

Human Trafficking (West Midlands)

This information is designed to help any person or organisation that comes into contact with a person or situation where they suspect trafficking might be involved.

The information has been gathered by members of the Regional Anti-Trafficking Network and comes in three parts:

1. Legal definition and UK stance on human trafficking
2. Signs of human trafficking
3. Organisations which might help

1. Legal Definition and UK Position on Human Trafficking

Legal Definition

“Trafficking in persons” shall mean 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 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.”

Protocol to the 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC) currently available at:

http://www.coe.int/t/dghl/monitoring/trafficking/Docs/Convntn/CETS197_en.asp#P132_7688

UK Position

The UN Convention on human trafficking.

The Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings has been ratified by the UK and came into force on April 1st 2009. This means that in the UK there are minimum legal rights for victims of trafficking :

- a National Referral Mechanism, providing a nationally agreed framework to help frontline staff identify victims of trafficking and offer them support
- services for victims including accommodation and support through the criminal justice system- resulting in more traffickers being brought to justice
- a 45 day minimum reflection and recovery period to victims and the possibility of a one-year renewable residence permit

From UKBorder Agency website

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/newsarticles/boosttougfightaginsthumantrafficking>

2. Signs of trafficking

What to look out for

Domestic labour

- A foreign national adult or child who lives with a family nearby, possibly as a domestic servant or nanny. The person is rarely allowed out of the house, unless their employer or guardian is with them
- They have no private space or a proper place to sleep i.e. on the floor or sofa
- They have a poor diet or are given the family's leftover food to eat
- They are subject to abuse, insults, threats or violence
- If they are a child, they may have poor attendance at school, no access to education and no time to play
- The person does not interact much with the family

In a sauna or massage parlour

- The woman is a foreign national
- She appears to be unhappy and unwilling to perform sexual acts
- She is frightened or in physical pain
- The woman sees a large number of clients each day/night
- She is able to keep little, or none, of the money she receives from clients
- 'Special' services are offered including unprotected sex, often at a low price
- She doesn't smile and is reluctant to cooperate
- Food is paid for by another person
- She has little or no time off
- She may only know how to say sex-related words in English

Children in a home

- A teenage girl met an older male who becomes her boyfriend. Initially he flatters her, buys her gifts such as a mobile phone, and introduces her to alcohol or drugs. He makes her feel incredibly special
- The man controls her more and more. He claims she owes him for drugs and forces her to do sexual favours as a means of payment
- She is taken from her family home and returned after varying lengths of time; her relationship with her family or guardians gradually becomes severed
- Pictures or films of her engaging in sex activities are used to make her feel guilty, fearful her family will find out. Her 'boyfriend' uses this to control her, making her sleep with his friends
- He takes her to different flats (even in different towns or cities), getting her to sleep with different men
- She may not know he is taking payment from these men either in money or illegal drugs

On your high street

- A young, elderly or disabled foreign national who begs in public places or on public transport
- They may show obvious signs of being abused such as bruises, cuts or mutilation
- They seem fearful of adults (especially law enforcers) or their behaviour is jumpy
- One adult is the guardian of a large group of children
- A large group of adult or child beggars are moved daily to different locations but return to the same location every night
- On public transport they move as a group, such as walking up and down the length of a train or bus

On a farm or in a factory

- Non-UK nationals doing farm or factory work
- Poor or non-existent safety equipment
- Workers do not have suitable clothing for the work they are doing
- Workers live in overcrowded private rented accommodation. They don't know the address of where they live or work
- Minibuses pick up non-UK nationals at unusual hours of the day and night
- Bins at the accommodation are full of fast food packaging
- Workers may seem fearful and poorly integrated into the wider community
- They have no days off or holiday time
- Employers or someone else is holding their passport and legal documents

If you are travelling

- A non-UK national child is travelling alone
- The child does not seem to have many possessions but does have a mobile phone
- The child is not travelling to the UK to meet his or her parent or guardian
- The child is suspicious of adults
- They are very afraid of being deported
- They may show signs of inappropriate or sexualised behaviour towards men

From UKHTC – Blue Blindfold campaign: <http://www.blueblindfold.co.uk/thesigns/>

3. Organisations which might help

Non-statutory organisations

These organisations might be able to help or signpost you to help. Contacting them does not mean that other statutory organisations will get involved – unless you want them to.

ASIRT	(Advice, Birmingham, West Mids)	0121 772 6700
AFRUCA	(Africans Unite Against Child Abuse, London)	0844 660 8607
CHASTE	(Churches Against Sex trafficking in Europe)	0845 456 9335
Friends Programme (Coventry):		02476 795575
IOM	(Assisted return, Birmingham, West Mids)	0121 633 5074
RESTORE	(Support for asylum seekers, Birmingham, West Mids)	0121 766 8764
RSVP	(Rape and Sexual Violence Project - Free Counselling (18+ years))	0121 236 5763
Sexual Health Team (Stoke on Trent) –		
	Harriet Nkomazana	01782 425975
	Neil Pepper	neil.pepper@stoke.nhs.uk
	Sibongile Mutarah	sibongile.mutarah@stoke.nhs.uk
West Midlands Regional Anti-Trafficking Group (West Mids)		0121 767 2911
WMSPM	(Strategic Partnership on Migration, West Mids)	0121 678 1078

