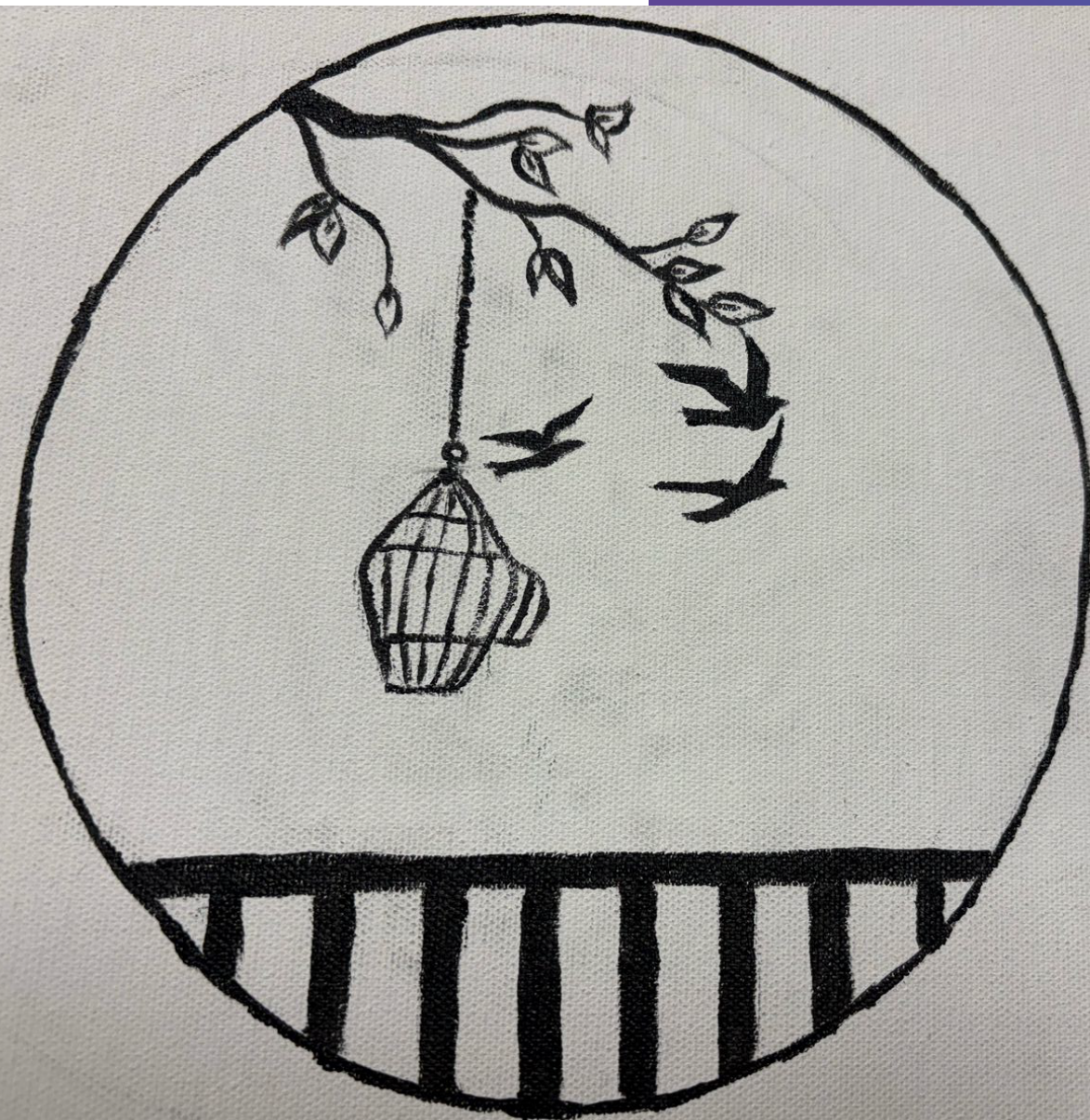


# GUIDE

on the rights of  
victims of human  
trafficking

The state is  
by your side,  
**be aware of  
your rights.**



**HELLENIC REPUBLIC**  
Ministry of Migration & Asylum  
General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons &  
Institutional Protection



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**Have you been subjected to acts of violence or exploitation?**

**Did the people, who helped you flee your home country, promise to help you find a job in Greece, or better living conditions?**

**Did someone help you flee your home country for free (without paying anything in return) or did they charge you for it?**



The Greek State provides assistance and protection to any person who is a victim of violence and/or exploitation.

People who flee their home countries often face the reality as soon as they arrive in Greece, as traffickers make false promises.

Traffickers and their agents may not initially ask for money. The first person coming to present you with an "opportunity" for a better life, job or studies in Europe, may be someone you trust. Eventually you may find out that you have a debt to pay and the traffickers will force you to work or force you into prostitution while withholding your wages or will keep you locked up asking for money to continue with your transfer.





