



Ministry of Interior
Republic of Cyprus

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF EXPLOITATION AND **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



**Multidisciplinary
Coordinating Group
Against Human
Trafficking**



WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is a **crime** committed by individuals or organised networks of traders and traffickers **for the purpose of exploiting a human being.**

Trafficking starts with the **recruitment** of a human being that may include his/her transportation, transfer, receipt and harbouring or accommodation, **by such means as threats, violence, coercion, abduction, malice, fraud, deception,** for the purpose of his/her exploitation.

RECOGNISING THE SIGNS

Do you identify with any of these questions?

- Have you been promised a specific kind of labour but were forced to do something completely different?
- Were you required to surrender your personal documents (e.g. ID card, passport)?
- Are you being paid the wages agreed for your work?
- Are you being mistreated or psychologically abused?
- Are you being restrained from moving freely?
- Have you been coerced e.g. to beg, steal or prostitute yourself?
- Are you or your family being threatened?

**If you suspect that any of the above applies,
call now, free of charge**

1497

or send an email at

VOHTSupport@sws.dmsw.gov.cy

of the Social Welfare Services.

PROCEDURE FOR TRACKING – REFERRAL – RECOGNITION

If you believe you have been victimized, the **Social Welfare Services** is the first Service to provide you with **immediate support and inform you about your rights**. Always remember that both the Social Worker and the Police Officers that will interview you, are on your side. They will help and support you.

The Police, more particularly the Office of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, pursuant to the Law on the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and the Protection of Victims, is the competent authority to identify victims of human trafficking.

The main concern of the Police is to **rescue you, ensure your physical and psychological safety and support, protect your rights and provide you with access to these rights**.

Reflection Period

The Police will immediately make sure you are given a “reflection period”, namely **time** to decide whether you **wish to cooperate** with the prosecuting authorities for the **prosecution of the perpetrators**.

When you decide to collaborate with the prosecuting authorities, you will have the **right to remain in Cyprus** for the entire duration of the criminal proceedings, **enjoying all your rights**.

After completing the assessment, the Police will inform you if you have been recognised as a victim of human trafficking.

ARE YOU A POSSIBLE VICTIM?

You are entitled to:

- Support by the State and NGOs, for example:
 - advisory guidance
 - financial support if you do not have any resources
 - free emergency medical and pharmaceutical care
 - free emergency psychological support
 - interpretation and translation
 - reflection period
 - free provision of legal or other advice
- police protection where needed
- protection from deportation
- accommodation at the state shelter, where deemed necessary
- access to education (for minors)
- the right to apply for international protection

... ARE YOU A RECOGNISED VICTIM?

You are also entitled to:

- a residence permit so that you may participate in the criminal proceedings
- inclusion in the witness protection scheme, where needed
- free medical care
- free psychological support
- Employment Advisor services
- professional training, where applicable
- free access to the labour market
- free representation by a lawyer to claim damages



**If you believe you have been victimized
or if you suspect that someone is a victim
of exploitation or human trafficking,
call now free of charge**

1497

or send an email at

VOHTSupport@sws.dmsw.gov.cy

of the Social Welfare Services.



P.I.O. 8/2024-1500

Published by the Press and Information Office

Printed by the Government Printing Office