safety

Be cautious when adding friends/followers on social media. Avoid accepting requests from strangers and don't engage in conversations with those who ask personal questions.



## Report

If a direct message, tag, or mention on social media makes you uncomfortable, block the sender, take screenshots of the message/post, and tell a trusted adult.

03

04



## Content Awareness

Be mindful of what you share on social media. Traffickers or other perpetrators can use the information to create a bond of shared interests. Consider who has access to your content.

# Social Media Safety Tips For Parents



## Prevention

Teaching your child about the dangers of online luring is crucial in preventing sex trafficking and exploitation. It's important to educate them on what it looks like and keep communication open for ongoing discussions.

01

02



## Privacy

Parents should be cautious of their own social media use as traffickers may gather information about their children from public accounts. Avoid sharing personal details like school names and addresses.



## Vigilance

Be observant of your child's behavior and emotions, especially increased online activity, receiving gifts, or dressing differently. Non-accusatory questions can facilitate conversations, despite potential isolation by traffickers.

03

04



## Oversight

For younger children, parents should monitor social media activity through password access or parental controls. It is recommended to screen their followers/friends when possible.

# Sextortion

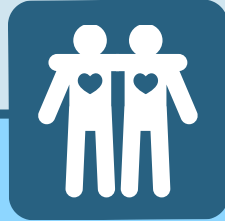
## A note to parents:



It is essential to have open communication with your children about sextortion, a form of online exploitation that can lead to human trafficking.



How you handle such situations can determine whether your child feels comfortable seeking your support or turns to other risky relationships for help.



Talk to your kids about the risks of sextortion and assure them that you're always there to offer help and support, no matter the circumstances.



77% of sextortion cases happen on Instagram and Snapchat.  
(Cybertip.ca)



For a more in-depth resource, visit our [Guide To Supporting A Victim Of Sextortion](#).

[Thorn.org](#) has many free discussion guides available for parents to learn and practice how to approach conversations related to online safety.



# How You Can Protect Your Children



Talk about online safety, privacy, establishing boundaries, healthy relationships and consent



Let them know you are available to talk any time



Discuss not giving in to pressure and breaking off communication if they feel threatened or uncomfortable



Understand they may be hesitant to share with you



Tell them it's always okay to come to you or another safe adult, even if they think they've made a mistake



Use real life examples they can relate to that aren't about them



Tell them about resources like [Cybertip.ca](https://www.cybertip.ca) and [NeedHelpNow.ca](https://www.needhelpnow.ca) for more support

# Human Trafficking: Indicators to Look Out For

## Visual and Behavioural Indicators



Frequent school absences, bathroom breaks, and returning from lunch hungry



Decline in grades and social participation



Tattoos with gang symbols/colors, partner's name, or branding



Secretive/protective about their device(s)



Change in friends, labelled as promiscuous, and shamed by peers



Protective of siblings or loved ones



Change in clothing style, expensive clothes, different hairstyles, manicures



Carries multiple phones with blocked numbers and taxi contacts



Avoids eye contact



Appears fearful, anxious, depressed, submissive, tense, paranoid, extreme mood swings



Use of drugs or alcohol



Unusual fear or anxiety towards law enforcement or other authority figures



Lack of healthcare, malnourishment



Physical abuse signs like bruises or cigarette burns

# Human Trafficking: Indicators to Look Out For

## Verbal Indicators



Refers to an older boyfriend as "Daddy" or themselves as "mama" or "baby"



Friends referred to as "wives, sisters," part of a "stable"



Refers to making a quota or "bill"



Talks about being in "The Game," "The Life," or "telly time"



Mentions certain websites



Discusses income or how much money they make



Change in language or use of lingo/terms by those in "The Game"



Talks about hanging out in hotels and Airbnb's



Plans future with intimate partner



Discusses quitting school, getting married, and buying a home



Inconsistent stories



Unable to provide address or location information



Loss of sense of time



# SUPPORT AND SERVICES



# Support and Services



1-833-900-1010  
Canada's National  
Human Trafficking  
Hotline - 24/7



[NeedHelpNow.ca](https://www.needhelpnow.ca)

NeedHelpNow.ca helps teens stop the spread of sexual pictures or videos and provides support along the way.



[Bethesda House](#)  
Secure shelter, programming, advocacy, and prevention.  
24-Hour Support Line:  
905-623-6050



[Durham Youth Services](#)

Working with families and community members to provide support to any young person in need.

- 905-239-9477
- Email: [contact@durhamyouth.com](mailto:contact@durhamyouth.com)



[The Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking](#)

A national charity dedicated to ending all types of human trafficking in Canada.



[Herizon House](#)

Free confidential services 24 hours a day, a place of safety, support and empowerment for abused women and their children.

24-Hour Support Line:  
1-866-437-4066



[Durham Regional Police Service - Human Trafficking Unit](#)

- [drps.ca](https://www.drps.ca)
- 905-579-1520 ext. 5600



[Kawartha Sexual Assault Centre](#)

A not-for-profit, charitable organization dedicated to supporting those affected by sexual violence and harm.

24-Hour Crisis Support Line:  
1-705-741-0260



[Victim Services of Durham Region](#)

- [victimservicesdurham.ca](https://www.victimservicesdurham.ca)
- 905-579-1520 ext. 3400



[Voice Found](#)

Creating safe communities that recognize and stop abuse. Supporting survivors, preventing abuse, and growing skills and leadership.



[Kids Help Phone](#)

- Text CONNECT to 686868
- Call 1-800-668-6868

24/7 e-mental health service offering free, confidential support to young people in English and French.



[Victim/Witness Assistance Program](#)

A court-based program that provides information, help and support to victims and witnesses of crime to understand and participate in criminal court process.



[Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child & Family Services](#)

A multi-service Indigenous Child Well-Being Agency. Providing a stable foundation for children, youth, and families, through culturally based and family-focused services.

- 705-295-7135
- Email: [info@binnoojiiyag.ca](mailto:info@binnoojiiyag.ca)



[Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies](#)

Children's Aid Societies protect abused children, at-risk youth, and offer support to families.



[Public Safety Canada](#)

This Government of Canada page provides more support services and resources for human trafficking victims.



[Concertation des luttes contre l'exploitation sexuelle](#)

CLES advocates to bring about systemic changes to violence against women in Quebec but also elsewhere in connection with organizations in Canada and internationally.



# Thank You



[facebook.KnowledgeFlow.org](https://facebook.KnowledgeFlow.org)



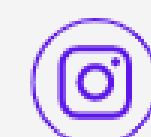
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- [Parent with Purpose](#)