



Building *Momentum*

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT

GAATW Canada respectfully acknowledges that the lands on which we work are the unceded territories of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

As a rights-based organization, we recognize that colonial policies and institutions have seriously impacted Indigenous peoples through processes of political control, settler occupation, and economic and resource exploitation.

These colonial processes continue to contribute to gender-based violence and precarious labour today.

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Message from the *Board of Directors*

On behalf of the GAATW Board, we would like to express our gratitude to our National Director, Alison Clancey, and the GAATW Canada team for all the work that has been accomplished this past year.

We are especially proud of the relationship-building that has occurred with survivors and organizational partners through two national coalition-building events hosted by GAATW Canada, the launch of the *There is a Better Way* campaign, the completion and distribution of the research report *Is it Trafficking*, and various incisive and well-attended public awareness webinars.

We are excited about the opportunities ahead in 2026–2027.

We look forward to building on this momentum by strengthening our national network, expanding our public education and research, including our human trafficking analysis surrounding the 2026 FIFA World Cup in Vancouver, and continuing to advance more effective, evidence-informed approaches.

ANNALEE LEPP & LEIGH ELLIOTT
CO-CHAIRS



Message from the *National Director*

Last year, I described much of our work as taking place behind the scenes—quiet yet essential efforts to reinvigorate GAATW Canada and lay the foundation for long-term change. **This year, we began to see that foundation take shape.**

We strengthened our organizational systems and governance while expanding our research, communications, public education, and network-building efforts. Together, these activities signal a growing organization with a clear purpose: to contribute evidence and support more effective responses to human trafficking and related issues.

Our research this year brought the experiences of racialized women and gender-diverse people in various labour sectors to the forefront in our report, *Is it Trafficking? Examining gender-based violence among women who do informal, precarious, and non-standard labour.*

The project highlighted the importance of and made recommendations to address gender-based violence and exploitation beyond narrow categories and labels.

Through our *There's a Better Way* campaign and new public education resources, we began a broader conversation about whether current anti-trafficking approaches meet people's needs and how we can improve prevention and response.

Building relationships has been equally important. We strengthened partnerships with people with diverse lived expertise, grassroots organizations, researchers, funders, and other allies across Canada. We brought people together at two national meetings to forge new interprovincial relationships.

These relationships are helping to build a more connected cross-movement network grounded in diverse forms of knowledge and experience.

None of this work happens in isolation.

It is made possible by the people and organizations who are willing to question what is not working, share what they are doing to meet their communities' needs, and imagine something better.

I am deeply grateful to our staff, board, partners, funders, and the many people who have contributed their time, knowledge, and expertise to our efforts this year.

As we look ahead, our task is to build on this momentum: strengthening our organization, growing our national network, and continuing to create space for evidence, diverse lived expertise, and new ideas to shape how trafficking and related issues are understood and addressed in Canada.



Alison

ALISON CLANCEY
NATIONAL DIRECTOR

About GAATW *Canada*

MISSION

GAATW Canada addresses human trafficking through research, policy, advocacy, education, and collaborative partnerships.

VALUES

- Accountability
- Anti-Colonialism
- Anti-Racism
- Decarceralism
- Gender Inclusivity
- Intersectional Feminism
- Justice
- Labour & Human Rights

Imagining the *Future*

GAATW CANADA IMAGINES A WORLD WHERE...

- Migrant workers are treated with dignity, fairness, and respect.
- Sex workers are not criminalized and are able to work safely.
- Indigenous peoples are respected, valued, and live free from violence.
- Everyone can exercise their full human and labour rights.
- All people live free from violence, exploitation, and trafficking.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

This year, we continued building on the strong foundation established through our capacity-building initiative, launched in 2024.

We advanced the priorities identified during our strategic planning process. We also strengthened our governance, human resources and policies, and organizational systems to better support our mission and long-term sustainability.

As we continue to grow, our focus remains on building a strong, resilient organization that advances GAATW Canada's work while strengthening the broader movement for systems change.

By contributing evidence, fostering collaboration, and amplifying the expertise of impacted communities, we aim to support an anti-trafficking ecosystem that better meets the diverse needs of individuals and communities.



