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Informative material on protecting
primary school children from trafficking
in children through Internet deception

PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING

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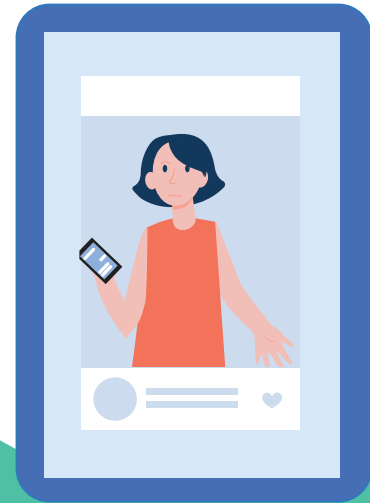
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Dear children,

The words “human trafficking” and “child trafficking” are not words one often hears. Do you know what is their meaning? Do you know what kind of danger hides behind?

This leaflet will help you understand the meaning of these words in order to protect yourselves from becoming a victim of child trafficking and child abuse.

**Angela is telling us her story.
She was deceived through Internet by a false friend.**

My name is Angela. I am only 13 years old. I go to a primary school in Skopje and I am a good student. For my birthday and my good marks at school, my parents bought me a smart phone. I used to play a lot with my smart phone. One evening, on a social network, a guy sent me invitation to become friends. He said his name was Angel and he was eighth grader. I do not know why, but I immediately accepted his invitation. The next day, early in the morning, I received a message from him and we started chatting.

I liked our long chats, we talked for hours, Angel sent me hearts. After some time, he proposed to meet me after the school classes. I accepted, I could not wait for the classes to end. We met in a coffeeshop, so that no friends could see us. Angel told me how much he liked me.

That night he asked for a photo, where I am in my swimsuit, alone. I said, I did not have any. He asked me to take a photo and send it to him. I listened to him, and although it was already late, I sent him a photo of me in a swimsuit. I was ready to do anything he would ask. Angel told me that I was gorgeous, but that the photo was blurred, because of my smart phone. He had just bought a new smartphone and he will give me his old one, which was much better than mine. I agreed and we scheduled a date on the next day in the same coffeeshop.



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When I went in the coffeeshop, he was not there. Five minutes later, a man came. He said he was Angel's father. He told me that Angel had a fever and could not come. His father asked me if I wanted to visit Angel. I agreed and we went there by car. When we arrived in a house, there was another man waiting for us. He locked the door. The two men talked quietly, and I was so scared. I could not hear what they were talking about, but I saw the stranger giving money to Angel's father who then said: - "She is all yours". The unknown jerked me by the hand and said "Let's go!... I cried, but he dragged me, even though I opposed him. He pushed me into the back seat of a car and locked the door. He was still outside, talking on the phone. At that moment, I remembered the number of the police 192. I secretly called the police and told them the number on the license plates of the car (which I remembered while the stranger was dragging me towards the car). The stranger got in the car and continued talking on his phone. He agreed with someone on the location where to take me and mentioned a price. When we got out on the main road, a police siren sounded. The stranger tried to escape, but he was caught and arrested. I told the police the whole story and gave the phone number of the fake Angel. Police managed to catch and arrest the child traffickers.



Angela could have been abused and end-up as a victim of trafficking in children, away from her family.

What happened to Angela?



She did not know anything about cyber/ internet fraud and about child trafficking

She established a contact with a person having a fake profile

In a short time, she started trusting him and accepted communication

She did not confide in anyone

She did not talk to anyone about the dates

She hid from her parents that she received a smartphone as a gift

She could have been abused and sold by the traffickers

When she realised the danger, it could have been too late to escape

THIS IS WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

How trafficking in children occurs through Internet and social networks?

Insisting contacts and invitations are just aimed at suspicious friendships online. They are followed by an invitation for having a soda and further socialising, where false love declaration is made, and it ends with blackmailing, threats, kidnapping and child trafficking and abuse. If children want to start speaking about what is happening to them, they are blackmailed that their photos and their stories will be shared with their parents, friends, and uploaded on social networks.



How can you protect yourself from online recruitment and frauds?

Do not accept fast seductive friendships on social networks

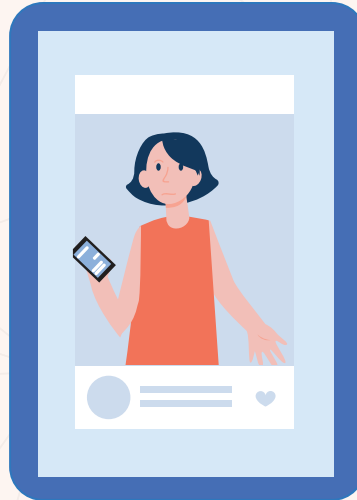
Check the profile of the person with whom you are in contact, it may be fake

Do not immediately believe in the features he has posted on the profile

Do not exchange photos that may be misused

If you are accepting a stranger for a friend, talk about this with someone you trust in

Do not disclose your data, especially those relating to your privacy (phone, address)



Talk about any of your problems with your parents, teacher or the school psychologist

Before or immediately after accepting any gifts, talk to one of your parents or to the teacher

Memorise the number of a helpline (police, NGO)

If you have any doubts about the profile of the person, postpone the date

Especially if you accept an invitation to meet (a date or to have a soda), leave a message at home or to a friend you trust in, about the place of the meeting

What is child trafficking?

Child trafficking is a serious type of crime which consists in recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a child for the purpose of exploitation. The purpose of child trafficking is to exploit the child under a variety of forms, such as sexual exploitation, including online, production of child sexual abuse images, forced begging, forced labour, forced marriage, forced criminality or the removal of organs. The consent of the child to the exploitation is irrelevant.

Child trafficking endangers the child's psycho-physical development, health, education pathway, and leaves severe and long-term consequences on the child

This and other cases bring a message to you:

- ✉ Do not blindly trust online dating and friendships,
- ✉ Do not blindly believe online ads,
- ✉ Keep yourself informed and tell at least to one person where and with whom you meet,
- ✉ If you feel threatened, talk about your fears with one of your parents and / or a teacher, psychologist / pedagogue at school,
- ✉ Memorise or keep the police number with you,

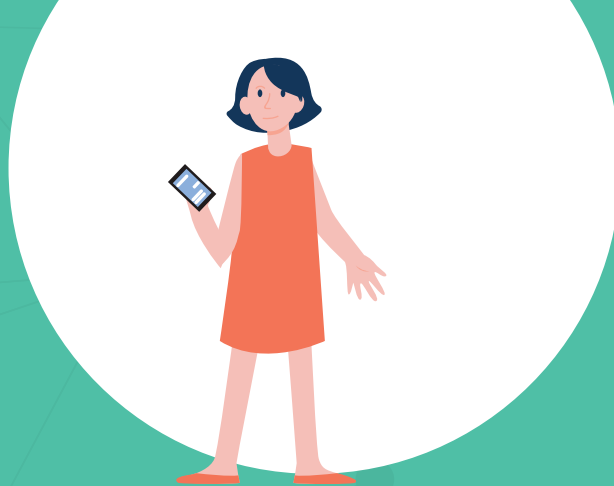
It is the only way TO PROTECT yourself from being deceived or embarrassed on SOCIAL NETWORKS AND NOT TO BECOME A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN



The ways in which children are trapped through Internet:

Establishment of online friendships with people who write with many grammatical and spelling errors or people having an insisting behavior to meet you or get your picture or people playing with your emotions

Believing in online attractive media ads, "great deals" or "kids talent contests"



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