

PREVENTING TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN



Informational material on the protection of children
from trafficking in human beings
For primary school students from 6th to 9th grade

Funded
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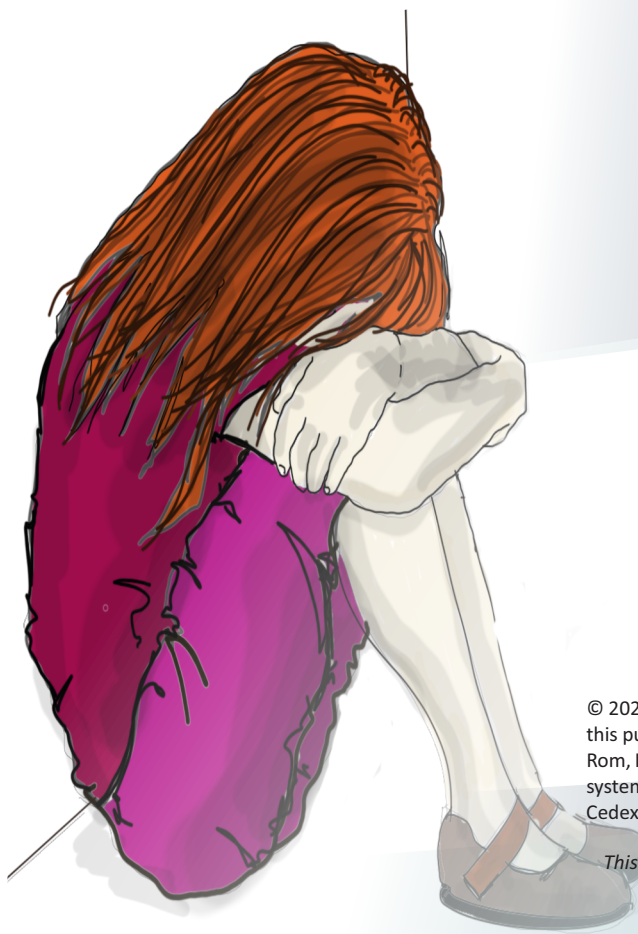
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Have you ever heard about **trafficking in children**? Perhaps some of you have, but you don't know what this means, and some of you have not.

Trafficking in children is a crime.

You need to understand the meaning of these words, so that you can protect yourself from becoming a victim and experiencing **serious mistreatment and abuse**.

ANA'S STORY WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT CHILD TRAFFICKING IS:



I live in a big city; I am a student in the 6th grade. I am a student with good grades and I really like reading. One day, before I went to school, I decided to go to the library to return the book I have borrowed and to get another one. When I went out of my house, I saw a taxi parked like it was waiting for somebody. When I was passing by, the taxi driver opened the window and asked me where I was going. I answered that I am going to the library first and then to the school. The taxi driver said that the person he was waiting for did not come and that he will give me a ride to the library without any charges, so I wouldn't be late for school.



I got into the taxi and soon after that I noticed that he is not driving towards the library, I asked him to stop but he said that he has a small thing to do and he will bring me back after that.



When we left the city, he stopped next to a car on a narrow road. There was a man coming out of the car. The taxi driver locked the taxi and started talking with him.



He came for me and forcibly brought me to his car where there were two other children, a boy and a girl, older than me.

I cried and begged him to let me go and the others were not saying anything.





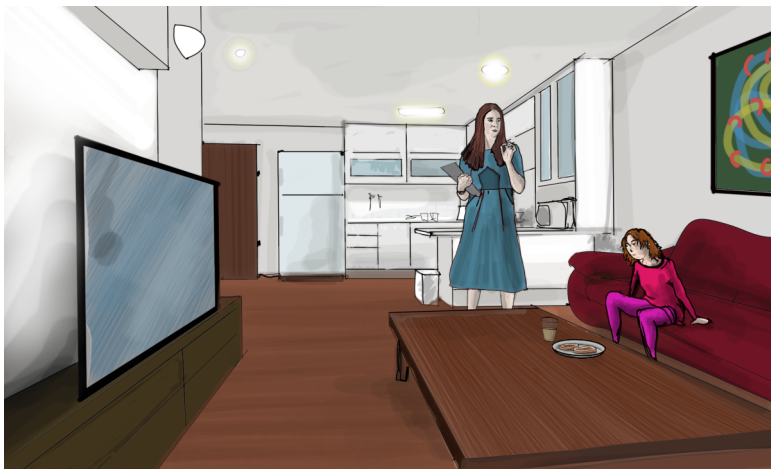
We were not allowed to talk to each other. After a long journey, we arrived at an untidy place. They took us out of the car and handed us over to two men with whom we continued walking through a narrow forest path. It was dark and we had to be quiet. I did not know where we were or where we were going, I was not allowed to ask, it was very cold. We went through a narrow passage.



On the other side there were people waiting for us with two cars. Two men came out, one of them took me and the other took the two other children. The man in the car told me, in a language I could not quite understand, that he was taking me to his house where I would be living with him, his wife and his child. I told him I didn't want to go, that I wanted to go home, but he did not even listen to me.



