



LOCAL CANADA POLITICS WORLD OPINION LIFE SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS STAR INVESTIGATION



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HALIFAX 

Nova Scotia brings in human t expert who says issue at a 'crit

By **Taryn Grant** Star Halifax
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HALIFAX—A renowned advocate for victims and survivors of human trafficking came to Nova Scotia this week to share her knowledge with the people who are trying to rid the province of the sexual exploitation of youth.



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sexual exploitation and offering support to survivors. She spent her youth in Europe and the past two decades in the U.S. but said adapting her training for Nova Scotia was not difficult; human trafficking is similar all over the world.

“Commercial sexual exploitation looks the same in Kolkata, it looks the same in Calgary, it looks the same in New York,” Lloyd said in interview.

“The things that make people vulnerable — poverty, sexual abuse, the ways that people are treated in the sex industry, the stigma, the difficulty of getting out, the economic resources that you need — all of those things cut across borders and countries.”

Herself a survivor, Lloyd started a non-profit in New York City in 1998 called GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services) to support girls and young women trying to leave “the life.” Her profile has risen over the years as the organization has grown; in 2007, GEMS and Lloyd were featured in a documentary about trafficking called *Very Young Girls*.

Lloyd was in Halifax this week to work with about four dozen people — including police, social workers, staff from non-profits and officials from the provincial government — to hone their skills in identifying victims and offering support as survivors exit the cycle of sexual exploitation.

Charlene Gagnon from YWCA Halifax invited Lloyd to come for the

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