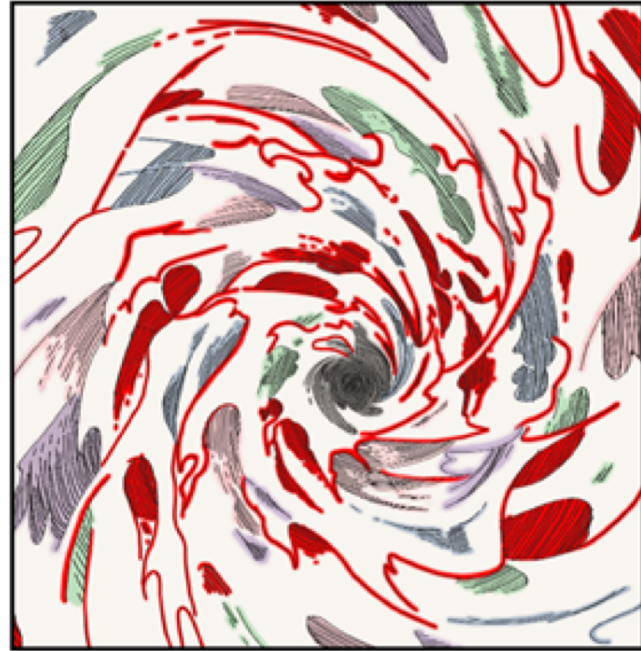


# NORAHT

**Northeastern Ontario  
Research Alliance on  
Human Trafficking**



**Safer places**

Harm reduction strategies to address human trafficking



Miigwetch



# We are grateful to those who stepped forward to share their journeys



- “Owning our story can be hard but not nearly as difficult as spending our lives running from it. Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love and belonging and joy—the experiences that make us the most vulnerable. Only when we are brave enough to explore the darkness will we discover the infinite power of our light.” — Brene Brown



HARM  
REDUCTION  
SAVES LIVES

Harm Reduction



# Objectives



To share research findings on human trafficking in Northeastern Ontario



To highlight what people of lived experience have asked for in service delivery



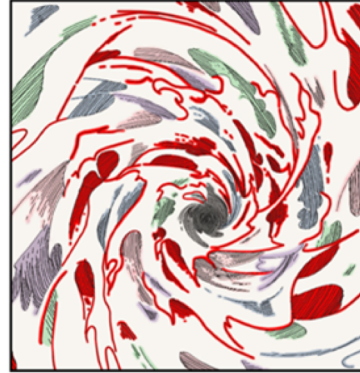
To share harm reduction strategies for critical anti-human trafficking