**Were you forced to a sexual act either under the use of threats or because of a debt to the trafficker or because you felt you could not refuse?**

**Did they withhold your travel documents?  
Can you leave anytime you want/need to from the place you work?**

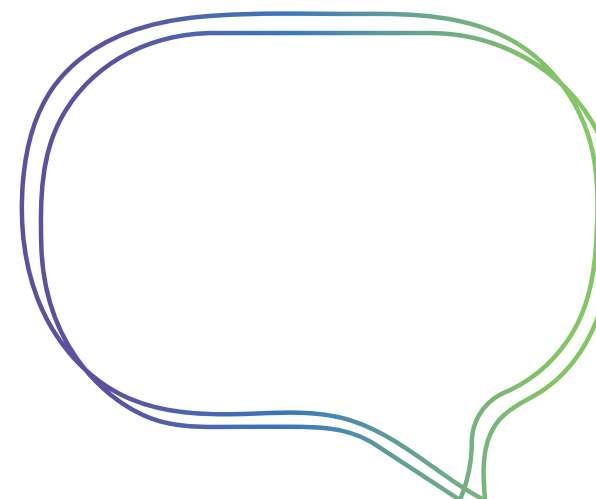
**Are you aware of your rights?**



Traffickers often create a situation in which you feel trapped and you are left with no choice but to agree to what they ask, for example, prostitution. This kind of agreement is not valid, and you should not feel responsible for the situation you are in.

Traffickers often say they will keep your documents for you so you don't lose them or keep you under restriction. They want to ensure you won't try to escape by making you afraid that the police will arrest you if you don't have any papers with you.

Many migrants and refugees come from countries with high poverty rates and very low wages. So, working in Europe for even a very low salary and in bad working conditions may seem the only option. But you should know that labour rights (e.g. minimum wage) apply to all workers in Greece regardless of their origin. You have the right to be informed and to claim your rights.





**Adnan, 22 years old, Pakistan, found working in the fields in squalid conditions under the surveillance of armed men.**

I was living near Karachi with my family. Life there is very difficult, I wanted to come to Europe to make some money, I am learning the job quickly, I am young and strong. The journey was very difficult. When I arrived in Greece with other people from my home country, we knew that we would work in agriculture. We were all transferred in the back of a truck. There was no space and we almost didn't breathe out of fear. When we reached our destination, they gathered us all in one place, took our documents and our cell phones. We worked in the fields, in the crops, from early in the morning till late at night, then we returned to a place that had nothing, slept on the floor and were given just one portion of food per day. There was no private toilet. We were told that if we decided to leave, we would be killed. The man who supervised us carried a gun. One of my compatriots managed to escape, and when the man who supervised us realized that, he started beating us to make us confess where he had gone. The police came the same day and rescued us.

Adnan may feel  
**FEAR**

I am afraid that the traffickers will hurt me or my family, that I will be arrested by the police because I don't have papers or because I have false papers or because the traffickers forced me to do illegal acts.



Sylvie may feel  
**SHAME**

I'm ashamed...for what they did to me.

**Sylvie, 28 years old, Cameroon, who was sexually exploited.**

I lived with my husband in Cameroon, in a village on the border with Chad. One day the village was attacked by Boko Haram men. My husband was killed, and I was sexually abused. When I woke up the next morning, the whole village had been burnt. A friend of mine told me that she knew a lady who could help us to go to Turkey. She took our visa and picked us up at the airport in Turkey, took us to a house and kept all our documents. The same day she brought a man and forced me to sleep with him. She brought three or four men every day. The house where I lived was big and there were other girls living there. A client helped us escape. He must have paid the guards. He took us to Izmir and from there we took a boat to Greece. This gentleman paid for the bus to Izmir and the money for the boat.

\* "The reference to specific origin and countries does not mean that THB cannot occur in any part of the world against persons of any origin".



## You can be informed about your rights and then decide on your next steps.

You have the right:



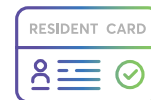
to receive psychological support and medical assistance.



to seek punishment for the person who harmed you by filing a complaint with the police or the Public Prosecutor's Office



to have a lawyer free of charge, if you cannot afford to pay the lawyer's fees yourself (legal aid)



to obtain a residence permit under certain conditions as a victim of trafficking.



to be accompanied by someone you trust, either friends or family, when you appear before the police or the Public Prosecutor's Office and the courts



to have an interpreter in a language you understand



to get your case documents translated into a language you understand



to be kept informed on the progress of your case and on the measures taken against the person who harmed you



to receive compensation for the damage you have suffered and for the wages you have not been paid



The police or prosecution and judicial authorities will further inform you on your rights when you present yourself to testify about the incident that concerns you.

## Key contact points

Are you in danger?  
Are you in immediate need of protection?

Call or text 100

Go to the police station near you

Are you scared and want to ask for information and help?

Call 1109 (A21 line)

Call 197 (National Centre for Social Solidarity)

Are you being abused and/or exploited or threatened and have nowhere to stay?

Call 1109 (A21 hotline)

Are you a woman and you have been subjected to violence?

Call 15900 (SOS hotline for women victims of violence)

Click [here](#) for more information.

Are you under 18 years old and need help?

Call 15107 (free of charge) or contact by phone, WhatsApp or Viber at +306942773030 (National Emergency Response Mechanism)

Call 1056 (National Hotline for SOS Children, operated by "The Smile of the Child")

Call 1107 (EKKA)

Do you want to report a case of exploitation or harassment in the workplace?

Call 1555, Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (The Labour Inspectorate)

Call 1109 (A21 line)

On the [site](#) of the Labour Inspectorate you may find more information on human trafficking in the following languages:



For legal advice and representation you can also contact one of the organisations listed [here](#).



# The Guide

falls within the framework of actions for the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, such as the "Specific Action on the Provision of Services to Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings who are Third Country Nationals" are co-funded by the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund (AMIF) 2021-2027.

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General Secretariat for Migration Policy  
Managing Authority for Migration & Home Affairs Funds



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