

TRAVEL SAFE AND INFORMED!

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW?

Trafficking in Persons is modern day slavery!

“Trafficking in Persons is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, 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.” (Art. 3, UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol)

I met T. at a party. He promised me love and marriage. He assured me that we would build a better life together, living and working in a foreign country. He had lived there for years and knew the country well. T. even found me a job as the caretaker of an old couple. It was he who ensured the issuance of the biometric passport and paid for the ticket to travel to that country. Once there, we stayed at his friend's house. A week after our arrival, T. told me that I had to work to support ourselves there. I had to work a job where I could earn more, not where he initially promised me. When I found out to what he was referring I opposed him. "You have to pay me back all of the expenses that I paid for you to come here!" he replied. As a result of continuous violence inflicted on me and threatens to my family in Albania, I was forced to do what he wanted with clients that he forced on me.
Real story

Who are the victims of human trafficking?

Victims of human trafficking are men, women and children.

How and why do people become victims of human trafficking?

People are vulnerable to human trafficking for a number of reasons, including:

- poverty;
- unemployment;
- lack of education and professional opportunities;
- family problems;
- domestic and/or gender based violence;
- desire for a better life.

Offers that the traffickers make seem like the only answer to problems faced.

What happens to victims of human trafficking?

The goal of the traffickers is to make profit by forcing the victims to engage in a particular activity such as:

- sexual services;
- forced labor in construction, farms, mines, domestic work, restaurants, forced begging, petty crimes, etc.

Traffickers keep victims under control in many ways including:

- beatings, starvation and rape
- isolation by keeping them locked up and not allowing them any contact with outside world
- taking away ID cards, passports and other documents
- forcing them to take illegal drugs
- threatening them and their families (including threats against the lives of their families and children, and threats of shame for the “immoral” job they are doing, etc.);
- traffickers also get advantage and abuse the vulnerable situation of victims of trafficking

J. comes from a small city in South Albania. She is 26 years old. She comes from a very poor family with a lot of social problems. Her father had left when she was a little baby and her mother killed herself.

Left alone, she was forced to move in with relatives. Later she was forced by her relatives to live with the family of someone (they called him her husband) but in fact they never had a real marriage and the person had another family outside Albania. She was obliged to take care of his parents, do the daily work inside the house and complete all the agriculture work for them. She wasn't allowed to move or see her relatives, and she was never paid for her job.

She was psychically maltreated / abused by the parents of her so called husband, without having the possibility to run away. When they decided she wasn't useful to them anymore, they threw her out of the house, leaving her in the middle of the street.

Real story

Traffickers are not always strangers!

People are often trafficked by someone they know: a relative, a neighbor, a friend or an acquaintance

What can you do to protect yourself from trafficking?

If you are promised a good job, education or marriage away from your home:

- ask questions and check the answers given;
- do not sign anything before you understand;
- what it says;
- get help and advice from someone you trust;
- make sure your family and friends have the name, address and phone number of where you are going;
- keep in contact with a relative or friend at home;
- keep your passport/ID card in a safe place where only you can find it;
- if you go abroad, register with the Albanian embassy.

Do not be afraid of the authorities! They are there to help!
Do not trust internet advertisements! Check for their credentials before you register or take any other actions!

Consider yourself a fighter of human trafficking!

Look for signs of trafficking:

- When someone tells you that he/she has been abused, threatened, exploited and asks for help;
- When someone tells you that he/she has been promised work abroad;
- When someone tells you that he/she is in debt for travel costs, and will pay that back with work;
- when someone travelling that doesn't have the mental capacity to make decisions on their own;
- When someone young travels in the company of suspicious people, or people who are not related to them;
- if a child is not accompanied by his/her parents and looks afraid and/or under pressure;
- if the child possesses forged documents, has no documents at all, or is not registered

Ask questions. You may be the only chance that a victim has to reach for help.

If you know someone who may be a potential victim of human trafficking and you want to refer a case for assistance, please contact:

Albanian National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters:
Psycho Social Center VATRA: ++355 (0) 33228048/224078
Different and Equal NGO: ++355 (0) 42221892
National Reception Center: ++355 (0) 48302536
Tjeter Vision NGO: ++355 (0) 5452919

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Stop trafficking!
Together we can do more.