

## Policy Brief



The Salvation Army is a Christian church and registered charity present in over 400 communities across Canada.

We engage in a program of practical action to serve the community and help those who are in need practically, emotionally or spiritually.

We work on a number of issues related to our services including:

- Housing and Homelessness
- Anti-human trafficking
- Alcohol and Drug Addictions
- Community and Family Services
- Financial Inclusion
- Poverty
- Food Security
- Emergency Disaster Relief

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## Anti-Human Trafficking

An overview of The Salvation Army's Anti-Human Trafficking Support Services

### Our approach

The Salvation Army offers support to victims of modern slavery and human trafficking. We offer housing, medical and social services for victims of modern slavery and human trafficking

Despite often being perceived as a problem of the past or an issue that doesn't affect Canadians, slavery still affects our society's most vulnerable citizens.

It is often those suffering from poverty who fall prey to slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Salvation Army offers a broad range of services in several locations to help victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

In Canada alone there are anywhere between 700,000 to 4 Million people trafficked annually. According to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, 94% of victims are Canadian citizens or residents.

The majority of these trafficking victims are part of the illegal sex trade, with women and girls of all ages often forced into prostitution by traffickers.

The Canadian government has laws in place to prosecute human traffickers, with lengthy jail terms handed out to those convicted of such offenses. However with trafficking rampant across Canada, the number of convictions is relatively small compared to how extensively this felony is committed. While The Salvation Army offers services across the country to help victims of human trafficking, until federal

action is taken to crack down on the trafficking epidemic, The Salvation Army can continue to expect a sustained intake of trafficking victims.

### Deborah's Gate

The Salvation Army's flagship location, Deborah's Gate, is tackling this issue, which helps women over the age of 18 who have been victims of human trafficking. In a confidential location, The Salvation Army offers a number of programs to help these women rebuild their lives.

Deborah's Gate offers wrap-around, customized support for each individual.

In addition, Deborah's Gate has partnered with community agencies to provide additional programming including but not limited to educational upgrading, medical/optical/dental services, addiction support, mental health support, a community dance residency and fine arts development.

In 2014, Deborah's Gate launched New Hope: National Outreach Services, for survivors across Canada. This program is the first point of contact for survivors, with the goal of providing a spark of new hope that freedom, exiting, and healing is possible

Also in 2014, Deborah's Gate pioneered Living Hope, a life and living skills program created specifically for survivors of human trafficking. The goal is to provide key life and living skill development so each survivor can begin living a life of hope, both for their present and their future, through practical psychosocial development

In addition to regular programs, Deborah's Gate runs specials programs including contemporary dance residence, dental services, gym and fitness Classes, tattoo branding removal and culinary arts program.

### Our policy recommendations

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