



Human Rights and Trafficking in Women and Young People in Europe

BOOKLET FOR STUDENT



University of Padua, Interdepartmental Centre on
Human Rights and the Rights of Peoples



La Strada Foundation against
Trafficking in Persons and Slavery, Poland



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Human Rights and Trafficking in Women and Young People.
An Educational Toolkit for Teachers and Students

Booklet for Student

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HUMAN RIGHTS ARE FOR EVERYONE – THAT MEANS YOU

In 1948 the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is the first and most important document to say that all human beings have equal rights – without any distinctions such as gender, nationality, colour or religion.

“Among the principles announced in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights art. 4 affirms: “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms”.

Maintaining human rights and freedoms is an obligation that each country has towards the people.

Everybody has many rights – and that includes you.

THE RIGHT TO LIFE means that life is the highest value to be protected and it is at the basis of all human rights

THE RIGHT TO LIBERTY means that no-one can be deprived of their freedom, e.g. put in prison without a court order

THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION means that everyone should have the opportunity to go to school and get qualifications

THE RIGHT TO JUST AND FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS OF WORK means that everyone who works should work in good conditions and be paid a decent wage

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION means that no-one can be treated badly on grounds of sex, colour, religion, or national or social origin

THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND INHUMAN TREATMENT means that nobody is allowed to be tortured or treated in an inhuman way, e.g. by being beaten or humiliated

**EVERY COUNTRY IS SUPPOSED TO PROMOTE
THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ITS CITIZENS**

State institutions like the government, the police and the courts have a duty to protect human rights.

Unfortunately, the world isn't perfect and human rights are still violated in many places all over the world.

One of the most outrageous acts of disregard for human rights is trafficking in human beings

**“Today the International Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against transnational organized crime (UN 2000), gives in the article three a definition of trafficking in human beings. For the purposes of this Protocol:
(a) “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.**

Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs;

(b) The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) have been used;

(c) The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt

of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in subparagraph (a) of this article;

(d) "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

This is the buying and selling of people in order to make use of them sexually and/or economically.

This is a crime for which there are severe penalties,

But it makes big money for organised criminals.

There are many kinds of human trafficking and **ANYONE** can be affected.

This could be someone you know.

This could be near you

Imagine, it could even be **YOU...**

People are made to do housework,

to beg,

to steal,
to work in the fields
and many other things

BUT

***The most frequent victims of trafficking are women
The most frequent thing they are made to do is prostitution***

How does this happen? Can it really be possible?

Unfortunately it can. In many parts of the world there is great poverty and unemployment. Human traffickers take advantage of this.

How?

They offer excellent work.
They promise good pay.

But they don't ask about your qualifications for the job or if you can speak the language of the country you'd be going to.

Often they even pretend that they've fallen in love with you – that way women and girls are more likely to trust them. You go, or are smuggled, abroad and then you are forced into prostitution or other work.

This happens in many other countries in Europe and the rest of the world, everywhere where there's a need for a cheap workforce. This is generally

made up of migrants and many people like to employ them because they are often there illegally and so are easy to frighten and to exploit.

“In Europe the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in article 5 on the Prohibition of slavery and forced labour establishes:”

“No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.

No one shall be required to perform forced or compulsory labour.

Trafficking in human beings is prohibited”

“Art 29 of the European Union treaty consolidated text affirms that

“Without prejudice to the powers of the European Community, the Union's objective shall be to provide citizens with a high level of safety within an area of freedom, security and justice by developing common action among the Member States in the fields of police and judicial cooperation in criminal matters and by preventing and combating racism and xenophobia.

That objective shall be achieved by preventing and combating crime, organised or otherwise, in particular terrorism, trafficking in persons and offences against children, illicit drug trafficking and illicit arms trafficking, corruption and fraud (...).

Some young men and women think that prostitution is a quick way to make big money.

Think again.

Prostitution is a high-risk job. Working as a prostitute, you risk getting a sexually transmitted disease or becoming HIV positive. You are more likely to become the victim of a crime, for instance being trafficked.

Clients usually have no idea that the person they're paying to have sex with could be a victim of human trafficking. Maybe you have friends who go to prostitutes. Tell them about human trafficking so they don't use their money to support such a despicable procedure.

If you, or somebody you know, come across someone who's been forced into prostitution or other work, you can help them by telling the police or an organisation that helps victims of human trafficking.