



# Action Coalition on Human Trafficking

## INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

**Title of Program:** *Engaging Community: Edmonton Community Plan to Reduce and Prevent Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls*

**Date of ethics clearance:** TBD

**Date of expiration for the project:** March 31, 2015

**Principal Investigator:** Davina Rousell, Research Coordinator with Action Coalition on Human Trafficking (ACT) Alberta  
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**Invitation to Participate:** You are invited to participate in the research study called *Engaging Community: Edmonton Community Plan to Reduce and Prevent Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls*, that is being conducted by Davina Rousell, a doctoral student at Carleton University, and Karen McCrae, a Masters graduate from the University of British Columbia, on behalf of Action Coalition on Human Trafficking (ACT) Alberta. ACT Alberta is a not-for-profit agency that brings together law enforcement, government ministries, non-governmental organizations and volunteers to identify and respond to human trafficking. A Working Together: Engaging Communities to end Violence Against Women and Girls grant from Status of Women Canada funds this research study.

**Who can participate:** In order to qualify to participate you need to be 18 years of age or older and have been or are directly impacted by sex trafficking in Edmonton.

**Purpose of the Study:** The purpose of this study is to conduct a local needs assessment to understand your community's needs (i.e., services and policies). The goal of this study is to develop a Community Action Plan to reduce and prevent sex trafficking of women and girls in Edmonton. I am particularly interested in understanding and documenting your experiences as a woman who has been directly impacted by sex trafficking to learn how to reduce and prevent sex trafficking in Edmonton.

**What will you be asked to do?** If you agree to participate in the interview, it will be about 90 minutes in duration and will be held in a location that is close to public transportation and is easily accessible. During the interview you will be asked to share your ideas and perspectives on sex trafficking and how it can be reduced and prevented. For example, you will be asked questions about core causes of sex trafficking, what is

working, and what needs to change to reduce and prevent sex trafficking of women and girls in Edmonton. The interview will be recorded on a digital audio recorder.

**Possible Benefits:**

It is hoped that your knowledge and experience will inform the development of a Community Action Plan to reduce and prevent sex trafficking of women and girls in Edmonton. What is unique about this study is that it is not just about asking questions, it is about taking action. As such, the City of Edmonton has agreed to support the implementation of one of the strategies identified in the Community Action Plan. Also, the Community Action Plan will be shared with law enforcement, government ministries, and non-governmental agencies to help to build awareness and inform policies and services to reduce and prevent sex trafficking of women and girls in Edmonton. In addition by participating in the interview you will learn about sex trafficking and what can be done to reduce and prevent it in your community.

**Possible Risks:**

We do not anticipate any risks involved with participating in the interview. However, it is possible that during the interview you may talk about issues/problems that you find upsetting. If this happens, contact information for people who can provide that support will be shared with you as well as a resource leaflet will be provided with contact information on free emotional, psychological, and spiritual services. If you share that you are at risk of being harmed or at risk of harming others we are legally obligated to share this information with the appropriate authorities.

**Confidentiality:**

Your name will be replaced with a pseudonym so that nobody, other than the research team, can tell what you said. Your name will never be used in any reports, presentations or papers about this study. Your participation in the study will be known only by the Principal Investigator and Research Assistant. The research team guarantees that any information that you share will remain strictly confidential. The recordings will be transcribed and a copy of the transcript and the preliminary findings will be sent to you. It is anticipated that the findings will be available by the spring of 2014.

All of the information collected during the study will remain in a locked filing cabinet in an office at the ACT Alberta for a period of seven years following the completion of the study after which time they will be destroyed. Only the research team identified in this information form and the Executive Director, Andrea Burkhart will have access to this information. Andrea will only have access to the information once all of the information that could be used to identify a participant has been removed.

The information gathered for this study may be looked at again in the future to help ACT Alberta answer other service and policy questions. To do this, the researchers would have to get permission from you and the Community Research Ethics Board of Alberta.

**Can you quit?**

Yes, you can change your mind and stop participating at any time. If you are uncomfortable answering any questions, you are free to refuse to answer and the research team will respect your choice to pass. After the interview has ended you have two weeks to withdraw from the study. Should you decide to withdraw from the study the information that you provided will be destroyed.

**Compensation:** Refreshments will be provided during the interview and you will receive a gift card for sharing your time and knowledge with the research team. If you decide to withdraw from the study you will still receive the gift card.

**Your signature:**

If you are willing to participate we will ask you to sign a consent form to show that you agree to take part in the interview.

**Contact Names and Telephone Numbers:**

This research project was reviewed and received ethics clearance by the Community Research Ethics Board of Alberta. If you have any concerns or questions about your involvement in the study please contact the Research Ethics Board. Contact information is as follows:

Melanie Pankratow, Program Coordinator, Ethics & Innovation  
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Community Research Ethics Board of Alberta  
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Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 4A7  
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**Do you have more questions?**

If you have any more questions or would like more information, you can ask me, Davina, about anything you don't understand or would like assistance with (i.e. arranging transportation). My contact information is provided below.

Thank you!

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