To identify key principles to safer spaces

# NORAHT

**Northeastern Ontario  
Research Alliance on  
Human Trafficking**



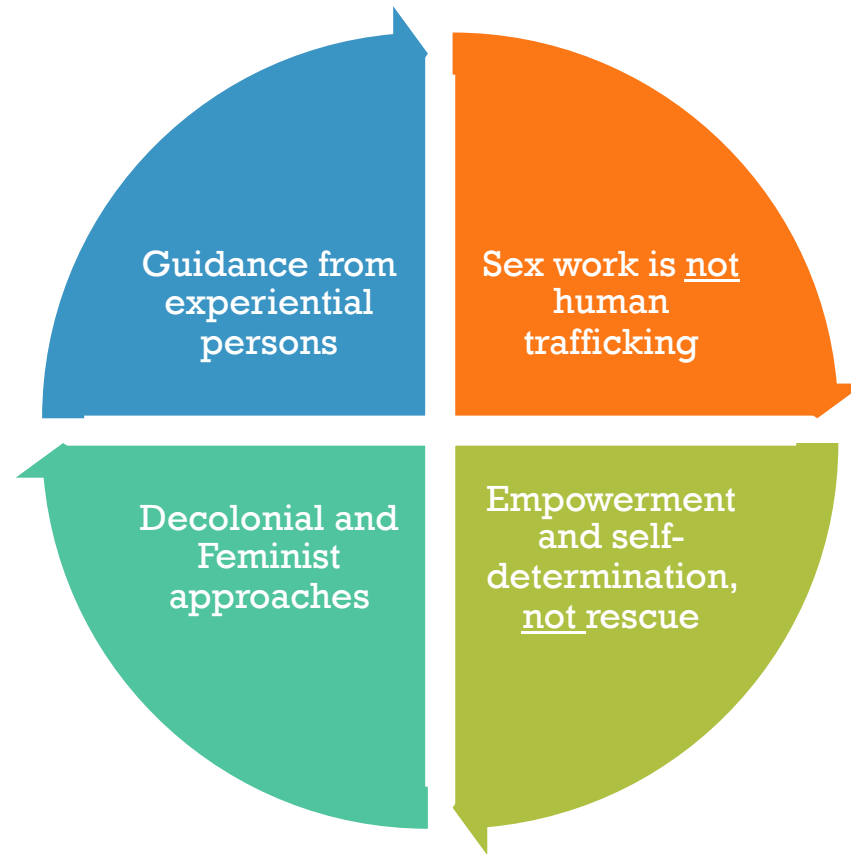
Nipissing  
District



Research Partners



# Critical anti-human trafficking







# Sex Work does not = Human Trafficking

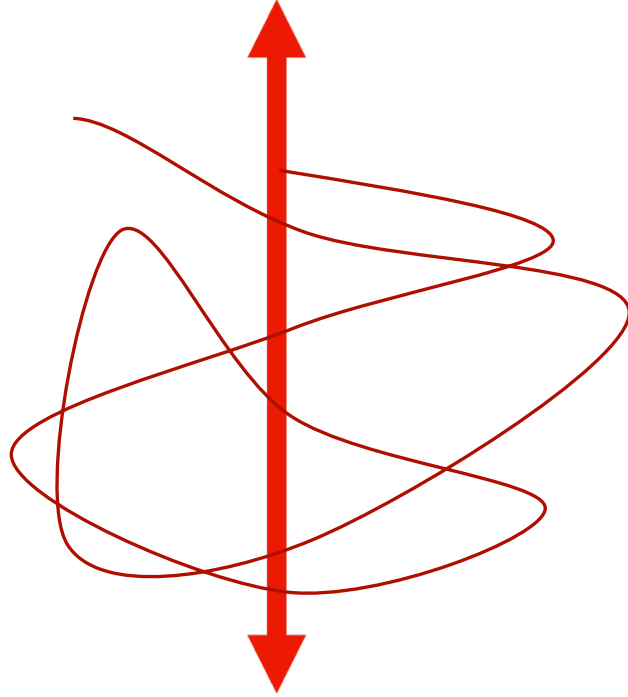
Anti-trafficking efforts are broadly understood to be anti-sex work



That eliminates the voices of sex workers and their allies.



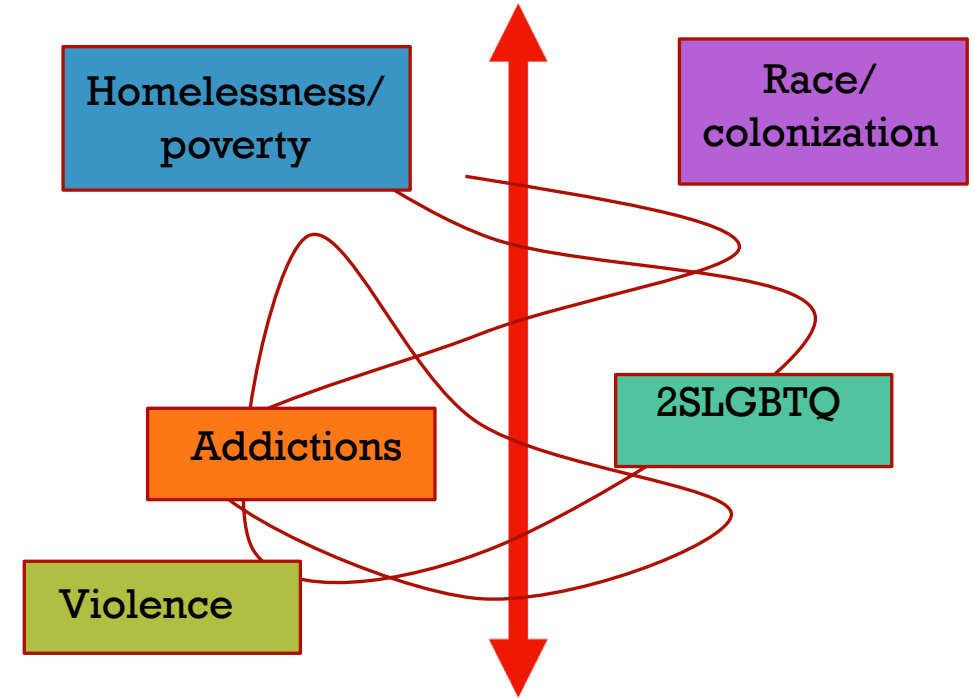
That contributes to violence experienced by sex workers



