

3. EXPLOITATION

You have arrived at your destination. All of a sudden they start to force you to do something you don't want to do or to work in poor conditions. They take your documents away and begin to treat you like a slave, and they may even sell you to someone for money. They restrict your freedom, they control you and warn you that you should not try to escape because no one will be able to help you. They exert pressure on you and use various methods to break your resistance.

How do you know you are a victim of human trafficking?

Someone is **FORCING** you to do something, **CONTROLLING**, **BLACKMAILING** or **THREATENING** you!

- they have taken away your travel or personal documents
- they are forcing you to use a false identity
- they are restricting your movements (e.g. by locking you up, there are bars on the windows)
- they are watching and monitoring what you do and/or say
- they are not allowing you to contact your family and/or friends
- they are forcing you to work or live in bad conditions (e.g. to do something you don't want to do, with no breaks, no pay or with very little pay, or no medical assistance, you are living in dirty or cold rooms)
- they are threatening you that something bad will happen to you or someone close to you if you don't do what they say
- they tell you that if you seek help everyone at home will find out what has happened
- they are threatening to report you for living illegally in the country or doing something illegal (e.g. you have been forced to become a prostitute so they threaten to report you to the police and intimidate you by saying that the police will punish and deport you)
- they subject you to emotional or physical violence or pressure (e.g. they insult, beat, rape, intimidate or starve you)
- they tell you that you owe them money to cover your travel expenses and/or accommodation, so they are "paying off the debt" from your earnings
- they have removed one or more of your organs
- you have got married, but your spouse and/or his/her family are exploiting or abusing you

No one has the right to threaten you or deny your right to life and health, security, dignity and freedom of movement, or make decisions about your body!

No one has the right to blackmail you with the fact that you gave your consent to work or travel, or by the fact that you are forced to take part in illegal activities or to live unlawfully in a foreign country!

What should you do if you have become a victim of human trafficking or you think you might become one?

Seek protection! Contact the police!

- seek help from an official person - a police officer or the official from the Reception Centre (Ježevo) and tell them your story in an understandable way, and in detail. The official is obliged to inform the specialized police officers about this. These specialized officers know how to investigate your story and establish whether you are a victim of human trafficking.
- if you are afraid, embarrassed or uncomfortable, or if you do not want to talk about this with a person of the opposite sex, tell the official you have asked for help about your feelings
- you have the right to talk in a language you understand
- if you are younger than 18, you have the right to a guardian (a person who will take care of your rights and best interests)
- if you want any further information before you talk to the police, we suggest you call the SOS phone line for assistance to victims of human trafficking (contact details at the end of this leaflet)

What will happen if the police establish that you are a victim of human trafficking?

You can get assistance and protection through a special programme. You can decide if you want to join that programme. You have to do so within 60 days of the day you realized you were a victim. In this assistance and protection programme, you have the right to:

- safe accommodation
- psychosocial, health, legal and other professional assistance
- the right to participate in criminal proceedings as an injured person
- assistance for integration into society
- temporary residence for humanitarian reasons
- voluntary return to your own country

If you are in the assistance and protection programme, can you return to your own country?

You can return to your own country, but you don't have to. You can decide for yourself. Before you make a decision, you have the right to obtain information about all the facts and legal consequences of return, in your own language or another language you understand. If you are a minor, your guardian must give consent for your return.



Who can you go to for assistance and protection?

The Police

(the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia)

Tel.: 192 or 112

At the nearest police station or border police post, or from an official at the Reception Centre at Ježevo

The SOS (free) phone line for assistance for victims of human trafficking:

Tel.: (00385) 0800 77 99

The Croatian Red Cross

Ulica Crvenog križa 14/1, Zagreb

Tel.: (00385) (01) 4655 814

Hrvatski pravni centar (Croatian Law Centre)

Hebrangova 21, Zagreb

Tel.: (00385) (01) 4854 934

The Embassy or Consulate of your country in the Republic of Croatia

This leaflet has been produced as part of the project: "Victims of Human Trafficking amongst Illegal Immigrants", financed by the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the Republic of Croatia

The Croatian Law Centre is exclusively responsible for publication of the content and opinions expressed through this project, and they cannot in any way be deemed to be an expression of the official stance of the Government Office for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities of the RC.

