



Conseil canadien pour les réfugiés
Canadian Council for Refugees

CCR ANTI-TRAFFICKING ADVOCACY STRATEGY

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Introduction

Our vision

The Canadian government implements permanent and fundamental change in policy so that trafficked persons in Canada are protected, their human rights respected and they have access to appropriate services and justice. This is the vision our policy advocacy work strives to achieve while working in partnership with governments, civil society and people to prevent human trafficking in Canada.

Who we are

The Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) is a national non-profit umbrella organization committed to the rights and protection of refugees and other vulnerable migrants in Canada and around the world and to the settlement of immigrants and refugees in Canada. The membership is made up of some 200 organizations involved in newcomer settlement and refugee and migrant rights, as well as refugee sponsorship. The Council serves the networking, information-exchange and advocacy needs of its membership.

Since 2003, the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) has provided leadership and support at a national level for NGOs concerned about human trafficking. CCR's main anti-trafficking activities include creating and maintaining a national network, hosting regular national meetings, developing policy analysis and practical tools for service providers, and engaging with the government about access to protection for trafficked persons.

Our focus

The Canadian Council for Refugees' anti-trafficking work focuses on the protection of trafficked non-citizens, those with precarious status, and vulnerable migrants, including women and girls. The CCR uses a human rights-based approach that recognizes the intersections in struggles for justice between Indigenous peoples, migrants and women. The CCR's anti-trafficking policy work focuses on the analysis of Canada's immigration and refugee policies, as well as anti-trafficking policies.

The Rationale for Policy Reform

The CCR recognizes that root causes of trafficking are connected to global and national social and economic policies that create or perpetuate inequalities including poverty, violence against women, discrimination and racism. For indigenous peoples in Canada, there is a long history of systemic oppression, including residential schools, and the non-acknowledgement of treaty rights. Globally, economic exploitation, climate change, wars are forces of migration and displacement of peoples and put people at risk of trafficking. In short, systemic oppression and displacement are indirect but critical factors in human trafficking.

We believe Canada needs to be accountable for its contribution to global displacement and to how it shapes migration policies at home. Temporary migration policies and programs, and punitive trafficking legislation undermine human rights.

CCR calls on the federal government to adopt a holistic approach to human trafficking that addresses root causes, protects rights, provides permanent status and offers access to justice and to services.

Now more than ever is the time to focus attention on our demands, in light of the new National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking (2019-2024).

The CCR has five central policy demands

1. **Root Causes:** Recognize and address systemic inequalities that are the causes and consequences of trafficking.
2. **Protect Rights:** Protect the rights of trafficked persons and those at risk. *This means fixing laws and policies that create barriers and providing better protection of rights.*
3. **Permanent Status:** Provide permanent protection of trafficked persons. *This means implementing legislative changes to ensure that there is a permanent and fundamental change in policy to protect trafficked persons.*
4. **Access to Justice:** Ensure effective access to justice. *This means stronger human rights-based recourses, and implementing law reform that is non-punitive and recognizes trafficking in all its forms.*
5. **Access to Services:** Ensure universal access to public services for trafficked persons and those at risk. *This means access healthcare, education, childcare services, and other psychosocial services.*

Advocacy Strategy

How we work

Ground-up. A pan-Canadian committee of front-line service providers and advocates informs all aspects of our work.

Networking. Through collaboration and mobilization, we engage provincial and national social justice networks, anti-trafficking coalitions, legal practitioners, researchers, funders, allies.

Non-partisan. We build non-partisan relationships with policy-makers.

Knowledge-Building. We develop and share knowledge and resources to raise awareness and implement best practices.

Our Principles

The CCR has identified the following principles to guide responses to trafficking:

- **Non-punitive:** Measures must not penalize trafficked persons.
- **Human rights:** Measures must be guided by and be respectful of the human rights of trafficked persons.
- **Economic rights:** Measures must be guided by and be respectful of the economic rights of trafficked persons.
- **Supportive services:** There is a need for supportive services for trafficked persons.
- **Gender and race analysis:** A gender and race analysis should be brought to any consideration of trafficking issues.
- **Inclusive of trafficked persons:** Discussions about trafficked persons should include trafficked persons themselves.

