

Human Trafficking and Exploitation



Human Trafficking and Exploitation are actions which are taken with a view to exploit another person. This can include labour, sexual, domestic or criminal exploitation for personal profit or gain. People may be trafficked to the UK and trafficked or exploited within the UK. Traffickers can be individuals or organised criminal networks. Trafficking and exploitation can be hard to spot and many people don't understand that they are victims.

In Scotland it is a criminal offence to traffick or exploit people and victims/survivors have the right to protection and support in the law. People in Scotland want to help you but a small minority may be looking to exploit your circumstances. This may include individuals who have volunteered to sponsor you to come to the UK and are providing you somewhere to stay.

Sponsors have volunteered to provide you with somewhere to stay. They will receive £350 a month from the UK Government to do so. A sponsor **should not ask you for money** to continue to stay with them. They **should not ask you to work or provide other services** in order to continue to stay with them. They **should not ask for your passport or residence documents**. This will be treated seriously if this happens. You **do not** need to continue to live with your sponsor if you don't feel safe and there is support and assistance available to help you leave this situation.

If someone tells you they are working for a Non-Governmental Organisation, a Local Authority or the Scottish Government always ask to see their work identification and don't hesitate to call their head office to check if they are genuine. Professional workers or volunteers will not be offended when you want to check their credentials.

Please be cautious and check with support services if someone who is not a professional worker in Scotland offers to help you with things like:

- Keeping your passport/documents safe
- Help with immigration or welfare processes
- Help with travel costs – either to Scotland or to move elsewhere in the UK
- Help to find somewhere to stay
- Help to find work or tells you they have found a job for you
- Tells you there are better opportunities or better paying jobs somewhere else in the UK
- Offers use of their bank account for wages/money/benefits
- Tells you they will help you for free or that you can pay them back later
- Tells you that you owe them money for rent/food/bills/travel/clothes

- Offers you somewhere to stay or assistance in exchange for sex
- Pressures or manipulates you into exchanging or selling sex
- Asks you to sign a form that you don't understand
- Makes you work for little or no wages
- Tells you not to trust the police or organisations trying to help you settle in Scotland
- Tries to stop you calling family, friends or support workers

If you are unsure of someone's intentions or you are in a situation that feels uncomfortable, please tell a professional worker or contact the following organisations for advice:

Scottish Refugee Council – 0808 196 7274

The TARA Service – specialist support for adult female survivors of sex trafficking – (24 hours a day/7 days a week) 0141 276 7724

Migrant Help – specialist support for all other adult victims of human trafficking and exploitation – (24 hours a day/7 days a week) 0141 884 7900

Encompass Network – www.encompassnetwork.info

Routes Out – specialist support for women involved in the sex industry (Glasgow) – 0141 276 0737

Ukraine Advice Scotland – legal assistance - 0800 995 6045

Just Right Scotland – legal advice – 0141 406 5350

Modern Slavery Helpline (24 hours a day/7 days a week) – 08000 121 700

Police Scotland – 101 or in an emergency 999

If you are worried about your or someone else's immediate safety or it is an emergency please contact Police Scotland by dialling 999

