

Victim-Perpetrator Screening Tool For Human Trafficking

Project Summary:

- This project developed a screening tool that identifies perpetrators that have been victimized by human trafficking - victim perpetrator screening tool (VPST).
- It is designed to create a better understanding of victim-perpetrators and their experiences and to help women who end up facing criminal charges a tool to identify that they were a victim of human trafficking, since many victims become perpetrators through manipulation and coercion and only perpetrate as a survival tactic.

Project Goals:

- Helps connect victim-perpetrators with services and supports
- Will ensure that victim-perpetrators are not unjustly revictimized through the justice system
- The justice system does not always recognize victim-perpetrators as victims of human trafficking

Methods:

- Police (DRPS) will receive specialized training on how to identify potential human trafficking cases
- This will allow police to refer individuals to victim services (specialized victim services unit for human trafficking)
- This particular victim services unit already has specialized training in human trafficking

Outcomes: What were the outcomes/deliverables of the project?

- Increase knowledge of human trafficking victim-perpetrators in the justice system and in the police force
- Provide supports for victim-perpetrators (as they would otherwise be persecuted without receiving support)

Why is this important?: How will your findings be applied to improving service at Durham Region? Where should the Region go from here?

- It brings more awareness about human trafficking and it will help bring more recognition that victim-perpetrators were formerly victims of human trafficking.
- These recommendations will help the region be more responsive to the needs of human trafficking survivors

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