Choice

Circumstance

Coercion



Experiences





Policies and programs which attempt primarily to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of mood altering substances to individual drug users, their families and communities, without requiring decrease in drug use.

(The International Harm Reduction Association, 2002)

# Principles of harm reduction



**Pragmatism**



**Human Rights**



**Focus on harms**



**Maximize options**

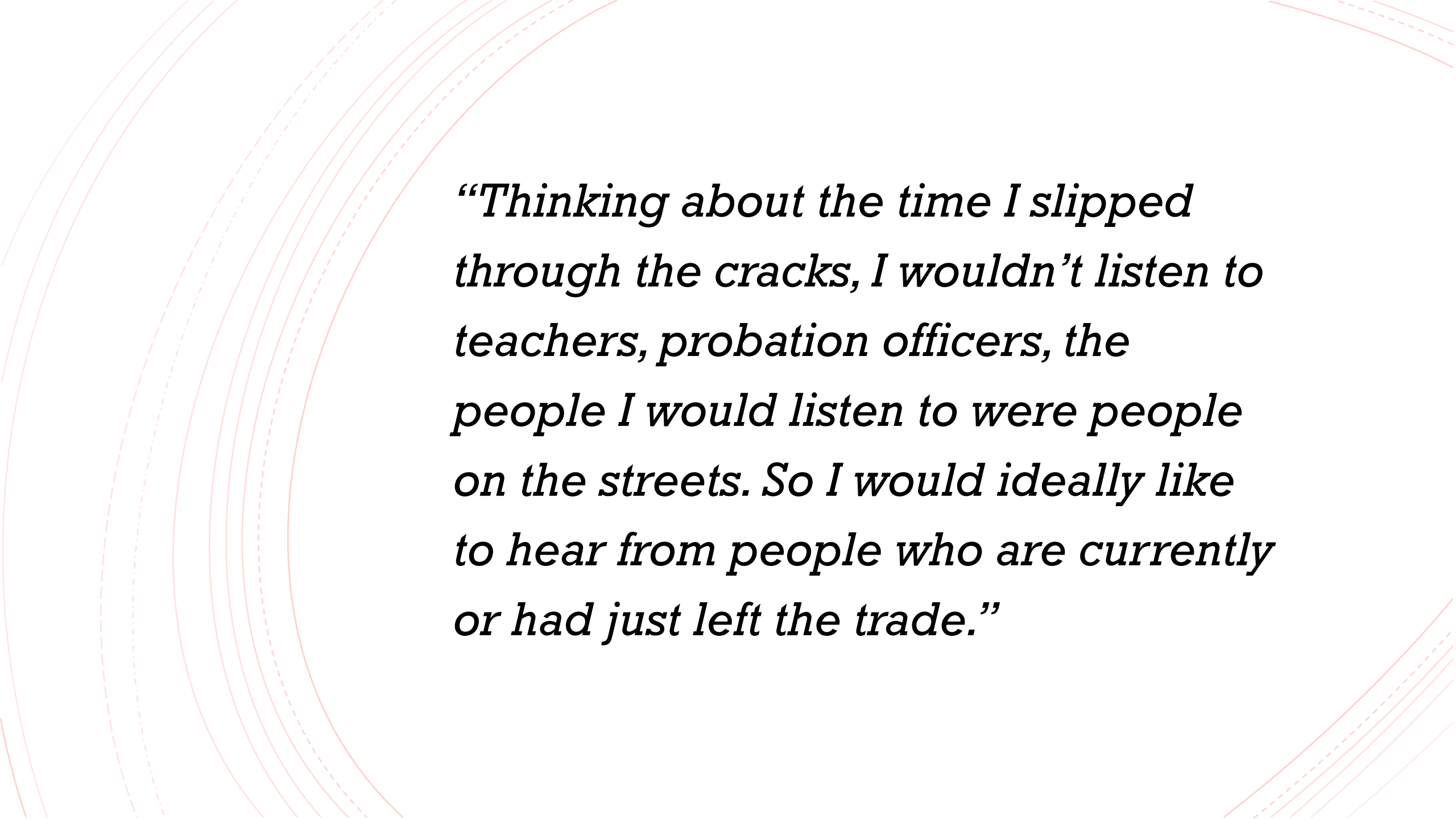


**Priority of  
immediate goals**



**Lived experience  
involvement**





