

## Where does sexualized torture and human trafficking occur?

It happens in private spaces such as in homes, cabins, cottages, buildings, rented spaces, warehouses, barns, or outdoors on farms and fields, on private boats and vehicles such as cars, trucks, and planes which are used to transport victimized children or adults to other like-minded persons or groups in the community, the nation, or across borders.

## The relational bond between the victimized person and the torturers and traffickers

- Can be strong with torture-based family groups and other perpetrators with the child not realizing they are being victimized
- Been taught to distrust outsiders
- Torture destroys personhood so they may not realize they are a person with human and legal rights
- Be terrorized they will be killed

## Helping responses

- Remember sexualized torture and human trafficking can occur in the home
- Remember children from infancy to youth, and adults of all nationalities, from all walks of life can be victims; they can be co-workers, hospital clients, runaways, neighbors, or friends
- Tell them you believe them

- Be respectful to persons who have been victimized, tell them you are sorry they have suffered such violations
- Do not turn away when they try to tell you what they have survived
- Reduce their sense of Self-blame by telling them it is not their fault
- Organize presentations/discussions with knowledgeable presenters, include information written material in school, university, and professional development programs; in relationship, sexuality, and prenatal classes
- If you suspect that a child is being harmed, will be harmed, or has been harmed call 911, the police, child protection services, contact [www.cybertip.ca](http://www.cybertip.ca) or Crime Stoppers at [www.canadiancrimestoppers.org](http://www.canadiancrimestoppers.org) 1-800-222-8477



## NST

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# SEXUALIZED TORTURE & HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Did you know these  
happen in the home?

## What is torture?

Torture is defined as committing cruel, inhuman, and degrading acts that are intentionally inflicted to cause severe physical or mental pain and suffering for any reason such as discrimination or punishment. United Nations human rights state that no one shall be subjected to torture.

## Sexualized torture is?

- Oral, anal, and vaginal rapes committed by one person or a group
- Rape using weapons, such as guns and knives, or other objects
- Bestiality, human-animal cruelty
- Pseudo-necrophilic rape means the person is raped when tortured into unconsciousness
- Commercial images known as 'torture pornography'
- 'Snuff' images which involve rape and murder of the victimized person
- During sexualized tortures other forms of torture occur, such as verbal torture when called a "slut" or "whore"; emotional torture when told they are worthless human beings, laughed at, and shamed; physical tortures, for instance electric shocked, severely beaten, whipped, cut, burned, hung, caged, starved, forced nakedness, kept cold, denied using a toilet, drugged, and held underwater in sinks and tubs
- Can result in forced pregnancies and abortions

## Human trafficking is?

It involves recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving persons by using threats, force, coercion, using a person's vulnerability, or abusing one's power, by giving or receiving money or other benefits when exploiting the trafficked person.

## Who are the sexualized torturers & traffickers?

They can be:

- **Non-State actors** who are private persons or groups, such as parents, other inter-generational family members, guardians, neighbors, friends, trusted adults, spouses, pimps, traffickers, johns, or strangers.
- **State actors** meaning government officials, police, military, or prison guards.

The word *actors* simply refers to the person or group committing a specific act, in this case the person or group who commits torture and trafficking.

## Why they do what they do?

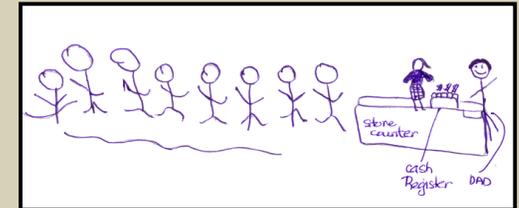
They do for a variety of reasons including

- For pleasure
- To exert power and domination
- Because of misogynistic discrimination as women and girls are the predominate victims of sexualized victimization

- For financial profit or other material gain
- Because of justification beliefs, or learned attitudes and behaviors when connected to like-minded others

## Personal testimonial

### "BEING RENTED OUT"



*My father owned a store and he and my mother would dress me up and sit me on the counter of their store and rent me out to the ladies and the men who came to rent me. I can still hear my father saying to them, 'Bring her back when you're done'. (Sara, 1998, this ordeal began when she was about two years of age)*

## Grooming techniques

- These are used inside and outside the home to terrorize and create a state of ongoing captivity
- To manipulate the child/adult never to tell
- To force them to normalize their victimization
- To believe it is their fault, that they are "bad", that no one will believe them, think they are lying, or "crazy"
- Told repeatedly that no one cares