

INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In human trafficking a person is controlled and exploited by someone else. This can happen either by misleading, constraining or exploiting victim's dependant or vulnerable position. Human trafficking is a crime that violates human dignity and integrity.

This leaflet outlines some of the common indicators of human trafficking: forms of exploitation, means of control and signals of possible subordinate position. You should not consider this outline as a checking list, but you can utilize it as compilation of matters that can assist recognition and identification of human trafficking crimes. By reading about different kind of human trafficking forms, means and indicators you can sharpen your observational skills in recognising human trafficking.

FORMS OF EXPLOITATION

- labour exploitation
- forcing or pressuring to selling sex / prostitution
- other forms of sexual exploitation
- unlawful adoption
- forcing or pressuring into marriage
- forcing or pressuring into criminal activities
- forcing or pressuring into begging
- forcing or pressuring into domestic labour
- human organ trafficking (removal of organs and tissues)

MEANS OF CONTROL

- misleading
- getting into debt
- blackmailing
- physical violence
- psychical violence
- spiritual violence
- social isolation
- restriction of movement
- giving false information systematically
- threatening with violence
- threatening with residence status
- threatening with social disgrace/humiliation
- threatening with something related to relatives/ loved ones

INDICATORS OF SUBORDINATE POSITION

In living circumstances:

- confiscated passport/ID-card
- confiscated travel documents
- ignorance of in what country or in what locality one stays currently
- someone else is taking care of things on behalf of the person
- not been able to travel alone without an escort
- not been able to use health services
- victims of sexual exploitation have no possibility to use protection against sexually transmitted infections or use contraception
- creation of dependence or maintaining dependence that enables exploitation in situations
- when the victim is using substances (drugs or alcohol)
- signing documents or agreements without informed consent
- wearing clothing that is inappropriate for the weather
- an underage person with own children
- a child that does not attend school
- a child that does not attend child health centre or other health checks
- a child accompanied by parents that do not appear to be child's "real" parents

In residence circumstances:

- accommodation in the same place as working
- accommodation in the same household as working
- accommodation in farm building, in construction site barracks or other abysmal or inhumane circumstances
- no possibility to leave freely from accommodation
- no key for the place where lives

In working circumstances:

- physical violence in the work place
- no possibility to negotiate working conditions
- no work contract or several work contracts with divergent content about the same job
- no wages or too little wages
- too lengthy working hours
- no days off
- no sick leave options

In financial circumstances:

- extortionate debts
- no knowledge of the amount of debts or debt's accrual basis
- bank account controlled by someone else
- financial responsibility for loved ones

In social circumstances:

- isolation
- limited or non-existent freedom to move around
- limited or non-existent possibility to keep in contact with loved ones or other people
- the person acting as an interpreter appearing to interpret "nonsense"
- loved ones showing symptoms of stress, anxiety etc.

In psychological wellbeing:

- ongoing nightmares
- panic attacks
- forgetfulness
- aggression
- delusions
- obsessive ideas
- stagnation
- fear of violence towards oneself or loved ones
- fear of deportation
- fear of social disgrace
- fear of dissemination of pictures or information pertaining to oneself

In physical health:

- signs of physical violence
- signs of organ removal in appearance
- untreated chronic illnesses
- no health care during pregnancy
- infections
- malnourishment
- lack of personal hygiene

In behaviour or emotional stages:

- lack of trust
- tearful
- overcautious
- suspicious
- confrontational
- lying
- unwillingness to talk about one's circumstances

More information: National Assistance System for Victims of Trafficking

http://www.humantrafficking.fi/in_english