

Significant risk factors

Inappropriate or dangerous inner circle

Problems in the family or in the public child protection system

Desire to be understood and accepted

Low self-esteem or introverted person

Use of drugs or alcohol

Leaving repeatedly from home or from centers for institutionalized children

Wanting to make money fast

Searching for a well-paid job



Human trafficking

Due to the high level of human rights violations, human trafficking is considered a **form of modern slavery**, a "people-commodity" business that is present all over the world and has no geographical, cultural, financial, political or religious border. Any person, without exception, can be a victim of trafficking if they are not properly informed about this phenomenon. In the case of minors, the crime of trafficking brings together two elements

- **the act** of the trafficker of
 - recruiting
 - transferring
 - transporting
 - accommodating or receiving a victim, and
- **the purpose / exploitation:**
 - commercial¹ or non-commercial² sexual exploitation
 - through forced labor
 - for begging
 - for committing criminal acts
 - for debt bondage
 - for forced marriage
 - for the removal of organs, tissues or cells
 - for domestic servitude
 - for surrogacy or reproductive purposes
 - for illegal adoptions
 - for social benefits or other benefits
 - for armed conflicts or illegal military units illegale.

¹ prostitution or pornography industry, including video chat studios, in exchange for money or other benefits

² for oneself, without a financial purpose (marriage or cohabitation)

CONTACT

<https://stopat.ecler.org>

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Project STOP-AT

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Iceland
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Active citizens fund

HUMAN TRAFFICKING FORMS OF EXPLOITATION



Signal The Traffic, Stop The Danger - AntiTrafic

Globally, it is estimated that 50 million people are in some form of modern slavery and over 51% of child victims are sexually exploited.

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The most common recruitment method is loverboy or „false love” by going through the following 5 stages*:

Stage 1 - Gaining trust

This stage takes as long as necessary for the trafficker to gain the victim's full trust and identify their vulnerabilities. Depending on the needs and personality of the victim, trust can be built within minutes or years.



Stage 2 - Seduction

During this period, the trafficker acts as the ideal, perfect partner, promising a long-term relationship with unconditional love. The goal is for the victim to become emotionally dependent on the trafficker, falling madly in love with him. The trafficker can be both male and female.



Stage 3 - Isolation

The victim is isolated from friends and family so that they have no one to turn to during the period of exploitation. The trafficker induces scenes of envy („Your friend is jealous of our relationship”) or jealousy („Your friend hits on me”) in the victim's mind. The trafficker creates repeated conflicts between the victim and their family („If your parents knew you were with me, why did they worry? They don't trust you or they don't like me!").



Stage 4 - Destruction of personal values

Emotional, financial and/or physical violence is very present at this stage.

Traffickers often ask for indecent pictures or videos ("I miss you so much when we're not together") or for the victim to engage in sexual activities with other people. Torture, rampant rape and inhumane treatment are also used before the victim is exploited.



Stage 5 - Exploitation

The victim is coerced:

- emotionally („If you love me...")
- financially (by inducing false debts to repay expenses)
- moral (blackmail with pornographic materials, threatening loved ones)
- physically (torture, rape and other inhuman treatment),

to perform prostitution or other activities, **against the victim's free and informed will.**



*The 5 stages presented above were developed by Silvia Tăbușcă, ECLER, following research in this field.

The graphics for the 5 stages were made within the <https://nutelasadusa.ro> project, funded by the RENEW EUROPE Parliamentary Group, through the Ramona Strugariu MEP Bureau, and implemented by ECLER and FHR.

Persons who are exploited:

1. They don't trust the authorities;
2. They show fear or anxiety, they are controlled, others speak on their behalf;
3. Act as if instructed to say or do things;
4. They do not have an employment contract, they do not have access to their income or medical care;
5. They work excessively long hours and have no days off, they are tired;
6. Live in inadequate accommodation;
7. Are not in possession of their passport or identity documents;
8. Have limited or no social interaction with people outside the exploitation environment;
9. They must work against their will;
10. They don't know the address of their home or workplace, they can't leave whenever they want;
11. They have visible injuries, are subject to violence or threats of violence against themselves or family members; several people have the same tattoo;
12. They cannot negotiate working conditions, they are paid little or not at all;
13. They cannot communicate freely with others;
14. They acted based on false promises or were induced to perceive they have false debts to exploiters;
15. They are in a situation of dependence on the trafficker (physical, emotional, financial, etc.).

