

IOM | SRHR - HIV PROJECT KNOWS NO BORDERS

10 Questions about Human Trafficking



10. WHAT CAN I DO?

One- First be smart, don't be an easy target. Verify job offers; When hanging out with friends do not leave your drink unattended someone might spike your drink and kidnap you.

Two- Know that South Africa has a TIP legislation "The Prevention and combating of trafficking in persons Act 7 of 2013". This law protects a victims and survivors of human trafficking, prosecutes the perpetrators and creates awareness of the crime within all communities. In South Africa if a trafficker is caught, he/she can get up to a life imprisonment and/or a fine of 100 million Rands. The number of years in prison depends on the role a person plays in the human trafficking process. Even a taxi/bus/car driver can be sentenced just for transporting a victim, if the taxi driver knows that what he or she is doing is trafficking a person. Today the courts are very strict and give multiple life sentences to traffickers.

According to the law, if you know someone who has been trafficked, you have a duty to report the case to the police. In doing so, you will help to free someone from slavery, and ensure that the traffickers are caught and punished.

9. SHOULD TRAFFICKED PEOPLE AVOID THE POLICE?

Victims who have been trafficked to another country are often told by the traffickers that any attempt to escape will lead to arrest or imprisonment. This is because victims are often without valid documents to legally stay in the country they have been trafficked to. The truth is that victims have often managed to escape to safety with the help of the police. At the opportunity to escape, a victim should escape. In most countries, survivors of human trafficking are protected by the law even when they do not have proper documents allowing them to be in the country.

8. WHO ARE THE TRAFFICKERS?

A trafficker may be anyone! Someone in your community, a friend, a family member or a complete stranger who befriends you; it is difficult to tell. Traffickers appear to be successful people who can offer their victims better opportunities. Traffickers try to appear trustworthy. They work in networks and different people are involved in the process from the recruiter to the transporter to the one who receives the victims. Traffickers often use trusted family members and friends to recruit their victims. Social media platforms and newspapers are increasingly being used to recruit victims too. Since a trafficker could be anyone, be smart, don't fall for any promise and stay safe so you are not deceived.

7. WHO CAN BECOME A VICTIM?

Anyone; however, traffickers target vulnerable people e.g. people from poor communities where there are no job opportunities, children from child headed homes or from broken families. Although men, women and children are all vulnerable, young women are especially at risk because they can be forced into sex work. Human trafficking is driven by demand and supply; if there is demand in the forced sex industry or forced labour that traffickers respond to the demands by targeting innocent vulnerable people. Be smart, don't become an easy target by believing false promises. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it is most likely to get you into trouble.

Three- If you suspect someone is a victim of Trafficking or you know someone is recruiting people from your community, call the following South Africa tollfree number:

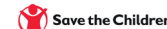
0800 222 777

You can leave an anonymous tip off in any language. This line runs 24/7 and has interpretation for 100+ languages.

If you are outside South Africa below are the Human Trafficking Help lines for the Kingdom of Eswatini and Mozambique. Like South Africa, the Kingdom of Eswatini and Mozambique have legislation against human trafficking with severe penalties for the perpetrators

Kingdom of Eswatini: **975** | Mozambique: **116**

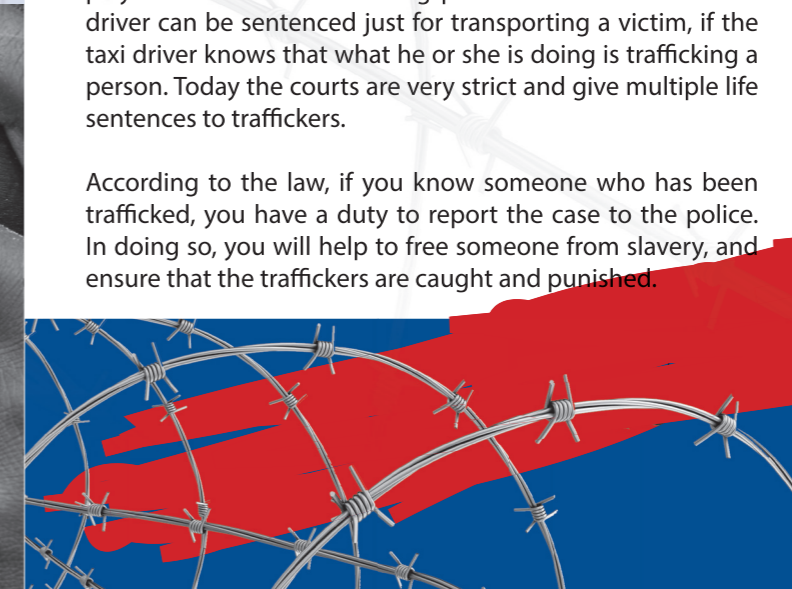
Victims of trafficking can receive support from the Government and other organisations that provide support to victims of trafficking.



