



Immigrant
Council of
Ireland

ASSIST WOMEN

**We are here to SUPPORT & ASSIST
trafficked migrant women**

Immigrant Council of Ireland
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Asylum, Migration and
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Trafficking of Women and Girls

What is human trafficking?

Trafficking is the trade in people, who are recruited and transported for the purposes of their exploitation. The exploitation could be forced prostitution, forced labour, forced criminality or other types of exploitation.

Trafficking is a serious human rights violation. Sexual exploitation means coercive sexual acts done to or with women, and organised by traffickers and exploiters for profit. Trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most widely spread form of trafficking and mostly affects women and girls.

It is similar to domestic violence because it affects mostly women. This is why trafficking is often a gender-specific crime. The harm that sex trafficking causes to women and girls is gender-specific because of the damaging use of their bodies during sexual exploitation.

Trafficked women and girls need specific assistance because they have suffered gender-specific harm.

Do you know the signs of human trafficking?

There are many signs that can suggest human trafficking is taking place. Some of the things to be on the look out for are where a person has:

- been tricked into her situation by the promise of a job
- been working excessive hours
- been unable to travel freely e.g. she is picked up/dropped off at work locations
- been working to pay off a debt or loan
- had her documents e.g. passport/security cards withheld
- been threatened that her irregular immigration status will be revealed to police/authorities
- been forced to sleep on work premises
- been threatened or has been physically harmed
- been intimidated or forced to take part in sexual acts
- been forced to work as a prostitute
- had the money from the forced sexual acts she performs collected by another person
- been moved between brothels and locations
- been moved between cities or even countries
- been showing signs of substance misuse

Anybody can be a victim of trafficking but trafficking for sexual exploitation mostly affects women and girls. Anybody can contact us if they believe they need assistance.

There is support for you!

The Immigrant Council of Ireland's Independent Law Centre has experience and expertise advising and working with victims of trafficking to secure their legal residence and access their rights and entitlements.

Gender-specific legal assistance. We provide legal advice and support to address your needs, arising from your experience. It is provided by a female solicitor who has experience working with migrant women who have experienced violence and deception.

All consultations at the Immigrant Council are fully confidential and provided free of charge. You can discuss any issue with the solicitor, including, for example, concerns regarding residence permission, safety and accessing your legal rights. This consultation can cover what it means:

- to be identified as a victim of trafficking
- to receive a recovery and reflection period
- to receive a temporary residence permit
- to make an application for international protection (asylum)



Legal assistance (continued)



The solicitor can also advise how:

- to apply for reunion with children
- to apply for removal of criminal charges against you
- to apply for compensation
- to receive support to return home
- to deal with other legal matters which you have concerns about
- to access rights and entitlements to support your integration

The Immigrant Council of Ireland works with other organisations which support victims of trafficking to ensure their needs are met. If a person is identified as a victim of trafficking, they have rights to access accommodation, medical support, and social welfare.

Rights to accommodation. In Ireland, victims of trafficking are often placed in direct provision centres. We can support you and work with partner organisations to seek alternatives or help you improve your housing arrangement within direct provision. This can include support:

- to seek special arrangements in a direct provision accommodation centre: to ask for a single room, to ask for self-catering, to make a complaint

Accommodation (continued)

This can include support:

- to find private accommodation
- to report any fears and receive advice on personal safety in your accommodation
- to assist you to report any fears and concerns to the detective in charge of your case or to the management of your accommodation

Right to education, training and work. Trafficked migrant women's right to work and education depends on their immigration status and on the stage of their application for international protection. We understand that many trafficked women need assistance accessing employment or professional skills. We are here to do our best to assist you to ensure that your rights are respected and to help you to access the most suitable training, education or work opportunities. We can help you access:

- Part-time education courses, that are run through the Back to Education Initiative
- Attend free English language classes, which are run by the Vocational Education Committee
- Training and employment programmes
- Seek employment, if the stage of the international protection application allows
- Seek scholarships and exceptional arrangements in every individual case for every woman

Right to medical assistance. Identified victims of trafficking in Ireland have access to a medical card. We recognise that human trafficking can have significant long-term impacts resulting from violence and abuse. If you have experienced any of these issues and want to seek assistance please do not suffer in silence. There are some medical units that specialise in treating female patients who have experienced violence. There are also counselling services for women who have suffered sexual violence. We can advocate for you to access the best gender-specific medical and psychological assistance possible as we want to ensure your physical and mental well-being is prioritised. **Medical care should include:**

- Free access to medical services including doctor/ GP services and sexual health services, etc.
- Maternity care for trafficked women who are mothers or pregnant
- Referral to counselling services and psychological assistance

Right to social welfare. Identified victims of trafficking have access to social welfare in Ireland. We can:

- Advocate to ensure you are receiving the benefits to which you are entitled





Apart from the Immigrant Council of Ireland, there are many organisations that can offer gender-specific assistance in Ireland. We can assist you to get in touch with any of them.

- **Immigrant Council of Ireland:** Leading this project, the Immigrant Council specialises in providing legal support to trafficked migrant women.
admin@immigrantcouncil.ie • 01 6740202
- **Ruhama:** They provide practical help and educational classes to women recovering from trafficking and affected by prostitution.
admin@ruhama.ie • 01 8360292
- **Sexual Violence Centre Cork:** They specialise in working with women recovering from sexual abuse and exploitation and they specifically support trafficked migrant women. info@sexualviolence.ie
• 1800 496496
- **Dublin Rape Crisis Centre:** They have female counsellors who provide psychological support to women recovering from sexual violence and rape.
info@rcc.ie • 01 6614911 • 1800 778888

- **AKidWa:** A migrant women network supporting women activists in their community through leadership programmes and work on community engagement.
info@akidwa.ie • 01 8349851
 - **Doras:** A migrant organisation in the city of Limerick, that specialises in supporting victims of trafficking.
info@doras.org • 061 310328
 - **Nasc, the Migrant and Refugee Rights Centre:** A migrant organisation in the city of Cork to the South of Ireland that specialises in supporting asylum seekers.
reception@nascireland.ie • 021 4273594
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State Services for Trafficked Victims

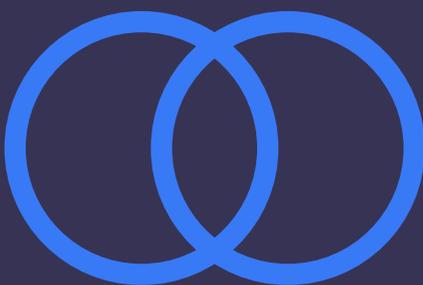
- **HSE Women Health and Anti-Trafficking Services:** A state agency in health care, that provides individual care plans to all victims of trafficking in Ireland.
infoline1@hse.ie • 041 6850300 • 1850241850
- **Legal Aid Board:** A state service that provides legal advice to victims of trafficking and represents people seeking asylum in Ireland.
info@legalaid.ie • 066 9471000 • 1890615200
- **An Garda Síochána:** This is the Irish police force. Tasked with identifying victims of trafficking and referring them for support.
access.officer@gmail.ie • 01 6660000 • 1800666111



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ASSIST: *Gender Specific Legal Assistance and Integration Support for Third Country National Female Victims of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation*

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More information at:

<https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/news/assist-improving-supportsvictims-trafficking-across-europe>