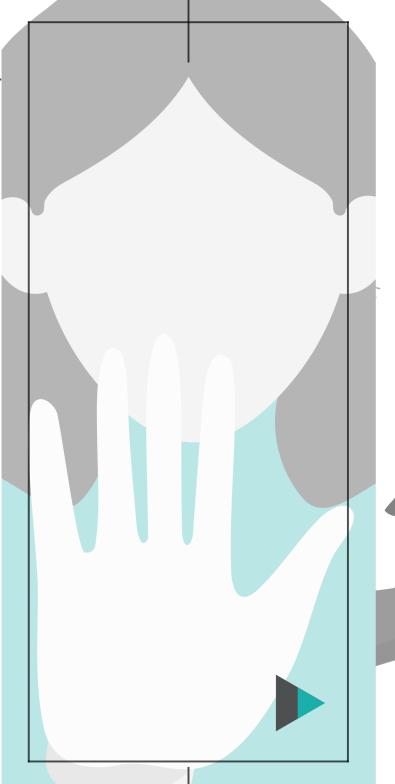


STAY SAFE AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING





Financed by
International Rescue Committee









SAFETY NET?



04

Safety Net is a project implemented by the **Specialised Counselling Centres JADWIGA**, **based in Bavaria**, Germany in cooperation and funded by the **International Rescue Committee**, through their German headquarter based in Berlin.

The project aims to reduce the risks of becoming victims of trafficking in human beings and steer the pro-active and early-stage identification of vulnerable persons and potential victims of trafficking.

Through implementing Safety Net, the partner organisations have the objectives of:

- Decreasing the level of vulnerability of persons fleeing from war and improve the level of awareness regarding current forms of exploitation and modus operandi, at the earliest moment possible, after the decision to flee from war has been taken.
- Enhance multidisciplinary identification of human trafficking victims and strenghten the capacities of front-line service providers and law enforcement agencies in preventing and combating this crime.
- Foster transnational cooperation to increase awareness and improve (transnational) referrals to specialized service providers.

In doing so, JADWIGA and IRC, alongside of service providers from the main transit countries for vulnerable persons to becoming victims of human trafficking align their actions to the European Commission's Common Anti-Trafficking Plan to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and support potential victims among those fleeing the war in Ukraine.

Safety Net provides:

- trainings to specialists working at grass root level in order to ensure an early stage identification;
- · information events for forced migrants;
- outreach activities in shelters and refugee camps;
- a backbone for transnational cooperation in preventing and combatting trafficking in human beings;
- a further step towards trauma informed and victim centred transnational referral system.



What are the specialized counselling centres **JADWIGA**?

05

JADWIGA is specialised in supporting victims of trafficking in human beings in all its forms (e.g. labour exploitation, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced criminal activities, forced begging). Our work is characterised by a victim-centred, trauma-informed and culturally sensitive approach.

The support offered by JADWIGA includes, but is not limited to:

- Intervention in crisis situations
- · Safe accommodation
- Counselling with regard to social problems
- · Counselling with regard to residency and immigration matters
- · Accompaniment to authorities, medical doctors etc.
- Mediation of and with legal and/or therapeutic service providers
- Repatriation to home countries, if desired by the victims
- Assistance for witnesses within criminal procedures and in criminal trials

We take up our clients alongside their needs. We respect their dignity, individuality, experiences, skills, and cultural background. It is crucial to realize the desires of our clients. Voluntary consent grounds the help offered by JADWIGA.

Multiculturalism is our strength. We work in a multicultural team, promoting intercultural understanding. Accessible communication, in mother tongue, is important to create trust, further easing the exercising of our client's rights and liberties.

We meet the demands of social change with flexibility, cooperation, and mutual learning. Cooperation and networking are indispensable tools to achieve the best possible solutions for our clients. We act as mediators between government authorities, businesses, and politicians to ensure the implementation of our clients' interests, both in Germany and abroad.

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What is the **International Rescue Committee?**

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) is an international humanitarian and development nongovernmental organizations represented in more than 50 countries helping people affected by humanitarian crises—including the climate crisis—to survive, recover and rebuild their lives.

