

How is an investigation conducted in this type of case?

- A complaint filed at a neighbourhood police station is forwarded to our section
- We contact you and schedule a meeting in order to find out the facts about the incident
- The investigation is conducted based on the information you provide
- The SPVM works in collaboration with the Directeur des poursuites criminelles et pénales (DPCP) who refers cases to court proceedings
- You will be provided with support throughout the proceedings based on your needs

What should I do if I consider that my life is in danger?

In all cases, if you feel that your life is in danger, call **911** on Montréal island. As soon as your call is answered, immediately state the location of the incident, the type of emergency and where you are calling from.

Can I file a complaint and remain anonymous?

It is essential that a person files a complaint. Therefore, if you are a victim of a criminal act and you wish to file a complaint relating to your situation or that of a person in your circle of friends and family, you will need to provide your identity. However, if you wish to anonymously share information, without filing a complaint, it is possible to do so by contacting Info-Crime Montréal.



SOME RESOURCES

- *Les Survivantes* Program (SPVM)
- Marie-Vincent Foundation
- En Marge 12-17
- CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'île-de-Montréal
- Montréal West Island CIUSSS



HUMAN TRAFFICKING

FIGHT AGAINST sexual exploitation



Service de police de la Ville de Montréal

WHAT ROLE DOES THE SPVM PLAY IN RELATION TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

"The cornerstone of the Human Trafficking Section's mandate is to protect victims and vulnerable individuals. A significant share of the efforts deployed by team members focuses on combating pimps and online predators."

(SPVM, 2021)



The SPVM's response to human trafficking is broken down into two aspects: detection/investigation and prevention (via the *Les Survivantes* program). These two aspects are intertwined.

RECRUITMENT

"Pimps (...) come from all ethnocultural or linguistic groups and from all layers of society. (...) They may act alone, as part of an organized network or hide on the sidelines of legal industry."

(Le Regroupement des auberges du cœur du Québec, 2023)

There are different ways of recruiting victims:

- They come into contact with victims through mutual acquaintances, in public places, or even via social media.
- The Loverboy method: seducing a person who is looking for love and seems vulnerable. At the beginning, they are affectionate, thoughtful and good listeners, offer you gifts and/or pay for you to go out. Desensitization to the world of prostitution takes place gradually as the relationship develops.

SOME TIPS

- Never accept friendship requests for people you do not know on social networks.
- Avoid posting details about your personal and love life on public platforms.
- Be wary when something appears to be too good to be true, for example: gifts offered by a person you have only known for a short while and who asks for nothing in return.

WARNING SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Play special attention to a person in your circle of friends and family who:

- Becomes distant from their loved ones and changes their circle of friends
- Cuts themselves off more frequently
- Loses interest in school and is absent more often
- Has new items whose value is beyond their means
- Does not take care of their personal hygiene, does not take care of their appearance, often wears the same clothes
- Changes their clothing style: wears inappropriate clothes for their age, the time of the year (temperature) and situation
- Has bruises on their body, or old injuries which give the impression that they have been held captive, physically abused or tortured, or they refuse to seek medical treatment
- Has new tattoos
- Abuses drugs or alcohol