Research

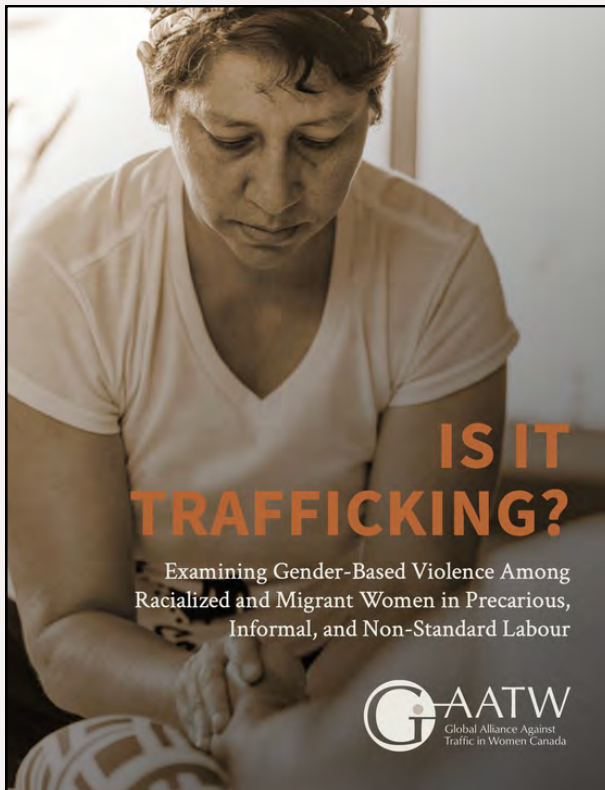
The research phase of the “[*Is It Trafficking? Examining gender-based violence among racialized and migrant women in precarious, informal, and non-standard labour*](#)” project concluded.

The study, which began in 2023, documented the experiences of racialized women and gender-diverse people who experienced workplace gender-based violence across British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and the Yukon and of the organizations serving them.

The final report and two-page summary are [available here](#).

By focusing on the various forms of gender-based violence experienced by racialized women and gender-diverse people across informal, precarious, and non-standard work, we hope our project contributes to a more comprehensive understanding of individuals needs and the avenues that community-based organizations can pursue to support them – regardless of state-imposed categorizations, such as human trafficking.

RESEARCH



Congratulations to researchers **Borislav Gerasimov** and **Julie Murray** for their dedication and thoughtful analysis throughout this project. Their work has made an important contribution to the field.



We are pleased that *Herizons* magazine featured the study in its [summer issue](#), helping to share these findings with a broader audience.

Communications

In 2007, the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women's International Secretariat (Bangkok) published [Collateral Damage: The Impact of Anti-Trafficking Measures on Human Rights Around the World.](#)

The report concluded that:

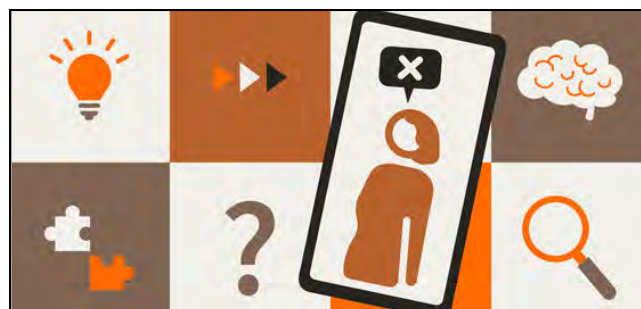
“Despite good intentions and significant investment, some anti-trafficking measures caused unintended harm to marginalized communities and had been counterproductive for the very people they were meant to help.”

These findings continue to inform GAATW Canada's work.

Improving responses to human trafficking requires a willingness to critically examine existing approaches and be open to different perspectives that better meet the diverse needs of those affected.



There is a better
way to fight
human trafficking



There's a *Better Way*

In March, we launched a national communications campaign built around a simple message:

Something isn't working. Victims' and survivors' needs are not being met. There's a better way.

Rather than offering quick or one-size-fits-all fixes, the campaign invited people to question common assumptions about trafficking, reflect on the effectiveness of current responses, and explore alternatives that better meet people's needs.

Its goal was to create space for a different conversation and to begin building a community of people who care deeply about

human trafficking but may not yet recognize the limitations and ineffectiveness of many popular responses.

By presenting new ideas in an accessible way, the campaign demonstrated that people are willing to reconsider long-held assumptions when invited to join the conversation with curiosity and respect.

To learn more about the campaign, read our reflections on the There's a Better Way campaign, [Challenging the Status Quo: What We Learned from a National Anti-Trafficking Campaign](#).

If you haven't already, we also invite you to [sign up for the campaign](#).

Public Education

Improving prevention and response requires more than identifying what is not working—it also requires sharing what does.

Our public education resources move the conversation from newfound awareness to action.

Through accessible materials, we help people better understand what effective responses to human trafficking look like.

