SUDBURY

Sudbury Community Engagement Session June 28, 2017

Number in Attendance: 32 Indigenous participants ~

Participants with Lived experience: 3

Organizational Encounters with human trafficking: numerous people from multiple organizations have come across trafficked people

Types of organizations: Victim Services, Sex workers, Sexual Assault Centre, City of Sudbury (Social Services, Immigration), Mental Health and Addictions, Crime Stoppers, AIDS Service Organization.

NORAHT Team: Brenda, Elder Donna, Gina, Jenny, Kat, Lanyan, Megan, Rosemary

Summary:

Participants prioritized public education, a dedicated shelter/safe space and forming a local committee. The coding of the flip charts showed participants mentioned gaps in resources, education, and needs of a trafficked person the most. The gaps in resources focused on the lack of safe spaces, collaboration, services and technology. Education emphasized the need for public and service provider education and including voices of survivors and their families in these education efforts. The needs of a trafficked person heavily overlapped with gaps in resources, and the need to connect with their own identity and to their community. Policing and the legal system and collaboration were the next most coded.

The Dotmocracy results emphasized the need for education. The call for a human trafficking shelter in the Dotmocracy mirrors the day's discussions of the need for a dedicated space for survivors as a top need for trafficked persons and top gap in resources. We observed a lot of tensions in the room during the day with debates over sex work and challenges over the use of problematic terms like "girls" and "victims" that detract from women's agency and resilience. We recommend that persons with lived experience be respectfully acknowledged as experts in their own lives and be provided significant space in future collaborations to address human trafficking.

Top Three Themes of Discussion:

1.Gaps in Resources:

i. Safe spaces: need dedicated human trafficking shelters, accessible shelter, universal safe space symbol

ii. Collaboration: need coalition on human trafficking, service plan/map, resource lists for referrals, communication between agencies and lead agency

iii. Services: need available counselling, emergency funding, support for youth, harm reduction, human trafficking specific intake forms, transitional services, screening tools, peer coordination

iv. Technology: need database and use social media to market safe spaces

2. Education:

i. Public services and service industry education: educate hotels and taxis on human trafficking, engage and educate municipal government

ii. Public education: information sessions for parents, educating community, educating populations at an increased risk of being trafficked, education in schools, education and support for parents of trafficked people

iii. Including experiences of survivors and their families in education

3. Needs of trafficked person (significant overlap with gaps in resources):

i. Address the male population; encourage to come forward for support

ii. Need more accessible services; funding, safe spaces, counselling, harm reduction strategies, triage services, client centred approach

iii. Criminal justice system: decriminalizing sex work can lead to disclosures, and training for police officers will decrease chances of getting charged

iv. Need for self-identity connection, returning to community and family

Dotmocracy Top Three Results:
1. Education (21) (community, public, kids, parents with children being actively trafficked or prevention)

2. Shelter/dedicated space (18)

3. Collaboration (14)

i. Create a local committee/ People with lived experience on committee (10)

ii. Communication between agencies (4)