



PREVENTING TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN

Informational material for parents
to help identify warning signs and to prevent
that their children become victims of trafficking

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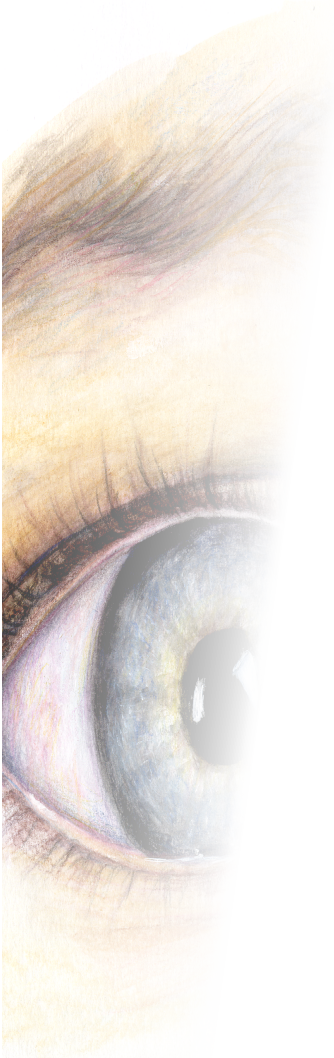
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Trafficking in human beings is a worldwide problem qualified as a crime. By enslaving victims, this is a severe form of violation of fundamental human rights such as the right to life, to integrity, to dignity, to liberty, to freedom of choice and 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.

* Под „дете“ се подразбира секое лице на возраст до 18 години, согласно дефиницијата од Конвенцијата за правата на детето на Обединетите Нации и Конвенцијата за дејствување против трговијата со луѓе на Советот на Европа.



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).

Labour exploitation and sexual exploitation are the most common forms of human trafficking.

Labour exploitation and sexual exploitation of children can be considered as the most severe violation of children's rights, having profound short- and long-term repercussions on children's physical health, psychological development and psychosocial well-being.

Labour exploitation and sexual exploitation involve the use of force or threats against children, and a position of trust or dependence of the children towards a third party.

- sexual exploitation includes the use of children for prostitution, for the production of pornographic materials or pornographic performances;
- labour exploitation includes the use of children for inappropriate for them domestic duties, for street begging or other street work, for agricultural work, for manufacturing, for construction or any other dangerous work.

Labour exploitation and sexual exploitation deprive children of their childhood and proper education, and condemns them to a life of poverty and submission



HOW CAN CHILDREN BECOME VICTIMS?

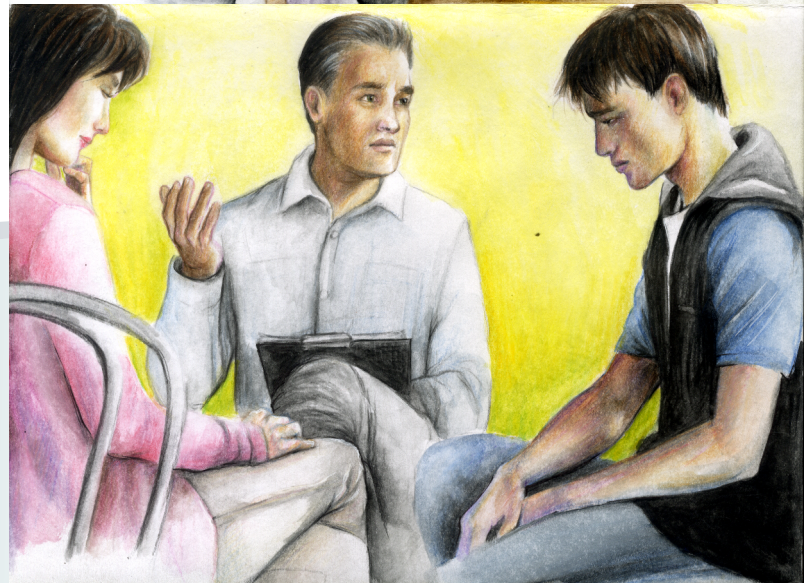
Children can be seduced, misinformed, attracted through false promises for a better life, kidnapped and forced to work or sexually abused.

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

If you notice:

Changes in the child's behaviour such as:

- transition from unexpected calmness to expressed anxiety
- non-typical behaviour for a child of its age
- loss of interest for school, friends, activities
- frequently late or absent from school
- has learning difficulties and decreased success in school
- does not perform its homework
- does not trust anyone (losses trust in you as well)
- cannot establish and sustain friendly relationship with its peers



- has money that has not received from you
- leaves home and returns at an inappropriate time
- socializes with older persons that you do not know
- it is influenced by older persons
- refuses to respond or gives information that is obviously incorrect
- shows inclination towards risky, dangerous and illegal behaviour
- demonstrates violent behaviour

- uses social networks with suspicious content
- frequently secretly talks on the phone, when you ask with whom, he or she lies
- shares messages, pictures with unknown, suspicious persons
- goes out with strangers, unknown children or persons come at your home
- dresses improperly

If you notice:

- frequent headaches, stomach aches
- signs of persistent physical fatigue
- signs of physical abuse (injures, bruises on the body) for which there is no explanation
- the child looks frightened, confused, nervous, angry, very shy, depressed
- the child has attention oscillations - distraction
- the child avoids conversation
- the child has absent glance, is disoriented in time and space

If you notice that your child:

- spends a lot of time on a computer or a phone

IF YOU NOTICE SEVERAL OF THESE SIGNS:

Talk with your child. If it refuses to talk or provides excuses (has to study, is tired etc.), reiterate your demand and make him or her comfortable to confide in you. If nothing happens, talk to an educator, a doctor, a social worker. Develop a strategy to help the child.

If you consider that there are signs that the child is in a dangerous situation and might become a victim of child trafficking, immediately inform the police and consult child protection services.

In this way, with joint efforts you will help your child and save him or her from becoming a victim of trafficking.

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