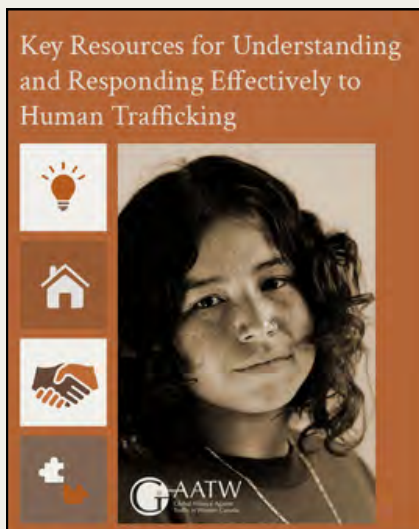
Our goal is to equip people with the knowledge needed to support evidence-based responses.

We invite you to [explore our flipbook](#), which includes many of the plain-language, accessible resources we produced this year to support more effective responses to human trafficking.



In May, GAATW Canada hosted a roundtable discussion, *Moving the Needle: Mapping New Directions for Critical Anti-Trafficking Advocacy*, at the Law and Society Association's Annual Meeting in Chicago.

We discussed a new direction for critical anti-trafficking work and how to work sustainably as critical anti-trafficking scholars and advocates.



"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

— Maya Angelou

Network *Building*

A CROSS-MOVEMENT NETWORK OF PARTNERS



Over the past year, we strengthened existing relationships and developed new collaborations with community organizations, researchers, people with lived expertise, funders, governments, and other allies across Canada.

We convened two national meetings, which brought leaders together from across Canada to advance evidence-based, collaborative solutions.



These gatherings helped build a cross-movement network of partners doing impactful work in their communities, spanning anti-trafficking, migrant justice, Indigenous rights, sex worker rights, faith-based initiatives, LGBTQ2SIA+ advocacy, gender-based violence prevention and response, and other intersecting fields.

We helped foster new interprovincial relationships that strengthen a more connected, collaborative, and effective network of organizations working to prevent trafficking and address exploitation and interconnected issues.

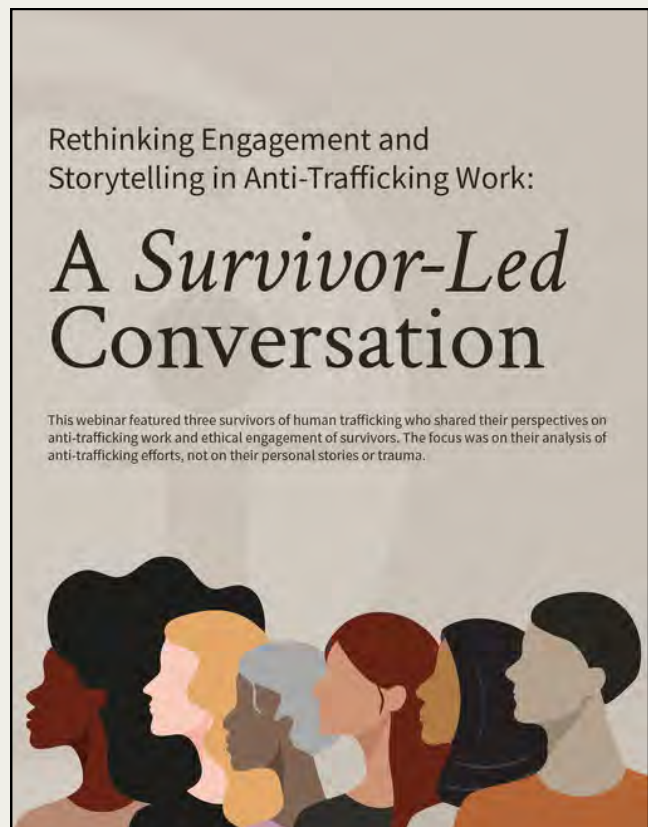
Reciprocity is a *core value* that guides our network-building efforts.

Our partners deepen our understanding of emerging issues through their lived expertise and frontline experience.

By using our platform to amplify their work, we help bring their approaches to wider attention and demonstrate what more effective responses can look like.

They are already modelling more effective, community-based approaches to preventing and addressing violence, exploitation, and/or trafficking.

We also support grassroots organizations by helping to strengthen their organizational capacity, enabling them to focus more resources on the communities they serve.



Meaningful engagement with people with lived experience is also central to our approach.

In May, we co-created a webinar with three trafficking survivors, titled [Rethinking Engagement and Storytelling in Anti-Trafficking Work](#).

The Year Ahead

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026-2027

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

GAATW Canada will continue investing in the organizational capacity needed to support our long-term impact and sustainability.

