

PROTECTION FROM TRAFFICKING

– INFORMATION FOR SUPPORTERS –

Russia's military invasion of Ukraine has caused a large number of people to flee Ukraine for the EU. Most of these people are women, children and vulnerable people who are particularly at risk of being trafficked and exploited.

Human trafficking involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or accommodation of people through force, fraud, or deception for the purpose of exploitation for profit. People of all ages and from all backgrounds can become victims of this crime. Perpetrators often deceive victims with false promises about job opportunities and use threats or violence to exert coercion.

Signs can be:

- ▶ When a **quid pro quo** (e.g. money, work or household chores) is demanded for offers of help.
- ▶ When refugees are **offered work** directly upon arrival with **insufficient information** about the conditions.
- ▶ When refugees work **without an employment contract and under poor conditions** or the conditions are fundamentally different from what was promised.
- ▶ When refugees receive much **less than the minimum** wage or are paid their wages only partially or not at all.
- ▶ When **IDs and other important documents are taken away** or offered to be kept.
- ▶ When **"no" is not accepted** after offers of help or security measures that refugees take (e.g. photographing license plates, making phone calls, etc.) are denied.
- ▶ When poor working conditions are enforced with **threats or violence**.
- ▶ When refugees have been made **false promises** about working conditions.
- ▶ When refugees are **isolated, unable to move freely**, or have their communication channels / means alienated.

What you can do:

- ▶ Inform potentially affected people about the signs of a possibly dangerous situation. If necessary, call in a language mediator for support.
- ▶ Inform potentially trafficked persons about their rights (no quid pro quo for help, compliance with agreements at work, social benefits, free counseling).
- ▶ Trafficked persons may have special rights to housing, benefits, and residency. Make people aware of free counseling and assistance services.

Support and information can be found here:



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