*“Thinking about the time I slipped through the cracks, I wouldn’t listen to teachers, probation officers, the people I would listen to were people on the streets. So I would ideally like to hear from people who are currently or had just left the trade.”*

# Stigma



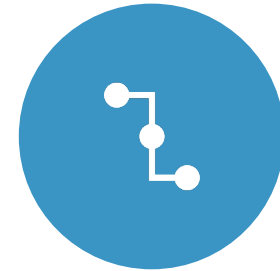
**STIGMA FROM  
INDIVIDUALS**



**INSTITUTIONALIZED  
STIGMA**



**SELF-STIGMA**



**STIGMA BY  
ASSOCIATION**

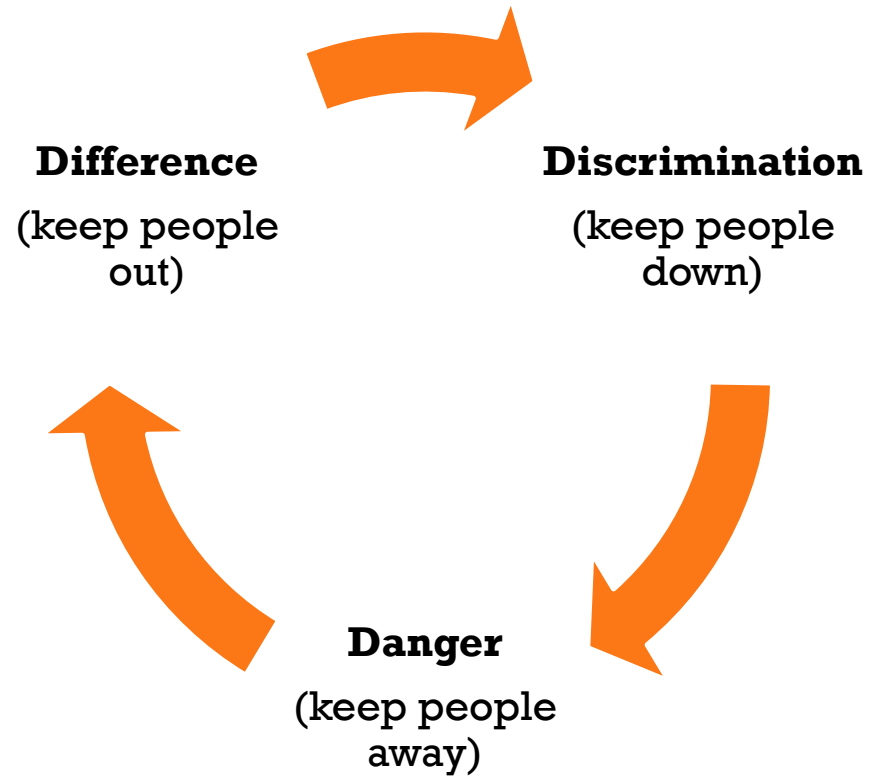


## **Key elements of stigma**

- **Pathologize**
- **Criminalize**
- **Fear and isolation**
- **Blame and moral judgement**
- **Patronize**