Old International Organisation for Migration
Old Organisation International pour les Migrations
Old Organisation International pour les Migrations



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Public Health



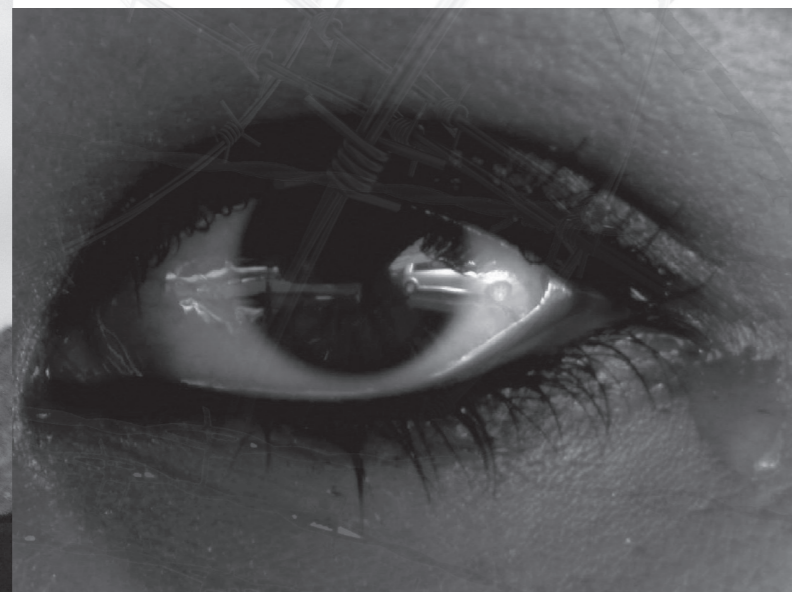
1. WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human Trafficking is the buying and selling of human beings for the purpose of making a profit or receiving a free service. It is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, receiving, selling or leasing of people, by means of fraud, coercion, deception, force, abduction or abuse of a position of power or of vulnerability, for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery, servitude, removal of body parts, child labour, or impregnating a woman against her will to sell her child once born. It is a criminal activity that violates a person's basic human rights including the right to sexual and reproductive health. A person can be trafficked across international borders or within one's own country. Both male and female can be trafficked, it all depends on the purpose for trafficking.



2. WHY ARE PEOPLE TRAFFICKED?

Human Trafficking is a business in which human beings are the objects of sale. Traffickers make money by exploiting their victims. Traffickers also use victims to receive a free service e.g. when a person is trafficked to work as a slave in a house. Victims do not get paid for their services; the money they make is handed over to the trafficker. Traffickers normally have complete control over the victim. This is why human trafficking is also known as the **'modern day slavery'**.



3. HOW DO TRAFFICKERS RECRUIT THEIR VICTIMS?

Traffickers use different methods to get someone e.g. of- use of force, lies or abduction. Traffickers give false promises of a better life, a well-paying job, education or even marriage. They often use someone within the community to recruit innocent people. Traffickers may place a job adverts on the internet, newspapers, brochures or even advertise on the radio to recruit a victim.



4. WHO MAKES THE TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS?

Traffickers use various methods to transport their victims. A trafficker may make all the travel arrangements including paying for visas if one is being trafficked to another country. This makes it easy for the trafficker to control the victim through debt bondage. A trafficker may also use smugglers, or bribe state officials to help a potential victim cross the border into another country illegally. Sometimes a victim may be asked to pay for their own transportation, which they do, believing there is a job awaiting them at the destination. When the potential victim gets to the destination, it does not take long before he or she realises that she or he has been deceived and will become someone's slave.



5. WHY DO VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING NOT RUN AWAY?

Because they are helpless, controlled and are often too afraid attempt escaping. Through debt bondage, a victim is told that she or he needs to pay back the money used by the trafficker for transportation, food and accommodation. The 'debt' never ends, and the victim remains trapped. Other methods used to trap a victim include manipulation, keeping the victim's identity or travel documents, physical and sexual abuse or use of threats to harm the victim's family. Traffickers give their victims drugs to further control. Also, victims taken to a new location or country may not know where to get help. They may also experience language barrier which also limits the ability to seek help.



6. WHAT EFFECT DOES TRAFFICKING HAVE ON VICTIMS?

The trafficking experience is traumatic and damages the physical, mental, emotional, psychological and social well-being of a person. A victim of trafficking often has limited access, if any, to health and non-health services. If a victim of trafficking has a chronic illness such as HIV/AIDS, he or she may not adhere to treatment. Girls and women trafficked into the sex industry may be forced to have abortions repeatedly putting their lives at risk if it is not properly done. Victims of trafficking are not able to negotiate condom use thus increasing their risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections such as HIV & AIDS.

