DID YOU KNOW?

In Québec, the average age of entry into prostitution for minors is **14 years old.**



WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY ABOUT MINORS?

Under the law, any person under the age of 18 who engages in a sexual act, whether voluntarily or not, in exchange for money, goods, services, or favors (whether they keep them or not) is considered to be experiencing sexual exploitation.

This is illegal.



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AGATE PROJECT

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION... WHAT IS IT?

Sexual exploitation involves the exchange of sexual activities for money, services, material goods, or emotional favors.

CALACS Coup de cœur

WHY DO PEOPLE BECOME INVOLVED IN SEXUAL EXPLOITATION?

(E.G., ESCORTING, "SUGAR BABY" ARRANGEMENTS, EROTIC MASSAGE, ONLINE SEXUAL SERVICES, ETC.)

Reasons may include: Escaping a difficult family environment, Getting out of poverty, Paying for drug use, Seeking quick and easy money, Out of love or loyalty toward a partner.

THE IMPACTS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

- Loss of self-esteem
- Flashbacks and nightmares
- Constant fear
- Anxiety
- Shame and guilt
- Social withdrawal
- Fear of encountering people again

HOW DOES RECRUITMENT HAPPEN?

LOVE AND SEDUCTION

Most common: taking advantage of emotional vulnerability.

"I love you , you're beautiful... I need you, you're the only one that matters."

FRIENDSHIP

The trust is used to draw a friend into sexual exploitation.

"Come with me, I know a place where we can make money."

DEBT OR "HELPING OUT"

A favor becomes a debt to be repaid.

"You've been staying with us for a month. Now you owe me..."

MONEY AND THE DREAM LIFESTYLE

Promises of a fast, easy, and luxurious life.

"Look at what I have. You could live like this too."

VIOLENCE AND CONTROL

Threats, physical violence, blackmail, or manipulation used to maintain control.

SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCY

Creating or maintaining addiction to increase control.

"You owe me for the drugs... you're going to have to pay me back."

THE PHASES: THE CYCLE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

THE HONEYMOON PHASE

"Wow, I could have everything I dream of easily! (love, money, etc.)"

DESENSITIZATION

"They suggested a group sex situation — I felt like trying it."

THE LURE OF MONEY

"I'd rather buy what I want than struggle at school."

THE CRISIS SITUATION

"I had a bad client. Even when I don't want to, it feels like I have no choice but to do what they say."

REFLECTION AND DILEMMA

"I'm exhausted. I'm done. I'm scared to leave, but I can't take it anymore."

BREAK AND AMBIVALENCE

"That's enough, they're dangerous. But I have no one left. I've lost my friends."

RELAPSE / RETURN

"It's written all over me now. Some of them were okay. I just need to not get fooled next time."