



Krystal Snider
Executive Disruptor



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To: Executive Director

From: Krystal Snider
Executive Disruptor
Collaborative Community Solutions

Re: **Niagara Human Trafficking “Farms”**

Dear Executive Director,

I am reaching out to you today regarding the urgent and ongoing issue of human trafficking within specific targeted communities in Niagara. I trust that your agency — which regularly supports these populations — shares our concern for their safety and well-being.

Allow me to introduce myself: I am Krystal Snider, the Executive Disruptor of an anti-human trafficking training and consulting firm called, *Collaborative Community Solutions*. As a lifelong resident of Niagara and a survivor of human trafficking, I have worked for many years to advance anti-human trafficking efforts in the region, including within the local women's rights movement.

Over the past four years, I have been approached by numerous stakeholders, including executives, frontline workers, and survivors regarding the alarming prevalence of human trafficking "farms" in Niagara Region. These farms serve as sites for the exploitation and abuse of women and girls. They target sex workers and minors who often never leave the farms or, when they do, they barely escape with their lives. I am certain that many of you are already familiar with these distressing media reports.

The recent fire at one of these suspected farms that was widely publicized online on February 17th, has reignited community awareness and outrage about this ongoing crisis. It is crucial to recognize that the Niagara Region remains a significant hub for all forms of human trafficking. These criminal activities were amplified by the combined impact of the pandemic and economic instability. Shockingly, Statistics Canada published that only 11% of human trafficking charges result in conviction. This low conviction rate underscores systemic failures in our laws, enforcement, and reporting. Survivors feel abandoned and they are less likely to take the risk of revealing their plight to authorities.

I was recently asked why some individuals appear to participate in these farms voluntarily. This is due to the complex psychological dynamics of manipulation and grooming combined with threats and actual violence that forces individuals into returning to the farms.



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Today, I am reaching out with three specific requests:

1. **Create a Public Statement:** I urge your agency to issue a public statement informing the community about the existence of these farms and to publicly commit your agency's support to help the survivors. Speak openly and directly to the survivors in your statement.
2. **Expand Support Services:** Commit your agency to allocate additional resources to support survivors who will come forward in response to your outreach. Survivors may be activated to seek help or test your agency's true commitment to support. We are concerned that some survivors may experience a temporary false sense of security following the news that one farm was identified and closed.
3. **Support Frontline Workers:** Recognize the toll that handling these distressing revelations takes on frontline workers. Provide avenues for staff to debrief and seek support to mitigate the emotional impact of their work.

Additionally, I implore your agency to join forces with other organizations in issuing a joint public statement that expresses your solidarity of support for the survivors of these farms. Together, we can amplify our voices and compel public safety officials to acknowledge the existence of the farms and take decisive action to help the survivors. These farms have multiple locations across the Niagara Region and beyond and they operate with sophisticated levels of organization. Action is required to protect and support our young women and girls.

The daily work that your agency engages in is invaluable and it often involves literally saving lives. I urge you to take the three steps that I detailed to respond to this critical issue. Any delay endangers more lives. When communities have faced coordinated violence in the past, survivors have advocated for earlier public awareness and action. The time is NOW.

Thank you for your attention. I am available to discuss this further and collaborate with you to design, develop, and implement the necessary action.

Sincerely,

Krystal Snider

Executive Disruptor
Collaborative Community Solutions