

# For Immediate Release



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## Yellow Brick House Responds to Sentencing of Former Hockey Player in Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking Case

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The case involving a former Ontario junior hockey player who pleaded guilty to serious offences including possession and distribution of child sexual abuse and exploitation material, human trafficking, coercion related to sexual services, and breaches of a release order raises serious concerns about sexual exploitation and trafficking.

This case reflects the reality that gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation, trafficking, and coercive control, is not confined to any one community, profession, or background. These are not isolated incidents, but patterns of abuse rooted in power, control, and exploitation.

This case underscores the importance of prevention education and early intervention. Warning signs of coercive control and sexual exploitation are often subtle and can include patterns of isolation, manipulation, control over finances or movement, pressure or coercion into sexual activity, and the use of threats, shame, or intimidation. Strengthening public awareness and education is critical to identifying risks earlier and preventing harm before it escalates.

It is also important to recognize that survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking experience long-term effects that extend far beyond legal proceedings, including ongoing trauma, stigma, and barriers to safety and recovery.

Every survivor deserves to be believed, supported without judgment, and met with trauma-informed care across all systems of response.

Yellow Brick House continues to call for prevention-focused, survivor-centred approaches that address gender based violence at every level of society.

We believe survivors.

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### About Yellow Brick House

Since 1978, Yellow Brick House has been providing life-saving services and prevention programs to meet the diverse needs of individuals, families and communities impacted by

violence. Our Vision is Freedom from violence. Equality for all. The organization is committed to providing a wide range of free and confidential support services to women and children experiencing abuse and violence and empowering them to transition to a violence free lives.

For more information about Yellow Brick House, visit [yellowbrickhouse.org](https://yellowbrickhouse.org)

Crisis and Support line: 1-800-263-3247 (call or text)

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