

Resolution on Supporting the “Educating Pre-Clerkship Canadian Medical Students About Human Trafficking” Position Paper

WHEREAS studies have recognized that assistance to human trafficking victims by healthcare professionals (HCPs) in Canada is limited and uncoordinated (1)

WHEREAS several researchers, through their studies, have come to advocate for the recommendation that medical students be educated on the topic of human trafficking (2-13)

WHEREAS medical school curricula across Canada do not seem to be adequately addressing the topic of human trafficking (3)

WHEREAS a study conducted at the University of Toronto Medical School reported that 94% of the surveyed students believed that they would be unlikely or only somewhat likely to encounter or identify a trafficked person in a Canadian clinical setting (3)

WHEREAS HCPs are some of the only professionals to come into contact with victims who are still in captivity (3, 13)

WHEREAS it is estimated that 28% of female human trafficking victims (14) and 20% of domestic minor sex trafficking victims (15) come into contact with a healthcare professional

WHEREAS the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) Global Health Program outlines 6 core competencies that medical students should possess upon graduation (16)

WHEREAS human trafficking relates to four of these competencies:

- a) Health implications of travel, migration and displacement: victims of human trafficking are displaced from their communities;
- b) Social and economic determinants of health: populations are made more vulnerable to human trafficking through poverty, racism, urbanization, and discriminatory markets in a competitive global economy;
- c) Globalization of health and healthcare: the spread of both transplanetary and supraterritorial connections has created a global medical community in which human trafficking poses unique clinical challenges; and,
- d) Human rights in healthcare: victims of human trafficking endure extreme and prolonged psychological, physical, and sexual trauma

Be it resolved that the CFMS adopt the position paper on Educating Pre-Clerkship Canadian Medical Students About Human Trafficking

Be it resolved that the CFMS support the incorporation of human trafficking statistics, validated screening protocols, and victim interaction strategies into Canadian medical curricula by first integrating with:

- 1) Aboriginal Health classes;
- 2) LGBTQ+ Health and Homelessness classes;
- 3) Women’s Health classes; and,
- 4) Refugee Health classes

Be it resolved that curriculum development include CFMS' VP Education, CFMS' VP Government Affairs, CFMS' Global Health Officers, Canadian human trafficking researchers and organizations, and Canadian medical school curriculum planning committees (with their respective student representatives)

Submitted by: Guido Guberman (McGill) and Emma Herrington (McMaster)

Time Invested: 2,000 hours (across 3 years)

References:

1. Oxman-Martínez, J., Lacroix, M., & Hanley, J. (2005). Victims of trafficking in persons: Perspectives from the Canadian community sector Ottawa. Canada: Ottawa Department of Justice—Research and Statistics Division. Pawson, R. (2002). Evidence-based policy: in search of a method. *Evaluation*, 8(2), 157-181.
2. Grace, A. M., Lippert, S., Collins, K., Pineda, N., Tolani, A., Walker, R., ... & Horwitz, S. M. (2014). Educating health care professionals on human trafficking. *Pediatric emergency care*, 30(12), 856.
3. Wong, J. C., Hong, J., Leung, P., Yin, P., & Stewart, D. E. (2011). Human trafficking: an evaluation of Canadian medical students' awareness and attitudes. *Education for Health*, 24(1), 501.
4. Baldwin, S. B., Eisenman, D. P., Sayles, J. N., Ryan, G., & Chuang, K. S. (2011). Identification of human trafficking victims in health care settings. *Health and human rights*, 13(1), 36-49.
5. Beck, M. E., Lineer, M. M., Melzer-Lange, M., Simpson, P., Nugent, M., & Rabbitt, A. (2015). Medical Providers' Understanding of Sex Trafficking and Their Experience With At-Risk Patients. *Pediatrics*, 135(4), e895- e902.
6. Chisolm-Straker, M., Richardson, L. D., & Cossio, T. (2012). Combating slavery in the 21st century: The role of emergency medicine. *Journal of health care for the poor and underserved*, 23(3), 980-987.
7. Cole, J., & Sprang, G. (2015). Sex trafficking of minors in metropolitan, micropolitan, and rural communities. *Child abuse & neglect*, 40, 113-123.
8. McConkey, S. J., García, C., Mann, A., & Conroy, R. (2014). Sex trafficking in Ireland from a health care perspective. *Irish Medical Journal*, 107(9), 270- 2.
9. Sabella, D. (2011). The role of the nurse in combating human trafficking. *AJN The American Journal of Nursing*, 111(2), 28-37.
10. Simmons, J. V., Lee, T., Simmons, M., & López, I. A. (2014). Nurses' knowledge and attitudes towards victims of sexual trafficking. *Florida Public Health Review*, 11, 68-72.
11. Viergever, R. F., West, H., Borland, R., & Zimmerman, C. (2015). Health care

providers and human trafficking: what do they know, what do they need to know? Findings from the middle East, the Caribbean, and central america. *Frontiers in public health*, 3.

12. Logan, T. K., Walker, R., & Hunt, G. (2009). Understanding human trafficking in the United States. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 10(1), 3-30.
13. Clawson, H. J., Dutch, N., Solomon, A., & Grace, L. G. (2009). *Human trafficking into and within the United States: A review of the literature*. Washington, DC: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, US Department of Human and Health Services. Retrieved December, 25, 2009.
14. Barrows, J., & Finger, R. (2008). Human trafficking and the healthcare professional. *Southern medical journal*, 101(5), 521-524; Crane, P. A., & Moreno, M. (2011). Human trafficking: what is the role of the health care provider?. *Journal of Applied Research on Children: Informing Policy for Children at Risk*, 2(1), 7. Chicago.
15. Dovydaitis T. Human trafficking: the role of the health care provider. *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*. 2010 Sep 10;55(5):462-7.
16. Gao G., Kherani, I., Halpine, M., Carpenter, J., Sleeth, J., Mercer, G., Moore, S., & Kapoor, V. (2015). Global Health Core Competencies in Undergraduate Medical Education: A Canadian National Consensus.