



## Trafficking Indigenous Women and Girls

Across the country there are predators seeking to exercise and reproduce settler dominance by acting violently against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (Kingsley & Mark 2000).



**50%**

**50% of victims** were "recruited between the ages of **9 and 14**"

**87.5%**

**87.5%** had been **sexually abused** before being trafficked

**51%**

**51%** of trafficking victims had been in the **child welfare system**

Without support from systems that are supposed to protect them, Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people are often susceptible to experience high rates of extreme violence.

For example, it is well-known and documented that poverty, histories of abuse, involvement in the child welfare complex and criminalization, all increase Indigenous women and girls' vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking (NWAC 2014).

However, there are very few suitable supports to address these circumstances that Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people experience at disproportionate rates.

**Traffickers know this and target individuals with these experiences, as they often have harmful and isolating effects.**

Unfortunately, the root causes that allow trafficking and exploitation to continue are often ignored and violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people is simply seen as a natural consequence of their choices.



**By learning more about how colonial violence operates and by challenging the idea that violence against Indigenous Peoples is normal, you can be an ally to promote the safety of Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.**

(Canadian Women's Foundation 2014: 31)