



MECPATHS

**CHILD TRAFFICKING
KNOW IT | SEE IT | SAY IT**

General Indicators of Child Trafficking

Children who have been trafficked may:

- Have no contact with or access to their parents or guardians
- Look intimidated and behave in a way that does not correspond with behaviour typical of children their age
- Be unable to communicate freely with others
- Have no friends of their own age
- Have no access to education or medical care
- Have no time for playing or have limited or no social interaction with other children
- Live apart from other children and in substandard accommodations
- Be given only leftovers to eat
- Eat apart from other members of the “family”
- Travel unaccompanied by adults or in groups with adults other than family members / guardians
- Be under the perception that they are bonded by debt
- Be “found” as an unaccompanied child



Children who have been trafficked for forced labour and/or labour exploitation may:

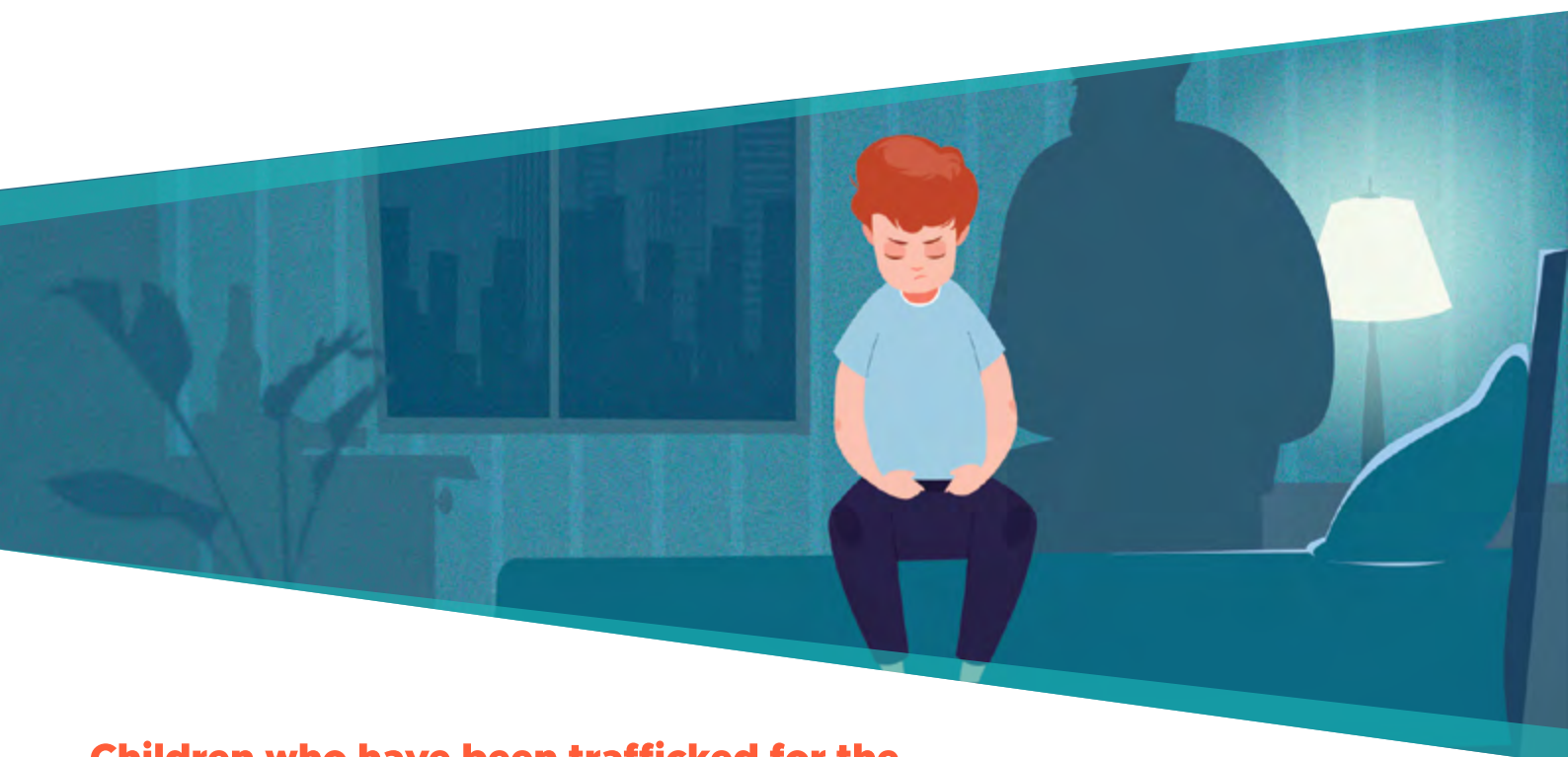
- Believe that they must work against their will
- Be forced to work under inappropriate conditions
- Be unable to or feel that they cannot leave the work environment
- Show signs that their movements are being controlled
- Show fear or anxiety
- Be subjected to violence or threats of violence against themselves or against their family members and loved ones
- Suffer injuries that appear to be the result of an assault
- Suffer injuries or impairments typical of certain jobs or control measures
- Be distrustful of the authorities or be threatened with being handed over to the authorities
- Not be in possession of their passports or other travel or identity documents, as those documents are being held by someone other than their parents or guardians
- Have false identity or travel documents
- Not know their home address
- Allow others to speak for them when addressed directly
- Act as if they are being instructed by someone else
- Be made work excessively long hours over long periods





