

For Immediate Release

Fight Human Trafficking: Tune Into a Live Interactive Webinar

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, February 22, 2022

Humiliation; Abuse; Violence; Terrifying Threats; Separation from Family and Friends! It's not what a young person signs up for but it's what happens when young girls and boys are trafficked into the world's commercial sex trade. It's the human tragedy behind human trafficking and it's happening in our homes, our schools and our Dufferin-Caledon community.

A year ago, the Rotary Club of Orangeville and Compass Community Church formed a volunteer-driven group called CryNot (Compass Rotary Youth – No Trafficking) to raise awareness and promote education about the threat of human trafficking in our area. Bob Burnside who initially spearheaded CryNot suggests that "The first thing in addressing human trafficking is to realize that it exists, its origins and its symptoms and the devastating results."

We know that young people in Dufferin-Caledon are being lured into sex trafficking through manipulation by predators, promises of love, affection and gifts, provision of drugs and alcohol, threats and violence. In recognition of **Human Trafficking Awareness Day** CryNot is planning **Q&A, a live, free interactive webinar on February 22, 7-8pm**. Six professionals ranging from community and victim service groups and law enforcement to a victim's family member will answer questions regarding the risks, signs and prevention of this sinister crime. Their input places a human face on what is a billion dollar business based on the coercion of vulnerable youth. **Registration is required** and is accessed via the CryNot website crynot.ca

During the pandemic, exploitation has moved online making it easier for predators to contact and groom at-risk youth, some as young as 12 or 13 years old. According to current CryNot Chair, Jim Kerr, "Police inform us that there are over 6000 unique advertisements for sex services every day in the digital realm and many are related to sex trafficking. The whole scope of the tragedy is frankly shocking."

The prevention of sex trafficking requires a total community effort. Join the webinar, explore the website crynot.ca, and request a group presentation. If you suspect someone is being trafficked or you need help contact:

Caledon-Dufferin Victim Services 1-888-742-2658 or 1-888-743-6496

Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline 1-833-900-1010

The crime of sexual exploitation is likened to modern day slavery. As one of our board members says "Being trafficked has been described as "hell on earth." By creating awareness CryNot hopes to spare young people in our community from falling victim to predators."