

How can you help someone who has been trafficked?

Contact your nearest Social Worker to arrange counselling services for the victim of trafficking, so that they can deal with the experience they have gone through. Information on shelters in your area will be provided by the Social Worker or the Department of Welfare in your province, where the victim can be given a place to stay.

Remember that a person who is suspected of trafficking can be charged with the crime and even brought back to South Africa in order to stand trial, so report human trafficking! “in the spirit of Tshireledzani! (which means “protect” in TshiVenda)”



“South Africa’s National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking”

For more information contact:

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TSIRELEDZANI!

PREVENT, RESPOND AND SUPPORT

What is human trafficking?

Human trafficking is when people are removed from their homes (under false pretences or by force) and taken to another place or other places – inside the country or outside the country - in order for them to be exploited.

People are trafficked for different purposes, for example:

- prostitution
- forced labour
- the removal of their body parts



Debt bondage is one of the methods used to hold victims of human trafficking hostage. This is common where the trafficker claims a never-ending debt especially, where he/she paid for the victims travelling costs to come into the country.

Children are also trafficked for different purposes including sexual abuse, forced labour and the removal of body parts. This is often done by convincing their parents that, if the child leaves with the trafficker (who might even be a relative) the child will have better educational and other opportunities at their destination. Other means used include abducting or kidnapping children.

Who falls victim to the crime?

Children, young people and adults alike, particularly the unemployed who are looking for opportunities to improve their life conditions.

What does the law say about human trafficking?

The law on sexual offences, formally referred to as the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and related matters) Amendment Act 32 of 2007 makes it a crime to traffick an adult or a child in order to exploit them sexually. This includes where the trafficking is for the production of pornography.



Consent by the victims is not a defence to the crime of human trafficking. The law protects victims of trafficking from being charged and prosecuted for any offence they commit as a direct result of being trafficked, for example, using false travel documents.

Minimum employment standards, such as the number of working hours per day, can be found in the Basic Conditions of Employment Act 75 of 1997.

Labour inspectors must be contacted to report employers who do not follow the standards required by this law.

The Children's Act 38 of 2005 protects children from being trafficked for all purposes. The law prohibits property owners from hiring their properties out for criminal and exploitative activities involving children, including those who have been trafficked. South Africa uses asset forfeiture as a means of ensuring that such owners and traffickers do not benefit from the proceeds of their criminal and exploitative activities.



In this country, it is illegal for any child below the age of 15 years to be out of school and to be employed.

These are just some of the laws that can be used to investigate and prosecute cases of human trafficking in South Africa.

What can you do to prevent human trafficking?

The Department of Labour in your area can help you validate job offers, particularly those outside your province or the country. Any suspicious conduct by prospective employers or their agents must be reported to the police.

Look out for people – both men and women – who say they have job opportunities that promise a lot of money in a short space of time.

Teach your children to be careful of adults who try to befriend them, whether in person, through cell phone or Internet chat rooms.

