



# HOW TO STAY SAFE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## INFORMATION

### WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking occurs when a person is brought into a situation of exploitation through, for example, threat or use of violence, fraud or abuse of power. The perpetrator often take advantage of a vulnerable situation, for example when somebody is in urgent need of accomodation or money.

The common definition of human trafficking, stated within a European legislation called the EU Directive 2011/36/EU, defines human trafficking as being:

“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”

Recruiters often act in person or online. They get to understand the needs of the targeted person and try to address these needs through an irresistible offer. Recruiters can be family members, friends, neighbours, sometimes strangers who however have done some research about the targeted person. Sometimes recruiters are the lovers of the victims.

Trafficking in human beings can take place in a transnational manner. This means, victims are recruited in one country, transferred through one or more countries and exploited in the destination countrie(s).

Everyone who is forced to flee from conflict or war, especially women and children, is at risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking. In Europe, many people are offering help and support for persons coming from Ukraine or other war and conflict zones. Unfortunately, there are people taking advantage from your current situation. The following overview gives valuable information of how to stay safe:

## PREVENTION

### SAFETY TIPS:

- In Europe, human trafficking is a crime. In case you feel in danger, ask for help, immediately! In all the EU countries there are specialised counselling centres for victims of human trafficking. They can offer, free of charge, protection, accommodation, support for you and your family.
- Before leaving home, inform trusted persons of where you are going and keep in touch with them throughout your travel and after your arrival.
- Keep your phone always with you. Memorize the phone number of a trusted person and agree upon a codeword, which you can use when you are in danger and cannot speak freely.
- Do not let anyone keep your passport. Take a picture or make a copy of it and send it to a trusted person. This could help you in case your document gets lost or stolen or lost.
- In Europe, all the employees have the right to receive an employment contract, a minimum wage and medical insurance. Do not accept any other conditions of work.
- Write down names and phone numbers of organisations offering help and support.

**Human trafficking is a crime** and punished by the criminal law of all the Member States of the European Union. Perpetrators are to be hold responsible for the crimes committed.

Victims are entitled to a series of rights, including protection, support and compensations. Member States are responsible to prevent and combat this crime and to ensure that victims can exercise their rights.

### WHICH ARE THE FORMS OF EXPLOITATION?

- Labour exploitation
- Sexual exploitation
- Forced marriage
- Forced criminal activities.
- Forced begging.

Other forms of exploitation:

- Illegal Organ harvesting/trafficking of human cells
- Illegal Adoptions
- Surrogacy
- Child sexual exploitation

**MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION, WEBSITES AND HELPLINES:**

**QR-Code zur Broschüre**

## PROTECTION

### THESE ARE YOUR RIGHTS

All over the EU, victims of human trafficking have rights referring to European Law:

- Assistance and Support
- Protection
- Victim's willingness to cooperate in the criminal investigation
- Legal counselling and representation
- Access to existing schemes of compensation
- Rights of victims' family members
- Right to understand and to be understood
- Right to information
- Right to support
- Right to participate in criminal proceedings

### GET HELP THROUGHOUT EUROPE

National hotlines, specialise for supporting victims of human trafficking from all over the EU:



EU wide campaign called 'Keep your eyes open':

