



What is people trafficking?



New Zealand's Inter-Agency Trafficking in Persons Operations Group



NEW ZEALAND
CUSTOMS SERVICE
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What is people trafficking?

People trafficking is happening here in New Zealand, to both migrants and to New Zealand citizens/residents. People trafficking does not have to involve crossing a border, and often happens entirely within a country. People trafficking is a crime that involves deceiving or coercing someone in order to exploit them.

There are three elements to people trafficking: an **act** (what is done), **the means** (how it is done), and **the purpose** (why it is done).

In New Zealand, people trafficking is criminalised under the Crimes Act 1961 (section 98D 'Trafficking in Persons'). The crime is punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment, fines of up to \$500,000, or both.

WHAT ARE THE COMMON TYPES OF EXPLOITATION THAT PEOPLE ARE TRAFFICKED FOR?

The exploitation of a person is likely to be the most noticeable sign that a person has been trafficked.

- **Forced labour / labour exploitation:** when a person is forced or coerced to undertake work, or is made to work against their will, often under threats of punishment. Includes unlawful or illegal work.
 - Child labour is any work or service performed by a child (under 18) that is harmful to them in some way. It deprives children of the right to normal physical and mental development, and often interferes with their education.
- **Sexual exploitation:** includes any coerced work in the sex industry and other forms of sexual abuse.
- **Domestic servitude:** where live-in help (a domestic worker) is not free to leave their employment, and is often abused and/or underpaid (if at all). The worker may not have access to the outside world, including their family, nor have days off.
- **Forced marriage:** where one or more of the parties is married without their consent or against their will.
- **Debt bondage:** a person provides services to pay a debt that can never be repaid.
- **Serfdom:** a person is bound to live and work on land belonging to someone else, and is not free to leave.
- **Child exploitation:** a person uses a child for profit, labour, sexual gratification, forced marriage or for some other personal or financial advantage.
- **Forced criminality:** involves exploiters forcing people to commit criminal acts. Common forms include drug cultivation (particularly cannabis) and/or dealing (reception or movement of drugs).

WHERE MIGHT I SEE PEOPLE TRAFFICKING?

People trafficking indicators may be present anywhere. Whilst there is no definitive list of places where you might see or interact with a person who has been trafficked, those listed below reflect known cases in New Zealand and findings from international research.



At work

For example, the agriculture, horticulture/viticulture industry, construction, fisheries, food service and restaurants, retail, domestic work, sex industry and cleaning industry



At home

People trafficking can take place within a household as part of a family, or someone who works in the household

People trafficking often crosses into legitimate businesses and industries, and it's important to keep an eye out for signs that someone needs help.



At health and residential care providers

This could include people presenting with injuries, depression, exhaustion or substance abuse



At airports, bus/train stations, ride sharing facilities and other transport locations

This could include people presenting indicators below, or recruiters targeting the vulnerable



At faith-based institutions such as churches, mosques

Any individuals or groups presenting the indicators on the next page



At education providers such as schools, tertiary institutions

Any students presenting indicators on the next page



Financial institutions e.g. banks

For example, unusual movement of money; unusual account signatories or account access given to another person



On social media

You may see people reaching out for help online; online recruitment and employment advertising by traffickers



At hotels and motels

You may see unusual bookings or movement to rooms; or indicators of trafficking amongst service and housekeeping staff, vendors and in supply chains



Within homeless communities

Including vulnerable rough sleepers, shelters, rental housing, management companies

WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS OF PEOPLE TRAFFICKING?

People trafficking can be difficult to identify, and is often present with other abuses or crimes. For example, situations of workplace exploitation, organised crime, sexual offending, immigration offending and offending against children, may also have elements of people trafficking.

A person may have been trafficked if they:



- Believe that they were forced to enter into, or remain in their situation
- Feel that they are not able to leave their work or accommodation
- Have been deceived about the payment for, nature or location of their situation
- Show signs they are under the control of, or heavily dependent on, others
- Are living or working in inhumane or degrading conditions



- Have been threatened with violence against themselves or loved ones
- Have been threatened with being handed over to government authorities



- Are in an inappropriate situation for their age
- Are travelling unaccompanied (in the case of children)
- Behave in a way that does not correspond with behaviour typical of people their age
- Are a child who appears to have a non-genuine relationship to an adult
- Are a child accompanied by an adult who displays hostility when being asked questions about them



- Are working excessive days or hours, with limited or no days off
- Have limited or no access to or control over their income
- Believe that they are bonded by debt



- Have the same story as others, or allow others to speak for them
- Provide answers to questions that are inconsistent



- Have their passport or other travel/identity documents withheld by others, or have false documents, or no identity documents



- Express fear or distrust of government authorities
- Appear anxious, depressed, submissive, fearful, tense or nervous
- Are reluctant to make eye contact or discuss their situation



- Show signs of not having access to food, water, sleep, medical care, or hygiene facilities
- Have limited or no interaction with people outside of their immediate environment
- Are being escorted individually or in a group

WHAT DO I DO IF I SUSPECT PEOPLE TRAFFICKING?

There are a number of New Zealand government agencies involved in responding to instances of trafficking and exploitation.

COMMUNITY

If you, or someone you know, might have been trafficked, call the New Zealand Police on **111** in an emergency.

If you, or someone you know, might have been **trafficked** (non-emergency), you can contact:

Call **105**

Report online <http://www.police.govt.nz/105support>

Call **0508 558 855**

Email INZ.ComplianceInvestigations@mbie.govt.nz



Call **0508 326 459**

Email contact@ot.govt.nz



If you, or someone you know, might have been **exploited at work** (even if it isn't forced labour or connected to trafficking), you can contact:

Call **0800 20 00 88**

Report online

<https://www.employment.govt.nz/resolving-problems/types-of-problems/migrant-exploitation/>



If you want to make an anonymous report, you can contact:

Call **0800 555 111**

Report online <http://www.crimestoppers-nz.org/>



Government staff working in any of the above agencies

Ensure the welfare of the victim. Call 111 if you fear immediate harm.

If there is no fear of immediate harm, utilise your agency's internal escalation processes.



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government