Key priorities include:

- Implementing a new five-year strategic plan to guide the organization's next phase of growth.
- Deepening and expanding meaningful engagement with our Lived Experience Advisory Group.
- Diversifying our revenue base to strengthen financial sustainability.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Implementing a comprehensive communications strategy to expand our reach, strengthen public engagement, and increase the accessibility and impact of our evidence-based information about human trafficking and intersecting issues.

NETWORK BUILDING

- Continuing to grow a national, evidence-based network and creating more opportunities for individuals and organizations to connect, collaborate, and contribute to improving how trafficking and related issues are understood and addressed.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- Continuing to make the complex issue of human trafficking more accessible by translating research and evidence into clear, practical resources.

RESEARCH

GAATW Canada will continue to advance evidence-based research that informs more effective responses to human trafficking and related issues.

Key research initiatives include:

- ***Is It Trafficking? Examining gender-based violence among racialized and migrant women in precarious, informal, and non-standard labour*** – a one-year knowledge mobilization effort to make research findings more accessible, engage research participants, and support evidence-informed policy and practice.
- ***2026 FIFA World Cup Human Trafficking Analysis: Vancouver*** – an examination of anti-trafficking preparations and narratives associated with the FIFA World Cup, documenting evidence of the presence or absence of human trafficking and identifying trends to inform future mega sporting events.
- ***Alternative Justice Processes for Trafficking and Related Rights Violations*** – a collaborative research project with Red Response and the GAATW International Secretariat exploring more inclusive forms of justice.

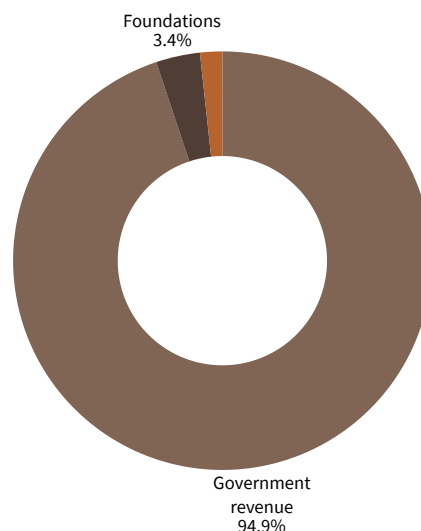
Statement of Operations

FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

REVENUE

• Federal Government	\$418,134
• Foundations	\$15,000
• Interest and earned revenue	\$7,507
• Donations	\$50

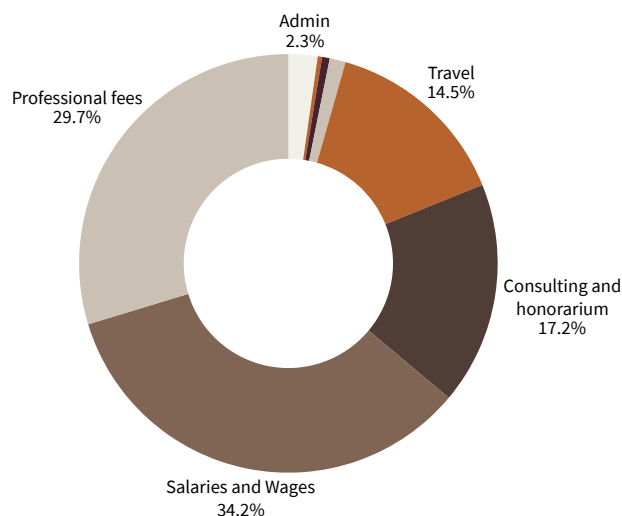
Total Revenue **\$440,691**



EXPENSES

• Salaries and Wages	\$142,208
• Professional Fees	\$123,487
• Consulting and Honoraria	\$71,556
• Travel*	\$60,185
• Admin	\$9,355
• Advertising and Promotion	\$5,125
• Office Supplies	\$2,467
• Amortization	\$1,376

Total Expenses **\$415,759**



Excess of revenue over expenses **\$24,932**

**includes network partners' travel to national meetings*

Thank you to our funders for their generous support



Women and Gender
Equality Canada

Femmes et Égalité
des genres Canada



Department of Justice
Canada

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

THE
HOUSSIAN
FOUNDATION

Meet Our *Team*

STAFF



ALISON CLANCEY
National Director



VICTORIA CURTIS
Knowledge Translation
Lead



BORISLAV GERASIMOV
Researcher



JULIE MURRAY
Researcher

BOARD



ANNALEE LEPP
Co-Chair, Treasurer



LEIGH ELLIOTT
Co-Chair



RHEA ROLLMAN
Interim Secretary



JULIE HAM
Member at large



JONNY MEXICO
Member at large



JESS GERMAN
Member at large



JULIE KAYE
On leave

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