



# Trafficking in Women and Children

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## PRESENTATION OF THE ISSUE

### WHAT IS TRAFFICKING ?

Moving people across borders for the purposes of exploitations\*

\*(see glossary for the UN definition of trafficking)

Its forms are many: transporting people (primarily women and children) across borders to be sexually exploited, to work in sweat shops, to be domestic workers for little or no salary, to be objects of sex tourism, to be mail-order brides, etc.

In Quebec, trafficking has been found in many places of prostitution: on the streets, in the parks, on the run, in bars, in ordinary clubs and hotels, in clubs and hotels that specialize in the erotic, escort services, hostess and dating services, massage studios, saunas, classified ads in newspapers and magazines, brothels and closed houses, nude dance bars located outside of Montreal and Toronto by gangs of motorcyclists like Hell's Angels.

It is a form of violence, of human rights violations. It continues and is even growing because it has enormous economic benefit for the traffickers and for governments who sanction it. (See video: *So Deep a Violence: Prostitution, Trafficking and the Global Sex Industry*)

The enormity of the problem is hidden but it is in all of our countries and undermines the dignity of all women. It devalues women, treats us as of lesser status, as objects to be bought and sold, to be used at will by men.