



PROMOTING & PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

RAISING AWARENESS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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This booklet is intended to serve as an information resource for service providers and community groups.

The resource has been produced to increase awareness of human trafficking and to equip people to recognise and appropriately respond to victims of human trafficking in their work and in the community.

**Doras (2021)**

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# Doras

PROMOTING & PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS



**An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt**  
Department of Justice

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# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery. It is a highly organised crime and it is hugely profitable, generating €125 billion per year for traffickers worldwide. Trafficking involves the recruitment and transport of victims for the purposes of their exploitation.

## HOW MANY VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ARE IN IRELAND?

More than 700 victims of trafficking have been formally identified in Ireland since 2008. Research suggests that the real number of victims in Ireland could be 50% higher than official statistics <sup>1</sup>.

## TYPES OF EXPLOITATION

- Sexual exploitation & forced prostitution
- Labour exploitation & forced labour
- Forced criminal activity, including forced drug dealing
- Domestic servitude
- Forced begging
- Organ trade

## POWER, CONTROL & DECEPTION

Traffickers recruit and retain people using physical force, threats and psychological manipulation, often pretending to be a friend or potential romantic partner.

Tactics of deception, power & control used by traffickers include:

- Offer to help a person find work or a better life overseas.
- Juju/ witchcraft
- Pretending to be in love
- Intimidation
- Isolation
- Economic abuse
- Physical & sexual assault
- Threat of deportation

Particularly vulnerable individuals, such as people who have experienced poverty, abuse, addiction and homelessness, are often targeted by traffickers for exploitation.

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.blueblindfold.ie](http://www.blueblindfold.ie) and [www.unodc.org](http://www.unodc.org) for details and statistics relating to human trafficking in Ireland.

# RECOGNISING THE SIGNS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Human trafficking is a complex and largely hidden crime. Victims of trafficking are people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities. This list of indicators is based on common traits and is intended to help people to recognise human trafficking

- Always accompanied by another person who speaks on their behalf
- Signs of physical abuse
- Anxious, confused and nervous
- Avoiding eye contact
- Moving from different locations, towns and cities
- Rehearsed responses
- No personal possessions or documents
- Multiple mobile phones
- Substance misuse
- Forced to work as a prostitute, a drug dealer or as a domestic servant
- Working to pay off a debt or loan to an employer
- Working long hours and sleeping at workplace
- Malnourished & poor health

# REPORTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

If you are concerned that someone you know or have met might be a victim of trafficking, you can report it to An Garda Síochána (Police).

## REPORT EMERGENCY

In cases of emergency, please contact:  
**999 or 112**

## REPORT SUSPICIONS

To report suspicions of human trafficking, please contact:

Local Garda station

Garda confidential helpline:

 1800 666 111

 blueblindfold@garda.ie

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION & CO-ORDINATION UNIT (HTICU)

The Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit (HTICU) is a dedicated unit within the Garda Síochána (Police) that supports victims and investigates allegations of human trafficking. More information is available about the HTICU is available on [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)

# RESPONDING TO & REFERRING A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING

If you are concerned that someone you are supporting or someone you meet through your work in frontline services might be a victim of trafficking, the following principles of safe referrals should be followed:

## 1. Do no harm

This is the most important and basic principle, which will help to keep the victim safe.

## 2. Safe environment for disclosure

Ensure that no-one is accompanying the victim and that no-one can overhear the interaction. Be prepared, take detailed notes and have all relevant information on reporting procedures and support services to hand.

## 3. Informed consent

Assistance to a victim of trafficking should proceed on the basis of the victim's full and informed consent. To enable informed consent to be obtained it is important that all relevant actions, policies and procedures are fully explained in clear simplified language. Use an interpreter if needed.

# BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SUPPORT SERVICES

Victims of human trafficking face many barriers to escaping, reporting the crime and seeking support.

- Lack of information & awareness of local support services
- No or limited English language skills
- No family, friends or support network
- No opportunity to access help
- No money to support themselves if they escape
- Fear of abuse and retaliation from traffickers
- Fear of Gardaí (Police)
- Fear of deportation due to being undocumented
- Lack of awareness around rights and entitlements
- Cultural issues, shame & taboos

## OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO ACCESSING SUPPORT SERVICES

People who have been trafficked to and within Ireland may need additional support to help them access the rights, entitlements and services they need. Service providers can help people to overcome the many barriers by considering the following:

- Is information on support services accessible to people who might be victims of trafficking?
- Are language interpreter services available?
- Are all staff aware of the signs and indicators of human trafficking?
- Is there an internal procedure for how to respond to and support victims of trafficking?
- What can be done to make the service or organisation more accessible to people who have been trafficked?

# RIGHTS, ENTITLEMENTS & SUPPORT SERVICES

Victims of trafficking are formally identified by the Gardaí (Irish police), who make an assessment to decide whether the crime of human trafficking is likely to have been committed against the individual. A range of rights and entitlements are available to people who are formally identified.