In Germany, the IRC is engaged nationwide in the areas of education, economic well-being, safety and empowerment as well as safety and legal protection to support forcibly displaced persons since 2016. Our programs are implemented in partnership with public institutions and authorities, welfare associations, academia, civil society and migrant-led organizations, focusing on the development of innovative, needs- and evidence-based programs to achieve impact at scale. Our approach follows three pillars: high quality service delivery, system strengthening and system change.

To address the high risk of exploitation and trafficking in human beings within the asylum system and for displaced persons, the IRC works towards prevention, early identification and safe referrals of (potential) victims of trafficking as well as promoting after care for survivors following a survivor-centred and trauma-informed approach. We conduct:

- Capacity building activities, such as sensitization and training with organizations and persons in first contact with (potential) victims of trafficking to implement prevention measures, recognize red flags and ensure referral to specialized services.
- Awareness raising activities.
- After care activities, e.g., parenting classes.
- Policy analysis and advocacy activities.

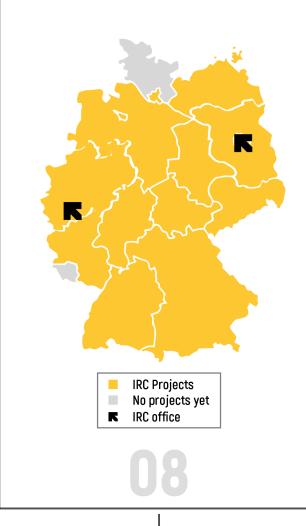




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STAY SAFE!



Information



What is **trafficking** in human beings?

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Within the European Union, Member States have a common understanding of what trafficking in human beings is. The common definition is stated within a European legislation called the EU Directive 2011/36/EU and defines trafficking in human beings as:

"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."

It explains that a position of vulnerability, as mentioned within the definition, means a situation in which the person concerned has no real or acceptable alternative but to submit to the abuse involved.

Trafficking in human beings is **a crime** punishable under the criminal law of all Member States of the European Union. In fact, it constitutes a crime in all European countries.

This means, 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.

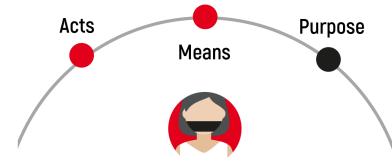
As trafficking in human beings takes place at national and transnational level, meaning victims are recruited in one country, transferred through one or more countries and exploited in the destination countrie(s), it requires national and cross-border cooperation among authorities and specialized anti-trafficking organizations to investigate the case and offer support and protection to the victims identified.

Lets break down this long definition of trafficking in human beings:

ACTS = What was done? = recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or reception of persons, including the exchange or transfer of control over those persons

MEANS = How was it done? = 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

PURPOSE = Why was it done? = exploitation





How does recruitment take place?

Which are the **next stages**?

In person - Persons who act as recruiters mostly do not show indicators of having bad intentions. They analyse the targeted persons very carefully. Recruiters often know the person very well, understand the needs this person has, and try to address these needs through an irresistible offer. Recruiters are often family members, friends, neighbours, strangers who have researched the targeted person, or the lovers of the victims. In that case, the recruitment method is called the Loverboy method. Less often, this stage uses violence or force such as abductions.

The recruiters' offers differ based on the needs they address and the method of exploitation they have as a purpose. For example, recruiters offer safe accommodation in a new country; a new beginning in another country where life is safe and secure; a vacation where they can spend a great time together; or a great job opportunity. They may also offer to lend money when somebody is in urgent need of money or to intermediate sexual services and provide protection while carrying out this activity.

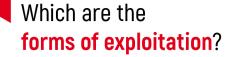
Online – Often recruitment is taking place online. For this purpose, social media platforms, websites, newspaper announcements and computer game chats are often used. Recruiters either proactively approach persons or wait to be contacted by their targets. They use the same form of offers, only the method of communication differs which can ensure that their identity is protected. They might create fake accounts, use fake names, or indicate fake locations. Victims might think they are talking to a company while, in fact, behind the screens, is a criminal network or they may have fallen in love with the deception of an honest, handsome, young man while that person has a very different profile in real life (also called "catfishing").

After the recruitment phase, traffickers might proceed to other acts like transportation or transfer from one city to another (internal trafficking) or one country to another (transnational trafficking). Most likely, traffickers offer to pick up the victims from home ensuring that they know where the victims are living and who the family members are. By doing so, traffickers are able to use various means like threats and violence against the victims and/or against the family members, at a next stage, to ensure that they keep the victims in the state of exploitation.