We arrived at the apartment. The wife gave me bread with tea to eat and told me where I would be sleeping. It was a very small room where they were storing things. There was no heating and it was very dark. I was very tired and had trouble sleeping, when the woman came and woke me up. She was talking fast, and I could not understand her very well. She told me about everything I must do in the house and to take care of the child. I told her: "I don't know how to do all those things and I don't know how to take care of a child". She said: "you will learn". She and her husband went to work, I was washing the dishes, cleaning, dressed and fed the child. The door was locked, and I was not allowed to go out.



They were coming home late and leaving food just for the child to eat, I ate the leftovers from the day before. It was like that every day. I was afraid but I did not know how long this was going to last, because they told me that they would bring me back home someday.

I don't know how much time had passed, month or two and whenever I asked when they would bring me back, they were offending me, and if the child was crying, they would beat me.



One day, the child had a fever and I did not know what to do. I could not call anybody, I did not have a phone and there was no phone in the apartment either, but the child was very sick. I stood next to the door and started hitting and shouting, hoping that somebody will hear me. Luckily one woman heard me and asked what is wrong. I told her what is happening with the child and she asked me who I was. Although I did not know who that woman was, I said that I was not from there and that those people were keeping me locked. I told her where I was from and I told her my mother's phone number. The woman told me to put a wet towel on the child's head and she left.



The woman phoned my mother and told her where I was. The next day two policemen came, knocked down the door, found me and brought me to the police station, where my father was waiting for me. I was crying, I cried a lot, my father was crying too, I could not talk. Escorted by the police, my father and I went home. It took me a while to realise I was saved. I am still afraid; I do not trust people even the ones I know.

WHY DID ANA BECOME A VICTIM OF CHILD TRAFFICKING?

- She did not know anything about child trafficking,
- She was not familiar with the risks of child trafficking,
- She trusted and accepted a favour from a stranger,
- She accepted a favour she did not ask for,
- She did not think why the taxi driver would drive her for free.

BE CAREFUL

A trafficker may ask for help as a way to lure a potential victim. He may ask to show him/her a way, to help him/her with something. Adult people should not ask children for help, they should ask another adult! Traffickers try to gain the child trust. They may trick, force or persuade children to leave their homes and to follow them. Child trafficking can involve several persons who recruit, transport and exploit children within or across borders.

WHAT CHILD TRAFFICKING IS?

Trafficking in children is when the children are recruited, moved from one place to another or from one state to another, received and harbored with the purpose of being **exploited or abused** in different ways.

HOW CHILDREN CAN BECOME VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING?

- Deceived through social networks, meeting others online (friendship, exchange of private photographs that could be used for extortion),
- Deceived through appealing advertisements in the media,
- Kidnapped/ taken away from their families.

WAYS IN WHICH CHILDREN ARE EXPLOITED OR ABUSED:

- Sexual exploitation,
- Pornography,
- Domestic servitude,
- Begging,

- Work on the streets (washing windshields, selling things),
- Work on agricultural farms, factories,
- Street crime,
- Forced marriage,
- Illegal adoption,
- Organ removal.

WHO CAN BE TRAFFICKER?

The children can be deceived and trafficked by familiar and unfamiliar adults from the community, strangers, but also friends, close members of the family and sometimes even the nearest family members.

HOW DO FEEL THE CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS:

- They suffer from 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.

HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF?

- Be careful when talking to people having an unusual behaviour or requests – they can be strangers but also someone you already know;
- Be careful when someone offers you a favour you did not ask and particular if that favour or gift sound too good to be true;

- Be careful when an adult asks for a help from a child – adults should ask other adults for help!
- The internet is an amazing place but also a place when people can easily pretend to be somebody else. Always be careful and check carefully invitations to be friend with a person you haven't met. Always talk to your person of trust about suspicious or too good to be true invitations or offers you have got online.
- Talk to your parents, grandparents, siblings, guardians, teacher and friends – share your thoughts, fears and hopes with them.
- Take care of your friends, the same way your friends take care of you – you pay attention what is happening to them and offer support when you notice something is not right.
- Trust your feelings and emotions – if you are feeling something is wrong even if you cannot put a finger on it – you are probably right. (the “Oh-oh” feeling).

THE SAME RULES APPLY TO THE [ONLINE WORLD!](#)

Social networks, platforms and channels offer many interesting content. However, they can also serve as a means for a recruitment of victims.

- Be careful about what you post about yourself in public – what kind of photos, content...
- Even if you accept on-line communication with a person you've never met, always have in mind that anybody can be behind that account.
- If your new online friend is asking you to send him/her photos of yourself or details of where you live, go to school, or spend time – immediately share this with your parent, grand- parents, guardian, teacher or at least your close friend.
- **SHARE** with a parent, grand- parent, guardian, teacher or at least a close friend if an acquaintance from the online world is trying to meet you in person.
- **NEVER** accept invitation to meet a person you don't know well, or you don't know at all – **ALONE**. This can be dangerous for an adult, let alone a child.

NOW YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS:

- You won't be tricked that easy.
- You will know that there are laws in your country that strictly prohibit trafficking in human beings.
- You will know that police, social services, judiciary and other institutions and organizations in our country are investing efforts in suppressing trafficking in human beings.
- Even if you get into trafficking chain you will know it's NOT your fault.
- Remember – any person under 18 years of age is always treated as a victim, even if he or she was forced or tricked to give a “consent” to any kind of exploitation.

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