

PREVENTING TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN




Informational material on the protection of
children from trafficking in human beings
For students in high schools

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Trafficking in human beings is a worldwide problem qualified as a crime. By enslaving victims, this is a severe form of violation of fundamental human rights such as the right to life, to integrity, to dignity, to liberty, to freedom of choice and movement, and other rights. Anyone can be a victim of human trafficking: children, women, men, regardless of their age, education, origin, nationality, religion and ethnicity.

Trafficking in children means the exploitation and abuse of children that endangers their physical and psychological health and well-being, as well as their future development and education. It is organised under the surveillance or control of persons that have material or other benefits out of it.

Exploitation is the main purpose of trafficking in human beings. It includes: all forms of sexual exploitation, pornography, forced labour, domestic servitude, slavery or slavery-like practices, forced marriage, illegal adoption, begging, organ removal.

Traffickers abuse of the child vulnerability. Children can be trafficked in their own country (internal trafficking of human beings) and to other countries (transnational trafficking in human beings).

HOW DO FEEL THE CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS:

- They suffer neglect or physical and psychological abuse,
- They are treated as slaves for making profit,
- They feel isolated and lonely,
- Their rights are violated,
- Their health is poor or they are sick,
- Their life is at risk.

WAYS IN WHICH THE POTENTIAL VICTIMS ARE ATTRACTED, DECEIVED:

- Recruitment can be done through **informal networks**, which include **individuals** – recruiters who work in the neighborhood or abroad and offer seasonal work, family members, acquaintances, friends.

- Recruitment can be done through **media advertisement** of appealing listings of legal or semi legal work posts in the country or abroad (model in a fashion agency, beauty pageant, babysitter, waiter/waitress or singer, job on a cruiser, mediation in a marriage with a foreigner).
- In the last years, the potential victims are more often recruited through the **Internet**. At first the contact is harmless and friendly invitation for a coffee, socializing, to a date where love is declared, a marriage can be offered, that ends with blackmail, publication of provocative photos and embarrassment.
- Victims of trafficking are often **brutally kidnapped and forced to commit criminal activities**.

WHO IS MOST OFTEN THE FIRST CONTACT IN THE CHAIN OF RECRUITMENT?

Most frequently those are persons who you know, whom you trust: family friend, neighbor, boyfriend/girlfriend, and sometimes even closest members of the family. The first contact can also come from a recruiter or a person proposing a love date.

WHAT TO BE AWARE OF IN ORDER TO AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING?

If you are feeling something is wrong with you and your feelings:

- I am bored!
- I am scared!
- I am not good with studying!
- I am sad!
- I don't have money!
- It is hard for me!
- I don't have any will!
- What do I do?



If sometimes you think and believe in one or some of the following:

- Nobody understands me!
- No matter how much I study or how much I work, I will not achieve anything here!
- I believe that life is better everywhere in the world except here!
- I want to do something to change my life!
- I want to work and have my own money!
- I want to learn a language!
- I want to travel and meet new friends!

Be careful

There is a danger to be deceived, seduced, sold, thrown into slavery – to become a victim of trafficking in human beings. Before you do something, TALK TO ADULT PERSON YOU TRUST and CHECK all information you have.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN TO YOU?

Everything might seem legal, but the troubles arrive when:

- A friend, a relative might trick you,
- The agency will connect you with a suspicious mediator, that will take away your documents and will put you in slavery-like relations or will sell you,
- You will face the truth that you are DECEIVED, sold, without any rights, without identity, without money, physically, sexually and psychologically abused – VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS.

HOW TO AVOID THE RISK OF RECRUITMENT BY FAKE DATING?

- Avoid situations where you are completely dependent on someone.
- If someone suggests that you two should go abroad together and "start a new life," check all the details before the trip, inform the trusted adult and give him a copy of your passport; never give your passport to anyone, not even your beloved.
- If it seems to you that your beloved spends a lot of money, and you do not understand how he earned it, be careful.

