

CHILD TRAFFICKING IS A CRIME



Information for children
and teenagers
from the risk group

IF YOU TRAVEL ALONE AROUND POLAND do read this information!

Many children and teenagers travel around different countries without their parents. Some of them dreamed to leave home and made their own decisions to go abroad. Some were sent by parents or relatives, others were encouraged to travel by their friends. Sometimes, the young people in this situation may find themselves in danger.

Read the following and think if you are safe.

Think about yourself:

- Are you in a foreign country?
- Do adults who aren't your parents or legal guardians take care of you?
- Do you know exactly where you are going? To whom? For how long?
- When are you going to return home?
- Are you staying in touch with your parents or relatives?
- Does anyone force you to work or to do things you don't want to do?
- Do you have your documents (your passport), or did you have to hand them to someone else?
- Does anyone else apart from your parents organize your journey?

Do you know what child trafficking is?

It happens that people sell other people. This is against the law. Some people pay the others, because they want to force the person they are buying to do what they want. Victims don't even know that they are being sold. They go to a different country because they expect to have a better life there. Instead they experience violence. This problem also affects children and teenagers.

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Children are sold and forced into: begging, prostitution, sexual exploitation, committing crimes or they are used as organ donors. Child exploitation may also include illicit adoption, help in receiving benefits, making it easier to cross the border or forced work.

Victims of child trafficking are enslaved and they have no rights to decide about themselves. They work and someone else receives the money. Often, they do not receive anything. They are often beaten and if they are forced into prostitution they are raped. Many young people experienced that already, but when they were leaving their country they simply expected to earn more money and help their families.

Does this concern you?

Be careful if you are traveling to a foreign country on your own and somebody selflessly helps you: organizes the journey, gives food etc., but at the same time takes away your documents and tells you to hide from the police. It's possible that you have been sold.

What can you do?

A child who is or was a trafficking victim has a right to protection on the territory of Poland. She or he is entitled to shelter, care and help.

If you think that you are in danger ask for help as soon as possible. Ask policemen, border guards or social workers in the country you are staying. You will get help in Poland. If you are in a foreign country, even without documents, contact the police when you feel that you are hurt. You have a right to defend yourself against human trafficking. Even if you are illegally in a given country.

Say: 'I'm a trafficking victim.'

In Poland there is a special program for people in such situation.

→ **CALL** → **022 616 02 68**

→ **WRITE** → ofiaryhandlu@fdn.pl, dziecicudzoziemskie@fdn.pl.



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