

Child Protection

Child Trafficking

The illegal movement
of children into
the country



Child Protection

Contact Numbers

Child Protection Advisors

020 8489 5426 / 5462 / 1061 / 1866 / 1192

Referral & Assessment Team (Hornsey)

020 8489 1856 / 1805 / 1806

Referral & Assessment Team (Tottenham)

020 8489 5402 / 5403 / 5404

Unaccompanied Minors Team

020 8489 4951

Metropolitan Police Child Abuse Investigation Team

020 8345 2246

Metropolitan Police Community Engagement Team

020 8345 0978

What is child trafficking?

Child trafficking is the term given to the illegal movement of children into the country. The majority of children who arrive here in this way have been promised a good job or education; sometimes their parents have been persuaded to entrust them to others for a better quality of life. Once here, they are almost always exploited for financial gain. Some of the ways in which such exploitation can take place are:

- Sex work or prostitution
- Domestic servitude
- Sweatshop and restaurant work
- Drug dealing
- Credit card fraud
- Benefit fraud
- Drug mules or decoys for adult drug traffickers
- Forced marriage
- Trade in human organs; and in some extreme cases
- Ritual killings

All children who have been exploited will suffer some form of physical or psychological harm. Agencies have a duty to work together to safeguard them and promote their welfare, but in order to do this effectively, people first need to be able to recognise when children have been trafficked and to understand the particular vulnerabilities to which this makes them susceptible.

What are the signs that a child may have been trafficked?

There are a number of circumstances that could indicate that a child may have been trafficked to the UK and may still be in the control of the trafficker or the receiving adults. These include situations in which the child:

- Does not appear to have money but does have a mobile phone
- Is driven around by an older male or 'boyfriend'
- Is withdrawn and refuses to talk
- Shows signs of sexual behaviour or language
- Shows signs of physical or sexual abuse and/or has contracted a sexually transmitted disease
- Has a history with missing links and unexplained moves
- Is required to earn a minimum amount of money every day
- Works in various locations
- Has limited freedom of movement
- Appears to be missing for periods

Or situations where the child:

- Is known to beg for money
- Is being cared for by adults who are not parents. The quality of the relationship between the child and the carers is not good
- The presentation of a trafficked child is usually very different from other children living in the same household
- Has not been registered with or attended a GP practice
- Has not been enrolled in school
- Has to pay off an exorbitant debt, perhaps for the travel costs, before being able to have control of earnings
- Hands over a large part of earnings to another person
- Is excessively afraid of being deported
- Has had their journey or visas arranged by someone other than family
- Does not have possession of their own travel documents
- Is unable to confirm who is going to have responsibility for her/him
- Has entered the country illegally

How are children brought to the UK?

Children come into the country either accompanied by adults or as unaccompanied minors. Very little is known about the accompanied children, many of whom come with adults who pretend to be their parents or who claim to have the parents' permission to bring them. More is known about the unaccompanied children because they come to the notice of the authorities when they claim asylum.

As most children who are victims of trafficking are not aware of their rights or that they can claim asylum, once they have entered the country they are unlikely to come to the attention of asylum or immigration services. Often, they will only come to the notice of statutory services when it is too late. Most trafficked children are invisible. Protecting them and promoting their welfare depends upon the awareness and cooperation of community groups and members of the public. Safeguarding trafficked children is very much everyone's business.

What to do if you are worried

Any agency or individual who has a concern that a child known to them may have been trafficked should discuss their concerns in the first instance with a Child Protection Advisor. Often a situation will be far from clear and the Advisor will be able to help identify the need to make an immediate referral to a Referral & Assessment social work team.

If you would like a copy of this leaflet about protecting children from child trafficking in your own language please complete the form and return it to the Freepost address below

Albanian

Nëse e doni në gjuhën tuaj një kopje të kësaj fletushke mbi mbrojtjen e fëmijëve nga trafikimi i fëmijëve, ju lutem plotësoni formularin dhe kthejeni tek adresa e mëposhtme me Postim Falas.

Somali

Hadaad rabto in luuqadaada lagugu tarjumo buugyarahan ku saabsan canuur ka badbaadin in lagu khasbo geynta meelo qaxooti ahaan isaga dhibaana, soo buuxi foomka kuna soo dir ciwaanka hoose ee boosta diristu BILAASH tahay.

Kurdish

Ev belavok li ser parastina zarokan ji ticareta zarokan e. Heko hun koplyeke wê bi zimanê xwe dixwazin, ji kerema xwe formê tije bikin û ji navnişana jêrîn a posta bîperere re bişînin.

French

Si vous souhaitez obtenir un exemplaire de ce dépliant sur la protection des enfants du trafic d'enfants dans votre langue, veuillez compléter le formulaire et le renvoyer à l'adresse au port payé ci-dessous.

Bengali

অনেক শিশু বাচ্চারা বিক্রয়ে শিকতে সুরক্ষাবিহীন সম্পর্কে এই প্রচারপত্রের কপি আপনি যদি আপনার নিজের ভাষায় পেতে চান, তাহলে ফর্ম পূরণ করুন এবং নিচের ফ্রীপোস্ট বা কিনা ডাকখরচের ফিসহারা পেইং ফেরত পঠান।

Turkish

Çocukların, çocuk ticaretinden korunması ile ilgili bu broşürün kendi dilinizde bir kopyasını isterseniz lütfen formu doldurun aşağıdaki ücretsiz posta (freepost) adresine yollayın.

Another language, please specify: _____

Please tell us if you would like a copy of this charter in any of the following formats, and send the form to the freepost address below.

In large print On disk On audio tape In Braille

Name: _____

Address: _____

Freepost RLXS-XZGT-UGRJ, Haringey Council Translation and Interpretation Services, 8th Floor, River Park House, 225 High Road, London N22 8HQ



Haringey Council uses recycled paper as part of its commitment to improving the environment.