



Monday, September 18th

PLAZA 2

1:00pm-2:00pm

THE EMPOWERMEN PROJECT – ENGAGING
MEN AND BOYS TO PREVENT SEXUAL
EXPLOITATION AND TRAFFICKING

About the Workshop

The EmpowerMen project started in 2022 and focuses on engaging men and boys to prevent sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of women, girls and gender-diverse people. Men create most of the demand for paid sexual services and exploitation, yet very little attention is focused on this group. Through consultations with survivors, professionals and men, we created an intersectional approach for the education field, social services, police, business and civil society. We believe that this will lead to increased safety and wellbeing for women and girls and reduce the exploitation because of less sex purchases. It will also increase the understanding amongst men and boys on the impact of the sex industry on everybody involved, including themselves.

The workshop will highlight:

- the role of sex buyers – who are mostly men – in exploitation and trafficking
- reason why men buy sex
- social, legal and other community responses to the demand of paid sexual services
- update on the project activities

This workshop describes the journey to justice model, highlight successes, challenges, promising practices and lessons learned in a flexible format that will include a PowerPoint presentation with many resources as well as a fluid opportunity for questions and answers.

About the Presenter

Hennes Doltze

EmpowerMen Project

Hennes leads the EmpowerMen Project which is part of the Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre in Winnipeg. The MaMaWi Centre is an Indigenous lead community organisation with a long history of addressing sexual exploitation and trafficking. Hennes holds a degree in social work and not-profit management and has worked in Canada and Germany in the mental health field, child welfare and criminal justice. He has worked with many men in a sex buyer accountability and domestic violence program where he saw positive changes in men when given the space to explore their reasons and the impact to buy sexual acts. Hennes regularly presents at trainings for law-enforcement, social services, educators on sex buyers and their role in exploitation. He has spoken internationally at conferences for intimate partner violence and sexual exploitation (e.g. with the OSCE).