

CryNot: Bringing Awareness about Human Trafficking!

There's a new important date on our calendar this year and a new group in town who wants to bring awareness about it.

February 22 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day in Canada.

Locally, the municipalities of Orangeville, Caledon, Mono and Dufferin are issuing proclamations designating February 22, 2021 as Human Trafficking Prevention Awareness Day.

The big picture of human trafficking is sinister and devastating: it involves recruiting, holding or influencing a person for the purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labour. It's the dark underbelly of a world-wide problem and here in Dufferin-Caledon it's closer than you think.

Human trafficking has a personal face – it's our daughters and sons, our young vulnerable youth who are being lured into prostitution, sex trafficking and other forms of exploitation. It's a study in the finely-tuned manipulation of the vulnerable: promises of love and affection, provision of drugs and alcohol, threats of violence against families and friends; it's all about complete control of the victim.

Sex trafficking leaves a lasting impact on human life, families and communities. When the **Rotary Club of Orangeville** and **Compass Community Church** became aware of the threat of human trafficking in our area they formed a volunteer-driven group called **Cry Not** (Compass Rotary Youth- No Trafficking). It is a natural fit: the Rotary Club of Orangeville with its motto of 'service above self' has always had youth work as a focus and Compass Community Church has been serving the Dufferin-Caledon community for almost 160 years caring for youth and families.

The mission of **Cry Not** is clear:

- to reduce and eliminate human trafficking in our area by raising awareness
- to foster collaboration among like groups and organizations
- to equip adults with connections and resources available to defeat the human trafficking threat
- to create and maintain digital information on social media

According to a spokesperson for Cry Not, "our group does not feel qualified to undertake the involved follow-up work that can be required with victims as there are professional organizations to do that, but we feel strongly about bringing awareness about the threats, tactics and the personal costs of human trafficking."

How can Cry Not help?

Afternoon or evening presentations, which usually last approximately 30 minutes, followed by a Q&A can be scheduled for your group by contacting crynotdufferin@gmail.com

For more information please check out Cry Not's website www.crynot.ca

If you need immediate help contact: 905-951-3838 (24 hour crisis line)

1-833-900-1010 (Canadian Human Trafficking Hotline)

Human trafficking is the fastest growing crime on a global basis and it is happening in our community. Cry Not wants to tell you about it.