



**FAMILY SERVICES of PEEL**

Since 1971

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 10, 2018**

## **Global Conference on Human Trafficking and Trauma**

**A Public Health Response**

**June 24-25, 2019**

The “*Global Conference on Human Trafficking and Trauma; A Public Health Response*”, is a two-day conference organized by Family Services of Peel – Peel Institute on Violence Prevention, HEAL Trafficking, and the Women and Gender Studies Program at the University of Toronto Mississauga. This event will take place on June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in Mississauga Ontario, Canada.

The core objective of the conference is to reaffirm global commitments to, and solidarity with, survivors of human trafficking who are coping with trafficking-related trauma, as well as provide a platform to synergistically conduct an in-depth analysis of the root causes and trends of human trafficking. It will encourage a detailed discussion on the strengths, gaps, weaknesses, and future opportunities of current anti-trafficking measures. We will highlight the nuances of current domestic and international approaches, legal frameworks, labour and human rights initiatives, forced labour trends, and more. The intersections of all these measures will be explored to reach revised understandings of current human trafficking survivor needs, in areas, among others, such as emotional support, physical health, housing services, education, training, and work opportunities.

Human trafficking is one of the fastest growing areas of organized crime and the third largest income revenue stream for systemized crime. It operates at the direct expense of millions of victims, who face physical, emotional, and psychological trauma during and after being trafficked. Given the severe negative impacts of human trafficking, and more particularly the sex trafficking of women and girls (who are often the primary targets of trafficking in general), this area of crime needs immediate address.

During the conference, representatives will include survivors, members of civil society, policymakers, international scholars, lawyers, researchers, academics, local actors, media personnel, and more. Together, we aim to identify possible joint initiatives and establish best international practices, with a distinct focus on potential areas of improvement. These discussions will help us determine new innovative approaches and policies that will operate within an anti-racism, anti-oppression, and survivor-centred framework, to address the short-term and long-term needs of survivors. In doing so, the conference hopes to advance a seamless approach that will refocus policy objectives, services, programs, mutually informed research, and community-oriented initiatives for these survivors. Additionally, we will sign a declaration against Human Trafficking and distribute globally.

For more information on this conference, please contact Chuck MacLean, Executive Director at Family Services of Peel, via e-mail [cmaclean@fspeel.org](mailto:cmaclean@fspeel.org) or phone at 905-270-2250 Ext. 266.