

WHAT IS THE MIRROR PROJECT?

You may recognise trafficked persons by using a number of indicators. A closer look at the situation is needed if, *inter alia*, they:

- Are not in possession of identity documents or are in possession of false documentation.
- Have no labour contract or it is not respected and social insurance is not granted.
- Work excessively long hours or days.
- Are not paid or have little access to their earnings.
- Are not allowed to freely move or leave their workplace.
- Live in very bad conditions.
- Are not allowed to freely communicate with family, friends or other persons.
- Are threatened of or subjected to verbal, physical or psychological abuse.
- Are threatened to be denounced for being irregular migrants.
- Are distrustful of the authorities.
- Are forced to pay excessive fees for transport, food or accommodation provided by their employers or gangmasters.
- Are disciplined through arbitrary fines.
- Are unfamiliar with the language of the destination country, although they have been living there for a long time.

Please keep in mind that many of these indicators may also apply to persons who are not trafficked. Indicators are just one of the tools necessary to identify victims of trafficking. If you consider that an intervention is necessary, please contact with a specialised organization or a trade union.

"Developing an agreed methodology on identification and referral for trafficking for labour exploitation: guaranteeing the victims the access to protection".

Leader: Accem (Spain)

Project partners: Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe-CCME (Belgium), Fundatia Floarea Ialomiteana (Romania), Associazione On the Road (Italy) and Opere Riunite Buon Pastore (Italy).



Main activities:

- Mapping the situation of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation in each targeted country (Spain, Italy, Romania).
- Development and implementation of a common methodology for identification and referral of victims of trafficking for labour exploitation.
- Training of actors involved in the identification of victims.
- Advocacy activities targeting European institutions engaged in the field of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.
- Awareness raising activities.

For more information:

www.accem.es
www.buonpastore.org
www.ccme.be
www.floareaialomiteana.com
www.ontheroadonlus.it



**open
Your
eyes!**

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation

Trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation is not a faraway phenomenon. It happens before our eyes, although many times we are unable to see it...



With the financial support from the Prevention of and Fight against Crime Programme of the European Union
European Commission -
Directorate-General Home Affairs



Ministerio de Trabajo e Inmigración
Proyecto cofinanciado por la Secretaría de Estado de Inmigración y Emigración
Dirección General de Integración de los Inmigrantes

This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the European Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein



- Trafficking in human beings is “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, reception, harbouring or receipt of 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. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs”. (UN)¹
- It affects women, men, transgenders, children, and adults.
- It is believed to be the third more lucrative type of illegal business in the world, after trafficking in drugs and weapons (UNODC).
- Every year, thousands and thousands of persons fall victims to traffickers and are forced to work in harsh conditions for no or little money.
- The root causes of trafficking are, inter alia, poverty, unemployment, social, ethnic, political, gender discrimination, war, as well as the legitimate desire to migrate to improve individual and family living conditions.

[1] “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime” (known as “Palermo Protocol”). Most national anti-trafficking legislations comply with this definition.

IGOR (Construction)

Igor is a 24 year-old Ukrainian man who just graduated in Psychology and cannot find an employment. One day he reads about a job offer on the Internet in a building firm in France. Igor contacts the employer, who offers him a good salary and the possibility to develop a professional career in the company.

Once arrived in Lyon, he finds out that the working conditions are very different from those offered: he has to work about 16 hours a day, without needed protection, and for no salary. Igor is constantly subjected to harassment and humiliation by his employers and, whenever he expresses his discontent, he is severely beaten. After four months, he manages to escape and, after few days of wandering in another city to look for another job, he is stopped by the police and deported back to his country.