Children who have been trafficked for domestic servitude may:

- Live with a family not of origin
- Be given only leftovers to eat
- Not eat with the rest of the household
- Sleep in an inappropriate space
- Never or rarely leave the house
- Be subjected to insults, abuse, threats or violence



Children who have been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation may:

- Have unexplained gifts or possess items such as phones or jewellery which they couldn't afford to buy themselves
- Display changes in mood or become emotionally volatile



- Go missing, stay out late or stay out all night
- Be secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Show a lack of interest in activities and hobbies
- Miss school
- Present with sudden changes in their appearance and wear more revealing clothes
- Use sexual language that wouldn't be typically used by them
- Engage less with their usual friends
- Appear controlled by their phone
- Switch to a new screen when you come near the computer
- Be associated with a gang
- Become estranged from family
- Become involved in drugs or alcohol, particularly if you suspect they are being supplied by older men or women
- Associate with older men and women, particularly if they go missing and are being defensive about where they are and what they're doing
- Have more than one, or a secret phone
- Be constantly moved from one location to the next, harboured (kept) or received
- Be escorted whenever they go to and return from outside activities
- Have tattoos or other marks indicating "ownership"
- Only have very few items of age-appropriate clothing
- Only know how to say sex-related words in the local language
- Evidence of physical assault/disclosure of sexual abuse and/or exploitation



Children who have been trafficked for the purpose of forced begging or forced criminality may:

- Persistently going missing from school or home and/or being found out-of-area
- Excessive receipt of texts or phone calls
- Spending more time online or on their devices
- Using more than one phone
- Suddenly acquiring expensive gifts such as items of clothing, money, bicycles / scooters, mobile phones, jewellery – even drugs – and not being able to explain how they got them

- Having hotel cards or keys to unknown places
- Being secretive about who they are talking to and where they are going
- Relationships with controlling older individuals or groups
- Leaving home/care without explanation
- Unexplained absences from school
- Returning home unusually late or staying out all night
- Coming home looking dishevelled
- Suspicion of physical assault or unexplained injuries
- Carrying weapons
- Starting or increasing drug use, or being found to have large amounts of drugs on them
- Starting or increasing alcohol use
- Loss of interest in school and significant decline in performance
- Using sexual, gang, drug-related or violent language you wouldn't expect them to know
- Meeting with unfamiliar people or associating with a gang
- Becoming isolated from peers or social networks
- Self-harm
- Significant changes in emotional well-being
- Sudden changes in lifestyle
- Increasingly disruptive or violent behaviour
- Getting into trouble with the police
- Be recruited to carry and/or sell illicit drugs
- Move daily in large groups, over considerable distances, for the purpose of forced begging and criminality
- Be punished if they do not collect, carry, sell, or steal enough



Children who have been trafficked for forced marriage may:

- Come from a community where Forced Marriage and 'Honour' is culturally embedded
- Announce engagement to a stranger not previously mentioned
- Child may be removed from education, preventing further education or extra-curricular activities
- Exhibit noticeable levels of absenteeism, lateness – school, college or employment
- Feel like an element of 'surveillance' and control by their family or community members
- Display significant personality changes and appear depressed, withdrawn, anxious or suicidal. There may be noticeable deterioration in the victim's self-esteem and appearance
- Run away, go missing from home or have a fear of returning home
- Talk about a family holiday abroad and may seem anxious about this
- Fail to return home from a visit to the family's country of origin
- Present with early and/or unwanted pregnancy
- Self-harm or attempt suicide, particularly in the early stages of marriage
- Report domestic incidents or crimes at the family home. The fact that a victim was forced to marry may only reveal itself years after the marriage has taken place
- Appear to be dominated – subject to financial control, no access to mobile phone, internet etc.

Children who have been trafficked for organ harvesting:

- **There have been no cases of trafficking for organ harvesting documented in the Republic of Ireland**



CHILD TRAFFICKING

is any act of...



Recruitment



Transport



Transfer



Harboursing



Receipt

...of a child

for the purpose of...



Forced
Criminality



Sexual
Exploitation



Domestic
Servitude



Forced
Begging



Forced
Labour



Forced
Marriage



Organ
Harvesting

What to do

Please do not take any of these indicators on their own to mean that someone may be a victim of trafficking.

If there are a number of signs present and you feel that something is just not right, please report your suspicions.

How should you respond?

Emergency:
Telephone 999/112

Suspensions:
Telephone Local Garda Station

Anonymously:
Telephone 1800 666 111 or email
blueblindfold@garda.ie



MECPATHS



01 467 3737



info@mecpaths.ie



www.mecpaths.com