## IMMIGRATION

If you are undocumented - a person from a non-EU country living in Ireland without immigration status - you can access a 60 day 'Reflection & Recovery' residency permit. If you decide to cooperate with the Gardaí (Irish police) in their criminal investigation, you can then access a 6-month renewable residency permit.

## ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation will be provided in a Direct Provision centre, through the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS). After the 60 day 'Reflection & Recovery' period, you can access private rented accommodation if you are cooperating with the Gardaí (Irish police) and have secured a 6-month residency permit, which enable you to apply for social welfare and housing assistance.

## SOCIAL WELFARE

During the 60 day 'Reflection & Recovery' period, you will receive a weekly allowance of €38.80 while being accommodated by IPAS. After the 60 days and if/when you secure a 6-month residency permit, you will be able to access social welfare payments.

## LEGAL ADVICE

Free legal advice is available from the Legal Aid Board. Specialist NGOs can also provide advice to support you and to advise on your options.

## HEALTH & MEDICAL

Free access to medical and health care services, including GP (Doctor) visits and sexual health services. You will be able to obtain a medical card. You will be assigned a care worker from the specialised anti-trafficking unit in the health services (HSE) who will develop an individual care plan for you and help you to access specialised support including counselling services.

## EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

After the 60-day period and once you have secured a 6-month residency permit, you can access further education and training courses. You can also seek employment and access employment support services.

## COMPENSATION

Services You might be entitled to compensation, depending on the circumstances of your case. Avenues for compensation exist via the Criminal Justice Act 1993, the Workplace Rights Commission, Employment Appeals Tribunal or taking civil action.

## INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

You can opt to apply for international protection instead of accessing the 6-month residency permit. You will be able to access free legal advice and support services, but your rights and entitlements to social welfare, education and employment will be in line with your status as an international protection applicant.

# SUPPORT ORGANISATIONS

## STATE SERVICES

### An Garda Síochana (Police)

Contact to report suspicions of human trafficking. Responsible for identifying victims of trafficking and referring them for support.

☎ 999 // 112

☎ **Confidential hotline:** 1800 666 111

✉ **Confidential email:** blueblindfold@garda.ie.

### HSE Anti Human-Trafficking Team & Women's Health Service

Healthcare service that provides individual care plans to all victims of trafficking in Ireland.

✉ infoline1@hse.ie // Admin.whp@hse.ie

☎ 01 795 8280 // 1850 241 850

🌐 www.womenshealthproject.ie

### Legal Aid Board

A state service that provides legal advice to victims of trafficking and represents people seeking asylum in Ireland.

✉ info@legalaids.ie

☎ 066 947 1000 // 1890 615 200

## NON-STATUTORY SUPPORT SERVICES

### Immigrant Council of Ireland

Legal support to trafficked migrant women

✉ admin@immigrantcouncil.ie

☎ 01 674 0202

### Ruhama

Practical support & counselling service for women recovering from trafficking and affected by prostitution

✉ admin@ruhama.ie

☎ 01 836 0292

### AKidWa

A migrant women network supporting women activists in their community through leadership programmes and work on community engagement.

✉ info@akidwa.ie

☎ 01 834 9851

### Migrant Rights Centre Ireland

Legal advocacy for people trafficked for the purposes of labour exploitation and forced labour

✉ info@mrci.ie

☎ 01 889 7570

### Rape Crisis Centre

Counselling service and psychological support for survivors of sexual violence and rape.

☎ **National 24 hour helpline:** 1800 77 8888

✉ counselling@rcc.ie

### Women's Aid

Counselling and psychological support for female survivors of domestic violence.

☎ **National 24 hour helpline:** 1800 341 900

# LIMERICK SUPPORT SERVICES

## Doras

Immigration & integration information and support, including assistance to victims of trafficking.

- 📞 061 310 328 // 083 080 2378
- ✉ info@doras.org
- 🌐 www.doras.org

## Rape Crisis Centre MidWest

Counselling service and psychological support for female survivors of sexual violence and rape.

- 📞 1800 311 511

## Adapt Domestic Abuse Service

Accommodation and support service for women and children who have experienced domestic abuse.

- 📞 061 412 354
- ✉ info@adaptservices.ie
- 🌐 www.adaptservices.ie

## GOSSH (Gender Orientation, Sexuality & Sexual Health)

Free confidential sexual health support, STI testing and outreach service

- 📞 061 314 354
- ✉ support@gossh.ie

Full details of available services can be found listed on [www.blueblindfold.ie](http://www.blueblindfold.ie) and outlined in the Guide to Procedures for Victims of Human Trafficking

# REPORTING CONCERNS ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

If you are concerned that someone is a victim of trafficking, you can contact the Garda confidential hotline on **1800 666 111** or call emergency services on **999 / 112**

For more information on Doras' anti-trafficking work or if you need our assistance, please contact us at:

- ✉ info@doras.org
- 📞 061 310 328 // 083 080 2378

[www.doras.org](http://www.doras.org)





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