Our demands

Root Causes: Recognize and address systemic inequalities that are the causes and consequences of trafficking.

Specific goals	Enabling conditions	Systemic Changes	Outcomes
<p>Influence policy reform at the federal level so that the National Strategy takes into account that the root causes of trafficking are connected to global and national social and economic policies.</p> <p>Demonstrated movement in 1-2 tangible policy areas aimed at embedding more social protections and accountability in Canada's immigration policies.</p>	<p>A national network of Canadian NGOs, migrant advocates, anti-trafficking advocates, VAW advocates, and other social justice advocates are actively working together to engage the government and the public on exploitation.</p> <p>Greater public awareness around trafficking and how the root causes of trafficking are connected to global and national social and economic policies.</p> <p>Trafficking is considered a federal and provincial priority.</p>	<p>The narrative around trafficking in Canada, recognizes and addresses root causes, and acknowledges that exploitation occurs across a spectrum, domestically and internationally.</p> <p>Canada ratifies the Forced Labour Convention.</p> <p>Canada ratifies the Migrant Workers Convention.</p> <p>Canada eliminates tied work permits, issues open work permits in the short term, and permanent residence upon arrival in the longer term.</p>	<p>Canadian immigration and social policies and legislation are in place that favour protection and labour mobility, and the full enjoyment of socio-economic rights for all.</p>

Protect Rights: Address laws and policies that create barriers and provide better protection of rights.

Specific goals	Enabling conditions	Systemic Changes	Outcomes
<p>There is tangible movement in policy areas aimed at alleviating hardship and that promote family reunification.</p> <p>A dynamic network of NGOs is actively working to engage federal, provincial and municipal governments on the need to protect trafficked persons.</p>	<p>Information and data on gaps in existing legislation is made accessible and transparent.</p> <p>International trafficking stories as they relate to vulnerable migrants, racialized communities and those affected by gender-based violence are more prevalent in the media.</p> <p>A national network of anti-trafficking advocates are able to create on-going dialogue with government officials on gaps in existing legislation.</p> <p>A national network of front-line service providers and advocates are able to inform and have the resources to champion the need for change.</p>	<p>Government officials recognize coercion and deception as they apply to cases of labour trafficking and ensure trafficking survivors have access to temporary protection.</p> <p>Temporary Residence Permits for Victims of Trafficking are issued for at least 12 months (rather than the current 6 months), are expanded to include spouses and children, and are more readily accessible.</p> <p>The new federal Open Work Permit for those at risk of exploitation is an accessible remedy for protection on a national level.</p> <p>Other temporary remedies for vulnerable populations are readily accessible.</p>	<p>Policies are in place that recognize all forms of trafficking, favour protection, family reunification and includes all voices at decision-making tables.</p> <p>Federal legislation and policies are in place that provide effective access to temporary protection for all trafficked persons, including those facing labour exploitation, informed by grassroots organizations.</p>

Permanent status: Provide permanent protection for trafficked persons.

Specific goals	Enabling conditions	Systemic Changes	Outcomes
<p>Influence federal legislation reform introducing measures for permanent protection of trafficked persons.</p> <p>Demonstrated movement among politicians and policymakers in working towards legislative reform for permanent protection for trafficked persons.</p>	<p>The federal government recognizes that human trafficking is a cause and consequence of forced migration and prioritizes protection.</p> <p>There is no regression on existing legislation and policies.</p> <p>There are concrete mechanisms for meaningful engagement of diverse groups in government decision-making.</p> <p>Policymakers recognize the need for specific protection for trafficked persons.</p> <p>More coverage of labour trafficking in the media.</p>	<p>The federal government has considered CCRs revised call for legislative amendment and has put in place permanent protection for trafficked persons.</p> <p>The narrative on trafficking in Canada recognizes labour trafficking as a phenomenon in Canada, and one that largely impacts migrants.</p> <p>Representative groups in different regions and provinces are included in the design, implementation and monitoring of national policies.</p> <p>Opportunities to share best practices are embedded in national, provincial consultation processes.</p>	<p>Policies are in place that recognizes all forms of trafficking, favours protection, family reunification and includes all voices at decision-making tables.</p> <p>Federal legislation and policies are in place that provide effective access to permanent protection for all trafficked persons, including those facing labour exploitation, informed by grassroots organizations.</p>

