

# QUICK REFERENCE

FOR INDICATORS AND LANGUAGE  
OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

# OUR POSITION

There is a spectrum of exploitation that occurs within the sex industry.

YWCA Halifax believes all people have the right to dignity, safety and well being in their lives.

Our role is to support their efforts towards attaining dignity, safety and well being, as they define it for themselves.

## LOCAL CONTACTS FOR QUESTIONS OR FURTHER INFORMATION

YWCA Nova Scotia Transition &  
Advocacy for Youth (NSTAY)  
NSTAY@ywcahalifax.com  
(782) 414-7657

Provincial HT Team Tipline  
(902) 449-2425

Halifax Regional Police HT Team  
(902) 490-5142

Stepping Stone Association  
(902) 420-0103

YWCA Trafficking & Exploitation  
Services System  
TESS@ywcahalifax.com

# INDICATORS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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The intent of this guide is for family members and service providers to help identify whether an individual is being sexually exploited.

1

Amount and type of material possessions does not match income, regularly in possession of new materials (*e.g. Expensive items when little or no regular income*)

2

Personal grooming and aesthetics (*e.g. Well maintained hair and nails*)

3

Visual signs of physical violence (*e.g. Bruises*)

4

Demonstrates signs of emotional abuse (*e.g. Emotions do not appear to match situation*)

5

Being branded or tattooed

6

Frequency and time of day of “meetings” or “appointments” (*e.g. Noon, evening meetings*)

7

No identification

8

Long-term “boyfriend”, never met by friends or family and/or suggestion of inequitable power dynamic within romantic relationship

9

Withdraws from/or dramatic change in friends/peer group

10

Same method of transportation  
*(e.g. Same drivers/cab drivers; who are unknown to family/service providers)*

11

Use of slang/terminology related to sex trade *(see glossary)*

12

In possession of two phones *(e.g. Insists upon checking phone at regular intervals, one may not have SIM card)*

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS\*\*

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The intent of this glossary is to help inform service providers on a particular set of language that is often used within the sex industry, with the purpose to alieve clients of such burden.

Terms used vary with age cohort and demographic.

*\*\*Developed and approved by people with lived experience.*

**BAD DATE**

When a customer harms and/or rips off someone involved in the sex trade. This often involves physical abuse and sometimes weapons.

**BITCH**

Person involved in the sex trade who works under a pimp.

**BUDDY**

Customer who purchases a male for sexual purposes in exchange for money.

**BOTTOM  
BITCH**

A pimp's main girl who has been with him for a long time and earned his trust. She has more responsibilities than the other girls in the pimp's stable such as recruiting new girls and keeping the other girls under control.

**BOYFRIEND/  
FINESSE PIMP/  
CASANOVA**

Term used by people involved in the sex trade to refer to the person who controls them and their money.

**CHARGE IT TO  
THE GAME**

In pimp slang this is a way of saying that something is a loss but that a lesson has been learned.

CHECKING TRAPS/ CHECKING IN	When a pimp goes to the stroll to check-in on persons involved in sex trade and whether or not they have made their quota.
CHOOSING MONEY/FEE	Fee paid to pimp for individual to enter game, at their own will.
CHOOSY SUSY	Person involved in the sex trade who changes pimps.
CLIENT, CUSTOMER, DATE (PERSON), JOHN, TRICK	Individual who is purchasing sex.
DADDY	Term used by a person involved in the sex trade to refer to their finesse pimp.
DATE (ACTION)	A paid interaction between a sex trade worker and a client.
FAMILY	Group of traffickers/pimps/people involved in sex work. May or may not be gang-related.

FRONT	Legitimate business used to cover up illegal activities for example a massage parlor may be a front for a brothel.
GAME	Slang term used for the activity of sex work/exploitation.
GORILLA/ GUERRILLA PIMP	A pimp who uses violence to control the individuals working for him.
GROOMING	Preparing individuals for exploitation.
HUSTLER (HUSTLE/GRIND)	A term most often used for people in the game.
IN POCKET	Committed to a pimp.
LEAVING MONEY/FEE	Fee paid to pimp to leave pimp/game.
OUT OF POCKET	When person involved in the sex trade has done something that their pimp doesn't condone.
SCOOP/ RECRUITING	When person involved in the sex trade actively recruits others.

SEX WORKER

Person involved in the sex trade who identifies as voluntarily engaged.

STABLE

Group of people involved in the sex trade who live together and are under the influence of a particular pimp.

STRAIGHT/  
SQUARE

Not involved in the sex trade. Vaginal intercourse.

STRAWBERRY/  
CRACK WHORE

Term for an individuals who exchanges sexual services for street drugs and do not consider themselves as sex workers.

STREET SMART

One's level of understanding and awareness of appropriate behavior and actions in street based situations, may include illegal activities.

STROLL/TRACK/  
(REFERENCING  
PARTICULAR  
STREETS KNOWN  
FOR SEX WORK  
ACTIVITY)

Area where someone works on the street.

TRADE

Slang term used for the activity of sex work.

TRAFFICKED	Person who is exploited in the sex trade, through coercion and/or violence by a pimp/trafficker.
TRAP HOUSE	A house where illegal activities occur (sexual exploitation, drug use, etc.)
TRICK PADS	The apartment, hotel room or house of a pimp where sexual exploitation occurs.
TURNED OUT	Refers to when a person involved in the sex trade first began working.
TURNED A TRICK	When a person involved in the sex trade completes a transaction with a customer.
VETERAN/ THROUGH THE WAR	A person who has been involved in the sex trade for a length of time, often older in age.
WIFE-IN-LAW/ WIFEY	Other women involved in sex work who are being pimped by same person. Modernly, commonly used to note a best friend.
WORKING	The term working is one that individuals also use in the trade.