Following transportation/transfer, the **harbouring** phase usually starts. In this phase, the victim is brought to an accommodation. The housing is in many situations inappropriate, often isolated. Victims are not allowed or are unable to move freely from this place. They cannot contact their family members or if they can, the conversations are often supervised by the traffickers and the content is dictated by them. This is mostly the moment victims realise that they are in a dangerous situation. During this stage victims often face various forms of violence - psychological violence, physical violence and/or sexual violence.

The reactions by the victims differ from one individual to another within this stage. While some victims proactively try to escape others are shocked and too afraid to do anything except for what they are being asked to by the traffickers. This phase is usually also one of the most dangerous phases as the attempt to escape is often punished by the traffickers. This punishment might either be directed against the victim who tried to escape, against other victims who are living in the same accommodation and/or against family members.

Eventually, the final phase of trafficking starts – the **exploitation**.









Labour exploitation







Forced criminal activities

Forced begging

Forced marriage



Other forms of exploitation: organ harvesting, surrogacy, child sexual exploitation



Labour exploitation

Sexual exploitation





Forced marriage

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Labour exploitation, in the context of trafficking in human beings, involves the actions and means described in the previous definition, committed for the purpose of exploiting a person's labour. It involves the abuse of victims in the workplace to obtain a profit. The method of coercion used can be violent, through using physical force, or it can be much more subtle so that victims barely realise that they are subjected to trafficking.

In the recruitment phase, traffickers often take advantage of the victims' vulnerabilities caused by various factors like the victim's economic condition, housing possibilities in a foreign country, immigration status, work permit, level of education, level of information or mental distress caused by adverse events.

Victims of labour trafficking do not always understand that the employer they are working for is not only breaking labour law but is committing one of the most serious forms of organised crime.

After the recruitment, victims are generally housed within the premises of their workplace, living alongside other victims and/or workers, in generally inappropriate conditions. They work excessive hours and usually lack protection equipment and/or medical care when being injured while carrying out the activities subjected to. Victims receive very low wages for the work done, significantly lower than the legal minimum wage or payments continue to be delayed with always new excuses provided for the delay. There are also cases in which the wages are "normal" for the work done, but they must pay exaggerated amounts to the intermediaries for having found the workplace and/or to the employers for transportation costs, housing costs or daily subsistence costs. Under these circumstances, victims often are kept in a form of debt bondage and see no exit.

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Sexual exploitation represents the most common form of exploitation in the sphere of trafficking in human beings.

Victims of sex trafficking are recruited and coerced to provide sexual services against their will or in other conditions than commonly established (when pimping turns into trafficking).

Recruitment methods vary from promises of safe housing in a foreign country, often taking advantage of the position of vulnerability of asylum seekers, refugees, and forced migrants due to war or persecution in their home country, due to ethnical background, sexual orientation, religion etc., to promises of a well-paid job, to faking a love-based relationship or using physical violence.

Victims are housed primarily alongside other victims and supervised throughout the day. Their freedom of movement is strongly restricted. Online ads are placed regarding sexual services, and the calls of potential clients are intercepted or directly handled by the exploiters. Generally, the exploiter negotiates the services, the duration of the services, and the prices. Payments for the services are usually made directly to the trafficker or victims who then hand over all or almost all the payments to the traffickers.

In countries where prostitution is legalised, victims also work in brothels under the guise of being sex workers. Within this context, victims get in touch with various authorities, often including the police, but they are too frightened to ask for help and thus try to exit exploitation.

Victims of sex trafficking might also be subjected to other forms of exploitation, like forced criminal activities. These might be for example situations in which victims are forced to use illegal identity documents or to engage in dealing with illegal drugs.

Forced marriage is defined as a marriage in which one or both partners do not or cannot consent to this marriage. As a form of exploitation within the framework of trafficking in human beings, forced marriage needs to be committed through the acts and means listed within the definition of trafficking in human beings (please see before).

Forced marriage thereby derives from severe psychological pressure or physical abuse to force one or both spouses into marriage. It entails extensive consequences as victims are severely restricted in their personal development and their life opportunities, exposes victims to severe physical and psychological stress and can lead to other forms of exploitation. For example, when a woman is sold by the family into a forced marriage she may also be subjected to sexual abuse and domestic servitude.

