

## What can I do?

If you feel that someone is in immediate danger dial **999**. Report other suspicions to the **PSNI** on **0845 600 8000**. Remember that traffickers are usually part of organised crime gangs and so you should not confront them. Let the police do their job.

You can also report suspicious activity through the **Crimestoppers** confidential line **0800 555 111**.

The **Law Centre NI** can provide free and confidential specialist legal advice to victims and advisers through its daily advice line 9.30am-1pm **028 9024 4401**.

Individuals can also be advised through the 24-hour **Migrant Helpline** **07766 668 781** E-mail: [mhl@migranthelpline.org](mailto:mhl@migranthelpline.org)

Where a child is concerned, the local **Health and Social Care Trust** can be contacted. The 5 Northern Ireland Trusts can be accessed at [www.healthandcareni.co.uk/index.php?link=trusts](http://www.healthandcareni.co.uk/index.php?link=trusts) and you should contact the duty social worker.

There is also a **Child Trafficking Help and Information Line 0800 107 7057** and an NSPCC 24-hour **Child Protection Helpline 0808 800 5000**.

If you want to form a group to challenge human trafficking in your community or just want to find out more, Detective Superintendent **Philip Marshall** of **PSNI Organised Crime Branch** or **Roger McVicker** of **Migrant Help** are happy to speak to groups about the local situation and to suggest guidelines for your activities.

E-mail [Philip.Marshall@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Philip.Marshall@psni.pnn.police.uk)

E-mail: [roger.mcvicker@migranthelpline.org](mailto:roger.mcvicker@migranthelpline.org)

## What if I am wrong?

It is better to warn someone about your fears rather than risk letting another human being continue to suffer.

*The Lord is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life –of whom shall I be afraid?  
When the wicked advance against me to devour me,  
it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall.*

Prayer from Psalm 27 used by a young girl trafficked in Thailand, forced into prostitution, and later rescued by International Justice Mission ([www.ijmuk.org](http://www.ijmuk.org)).

**EMBRACE NI**  
Building a Welcoming Community



Web: [www.embraceni.org](http://www.embraceni.org)

48 Elmwood Avenue,  
Belfast, BT9 6AZ  
Tel: 028 9066 3145  
Email: [info@embraceni.org](mailto:info@embraceni.org)

EMBRACE Information Sheet 1

## Opening our eyes to the reality of Human Trafficking

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### What is People Trafficking?

'Trafficking involves transporting people away from the communities in which they live and forcing them to work against their will, using violence, deception, or coercion. When children are trafficked, no violence, deception or coercion needs to be involved: simply transporting them into exploitative conditions constitutes trafficking. People are trafficked both between countries and within the borders of a state.'

Definition by Anti-Slavery [www.antislavery.org/english/slavery\\_today/trafficking.aspx](http://www.antislavery.org/english/slavery_today/trafficking.aspx)

There is a strict legal definition of human trafficking and a complex process through a UK National Referral Mechanism before a person is formally identified as a victim of trafficking. This recognition enables victims to receive some protection and support. Undocumented people, who are not recognised as victims, may be removed from the country.

Trafficking can take many forms, for example: the abuse of those who are forced into prostitution; people under the control of others, who are looking after cannabis plants; or adults and children who are trapped in domestic servitude. But trafficked people could be working here in almost any industry – if they have been moved, deceived, coerced and exploited. Local people can be trafficked as well as people from other countries.

### Did you know?

- St Patrick was trafficked into Ireland to work as a slave.
- There are more people in slavery today than in the 400 years of the transatlantic slave trade.
- If a man pays for sex with a trafficked woman in the UK he commits a criminal offence.
- While foreign nationals may be involved, local gangs and local individuals are implicated in human trafficking and exploitation.

*'The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.'*

Psalm 146 : 8

## Surely it doesn't happen here?

In December 2011 Detective Superintendent Philip Marshall told the PSNI Policing Board that 73 victims had been rescued locally since 2009, but this is probably only the tip of the iceberg.

There are many indicators that someone has been trafficked. Just one might make you suspicious.

## Spotting the signs in your community

- Do a number of different cars arrive at a property at odd times and do many people use the back door?
- Is a lot of fast food delivered to a property?
- Is this combined with curtains that are never opened?

## Trafficked Children

- Are children in the care of someone other than their parents?
- Is one adult in charge of a large group of children?
- Are they not going to school or are they engaged in work that is not suitable for children?
- Are children frightened and behaving in a way that is not typical of children of their age?

## Domestic Slavery

- Is a foreign national living near you, possibly as a domestic servant or nanny?
- Are they rarely allowed out of the house unaccompanied?
- Do they seem poorly fed or clothed and have no proper place to sleep?

## Labour Exploitation

- Do you know a workplace where there is poor safety equipment or none at all?
- Do people live in overcrowded conditions?
- Are they picked up in vans or minibuses at odd hours of the day or night?
- Does their employer hold on to their passports and other documents?
- Do they have no time off or the chance to speak to local people?

## Sexual Exploitation

Trafficking for sexual exploitation happens here because there is a high demand for sexual services. Facing up to the implications of some of the signs below might make people think again about what they are doing.

- Is someone reluctant to co-operate in sexual activity?
- Do they seem frightened or in physical pain?
- Do they know only sexual words in English?
- Do you know a teenager who has been flattered by an older person, given gifts, introduced to drink and drugs and gradually detached from their family, who may be controlled for sexual purposes?

## 'Millions spent in 88 brothels in Northern Ireland

PSNI Detective Inspector Douglas Grant said the public needed to know the full extent of the problem. "There's a significant demand in Northern Ireland for prostitutes and that's larger than other parts of the UK and Europe," he said.'

BBC News Northern Ireland 4 July 2011  
[www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-14021724](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-14021724) .

Detective Inspector Grant (PSNI Organised Crime Branch) has also described the consequences of being unable to rescue everyone. On one occasion the PSNI went to a house and found an empty room where blood and pieces of fingernails showed that a person had tried to claw their way out. DNA tests showed that this was a woman who had disappeared in England 5 years previously.

## Where can I find out more?

Look at the official website of the Blue Blindfold Campaign <http://blueblindfold.co.uk> from which some of the above information is taken.

Look at the EMBRACE Trafficking web page [www.embraceni.org/category/information/trafficking/](http://www.embraceni.org/category/information/trafficking/)

The Law Centre NI has produced 'Exploited' leaflets and posters in 12 languages (Albanian, Brazilian Portuguese, Czech, French, Lithuanian, Malaysian, Mandarin, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian and Thai) which provide some basic information for victims of trafficking. See [www.lawcentreni.org/Publications/Migrant%20Workers%20Trafficking%20Leaflet.pdf](http://www.lawcentreni.org/Publications/Migrant%20Workers%20Trafficking%20Leaflet.pdf) . If you can help display this information please contact the Law Centre 028 9024 4401 for copies.