



PARTNERING FOR PREVENTION

Human Trafficking Workshop

“In the 1990s we were aware of trafficking cases but had absolutely no idea how to handle them. In early Canadian Council for Refugees workshops on human trafficking we sought to create greater awareness among organizations about this sinister phenomenon. The greatest challenge we continue to face in our work with trafficked persons is to create consciousness that these people are not criminals, but human beings who have suffered the most egregious rights abuses.”

Canadian law criminalizes trafficking. Instead of protecting the rights of people who have been trafficked, however, in many cases it promotes their detention. Through its Trafficking Committee the CCR has developed a legislative proposal to bring a permanent and fundamental change in policy so that trafficked persons in Canada are protected. The proposal can be viewed at www.trafficking.ca

This workshop will expose the players in the extensive trafficking web and their modes operandi, explore a broad definition of human trafficking and a legislative proposal for Canada, summarize activities and approaches in Canada with reference to the current phase of the CCR trafficking project, and provide suggestions for what you can do to curb human trafficking.

About the presenter:



Norrie de Valencia

Norrie became involved with refugee sponsorship through the Diocese of New Westminster and her volunteer work with the private sponsorship of refugees program in the late 1980s upon her return to Canada from living abroad.

She joined the Canadian Council for Refugees (CCR) in the early 1990s when violence experienced by women and children, and trafficking in particular, began to become a dominant theme in her work. She volunteered for the CCR's Gender Core Group in order to educate and motivate others to take action and to curb this violence.