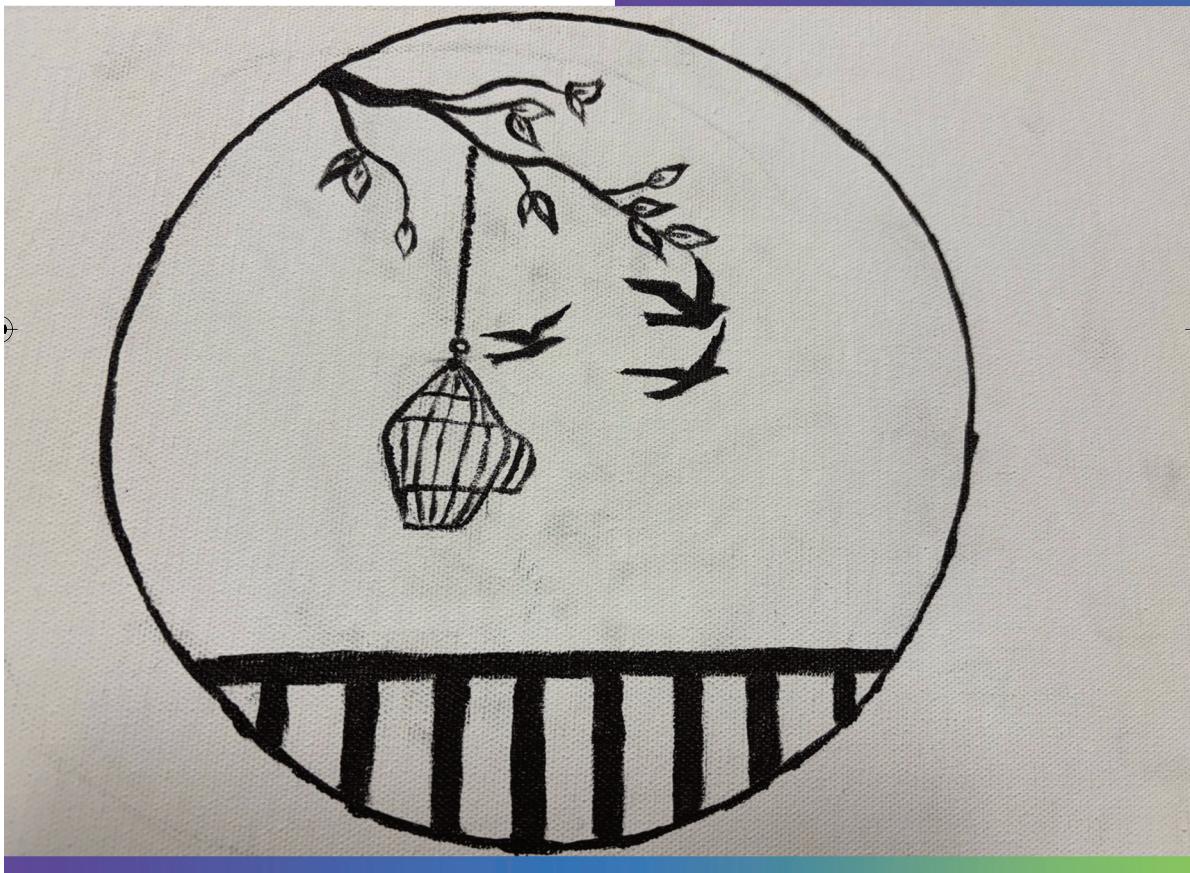


GUIDE

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



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Migration & Asylum
General Secretariat for Migration Policy
Managing Authority for Migration & Home Affairs Funds



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Q

Have you been subjected to acts of violence or exploitation?

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

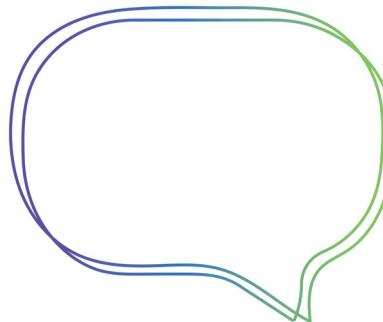
Did someone help you to flee your home country for free (without paying anything in return) or did they charge you for it?

A

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

Traffickers often make false promises and the people who flee their home countries face the reality as soon as they arrive in Greece.

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.



