

# NEWS

TRENDING [Germanwings](#) | [Andreas Lubitz](#) | [Israel](#) | [NHL](#) | [Leafs](#) | [Sunshine list: Database](#)

## How does ISIS try to recruit Canadian girls? By using same tactics as pedophiles, TV special says



SHANIFA NASSER, NATIONAL POST | March 14, 2015 | Last Updated: Mar 14 12:43 PM ET  
[More from National Post](#)

[Republish](#)  
[Reprint](#)



CCTV images show three teenagers going through security at London's Gatwick airport before they caught their flight to Turkey to join ISIS. A Global News investigation suggests militants use the same tactics as sexual predators to lure young girls to join their cause.

AP Photo

Recruiters for the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham are attempting to lure Canadian girls — some as young as 13 — to travel abroad to marry them, using tactics straight out of the playbooks of sex traffickers and pedophiles, says a new documentary to be broadcast this weekend.

In *Wives of ISIS*, which airs on the Global News investigative series *16x9* Saturday, a producer poses as a young girl online, attracting the attention of an alleged ISIS recruiter.

The team created a fake social media profile, that of a 15-year-old conservative Muslim girl and ISIS supporter. It wasn't long before she attracted the attention of a man believed to be a recruiter for the group.

"You say you're gonna have a weekend sleepover," he says, explaining how she can get away. The key is not to make her parents suspicious.

In the video, the man lays out the route: Edmonton to Calgary, Calgary to Frankfurt, Frankfurt to Istanbul. "It sounds complicated but it's so simple," he tells her.

# It sounds complicated but it's so simple

Once there, she will be his wife — under his care and responsibility. His top priority is getting her there safely, especially “because you’re so young.”

The alleged recruiter has posted original photos from the region where the terrorist group is active and is well-connected to other known ISIS members, says Amarnath Amarasingam, a post-doctoral fellow and radicalization researcher at Dalhousie University who tracks ISIS members online.

About 550 women from Western countries are living in ISIS-run territory, says the London-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue. Approximately 10 to 15 of them are Canadian, Mr. Amarasingam estimates.

Under Canadian law, under-age girls lured for such purposes would be considered sex-trafficking victims. But there is no law in Canada against marrying a terrorist, or any other criminal for that matter, the documentary points out.

Mia Bloom, professor of security studies at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, researches the roles of women in terrorism. She says ISIS recruits Western girls in much the same way pedophiles groom their victims online — by building up trust, establishing a

**POST POINTS** | Earn rewards for being a loyal National Post Reader

Recruiters often appear fresh-faced and young. “The blonder the better,” she says.

**Follow “National Post”**

tries can be seen as especially valuable for the jihadi

## Related

[Undercover informant infiltrated a suspected ISIS cell](#)

[Reported ISIS recruitment of women as jihadis](#)

[Doubtful ‘spy’ accused of helping girls join ISIS](#)

Get every new post delivered to your Inbox.

Join 6,955 other followers

Enter your email address

Sign me up

[Ottawa, leading to arrest](#)

[government to call for study](#)

[connection: ex-CSIS officials](#)

Recruiting sometimes takes place on dating sites, but recruiting women with ISIS members, but Prof. Bloom says in the case of younger girls, Skype or other one-on-one platforms are the media of choice.

Over time, recruiters work to lower any concerns the girls might have about life in the *dawla*, or state, just as a pedophile would slowly transform a child’s expectations of a normal relationship with an adult.

In some cases, the girls — often high-achieving A-students — are told they will become nurses or teachers. They will join a sisterhood of helpers and make a difference.

“You’re playing on these young girls’ altruistic instincts,” says Prof. Bloom.

The Global documentary also features a hidden-camera interview with a 13-year-old Canadian girl who is in love with the idea of joining ISIS.

National Post

## LATEST NEWS VIDEOS



Raw: Iraqi Troops in Gunbattle in Tikrit



Germanwings Co-pilot Visited Psychotherapist



Raw: Olmert Found Guilty in Corruption Trial



AP Top Stories March 30