Ensure effective access to justice through stronger human rights-based recourses and implementing law reform that is non-punitive.

Specific goals	Enabling conditions	Systemic Changes	Outcomes
<p>Influence policy reform in order to provide better protection of trafficked persons.</p> <p>Demonstrated movement in trafficked persons access to legal remedies for protection and pathways to immigration.</p> <p>Demonstrated movement in access to human rights-based remedies.</p>	<p>Enforcement agencies and the justice system take into account front-line service organizations grounded knowledge of trafficking.</p> <p>Survivor tables include people with lived experience with labour exploitation.</p> <p>Trafficking survivors have access to legal aid.</p> <p>More jurisprudence on international trafficking cases.</p> <p>Immigration and refugee lawyers have an understanding of trafficking, and collaborate with front-line service providers and other advocates.</p> <p>A community of best practice for responding to trafficking cases is in place.</p>	<p>Law reform is achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canadian trafficking definition is aligned with the international definition. Shift in thinking on human trafficking to recognize that patterns of exploitation are not linear, there are many gradations, people who experience all forms of exploitation require access to justice. Survivor-based legal remedies such as human rights and labour standards legislation are strengthened, eg. expedited pathway to permanent residence on humanitarian and compassionate grounds. Access to legal aid for trafficking survivors is secured. 	<p>Barriers in existing trafficking legislation are removed, and trafficked persons and those at risk have access to justice.</p> <p>Canadian legislation favours a human-rights based approach to access to justice.</p> <p>More survivors are able to access legal remedies, and achieve favourable outcomes (status, damages, family reunification, stability, etc.).</p>

Access to Services: Ensure universal access to public services for trafficked persons and those at risk.

Specific goals	Enabling conditions	Systemic Changes	Outcomes
<p>Influence policy reform in order to ensure effective access to appropriate services.</p> <p>A community of best practice for responding to trafficking cases is in place.</p>	<p>Front-line service organizations have secure funding.</p> <p>There are ongoing capacity-building spaces and opportunities for sharing best practices.</p> <p>Knowledge-building resources on best practices are available.</p> <p>Service providers and policy-makers consider the intersection of trafficking, gender-based violence and the exploitation of vulnerable migrants and racialized communities.</p>	<p>Services are accessible in all regions, including remote communities and where there are no formal services.</p> <p>Best practices in service provision are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community response maps (protocols) with embedded/standardized policies/practices are put in place nationally. • Decision-makers consider trauma-informed practices that reflect community realities. • A national hub of resources is established. 	<p>People without status, and all vulnerable populations, including migrant workers in remote areas, have access to services.</p>

Join us in advocating for fundamental policy change to protect and seek justice for trafficked persons and prevent human trafficking in Canada.

- Share this with others.
- Call on the government to make these changes, call or write or visit your MP.
- If you are an NGO or social justice group, partner with the CCR to advance one or more of these policy demands.
- If you are an advocate, get involved with the CCR's anti-trafficking work
- Download and share other resources to amplify these messages:
ccrweb.ca/anti-trafficking-resources
- If you are a survivor, call the new national human trafficking hotline:
1-833-900-1010 or visit: <https://www.canadianhumantraffickinghotline.ca>



**PROTECTION AND JUSTICE
FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS**
ccrweb.ca/trafficking