

RE: Educating Canadian Medical Students on Human Trafficking in Canada

2016-03-03

Dear Canadian Federation of Medical Students,

We, the Board of Directors of South House, Dalhousie's Gender and Sexual Resource Centre, are writing this letter in support of the initiative to incorporate human trafficking education into Canadian medical school curricula. We are aware of the six core competencies outlined by the CFMS Global Health Program, and we believe that human trafficking specifically relates to four of them: health implications of travel, migration and displacement; social and economic determinants of health; globalization of health and healthcare; and, human rights in healthcare.

As an organization, we consider educating future healthcare providers on human trafficking to be crucial for raising awareness for this growing issue and creating a culture that supports and protects survivors of human trafficking as well as sex workers without shaming them. Providing medical students with information about human trafficking, available screening protocols, and victim support services will allow future healthcare professionals to interact more confidently with patients who are potential trafficking victims. Ultimately, these future healthcare professionals will develop the skills necessary to identify victims of human trafficking and provide victims with potentially life-saving resources.

We hope that you, the CFMS, will consider this initiative, as human trafficking in Canada is a health issue that requires the involvement of healthcare providers to help effectively identify and support victims.

Sincerely,

Marietta Wildt

Chair of the Board of Directors of South House, Dalhousie's Gender and Sexual Resource Centre, board@southhousehalifax.ca