

## AT ISSUE

For prayer and action

# Human trafficking in Canada

**H**uman trafficking continues to take place in Canada. The highest-ever number of trafficking incidents were reported to police in 2019, an increase of 44 per cent over the previous year. Between 2009 and 2019 there were 2,468 police-reported incidents in Canada where human trafficking was the most serious charge.

Traffickers prey on their victims' vulnerabilities, using force, deception or coercion to exploit them. Trafficking can take the form of forced labour or sexual exploitation.

By far, most human trafficking victims in Canada are women and girls (95 per cent in 2019), with the majority of them under 24 years old. The majority of cases in which human trafficking-specific charges have been laid in Canada primarily involved sexual exploitation.

The EFC has asked the justice minister to deter sex trafficking in Canada by all means possible. A government bill making its way through the House of Commons, Bill C-5, proposes to allow conditional sentencing or house arrest for a human trafficking-related offence. The EFC has asked for that provision to be removed from Bill C-5 so human trafficking remains a more serious offence. More information including a sample MP letter is available at [www.TheEFC.ca/C5](http://www.TheEFC.ca/C5).

"Pimps and traffickers exploit people, primarily women and girls, to gain a material benefit. That is the primary motivation for those who exploit," says Julia Beazley, director of public policy at the EFC.


The UN Office on Drugs and Crime identifies trafficking as one of the fastest-growing crimes globally as it is viewed as low risk with high profits.

A bill in the Senate, Bill S-211, would require large corporations to report annually on what they have done to prevent or reduce the risk of forced labour or child labour in their supply chains. The EFC wrote a letter of support for this bill and



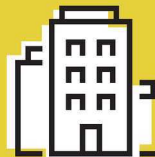
**"As a society, we want to significantly reduce this kind of exploitation, to deter and discourage it by all means possible, not open the door to lesser consequences for those who exploit others."**

**—Julia Beazley, EFC's director of public policy**

has a sample letter to ask MPs to support the legislation at [www.TheEFC.ca/S211](http://www.TheEFC.ca/S211). 

## Engage

- How can you learn more and raise awareness about human trafficking in your area?
- Are there initiatives you can support to reduce vulnerability to trafficking and strengthen families and communities, such as alleviating poverty and providing safe, affordable housing?



 Please pray for the public policy work of The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. You can also support it financially at [www.TheEFC.ca/Donate](http://www.TheEFC.ca/Donate) or toll-free 1-866-302-3362.