Recruitment can also occur in the context of sham marriages when, for example, a non-EU national is looking forward to marrying an EU national so that he/she obtains a legal residence permit on the territory of the EU. For this, an amount of money is generally offered. However, the recruiter does not stop at this point but subjects the victim to violence or abuse, or to one of the forms of exploitation in the framework of trafficking in human beings.

It is important to note the distinction between forced and arranged marriages. Arranged marriages are a lived tradition in many countries all over the world. Parents search for suitable partners in marriage for their children, sometimes engaging matchmakers. If individuals consent to the match, giving their approval to their suiter, it does not constitute forced marriage. However, in reality, the concerned parties are not always consulted regarding the decision for or against possible suitors. The rejection of a potential match is often not tolerated by the parents. Sometimes, girls are too young to make autonomous decisions or to give consent. In such situation, the boundaries to forced marriage are elusive.

Forced criminal activities





Forced begging

Other forms of exploitation



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Illegal Organ harvesting/trafficking of human cells

In the situation of illegal organ removal, victims might give their consent to the removal of organs or cells, but this consent has been obtained by means of using fraud or deception in the sense of trafficking in human beings. The deception might be linked to the amount of money paid for the organ/cells or to whether there will be a payment at all. Also, victims might not be fully aware of the medical procedures, the possibilities of treatment, the process of recovery or the impact the medical operation(s) will have on the long-term health condition of the victim.

Illegal adoptions

In the sense of trafficking of human beings, illegal adoptions represent situations in which parents or legal caregivers are recruited by means of false promises and sometimes by use of violence for the purpose of giving up their child for adoption outside the legal adoption framework. Often, adopted children are subjected to abuse and/or exploitation, like online/offline child sexual exploitation, forced begging, social benefit fraud, forced criminal activities etc.

Surrogacy

Legal regulation of surrogacy varies across countries. Under the pretext of legal behaviour, traffickers recruit vulnerable persons by promising consistent financial benefits, safe medical procedures, and legal paths of adoption. However, during or immediately after the pregnancy, the promises made initially by recruiters turn out to be false, and the victim is forced to carry out the pregnancy and give away the baby against her will. To be considered a form of trafficking, the acts, means, and purpose of exploitation need to be identifiable in the modus operandi of the traffickers. However, it is often unreported as surrogacy is illegal in many countries, and victims fear retribution. This form of exploitation is also often linked to illegal adoptions.

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Forced criminal activity, as a form of trafficking in human beings, can range from being forced to commit petty crimes like stealing, pickpocketing, use of fake identity documents, loans, credit cards, or social benefits fraud, to other forms of organised crime like migrant smuggling or drug dealing.

Victims are often subjected to multiple forms of exploitation, for example, sexual exploitation is sometimes linked with forced drug dealing, forced begging is sometimes linked to forced stealing or social benefits fraud, labour exploitation can be linked to using fake identity documents to ensure a work permit in case of customs control, etc.

Most of the times, victims fear to ask for help to avoid criminal investigations against themselves. It is this fear which is used as a coercive instrument. Traffickers usually threaten the victims with informing law enforcement agencies in case the victims stop cooperating and try to exit exploitation. Often, victims are unaware that they cannot be held responsible for the criminal activities they have been forced to do. Therefore, even if victims are in contact with local authorities, due to their fear and lack of knowledge about these legal provisions, they do not go against the perpetrators. The legal provision protecting victims of this form of exploitation is foreseen in the EU Directive 2011/36/EU under Article 8 and is commonly known as the "non-punishment clause."

Art 8 - Member States shall, in accordance with the basic principles of their legal systems, take the necessary measures to ensure that competent national authorities are entitled not to prosecute or impose penalties on victims of trafficking in human beings for their involvement in criminal activities which they have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of being subjected to any of the acts referred to in Article 2.

Forced begging is a form of exploitation in which the victim is forced to beg and give away the generated income to the trafficker(s). Victims are often very vulnerable persons due to e.g. their status in a foreign country, their ethnic background, etc.

The recruitment and exploitation are usually done by family members or persons who know the victims' families. The exploiters usually are part of an organised crime group and tend to share the same citizenship and/or ethnicity. This enables them to threaten the victims and ensure that victims, out of fear for themselves and their families, remain in a state of exploitation.

Victims are generally recruited with false promises of a well-paid job, high earnings through begging, or by means of violence against them or their family members.

