



Human Trafficking Factsheet

Onyoja is from a village in Nigeria. One day she was found alone by the side of the road where she had been abandoned. A man took her home to his wife. She did not go to school - instead, she helped at the farm and with domestic chores. When she turned fifteen, the man sent her to the capital, Abuja. She was locked in a brothel where she was repeatedly raped. She was kept there for six months. One day, Onyoja was told that she would be taken to Europe. She was accompanied by an unknown man who gave her a fake passport. She was instructed to remember her new name, age, place of birth and address. Once in the UK, Onyoja was taken to a house and, again, forced into prostitution. The men never reacted to her tears or her screams. Three weeks after, another man came and told Onyoja that arrangements had been made for her to go to Italy. She had been sold because she did not cooperate with the clients. At the airport she was given hand luggage, a ticket and a European identity card. However, she was caught by the immigration officers and she was arrested for possession of false documents. Onyoja passed two months in prison although she was a minor because there was no document that could prove her age. But finally, with the help from a social worker from FPWP Hibiscus, the case was handed to an anti trafficking organisation. During her court hearing, Onyoja's charges were dropped and social services took her into their care. She was placed in a foster family.
(Case study courtesy of Hibiscus.)

Human trafficking is a subset of modern slavery and occurs when someone is moved from one place to another for the purposes of exploitation.

It can mean people being moved across borders, but it can also mean people being moved around a country internally for the purposes of exploitation. So for instance, some people are trafficked into the UK from Europe and beyond, but there are many cases of British nationals being trafficked internally too.

Human trafficking is among the three most lucrative international organised crimes, along with illegal arms trading and drugs trafficking.

Victims of Trafficking

Victims are sometimes vulnerable people - for instance abandoned children, drug addicts, homeless, or economically deprived single women. But they might also be economically vulnerable; many forced labour cases involve male European migrants who are trying to provide for their families at home, and have become trapped in a cycle of exploitation. It's not uncommon for people to be trafficked out of their country by a fellow citizen.

How Trafficking Starts

Deception is key to human trafficking. False promises of work, a better life or education are very common. Often victims are given fake job offers (e.g. for bar tending, modelling or building work), through the internet, or through family connections. In some cases, recruitment can be violent, including abduction.

Spot the Signs

Look out for someone who:

- Exhibits distressed behaviour or is emotionally withdrawn
- Is not attending school
- Is financially dependent
- May be a victim of FGM, Female Genital Mutilation
- Is accompanied to doctors or clinics
- Makes a sudden announcement of their engagement to a stranger

NB: These warning signs may indicate other types of abuse or psychological issues that will also require a multi-agency

If you spot any signs call

Modern Slavery Helpline:
0800 0121 700

Police (emergencies) **999**

Police (non-emergencies) **101**

Forced Marriage Unit
0207 008 0151

Salvation Army Helpline
0300 303 8151

Crimestoppers **0800 555 111**

Useful resources

Home Office, 2017, Forced Marriage Unit Statistics 2016

Home Office, 2017, Guidance: Forced Marriage

HMIC, 2015, The Depths of Dishonour

Links

The Halo Project, www.haloproject.org.uk

Forced Marriage Unit,
www.gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage

Karma Nirvana, (NGO) -
www.karmanirvana.org.uk/