



Koordineringsenheten for Ofre for Menneskehandel

For information
and assistance, call:

47 45 15 00

(Monday to Friday 8-16)

KOM.pod@politiet.no

You do not need to give your name.

Our service is confidential.



Koordineringsenheden for Ofre for Menneskehandel

Information to Persons Identified as Possible Victims of Human Trafficking

What is human trafficking?

Every year, hundred thousands of people become victims of human trafficking. In the course of the last few years, several hundred persons have received assistance and protection as victims of human trafficking in Norway.

Victims of human trafficking are persons who:

- are exposed to violence, threats, abuse of a vulnerable situation or other improper behaviour
- and are exploited for
 - prostitution or other sexual purposes,
 - forced labour or forced services, including begging,
 - military service in foreign countries,
 - or organ harvesting.

Underage persons are always in a vulnerable situation, and exploitation of persons under 18 years old is therefore regarded as human trafficking, regardless of whether violence, threats or other improper behaviour is employed.

Human trafficking may take place in many situations.

Some examples are:

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|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| ■ Domestic services | ■ Shop work | ■ Sexual services |
| ■ Child care | ■ Asphaltting and | ■ Pornography |
| ■ Forced marriage | bricklaying services | ■ Begging |
| ■ Illegal adoption | ■ Agriculture | ■ Street performance |
| ■ Cleaning services | ■ Gardening | ■ Thefts |
| ■ Restaurant work | ■ Car valeting | ■ Drug dealing |

You have been identified as a possible victim of human trafficking

This means that you are in a situation where it is considered that someone may have committed serious violations of your fundamental rights. Someone may have harmed you physically or mentally and restricted your freedom so as to earn money or obtain other benefits at your expense.

The authorities shall ensure that you, as a victim of this criminal activity, have your human rights safeguarded. You will be offered necessary assistance and protection.

You may be entitled to:

- Free legal aid
- A reflection period (a six-months work or residence permit)
- A safe place to live
- Medical attention
- Living expenses
- Activities (for example a course in Norwegian, help in job-hunting or other activities)
- Help to a safe return and re-establishment in your home country if that is what you want
- Information on available social services in other relevant countries (if you have a residence permit or some other connection with another country).

Everyone who works on addressing your rights has a duty of confidentiality. If anyone threatens you with violence, deprivation of freedom or other violations, you are entitled to police protection.

If you are under 18

If you are under 18 and have been identified as a possible victim of human trafficking, the Child Protection Service has responsibility for following you up together with other authorities. Together with the police, the Child Protection Service shall evaluate what risk you are facing and take the necessary measures to protect and look after you as well as possible. The Child Protection Service may place you in an emergency home, a child protection institution or in a foster home.

You are entitled to basic schooling if it is probable that you will be in Norway more than three months. The duty to attend school begins after your stay in Norway has lasted three months. If you have completed primary and lower secondary school or the equivalent, you may apply for the right to three years' upper secondary schooling. You have the right to necessary medical assistance.

If you are under 18 years old, you cannot choose whether or not to accept help. You have the right to express your opinion before decisions about your personal affairs are taken; your opinion will be accorded weight in accordance with your age and maturity. If you are over 12 years old, your opinions will carry great weight. If you are over 15 years old, you obtain party rights. A guardian or curator will be appointed for you, and also a lawyer, who will help you look after your interests.

If you claim that you are over 18, but Norwegian authorities suspect that you may nevertheless be underage, you will be treated as if you are underage until the authorities have undertaken further investigations of what might be your true identity, including your age. Such investigations may take time.

The offer of assistance is voluntary

If you are over 18 years old, it is your choice whether to accept assistance or not. You are entitled to advice from a lawyer and other persons you trust when making this decision. This service is free.

If you choose to accept assistance from Norwegian authorities, you may at any time decide to stop receiving it.

What is the reflection period?

