

INFORMING THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS¹

For adult victims of trafficking in human beings

From the information you have given to us, there is a serious possibility that you are a victim of trafficking in human beings. In Greece, trafficking in human beings is a criminal offence and means that *you have been transferred, deceived, coerced, or your freedom has been restricted, in order to be economically exploited through physical and psychological violence, threats or other means leaving you with no other alternative*²

As a victim of human trafficking, you are entitled to the following and together, we will try to access them:

- free **medical care** in a public hospital
- **psychological** support,
- **translation and interpretation** (if necessary)
- assistance in finding safe **accommodation**,
- police measures to ensure your **security**, if you are in danger and,
- access to a **lawyer** of the free legal assistance program.

You also have the right to report the traffickers to the police, **no matter where they are or where the crime against you took place**, so that they are persecuted and punished. In this case, if you were forced to commit illegal acts during the time you were exploited, the law provides that you will not be punished.

I must emphasize that you are not obliged to cooperate with the police. You will decide if and when you will cooperate with the police. Note that if you decide to cooperate with the police, there are specific rights that you are entitled to, which will be explained to you by a lawyer, with whom you will be given the chance to discuss your case.

Regardless of whether you decide to report those who exploited you, you have the right to follow the procedure provided by law to be officially recognized by the Prosecutor as a victim of trafficking in human beings.

If the victim is a third-country national: After being recognised as a victim of trafficking in human beings, you are also entitled to a 3-month period to decide whether to cooperate with the police or not. In any case, once you are officially recognized as a victim of trafficking in human beings, you are entitled to a residence permit, which allows you to work.

¹ This is a proposal for a brief but complete report of the rights of the presumed victim of trafficking in human beings you assist, regarding his/her protection and communication with the Authorities. Please note that each right mentioned here is also broken down into individual rights or procedures. Especially for criminal proceedings, the assistance of a legal representative is necessary to enjoy all the rights granted by the applicable legal framework.

²adjusted according to the trafficking history of the victim who is getting informed

If you wish, you have the right to return safely to your home country.

If the victim is a third-country national and does not have legal documents: The law provides for your protection against expulsion³.

For child victims of trafficking in human beings

From the information you have given to us, there is a serious possibility that you are a victim of trafficking in human beings. In Greece, trafficking in human beings is a criminal offence and means that *you have been transferred, deceived, coerced, or your freedom has been restricted, in order to be economically exploited.*⁴

Because you are under the age of 18, we are obliged to report this fact to the Authorities, in order to protect you and grant you access to what you are entitled to. As a victim of human trafficking, you are entitled to the following and we will try to access them:

- free **medical care** in a public hospital
- **psychological** support,
- **translation and interpretation** (if necessary)
- safe accommodation in a shelter with other minors,
- police measures to ensure your security, if you are in danger,
- free legal assistance,
- education
- information on any progress of the process,
- State your opinion about every decision that concerns you.

We will also ensure the appointment of a guardian, who will be responsible for you and the monitoring of your case.

We can also work together to locate your family or find you a solution to return to your home country if you wish so (*you will assess the necessity or even danger of the latter two, in relation to the case of the child victim you assist, depending on the assessment you have conducted to ensure the minor's best interest. For example, if the recruitment started in the country of origin, or if s/he was abducted, etc. are factors that need to be considered in the process of choosing repatriation or not*).

After being recognised as a victim of trafficking in human beings, you are also entitled to a 5-month period to decide whether to cooperate with the police or not, in order to arrest and punish the perpetrators. In any case, once you are officially recognized as a victim of trafficking in human beings by the Prosecutor, you are entitled to a residence permit, and until then you are protected against expulsion.

³ To be noted that the exact wording of art. 12, par. 2 of L. 3064/2002 is: "During protection or assistance, foreign victims within the meaning of the present are not deported. An expulsion decision which has been issued, but not yet executed, shall be suspended".

⁴ *In case of child victims, the use of any means is not required in establishing human trafficking*