

## E-learning module 'Recognising Human Trafficking' – Summary page

For Netherlands Red Cross staff and volunteers

Human trafficking is more common than most people think. Many victims are trapped for a long time in a situation of exploitation and do not know where they can get help. This goes all the more for victims with a migrant background. You can help by detecting human trafficking and taking action where needed.

### What is human trafficking

Human trafficking is recruiting, transporting, transferring, receiving or accommodating a person through the use of coercion (in a broad sense, physical and/or mental) and for the purpose of exploiting that person. Typically, the victim does not feel free to leave the situation.

**NOTE:** If an underage person is being exploited, the use of coercion does not need to be demonstrated!

**Types of human trafficking:** sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, criminal exploitation, forced organ trafficking

**Difference with people smuggling:** people smuggling is the illegal transportation of people to a different country. Human trafficking is the exploitation of people (see boxed text).

## Signs of human trafficking



### Restricted freedom of movement/dependence

- Is always being accompanied by someone
- Does not have own money at his/her disposal
- Mobile phone has been taken away or is used for checking
- Passport or ID is being kept by someone else or is often missing
- Does not know work or home address
- Is not allowed to speak for himself/herself
- Has limited contact with the outside world
- Is in debt with third parties
- Has not had to pay own travel costs



### Working conditions

- Unpaid or low pay
- Has to hand in profit from criminal activities
- No living space of his/her own, sleeps in the workplace
- Has to work long hours
- Feels forced to accept bad working conditions
- No protective clothing in case of unhealthy or unsafe work



### Physical/mental health

- Shows signs of abuse: bruises, scars or wounds
- Remarkable tattoos
- Unkempt and/or malnourished
- Is not allowed medical assistance
- Mental health problems
- Fearful, fear of deportation, etc.
- Indications of sexual violence: STD, abortion



### Coercion

- Deceived about job or labour conditions (offer seems too good to be true)
- Family in country of origin threatened
- Threatened with being reported to the government/police
- Blackmailed (sometimes by own family)
- Is forced to do what he/she is told due to vulnerable or dependent position
- Sex worker cannot refuse customers



### Minors

- Encountered in prostitution, crime, working, begging or providing services
- Stays away from school or does not attend school
- Has to earn money. It is unclear why, how and for whom
- An accompanying adult claims to be a family member but cannot prove this
- Receives unknown calls
- Family members depend on the minor's income
- Appears to tell a rehearsed story



### Other observations

- Inexplicable changes in behaviour
- Suddenly seems to have a lot of money (expensive clothes, phone, etc.)
- Receives expensive presents
- Is often away without anyone knowing where to
- Gets picked up by an unknown van

## Looking into suspected human trafficking

Dos	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Talk with the person in a safe, quiet place.</li><li>• Show yourself to be open and impartial.</li><li>• Indicate that you will discuss with a colleague how best to help the person.</li><li>• Describe why you are worried, for example: 'In the Netherlands people have a right to a safe workplace. I think that maybe you're not safe in the workplace.'</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Don't discuss a worrying situation with the person accompanying the client.</li><li>• Don't make promises you can't keep.</li><li>• Don't ask for details about traumatic experiences.</li><li>• Don't use the term 'human trafficking' if the client does not do so first.</li></ul>

## Taking action

You don't need to find out for certain whether human trafficking is going on. The most important thing is to act if you feel something is not right. Always sound the alarm in case of possible signs.

### What do you tell the client

1. Explain that everything the client says **will be treated confidentially**. The Red Cross does not share any information with third parties such as the police without permission. Emphasise the fundamental principles.
2. **Explain that you are worried** about the client and ask if he/she wants to tell you more about his/her situation. Where applicable: explain that people who do not have a residence permit (undocumented persons) also have rights in the Netherlands.
3. If a person spontaneously tells you about human trafficking, **ask if you are the first person to hear about this**. The lawyer or other care workers may already know about the problem.
4. **Tell the client that help may be available**. Ask if he/she would like to know more about this. The next steps depend on the client's wish: don't insist that the client should accept help or go to the police.
5. Explain that in the Netherlands **aid organisations and the police can be trusted**.

### What to do after noticing signs

1. **Always discuss this** with a colleague or coordinator of the Red Cross.
2. **Always** consult by phone with Red Cross colleagues from Support to Victims of Trafficking (OSM) at 070-4455822. Preferably consult with others while the client is still around: you might be able to give information straightaway or to refer the client. If this does not work, try swapping contact information with the client or making a follow-up appointment.
3. **You can either contact the CoMensha help desk yourself or do so together with the client**: CoMensha is the national Coordination Centre for Human Trafficking. They offer advice and information about asylum and care to care workers and victims. The person concerned is allowed to remain anonymous. The help desk can be reached on work days at 033-4481186.
4. **You can give the person information to take with them**: recommend that the person seek advice from CoMensha (human trafficking in general) or from FairWork (labour exploitation). Even if a person does not need help right now but may need it in the future, you can give him/her the contact details of these organisations. Also provide Red Cross information, so the client can get in touch later.
5. Is there a possibility of **acute danger**? Immediately discuss this with your Red Cross colleagues from Support to Victims of Trafficking. If needed, call 112. Don't take any safety risks (including for yourself).
6. Important: Is the possible victim **underage**? Immediately contact your Red Cross colleagues from Support to Victims of Trafficking.

E-learning can be accessed at: [https://www.rodekruis.nl/elearnings/herkenning-mensenhandel/story\\_html5.html](https://www.rodekruis.nl/elearnings/herkenning-mensenhandel/story_html5.html)