



ACT!

AGAINST
VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION

WEBSITE



Human Trafficking/Sexual Exploitation in mining

The Mining Sector in Guyana is located in the interior land region of the country. It is one of the major contributors to the country economy.

Regions 1, 7, 8 and 9 are the regions in Guyana where most mining operations take place. Because of the remoteness of the areas, and limited government control, human traffickers are attracted to these location or mining communities, which has a high demand for sex workers.

In these mining communities there are settlements which boast a high concentration of hotels, bars and night-clubs, where sex traffickers exploit vulnerable women and girls.

Women and girls are often time lured by job advertisements, relatives, friends and other individuals. Even some of the victims themselves are engaged in the recruitment process. **Social media plays a major role in recruiting persons to Guyana both legal and illegal e.g facebook groups and Instagram etc.**

Once these women and girls arrive in Guyana and are cleared by immigration officials or make their way through an illegal route, they would stay at specific hotels which is already booked on their arrival. They are promise employment and a good life in Guyana, These false promises lead to most women and girl's passport being taken away, beaten, or threatened with violence, and imprisoned.

They often feel helpless and hopeless, and eventually, stop trying to escape. Human trafficking and sexual exploitation has become one of the most prevalent risks for migrants, women and girls in these vulnerable areas in Guyana. Migrants from Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Suriname, Brazil, Cuba just to name a few are included in the sex trafficking trade in mining sites of Guyana. These Mining sites becoming hotspots for all kind of exploitation face by women and girls.

The Government has tried to tackle the problem with the Combating Trafficking in Persons Act, 2005, the Trafficking in Persons department of the Ministry of Human Services, and the Guyana Police Force Counter-Trafficking in Persons unit, the number of cases remains unabated. which 44 were female, mostly migrants. Human trafficking remains a huge business and those behind it often get "off scot-free".

This is because of an understaffed police force that often time struggles to identify victims. With lack of police resources, and highly dangerous armed groups such as the sindicatos who operate from the Venezuela border nearby. The sindicatos are a violent organisation who operate at the border between Guyana and Venezuela in illegal mining, human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Identification of victims remains challenging, especially in remote areas that have weak institutional presence and fast-developing mining communities. While most of the measures taken by the government only continue to comply with the minimum standards, more and more women and girls are lured under false pretense and have the same fate like others before them. The seemingly never-ending plight of women and girls looking for a better future here in **Guyana end up being trap in human trafficking and sexual exploitation in mining sites.**