Q

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?

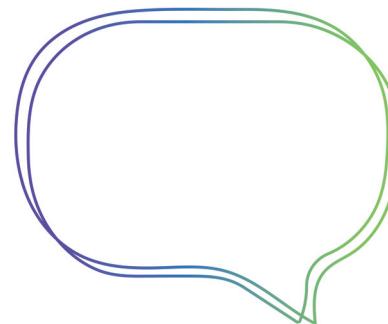
Are you aware of your rights?

A

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 make sure you won't escape because you will be 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...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.



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 a criminal act or 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 line)

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

Call 15900 (SOS Line for women victims of violence)



If you are a female victim of violence, sexual crimes and sexual harassment and you need free psychosocial support, information, advice and legal assistance you may find more information here.

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")

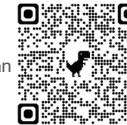
Call 1107 (EKKA)

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)

Հայեր (Ar)
Български (Bg)
বাংলা (Bn)
Ελληνικά (El)
English (En)
Română (Ro)
Українська (Uk)
جعفر (Ur)

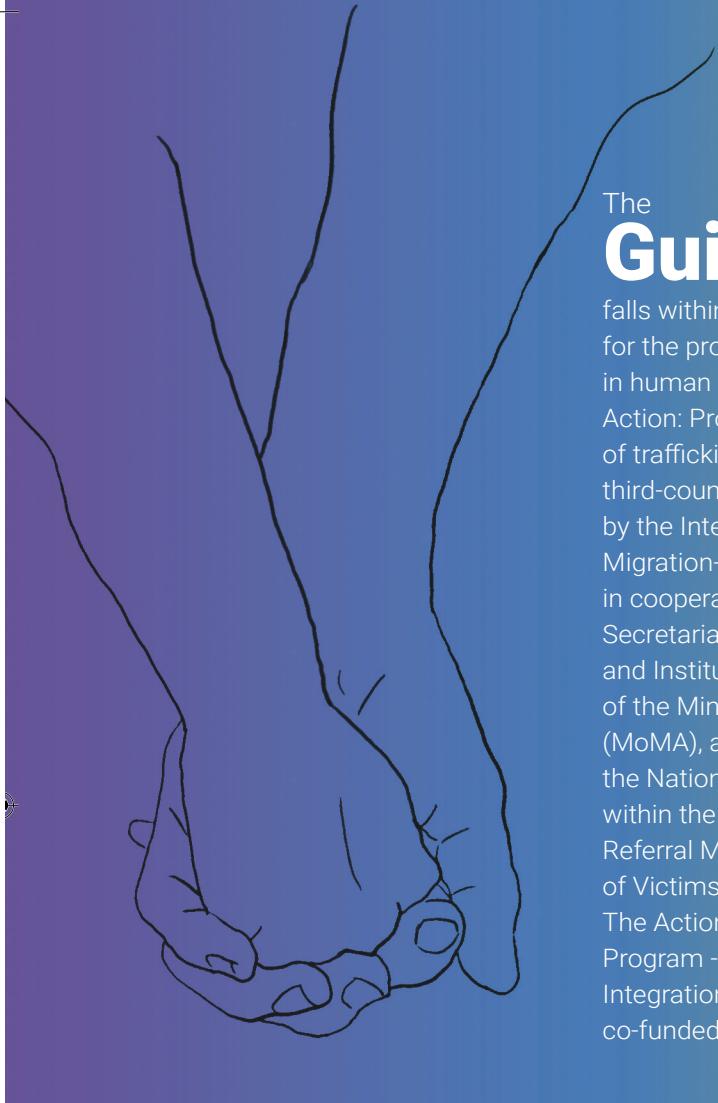


On the site of the Labour Inspectorate, you may find more information on human trafficking in the following languages:



For legal advice and support and for free legal aid you can also contact one of the organizations listed here.





The Guide

falls within the framework of actions for the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings, under the "Specific Action: Provision of services to victims of trafficking in human beings who are third-country nationals", implemented by the International Organization for Migration- Mission in Greece (IOM), in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection (GSVPIP) of the Ministry of Migration and Asylum (MoMA), and with the overall support of the National Center for Social Solidarity, within the framework of the National Referral Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking (NRM). The Action is part of the "Greece Program - Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund 2021-2027" and is co-funded by the European Union.



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