Victims tend to be exploited alongside several other persons. They are housed in isolated places or state-run shelters for homeless persons. They are generally transported as a group from the housing place to the public spaces where they are subjected to begging. In some cases, they are also forced to commit illegal activities. The transportation might take place through vans or public means of transportation. At this point, victims realise that the promises made were false. Not only that they do not have a workplace, but victims can hardly keep something of the earnings they made through begging.

While victims are often supervised throughout the day by the exploiters who periodically collect the earnings or the products of the crimes (e.g. stolen wallets or mobile phones), sometimes they have been put under so much pressure that they do not have to be physically supervised. Their fear of the traffickers is enough to keep the victims psychologically enchained. This allows traffickers to remain hidden either in the source countries or in other safe places.

How can I recognise a **victim**?

General indicators

- · Signs of fear and/or anxiety
- · Strong denial of help (possible caused by fear)
- · Signs of injuries possibly caused by assault
- · Not in possession of identity document
- Is not having possibilities to communicate with family, loved ones or authorities
- In possession of false identity documents
- Not in possession of financial means to ensure daily life subsistence
- Living or working in connection with places known for possible criminal activities
- · Live in very poor or isolated locations
- · Is not able to move freely
- · Is in a situation of dependence
- Displays tattoos or wounds which can be traced back to criminal groups





Labour exploitation

- Not in possession of an employment contract
- No work permit for the country of residence
- · Working without health insurance
- Working excessive hours and receiving low payment
- Income is below the local minimum wage
- Not in the possession of adequate work equipment
- Unable to leave the working place alone
- Lack of medical attention after suffering injuries directly linked to the work done
- Disciplined through exaggerated and unlawful measures or fines
- · Debts towards the employer

Organ/human cells harvesting/surrogacy

 Very vulnerable persons recruited through promises of earning a lot of money. Recruitment through online ads. Conversation on harvesting done through intermediaries. Illegal contracts are used. Secret or illegal medical interventions are done, mostly in private clinics. Several pregnant women living in the same housing.

Sexual exploitation

- Often moving from one location to another, from one city to another, from one country to another
- No language proficiency in e.g. English or the language of the country of residence; dependence on third parties for any communication
- · Not personally negotiating the services offered or prices asked
- · Not able to décide on their own which clients to serve
- Not able to decide where, for how long and on which days to work
- Always escorted when leaving the working premises
- Not registered as sex worker (in countries where registration is compulsory) and working in insalubrious conditions
- · Few clothing and personal items; mostly related to sex work

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Other forms of exploitation

- Forced marriage Never or very rarely leave the house. When leaving, then mostly only to school, work or doing the groceries. Very limited social interactions. The social interactions are strongly controlled by caregivers (e.g. parents). Possible signs of physical violence. Indicators of psychological violence. Own wishes, interest, desires are undermined. No or very limited free time activities. Husband in need for obtaining a legal status within the EU. For the marriage a payment is done to the caregivers.
- Forced criminal activities Dependence upon other gang members for carrying out everyday activities. Move in groups, mostly with public means of transportation. Has no id documents to not be identified by police. Fear of authorities.
- Forced begging Fear of retribution if not having earned enough on that day. Proactively approaching persons to ask for money, but fears to engage in longer conversations. If doing so, often looks around, to see the reactions of the supervisor. Often accompanied by minors who are also used for carrying out the begging activities. In possession of very small amount of cash. If talking to more persons carrying out begging in the same area, they tell similar stories and are moved with the same means of transportation although apparently, they do not know each other.

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STAY SAFE!



Prevention



Safety tips

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The most common aspect in cases of trafficking in human beings is the fact that victims assume "it will not happen to me!" This is why, even if they are informed about what trafficking in human beings is and how to protect themselves, they do not take any prevention measures.

- Remember the information you read in this brochure about trafficking in human beings and analyse the offers you get from this perspective.
- 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.
- If your travel document gets stolen or lost do not despair! You can get a travel document from the consulate or embassy of your country. Do not engage in any activities which might be dangerous to get the travel document back.
- Write down names and phone numbers of organisations offering help and support.

