



PROMOTING & PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

RIGHTS & ENTITLEMENTS FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

AN INTRODUCTORY
GUIDE FOR PEOPLE WORKING
IN FRONTLINE SERVICES IN IRELAND



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt
Department of Justice

This project is supported by the Department of Justice

INTRODUCTION

People who have been victims of the crime of human trafficking in Ireland have rights and entitlements to access a range of supports, including accommodation, legal aid, healthcare and social welfare. In some instances, these rights and entitlements are linked to a person's immigration status, nationality and co-operation with the criminal investigation.

Victims of human 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 wide range of rights and entitlements are available to people who are formally identified as suspected victims of human trafficking.

This introductory guide has been developed to support frontline staff in their work with potential victims of human trafficking. For detailed information, please access the links detailed below on page 5. For emergency or individualized support, please contact the Gardaí, Doras or a specialist support service working in the area of anti-trafficking.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Garda confidential helpline: 1800 666 111

INFORMATION & SUPPORT

Doras: 061 310 328 (Office hours) // 087 080 2378 (24 hours)



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EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

If you are a victim of human trafficking, you can contact the emergency helpline or local Garda (Irish police) station for advice, support and assistance. The Garda Human Trafficking Investigation and Co-ordination Unit (HTICU) is responsible for criminal investigations and they will engage with relevant agencies on your behalf to facilitate access to relevant support services, including health and psychological services and free legal advice.

Emergency helpline

-  1800 666 111
-  blueblindfold@garda.ie

Find local Garda station

-  <https://www.garda.ie/en/contact-us/station-directory/>



IMMIGRATION

If you are from a non-EU country living in Ireland without immigration status - also known as "undocumented" - you can access a 60 day 'Reflection & Recovery' residency permit. This gives you permission to be in Ireland. If you decide to co-operate with the Gardaí (Irish police) in their criminal investigation, you can then apply for a 6-month renewable residency permit, which will also enable you to apply for social welfare, employment and housing assistance. The Legal Aid Board, or a specialist NGO such as Doras, can help you with this application.

ACCOMMODATION

You have a right to avail of accommodation in a Direct Provision centre that will be provided by the International Protection Accommodation Service (IPAS), for at least 60 days. 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. You can access support services to help you with accommodation issues and to help you find suitable private rented accommodation.

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 apply for social welfare payments such as Jobseeker's Allowance, which is €208 per week. You can apply for social welfare assistance at the local Social Welfare office or Intreo Centre.


Local social welfare offices & Intreo centres

 <http://www.gov.ie/intreocentres/>

LEGAL ADVICE

Free legal advice is available to victims of human trafficking from the Legal Aid Board. The Legal Aid Board can provide information and assistance in applying for temporary residence, leave to remain, redress and compensation. Specialist NGOs, including Doras, can also provide advice and legal information to support you and to advise on your options.


Legal Aid Board Human Trafficking Applications

 1800 238343 (Freephone)

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. If you are engaging with the Gardaí in their criminal investigation, 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.

HSE Anti-Human Trafficking Team

 01 795 8280

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, such as Intreo (Department of Social Protection) and the Local Employment Service.

Local social welfare offices & Intreo centres

 <http://www.gov.ie/intreocentres/>

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

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

International Protection Office

 www.ipa.gov.ie

FURTHER INFORMATION

Garda Human Trafficking Investigation & Coordination Unit:

<https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/organised-serious-crime/garda-national-protective-services-bureau-gnpsb-/human-trafficking/human-trafficking-investigation.html>

Anti Human Trafficking Unit, Department of Justice:

<https://www.blueblindfold.ie/>

Legal Aid Board:

<https://www.legalaidboard.ie/en/our-services/legal-aid-services/common-legal-problems/human-trafficking/legal-advice-for-potential-victims-of-human-trafficking.html>

Anti-Human Trafficking Team, Health Services Executive (HSE):

<https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/5/sexhealth/whp/>

Guide to Procedures for Victims of Human Trafficking in Ireland:

<http://www.victimsofcrimeoffice.ie/en/vco/Humantraffickingguidelines.pdf/Files/Humantraffickingguidelines.pdf>

CONTACT DETAILS



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-  51a O'Connell Street, Limerick.
-  www.doras.org
-  info@doras.org
-  061 310 328 (Office hours)
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