HOW TO CHECK A FUTURE EMPLOYER IN THE COUNTRY OR ABROAD?

- Check the company or the person you will work for - does it exist, for how long, who are the clients, in how many countries does it operate, what is its official address and telephone number and is it registered with the competent institution.
- Inquire about the company you will work for at your country's embassy located in the destination country.
- Make sure you sign an employment contract.
- Before signing the contract, check it with a lawyer or a trusted person who knows the law.
- Do not sign the contract written in a foreign language you do not understand.
- Make a copy of the contract (just in case).
- Check if there are any imprecise wording in the contract, making a space for abuse. Example: "in case of non-fulfillment of all obligations imposed by the employer...", without specifying anywhere what "all obligations" really mean?

HOW TO PREPARE FOR A SAFE TRAVEL?

- Prepare your passport and several copies of your passport and leave at least one with a parent/friend / other trusted person.
- You always carry your passport and other personal documents with you, and you can only give it to the border police if they ask, and to no one else - no boss, no friends, no relatives.
- Leave the address and telephone number of the place where you will stay, to your parents/friend / trusted person.
- Write down important phones somewhere in case you lose your phone in some way.
- Before you travel contact the embassy of the country you are going to and ask about the documents and permits you need to stay, study or work in that country.
- Do not give your phone to anybody and regularly call your family.

THE STORY OF SASHKA WILL ILLUSTRATE WHAT CHILD TRAFFICKING IS:



Се викам Сашка, имам 17 години, и планирав да студирам италијански јазик.

ИМy name is Sashka, I am 17 years old and I planned to study Italian. I have a good friend that decided to learn the language first and after that she went to work in Italy. We were in contact constantly and she mostly talked about how easy is to learn the language in Italy. In the next 2 years, she was coming home frequently and when she was here, she was wearing fantastic clothes. She was telling me that she is working for a modeling agency that is recruiting new people constantly, especially from countries where the girls are still naturally beautiful.



I introduced her with two other girls that wanted to study Italian. Because we were in school, I asked her to find us a job during the summer break. She promised to find us all a job. She provided us with an invitation from an employer of a babysitting agency and we easily got a visa.





At the airport there were three men waiting for us and they said that they are employees from the agency, and they will transfer us to the city where the agency is. That was where we split and went with separate



I was very surprised that we received plane tickets (as our friend told us) from the agency. I was getting ready and my parents were happy that I did not have any additional expenses except for clothes.

I arrived in a decent apartment and my companion was very nice, brought me some food and told me to get some rest and that tomorrow we will talk about the work. He asked for my passport with the explanation that he must report me to the police in order to provide me with a working permit. That was acceptable for me and I gave him my passport...





I was leaving in the apartment where the man from the airport brought me, there were a lot of men coming there... He introduced them as his associates. Among them there were intellectuals that besides the sexual services asked me to read to them or to tell them stories.

One day to one of the customers I told my story about coming to Italy and my sufferings. He stroked my head and said nothing.



The day after, he came again and asked my boss if I could accompany him to a vacation place where we will stay for three days. He offered a lot of money for the service.



He brought me to the Consulate and gave me some money to come back with the bus when my papers will be ready. I could not believe that this is true...



He told me to pack some clothes because it is cold there. I packed and we left.

But luckily it was. I kissed him to express my gratitude and he just waved his hand and said, "Take care."



THIS AND OTHER CASES BRING THESE MESSAGES TO YOU:

- Do not trust any person unquestionably!
- Do not trust public ads unquestionably!
- Inform yourself and tell at least one person you trust about your whereabouts!
- Prepare your documents and your travel for yourself!
- Trust yourself, your abilities and your feelings!
- If you have any doubt that you or someone near you are in a danger of becoming a victim of trafficking in human beings, talk to a trusted adult, your teacher, or take advice from organisations dealing with human trafficking. they are here for you, and they are willing to help you.

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