ENGLISKI
ENGLISH

Are you a victim
of **human
trafficking?**

**Recognize
the danger!**

Learn how to
protect yourself

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is when some people (human traffickers) exploit other people for their own benefit. The victims are first of all given false promises, and later they are cruelly exploited, under threat or forced to do certain things, they are abused emotionally or physically and their freedom is restricted. Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery and a gross violation of human rights.

It is most frequently in the form of:

- being forced to take part in sexual relations/prostitution/pornography
- forced labour (e.g. construction work, work in a restaurant or night club, in agriculture, or housework)
- being forced to beg
- being forced to donate organs and/or body parts
- being forced to marry
- being forced into slavery and/or slave-like relationships
- false or illegal adoption

Human trafficking takes place in stages:

- 1. it begins with recruitment**
- 2. it moves on to travel to a destination where**
- 3. exploitation begins**

Usually people only realize they have become victims of trafficking at this stage... but it is still not too late to react!



1. RECRUITMENT

Who are the people who most easily become victims?

People who are poor, unemployed, whose family situation is difficult, who are uneducated or who have already been the victims of abuse are frequently the target of human traffickers, because they more easily believe the offers promised of a better life or a new beginning somewhere else.

Be careful if you have left your own country due to war or poverty, and you cross a state border without any documents or away from the official border crossing. In that situation you are often forced to pay large sums of money to people to smuggle you over the border. **Human smugglers are not necessarily but they may also be connected with human traffickers. Be careful whom you trust!**

Who are human traffickers?

They are people who exploit other people for their own personal gain. They often work through agents who recruit you with attractive offers. They most often misrepresent themselves as being kind and friendly towards you, they promise to organize your journey, to get you all the documents or travel documents you need, and even pay your expenses.

Human traffickers are not always strangers! They may be people you know - friends, family or neighbours!

How can you recognize the danger?

- you are promised a very well-paid job
- you are promised marriage (often through an advertisement or various “agencies”)
- you are promised free education abroad
- you are given insufficient, unclear or contradictory information
- you are offered a fake passport or fake identity
- you are told not to talk about your new job or travel with your family or friends
- you owe money to someone who suggests you can pay off the debt by working abroad
- you are told that you don’t need any official documents or permits to live and/or work in a foreign country
- you have started a love relationship with someone who insists you keep your relationship secret

Be careful if the offer is “too good to be true”!

2. TRAVEL

You set off on a journey. During the journey as a rule you still do not know that you are on your way to becoming a victim.

There is a risk if:

- before or during the journey your documents are taken away from you “for your own safety”
- you are smuggled illegally across borders
- you are given instructions about what to say at the border or if you are caught by the police
- you are advised to travel under a false identity
- someone is travelling with you and controlling you
- you are not familiar with the final destination and/or route of the journey

You may travel through several countries, but you may become a victim in any country you are in on your journey.

Human smuggling is not the same as human trafficking!

Smugglers take people across state borders for money. Smugglers may be, but are not necessarily, involved in human trafficking. Sometime smugglers act as agents for traffickers.

However, once you have crossed the border and have arrived at your destination, you may become a victim of human trafficking.



What can you do if, before or during the journey you suspect you may become a victim?

- when making initial arrangements, ask as many questions as you can and try to verify the answers
- contact the employer yourself and try to find out as much information as you can about him in other ways
- ask for a copy of the employment or study contract
- do not sign anything you don’t understand
- do not allow any agents to “deal with” your documents
- check for yourself which documents you need and whether you meet the requirements for a visa, work permit or residence permit
- learn at least the basics of the language of the country you are travelling to
- make copies of all your personal documents and keep them with you in a place only you know about
- do not give your travel documents to anyone except official persons
- leave your family and friends the names and contact details of the persons with whom you arranged the journey, and the address and telephone numbers of the destination
- find and remember the address and telephone number of the nearest embassy or consulate of your country in the country you are travelling to
- if you begin to be suspicious during the journey, seek advice from someone you trust
- contact your family or friends as often as you can, and arrange for them to contact the police if you do not contact them for a certain length of time