

ON THE HORIZON

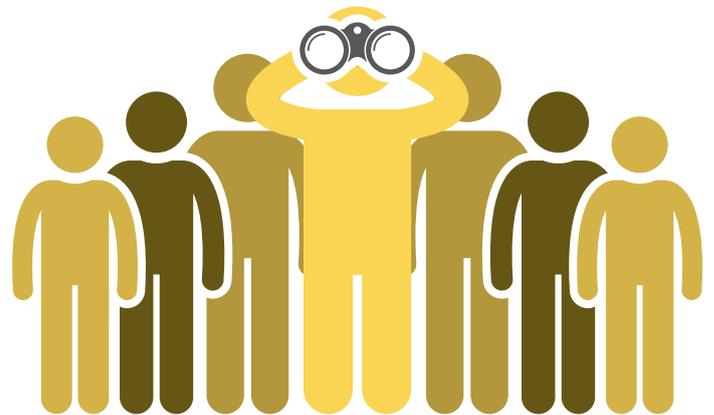
“Sex workers and victims of human trafficking are often marginalized by the larger community; however, there is a growing willingness to collaborate and coordinate services to respond to this vulnerable population.”

– Kathryn Baker-Reed, former Executive Director,
SAVIS of Halton

Here are three emerging issues that we believe will need more community awareness and education.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

It is difficult to define the scope of this emerging problem statistically as there is little comparative data; however, Halton Police expects crime statistics will increase as more effort is dedicated to identifying those responsible for exploiting others for financial gain. To combat the problem and raise awareness, Halton Police has conducted training and education sessions with front-line officers, youth, hoteliers and staff. SAVIS of Halton is developing a new program focused on providing specialized, long-term care to help women and girls who have been trafficked to heal from the extreme trauma.



Looking ahead The Foundation is continuing to address the issues and needs in our community for 2016 and beyond. **Our legacy continues.**

ELDER ABUSE

Elder abuse occurs across cultures, genders, income levels and abilities. Victims are often socially isolated with few friends or family in whom to confide.⁴¹ Immigrants may face additional barriers of language, limited knowledge of local laws, cultural stigma and increased dependence on the abuser.⁴² Although statistics do not show an increase in crimes perpetrated against seniors in the region, Halton Police provides support to seniors through programs such as SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together), the Seniors Helpline, and education and information sessions.

Education and information sharing, especially within immigrant communities, may help reduce the risk of isolation and abuse. Informal focus groups of older South Asian adults from Mississauga and Oakville identified social isolation and elder abuse as issues within their community.⁴³

CLIMATE CHANGE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Extreme weather and severe storms affect our environment, security and quality of life, especially for vulnerable populations that may not be prepared or have the resources to recover from a potentially devastating event. Learning more about the impact of extreme weather on Oakville's safety net agencies and clients is important for the entire community.

