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**STOP THE TRAFFIK**  
PEOPLE SHOULDN'T BE BOUGHT & SOLD

# SAFEGUARDING YOUR SERVICE USER

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Best practice advice and information on safeguarding your service users from human trafficking.



## WHY SAFEGUARD MIGRANT SERVICE USERS?

Migrant communities are potentially vulnerable to being trafficked into and within the UK for the purposes of forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced street crime and domestic servitude.

The 2012 National Referral Mechanism statistics record 1186 potential victims of human trafficking in the UK from 76 different nationalities.

Traffickers prey on those who are most vulnerable in society, often targeting those who are isolated and/or desperate without obvious support networks. Evidence has shown that in the past traffickers have targeted homeless shelters and jobseeker's centres.

## THOSE WHO MIGHT BE VULNERABLE NEED...

...to know that human trafficking is illegal in the UK. Your service users should be informed about what human trafficking is and how they can protect themselves. Consider what your service users might need to engage effectively in the issue of human trafficking with your organisation:

- Trusting, open and honest relationships with key professionals
- To know what help and resources are available and how to access them
- Confidentiality to be maintained and support offered in a safe environment
- A non-judgmental attitude
- Clear communication
- An explanation of what human trafficking is in words and terms they understand

### **BEING AWARE OF AND READY TO ADDRESS THE COMMON BARRIERS THAT PREVENT ENGAGEMENT IS KEY TO SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTING MIGRANT SERVICE USERS.**

Some common barriers are:

- ▲ Fear of the trafficker and being in an unknown place
- ▲ Language
- ▲ Lack of trust/ suspicious of authority
- ▲ Lack of knowledge about what human trafficking is
- ▲ Religious/ cultural beliefs such as "it is normal in my country"
- ▲ Shame: that they have found themselves in that situation
- ▲ Perception/prejudice of the UK and the treatment they expect to receive
- ▲ Feeling of hopelessness and lack of choice about their situation
- ▲ Loyalty to or bond with their trafficker
- ▲ Isolation
- ▲ Poverty



## GET INFORMED:

Find out what human trafficking is, what signs to look for and where to access support.

To get informed go to:  
[www.stophetraffik.org/spot](http://www.stophetraffik.org/spot)



## PUT TRAFFICKING ON YOUR AGENDA:

- Set up a meeting to discuss it
- Include it in your organisation's safeguarding policies and procedures
- Arrange staff training through STOP THE TRAFFIK
- Create 'trafficking safeguarding specialists'
- Download info for your staff intranet [www.stophetraffik.org/spot](http://www.stophetraffik.org/spot)

# SAFE GUARDING TOP TIPS

TO SAFEGUARD YOUR SERVICE USERS EFFECTIVELY IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PUT THIS KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION. HERE'S SOME BEST PRACTICE ADVICE:



## ACTIVELY ENGAGE YOUR SERVICE USERS:

Don't just wait for them to tell you, make sure you are asking the right questions: How did they travel to the UK? Did they pay to travel here? Have they been forced or held against their will?

Make sure you use language and phrases they will understand to explain trafficking.

Ensure human trafficking awareness resources are visible and easily-accessible for service users.

If you suspect someone has been trafficked consider what support they need: medical assistance/ immigration advice/ a safe place to stay?



## HAVE A SAFEGUARDING PLAN:

Agree a process for assisting someone whom you think may be vulnerable to trafficking as well as someone whom you think may have been trafficked. Ensure everyone in the organisation knows about the plan and where to find it.

Record key information about your service users i.e. height, nationality, distinguishing features that can be given to police if they go missing.

Download a template safeguarding plan from [www.stophetraffik.org](http://www.stophetraffik.org).

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IS....

TO BE DECEIVED OR TAKEN AGAINST YOUR WILL, BOUGHT, SOLD AND TRANSPORTED INTO SLAVERY. FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, FORCED BEGGING, SACRIFICIAL WORSHIP OR REMOVAL OF HUMAN ORGANS, AS CHILD BRIDES OR INTO SWEAT SHOPS, CIRCUSES, FARM LABOUR AND DOMESTIC SERVITUDE.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AFFECTS CHILDREN, MEN AND WOMEN.

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## IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE SEEN IT:

IF SOMEONE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER:

Police: 999

Human Trafficking Helpline:

0800 783 2589

FOR VICTIM SUPPORT:

The Salvation Army:

0300 303 8151

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## RESOURCES TO FIND OUT MORE

**SPOT THE TRAFFIK**  
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SPOT THE TRAFFIK: Online training and information for professionals

**STOP THE TRAFFIK** is a global movement of individuals, communities and organisations fighting to prevent human trafficking around the world.



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