

Education at YYZ

The Department of Justice states that Canada is believed to be primarily a destination country to which persons are trafficked. Asia and Eastern Europe are believed to be the primary source regions for persons being trafficked into Canada for sexual exploitation. Busy airports are natural distribution hubs for human trafficking, yet we fail to equip our airport personnel with appropriate training regarding identification of victims and information surrounding human trafficking.

In a study performed by [free-them], Statistics Canada figures show that, of the 77 people charged in Canada with human trafficking between 2006 and 2011, 34 — almost half — were in Toronto. Which proves the significant need for training of Toronto's authority figures, those involved in public safety, and those who are most likely to come in contact with victims.

25,930,363 people fly through Toronto Pearson airport annually, It is the largest Canadian airport. So I do not need to explain further that our airport personnel are in many cases the first come into contact with internationally trafficked victims. US Congressman Chris Smith wrote, "It has come to my attention that airlines are being exploited as trafficking routes into the United States (I insert Canada). Women and children are being transported to lives of slavery in broad daylight, shrouded only by the lack of awareness or inaction of those around them." An example of this is that Canada's most vocal survivor, Timea Nagy, founder of Walk with Me Victim Services, came into Canada on 3 different accounts and yet our airport personnel failed to recognize her as a victim of this horrid crime. **(for the purpose of trafficking 2x, + her final return)**

Free-them is recommending the services of Airline Ambassadors International as a training organization for Toronto airport. Airline Ambassadors has a well recognized training program already in place for airport personnel regarding Human Trafficking and recognizing its victims. Airline Ambassadors International has conducted 13 industry specific training's for more than 1000 people in the travel industry and distributed 10,000 wallet cards to flight crew. They have done training at the San Francisco Airport, and on behalf of Delta Airlines. They have also trained many SABRE travel and tourism employees on this topic. ***Airline Ambassadors began training airport staff after 4 victims of trafficking were accurately identified by flight crew on 4 separate commercial flights in the US, one of these identifications led to the rescue 82 child victims in Boston. (Checking on more facts...I am not finding direct information on this, other than in news articles based on Nancy Rivard/AAI)***

I have been in contact with Nancy Rivard, the program president, and she has expressed a desire to extend training to Canadian Airports, as currently Canada has no training in place with regards to victim identification and human trafficking. Toronto can be a role model for all of Canada's travel industry as they take the first steps to implement what could be a fundamental step in restricting the extent of human trafficking into Toronto and surrounding areas.

(CBSA did not have much info online with regard to trafficking, this is all...not sure there is much usable strategy there.)

<http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/media/facts-faits/072-eng.html>