# Function of stigma



# Harmful human trafficking responses

STIGMA



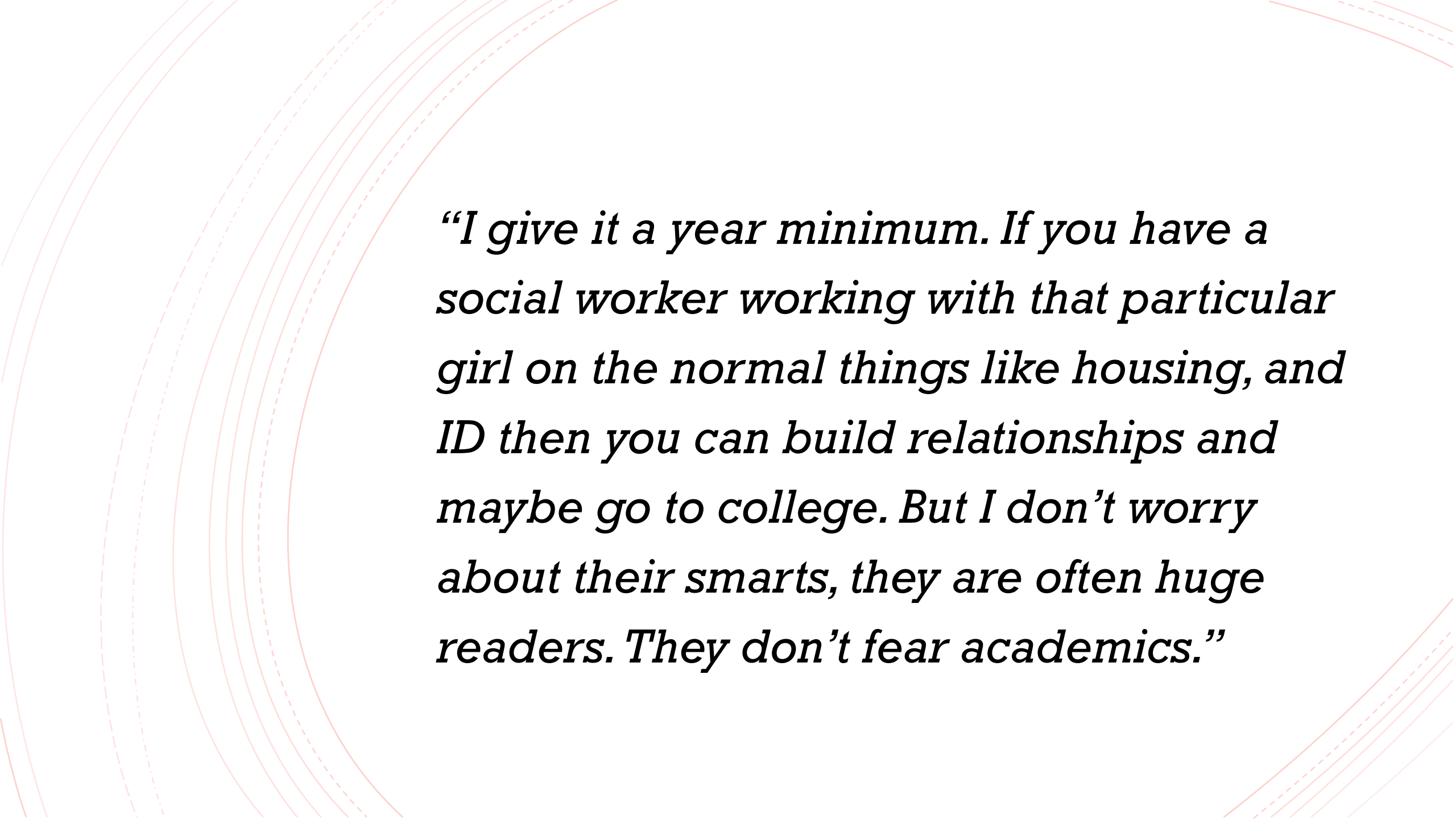
- End the demand
- Public shaming
- Priorities of funding/policy
- Rescue missions

# Harm Reduction Services



- Peer support
- Voluntary
- Outreach and education
- Low threshold for service access
- Opportunity





*“I give it a year minimum. If you have a social worker working with that particular girl on the normal things like housing, and ID then you can build relationships and maybe go to college. But I don’t worry about their smarts, they are often huge readers. They don’t fear academics.”*



Safer Places

# 2018 Everyone Counts Nipissing



42% of respondents staying at someone else's place.