Safety tips



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- In Europe, trafficking in human beings 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 trafficking. They can offer protection, accommodation, support for you and your family free of charge
- Make sure that the place you will be staying is a state-run shelter or a safe space.
- In case you are offered shelter within a private house/apartment/room, analyse if this offer is safe. Ask to see the identity document of the person offering you the support and write down the name and address. You have the right to get registered at this address and to receive social benefits.
- Take a picture of the registration plate before you get into a car. Send it to a trusted person. If the driver does not allow this, you should better avoid getting into the car.
- Get information on the labour law regulation of the country in which you work. In many European countries, employees have the right to receive an employment contract, a minimum wage and medical insurance. Do not accept any other conditions of work than the once of the country in which you are employed.
- Not only men can be traffickers. You should not trust women blindly just because they are women. Keep in touch with other relatives, friends, and members of your community.





STAY SAFE!



Protection

Trafficking victims' rights

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· Assistance and support

If victims are identified as such, they have the right to be immediately referred to support services. The support must be confidential, free of charge and available to all victims, regardless of whether they filed a criminal complaint or not. The support should be specifically adapted to the needs and risks identified.

If victims decide to cooperate with the law enforcement authorities, the assistance and support should be provided before, during and for an appropriate period of time after the conclusion of criminal proceedings to enable them to exercise their rights.

The support offered should include, at a minimum: appropriate and safe accommodation; material assistance; necessary medical treatment; psychological assistance; counselling and information; and translation and interpretation services.

Protection

Particularly when victims act as witnesses, they have the right to receive appropriate protection based on an individual risk and needs assessment.

· Victim's willingness to cooperate in the criminal investigation

Each victim has the right to decide if they want to cooperate with the law enforcement agencies. Assistance and support offered to a victim are not conditional on the prosecution or trial.

· Legal counselling and representation

Victims have the right to receive legal counselling and, in accordance with the role of victims in the relevant justice system, legal representation, including claiming compensations. These shall be free of charge where the victim does not have sufficient financial resources.

· Access to existing schemes of compensation

Victims should be informed about the possibilities of accessing state compensations or about the ways of being compensated for financial or non-financial damages.



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Rights of victims' family members

Particularly in cases of trafficking in human beings, it might be that family members suffer the consequences of this crime, too. In such a case, these indirect victims can have the same rights as the direct victims.

· Right to understand and to be understood

The authorities have the obligation to ensure that victims understand the information they receive. These must be provided in a simple and accessible language. The communication must be adjusted to the specific needs and conditions of every single victim.

Right to information

Victims have the right to receive information from the first contact with a competent authority without further delay. They have the right to receive information on the support services, procedures, possibilities of complaint and how to access compensation.

· Right to participate in criminal proceedings

Victims have the right to be heard and be informed about the stages of the criminal proceedings. For example, to be notified if the offender will not be prosecuted or if the offender will be released from prison.

For further information on the victims rights within the European Union, please access the EU Directive 2012/29/EU – available in all the languages of the European Union.

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Get help throuought Europe



National hotlines specialised in supporting victims of trafficking in human beings from all over the EU, can be accessed at any time to ask for help. Most hotlines provide information and support in various international languages. Since the outbreak of the war in Ukraine, several hotlines in EU countries provide information and support in Ukrainian language, too. For a complete list of the EU hotlines please access the website of the European Commission and select the country where help is needed at the moment, regardless of where the exploitation took place.

https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/o rganised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-traffi cking-human-beings/national-hotlines_en#germany

An EU wide campaign called 'Keep your eyes open' aims to "create an environment where victims of crime feel safe, understood and supported. Launched by the European Commission, the campaign's goal is to ensure that the victims understand their rights and that they feel empowered to use them and to seek justice. The campaign also aims to guarantee that victims are treated with fairness, dignity and respect, that their voices are heard and that they know where they can seek support."

By accessing the platform of the European Commission and selecting the country in which help is needed victims of all crimes can have an overview of all the service providers and select the provider which best matches the existing needs.

https://victims-rights.campaign.europa.eu/ en/country/belgium



Get help in **Germany**

In Germany you can find specialised counselling centres in all the major cities. The map below shows the cities where counselling centres can offer you support and protection.

By accessing the website of the KOK - German NGO Network Against Human Trafficking, you can select the city in which you are, or which is closest to you and then you get the contact details of the responsible counselling centre.

KOK-Mitgliedsorganisationen

















https://www.kok-gegen-menschenhandel.de/der-kok/ fachberatungsstellensuche

Notes on useful contacts					
		Safety N	et		