The purpose with the reflection period is to help the victims to make a clean break with the trafficking milieu and assist with the criminal prosecution of the traffickers. A reflection period is a work or residence permit that is granted for six months. This is a low-threshold offer. The permit cannot be extended, and cannot lead to permanent residence or family reunification. Underage children may, however, be granted family reunification with a person who has such a permit, if the child meets the usual criteria for family reunification and the police consider the security of the child in its home country to be endangered.



During the reflection period you will be expected to:

- Give your true identity to the Norwegian immigration authorities (you will not be deported or punished for having used fake documents or having lied about your identity before, if this was a result of your being exploited in human trafficking)
- Remain in Norway (the reflection period gives you the right to stay in Norway alone and is not valid in other countries)
- Explain your situation to your lawyer and others who are to assist you when applying for the reflection period (but you do not need to go into details about the people who have exploited you)
- Attempt to break off all contact with the criminal milieu that has exploited you
- In consultation with your lawyer, consider filing a police complaint against those who exploited you
- Receive information about voluntary repatriation and consider whether you want to return to your homeland via the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) programme for victims of human trafficking
- Acquaint yourself with the rights and duties that go together with the reflection period, social security benefits, medical assistance and other public services
- Obey the house rules that apply in the place offered you to live in
- In consultation with your lawyer, consider what options you have after the reflection period runs out, and whether you meet the conditions to apply for continued residence in Norway
- Notify those assisting you of where you are living
- Notify those assisting you if you change address
- Ask for information when you wonder about something, and tell those assisting you if you or anyone close to you are threatened or have other serious problems

If you choose not to accept the assistance offered you

If you choose not to accept assistance and are legally resident in Norway, you may do as you like. If you refuse the offers of assistance now, you can seek assistance again whenever you want. You can enquire with Coordinating Unit for Victims of Human Trafficking (KOM) on 47 45 15 00 (Mondays to Fridays 08.00 – 16.00) to be referred to someone who can help you.

If you refuse assistance and do not have legal residence in Norway, you must leave the country. You may either:

- Apply for voluntary repatriation from International Organization for Migration (IOM), see brochure about the IOM's programme
- Contact your own country's consulate for assistance
- Return to your own country on your own resources

If you do not leave voluntarily, the police are responsible for transporting you out. In principle you have to pay for this. If you have no chance of paying for the ticket, the State will pay the expenses. You will then be in debt to Norwegian authorities. Unpaid debt to the authorities can be a hindrance against granting you a residence permit to Norway at a later date.

What is asylum?

The right to apply for asylum is enshrined in international conventions. An asylum application shall be considered in conformity with the criteria of the Refugee Convention and the Norwegian Immigration Act. Under Section 17 first paragraph of the Immigration Act, a person is entitled to asylum in Norway if he or she risks being persecuted on return to his or her homeland, see Article 1A(2) of the Refugee Convention. The reasons for the persecution must be race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions.

If the person is not granted asylum, Norwegian authorities will consider whether there may nevertheless be grounds to grant a residence permit, either for reasons of protection or else for humanitarian reasons. Residence permits for protection reasons may be granted if – for reasons other than those listed above – returning to the home country represents a risk to the person's life and safety. Residence permits for humanitarian reasons (exceptional leave to remain) may be granted if there are strong humanitarian reasons or a special connection to Norway.



If you seek asylum, you are expected to:

- Register your application with the police Immigration Section (PU)
- Attend asylum-seeker interview when called in by the Directorate of Immigration (UDI)
- Explain in your asylum-interview why you are seeking asylum in Norway.
This means, among other things, that you must say why you are afraid to return to your home country
- Give your true identity to the Norwegian immigration authorities. (You will not be deported or punished for having used fake documents or having lied about your identity before, if this was a result of your being exploited in human trafficking)
- Tell the police where you are living if you choose not to live in the reception centre you are offered
- Obey the house rules that apply in the place offered you to live in
- Report any change of address to the police
- Ask for information when you wonder about something, and tell if you or anyone close to you is threatened or have other serious problems