29% staying at emergency shelters



12% did not know where they were spending the night



6% unsheltered location (public place, vehicle, abandoned building)



11% provisionally housed (motel, transitional housing, public institutions).

# Demographics



**44% IDENTIFIED AS  
INDIGENOUS**



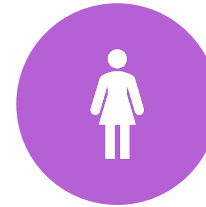
**67% FIRST  
EXPERIENCED  
HOMELESSNESS PRIOR  
TO AGE 25**



**27% IDENTIFIED BEING  
IN A FOSTER OR  
GROUP HOME**



**70% INCOME SOURCE  
SOCIAL ASSISTANCE**



**83% SINGLE ADULTS**



**39% HOMLESSES FOR  
MORE THAN 6 MONTHS**



**31% HOMELESS 3 OR  
MORE TIMES IN THE  
PAST YEAR**



# Obstacles to housing



**RENT PRICES**



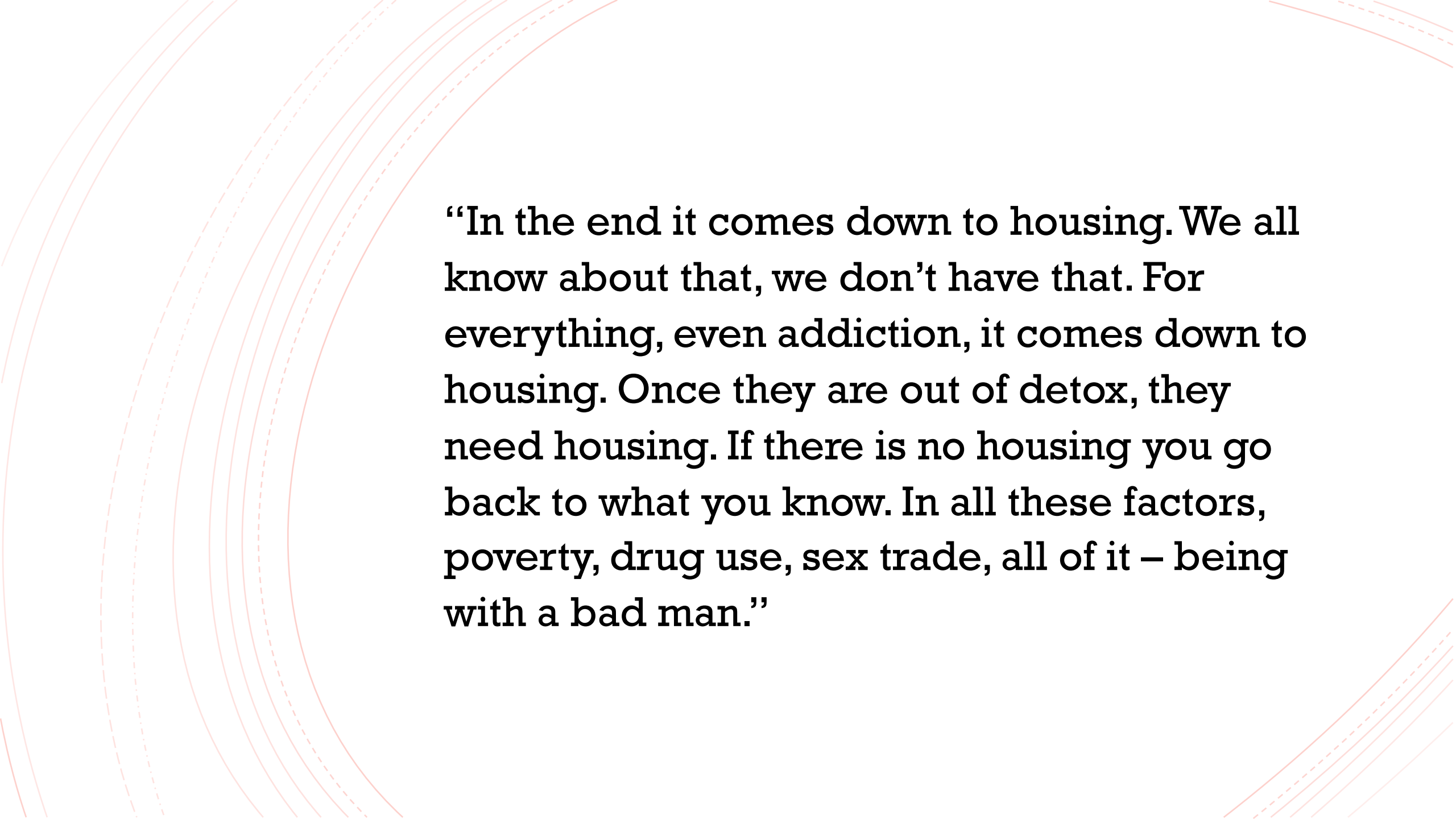
**MENTAL HEALTH  
ISSUES**



**ADDICTIONS**



**DISCRIMINATION**

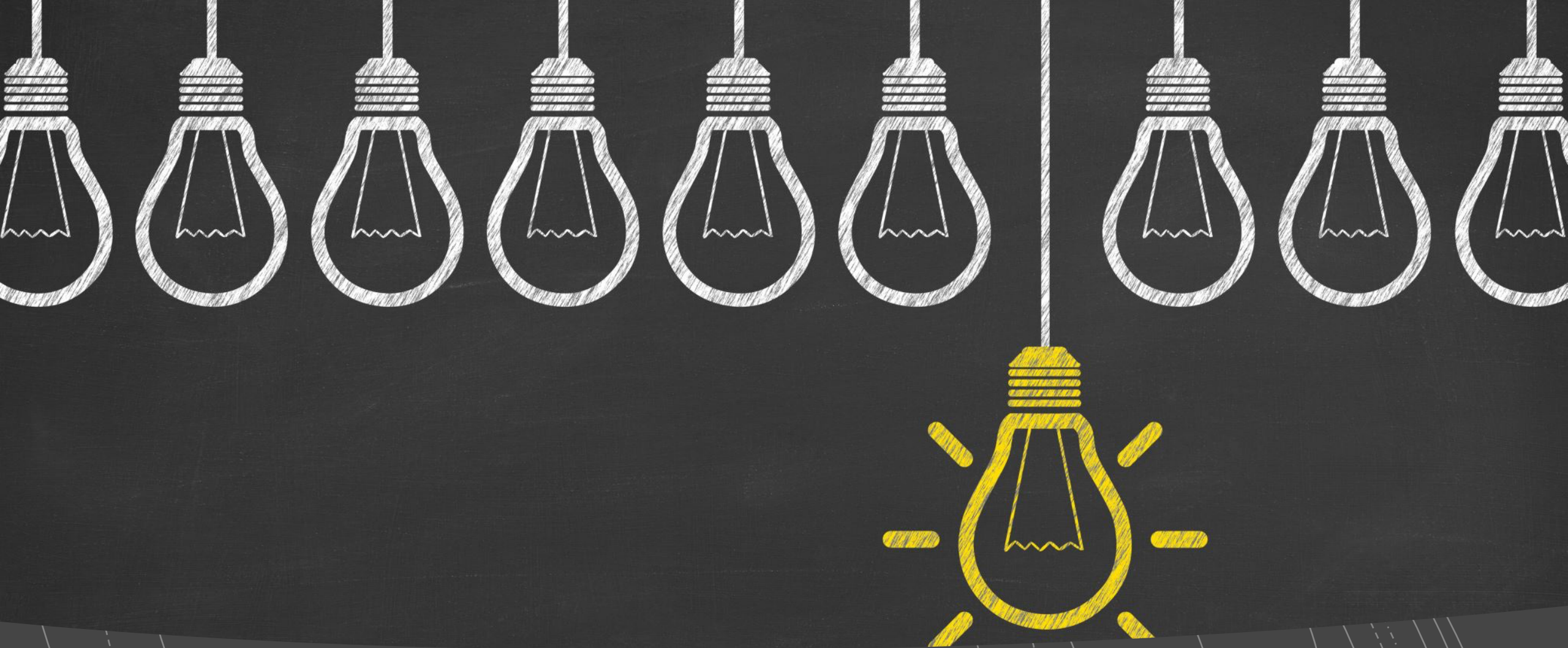
The background of the slide features several concentric, curved lines in a light red or pinkish hue. These lines are solid in some areas and dashed in others, creating a dynamic, wave-like pattern that frames the central text.

