

Human trafficking is a crime

Don't close your eyes - be aware, be alert

What is human trafficking?

Trafficking of human beings is the acquisition of people through the use of force, coercion or other means with the aim of exploiting them.

It has three distinct elements: the act (recruitment, transfer, transport); the means (threat or use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud); and a purpose (exploitation including prostitution of others, sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices, removal of organs).

A child/minor (ie a person under 18 years) cannot consent to being trafficked.

People can be trafficked into different types of situations, such as labour (including restaurant and hotel work, domestic work, construction, agriculture and entertainment), as well as prostitution and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

The Criminal Law (Human Trafficking) Act 2008 criminalises trafficking in adults or children for the purposes of labour exploitation, sexual exploitation or the removal of organs. Penalties of up to life imprisonment apply for these trafficking offences.



Know the signs

Trafficking in persons is usually an 'underground' crime and it can be difficult to identify a trafficking victim and/or a trafficking scenario or to accept that trafficking may be taking place in our communities.

Being familiar with the indicators of human trafficking will be of assistance in raising your suspicions. A person trafficked for sexual exploitation may act in one or more of the following ways:

- Be escorted whenever they go and/or return from work and other outside activities;
- Be subjected to violence or threats against themselves or

against their family members and loved ones;

- Have very few items of clothing;
- Only know how to say sex-related words in the local language or in the language of the client group;
- Be afraid to reveal who is controlling them and lie about their story;

- Be threatened with being handed over to the authorities.

A person trafficked for labour exploitation may act in one or more of the following ways:

- Work excessively long hours;
- Live in groups in the same place where they work, and leave those premises infrequently;
- Have no privacy, sleeping in shared and over-crowded spaces;
- Have no access to their earnings;
- Be subject to security measures designed to keep them on the work premises;
- Be disciplined through fines and threats.

Other common indicators that may suggest a person is a victim of trafficking include where a person:

- Shows signs that their movements are being controlled;
- Is afraid of revealing their immigration status;
- Is not in possession of their passports or other travel or identity documents, as those documents are being held by someone else;
- Is distrustful of the authorities;
- Is placed in a debt bondage situation; or
- Has acted on the basis of false promises.

promises.

Remember – no one willingly signs up to become a slave.

Traffickers frequently recruit victims through telling lies and make false promises for personal gain.

What is being done in Ireland?

In Ireland, the Government has undertaken a number of legislative, administrative and operational initiatives to deal with human trafficking and help victims. More details on the work that has been done to combat human trafficking in Ireland is available at www.blueblindfold.gov.ie.

Report suspicions anonymously

You can help prevent human trafficking from becoming a problem in Ireland. We ask you to be vigilant and to report any suspicions or information to the Garda Síochána by e-mail at blueblindfold@garda.ie or via the Crimestopper's hotline at 1800 25 00 25.

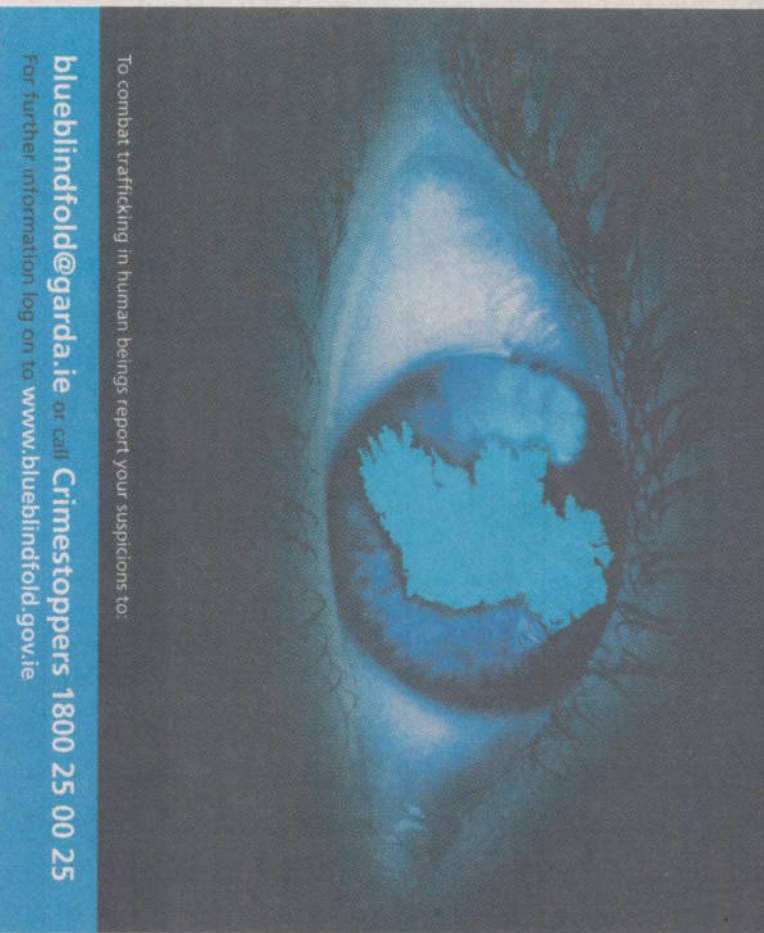
For more information contact:

Anti-Human Trafficking Unit
Department of Justice
and Law Reform
51 St Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Email: aktu@justice.ie

Human Trafficking can happen anywhere.

Human trafficking includes Sexual Exploitation, Forced Labour, Child Trafficking and Removal of Organs.

Don't close your eyes.



To combat trafficking in human beings report your suspicions to:

blueblindfold@garda.ie or call **Crimestoppers 1800 25 00 25**
For further information log on to www.blueblindfold.gov.ie



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