ALI (Catering and Hotels)

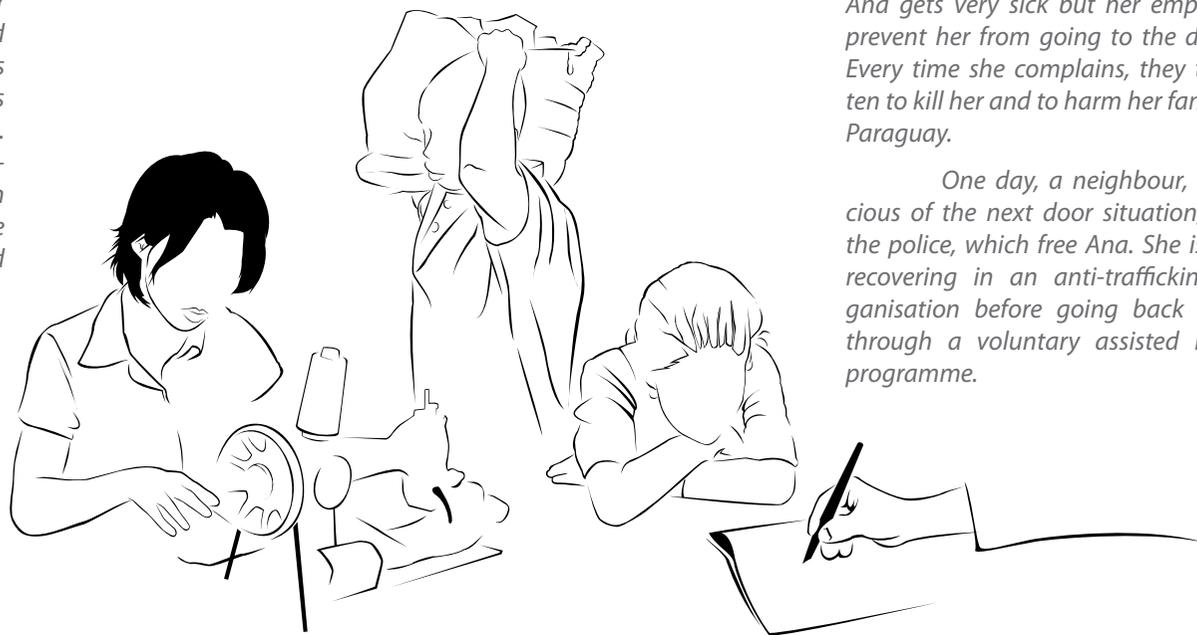
Through an acquaintance, Ali, a 22 year-old man from Pakistan, meets a person who offers him to move to the United Kingdom with the promise of a regular job in a restaurant. Once in London, Ali understands that he has been deceived, as the employer gives him false documents and forces him to work with no rest to pay back his debt for the trip. He is obliged to sleep and live in a very small and unhealthy place in the restaurant warehouse together with other persons. Ali cannot freely move and every day his employer threatens to report his irregular position to the authorities.

One day, thanks to a labour inspection, Ali and his workmates are finally released and referred to a local NGO that provides them support and assistance.

YAN and LIU (Textile Sector)

Yan, a 21 year-old Chinese man, and Liu, his 19 year-old wife are approached by a man who offers them to work in his textile factory nearby Florence. He offers to pay their flight tickets and promises to regularize their position by providing a good job and favourable working conditions.

Once in Italy, Yan and Liu are forced to work 15 hours a day, with no respect of labour laws. They are also obliged to pay a 50 Euros fine for each day off (even if ill or injured due to labour accidents). The employer never fulfils the promise to regularize their position. After few months, thanks to a complaint of a trade union, the police find out the illegal firm and free Yan, Liu and their colleagues, who are now assisted by a social protection organization for victims of trafficking.



ANA (Domestic Service)

Ana, a 16 year-old girl from Paraguay, moves to Spain because a family friend offers her to work as baby-sitter in Madrid for a well-off family.

When she gets there, she signs a contract with different working conditions than those initially proposed. She works 16 hours per day, with no salary and she only gets accommodation and food. The employers confiscate her passport, forbid her to freely move, and do not allow her to have contacts with family and friends. After six months, Ana gets very sick but her employers prevent her from going to the doctor. Every time she complains, they threaten to kill her and to harm her family in Paraguay.

One day, a neighbour, suspicious of the next door situation, calls the police, which free Ana. She is now recovering in an anti-trafficking organisation before going back home through a voluntary assisted return programme.

Victims of trafficking can be exploited in different job sectors, such as, agriculture, commerce, textiles, domestic service, catering, hotel, construction, entertainment, fishery...