

## Sample questions to ask potential victims of Human Trafficking

If you get the opportunity to examine or question the patient alone, asking the following questions can help you determine if you are dealing with a victim:

- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- What are your working and living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door so you cannot get out?

Before questioning a patient who may be a victim of human trafficking, discretely separate the patient from the individual accompanying her/him, since this person could be the trafficker posing as a spouse, other family member or employer.



## How are victims of Human Trafficking supported?

If you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking, just call APPOĠĠ Supportline 179. The persons taking your call are professionally trained volunteers. They will help victims safely and securely by referring them to basic services as necessary.

All reports of human trafficking are dealt with and forwarded to the respective authorities for further investigation. Both Maltese and non-Maltese citizens can access this service.

If you think someone is a victim of human trafficking, or you are a victim yourself call on free phone

# APPOĠĠ Supportline 179

or visit

[www.msp.gov.mt](http://www.msp.gov.mt)

[www.mjha.gov.mt](http://www.mjha.gov.mt)

[www.appogg.gov.mt](http://www.appogg.gov.mt)

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# Human Trafficking

Ministry for Social Policy

Ministry for Justice  
and Home Affairs



## What is Human Trafficking?

Human trafficking can be defined as a form of modern-day slavery, widespread even in European countries. Trafficking of humans is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug dealing, and is the fastest growing. Many victims of trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or sex entertainment. But trafficking also occurs in forms of labour exploitation, such as domestic servitude, or restaurant work, factory work, or agricultural work.

Force, fraud and coercion are the methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse:

- Force - rape, beatings, confinement
- Fraud - false offers of employment, marriage, better life
- Coercion - threats, debt-bondage, psychological abuse

### Victims of trafficking can be found in:

- The sex industry
- Domestic situations (nannies or servants)
- Factories
- Construction
- Farm work
- Fisheries
- Hotel or tourist industries
- Janitorial services
- Restaurant services

## How can someone identify a victim of Human Trafficking?



Victims of trafficking may look like many of the patients coming to health clinics or emergency rooms. Victims are young children, teenagers, men and women.

### By looking beneath the surface and asking yourself these questions, you can help identify potential victims:

- Is the patient accompanied by another person who seems controlling (possibly the trafficker)?
- Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?
- Does the patient seem submissive or fearful?
- Does the patient have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?
- Does the patient have any identification or documentation?

Gaining the trust of a victim of human trafficking is an important first step in providing assistance.

## What are the most common health problems that victims of Human Trafficking face?

Victims of trafficking may suffer from several physical and psychological problems because they are often forced to live and work in dangerous conditions.

### These victims are put in a greater risk for:

- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy, resulting from rape or prostitution
- Bruises, scars and other signs of physical abuse
- Substance abuse or addictions
- Malnourishment and serious dental problems
- Infectious diseases like tuberculosis
- Undetected or untreated diseases
- Psychological trauma including depression, stress-related disorders, disorientation, confusion, phobias and panic attacks