**“In the end it comes down to housing. We all know about that, we don’t have that. For everything, even addiction, it comes down to housing. Once they are out of detox, they need housing. If there is no housing you go back to what you know. In all these factors, poverty, drug use, sex trade, all of it – being with a bad man.”**

# Housing needs



- Shelters (24h – longer term)
- Transitional housing
- Scattered housing
- Housed



# Organizational Spaces



# Trauma informed



Safety



Choice



Collaboration



Trustworthiness



Empowerment



Cultural/gender issues

# Trauma informed design



- Clear sightlines
- Options for seating
- Inviting, clutter free
- Cultural spaces
- Use of calming colours

# Harm reduction



**NON-  
JUDGMENT**



**LOW  
THRESHOLD**



**HOLISTIC**



**ENGAGEMENT**



**TRUST**

# Meets needs



**Complexity of  
experiences**



**Individual**



**Rest period**



**Relational**



**Long term**

# Dignity



Showcase client's art  
(painting, poetry,  
photography)



Family meal service



Accessibility devices  
(handrails, lower  
counters, ramps)



Open space to  
interact with staff



Variety of seating and  
room choices



Label room and  
belongings



# Safety



Private bathroom  
and shower  
facilities



Open floor plans



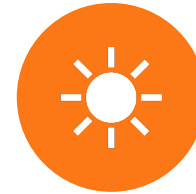
Avoid territorial  
use of common  
areas



Storage



Outdoor viewing



Outdoor lighting



Pet friendly



Locked with staff

# Health and Wellbeing



Access to cultural  
spaces



Easy access to water,  
restrooms, showers,  
laundry, computers,  
exercise space



Plant life inside and out



Landscape



Natural light

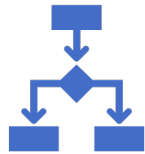


Financial literacy

# Empowering



**Strength  
based**



**Choices**



**Dignified**



**Self-  
determination**



**Peer led**

# Sources/Resources

[https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Everyone%20Counts NipissingDistrict FindingsReport 2018.pdf](https://www.homelesshub.ca/sites/default/files/attachments/Everyone%20Counts%20NipissingDistrict%20FindingsReport%202018.pdf)

- **Everyone Counts Nipissing 2018**

<http://sexworklawreform.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/CASWLR-Human-Trafficking-Response.pdf>

- **Movie Backwards n the Fight Against Human Trafficking in Canada**

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10530789.2016.1260879>

- **Creating safe spaces: designing day shelters for people experiencing homelessness**

<http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/webinars/recorded-webinars/2019/webinar-2019-6.html>

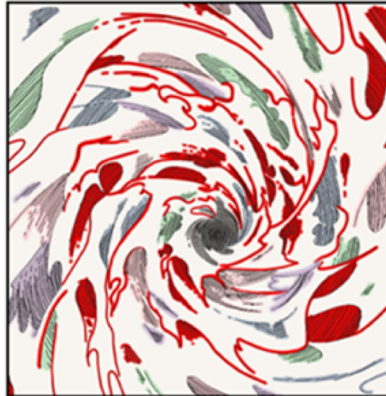
- **Trauma-Informed Responses to Human Trafficking**

<https://noraht.nipissingu.ca/>

- **NORAHT**

# **NORAHT**

**Northeastern Ontario  
Research Alliance on  
Human Trafficking**



Donna Debassige - Elder  
Rosemary Nagy – Nipissing University  
Brenda Quenneville – Centered Fire  
Counselling and Consulting  
Kathleen Jodouin - Victim Services of  
Nipissing District  
Rebecca Timms – Anishinabek Nation  
Lanyan Chen – Nipissing University  
Gina Snooks – Research Assistant  
Sydney Wiggins – Research Assistant