

CONTEXT

This interview sheet is designed to help front-line workers recognise possible signs of human trafficking or migrant smuggling.

Effective assessment of human trafficking or migrant smuggling requires in-depth analysis by experts. The purpose of this interview sheet is therefore not to ask frontline workers to carry out a full assessment, but to help them **identify possible signs of human trafficking or illicit smuggling** of migrants and, on this basis, to refer the person appropriately.

The purpose of the sheet is to help front-line workers identify possible warning signs that may indicate coercion, abuse or exploitation. Given that victims often do not spontaneously share their circumstances, this checklist enables potential risk factors to be mapped carefully and in a trauma-sensitive way.

When, as a front-line worker, you identify one or more indicators, it is important to **forward the case in good time and in a discreet manner to the IOM**, which is responsible for the **in-depth VOT** (Victim of Trafficking assessment) and provides specialised support for the voluntary, safe and dignified return of victims of human trafficking. In this way, the person is protected as quickly as possible and receives specialised assistance, whether as part of a follow-up in Belgium or as part of a possible voluntary return to their country of origin. In this case, the IOM provides support throughout the process: travel preparation, documentation, coordination with services in the country of origin, referral to appropriate reintegration support.

TARGETED QUESTIONS - INTERVIEW SHEET

- 1** **Has the person been pressurised to work/provide services against their will?**
 - Can you describe a situation in which you had to do something when you didn't really want to?
 - Was there someone deciding what work you should do, without you having any say in the decision?
- 2** **Has the person been controlled, threatened or mistreated?**
 - Has anyone implied that there would be negative consequences if you didn't do what they asked?
 - Is someone monitoring your behaviour, your movements or your communications?
- 3** **Have the travel document or wages been withheld by someone else?**
 - Do you have your identity and travel documents with you? If not, who is keeping them and why?
 - Do you have free use of your wages or does someone else withhold part or all of them?
- 4** **Is the person afraid of reprisals or smugglers/exploiters?**
 - Is there anyone you think might harm you or your family if you stopped working or sought help?
 - Has anyone ever threatened the person with deportation, violence or other negative consequences?
- 5** **Are there any signs of sexual or economic exploitation, forced labour, begging, organ trafficking, or forced involvement in criminal activity?**
 - Have you been forced to perform activities that are illegal, degrading or harmful to you?
 - Have you had to work in conditions that were clearly different from what you had been told beforehand?

6 Contact with a recognised organisation (Payoke / PAG-ASA / Sürya)? HT&S/ VOT victim status?

- Have you ever had contact with support organisations or services about your situation?
- Have you been informed of the possibilities for protection or obtaining official victim status?

7 Is the person's freedom restricted?

- Can you decide for yourself when to leave home or work?
- Do you have to ask permission to travel, make telephone calls or book appointments?

8 Does the person have few or no social contacts?

- Can you freely keep in touch with your family or friends (telephone, internet, visits)?
- Is there someone who decides who you can and can't talk to?

9 Is the person fearful of their surroundings?

- Do you sometimes feel unable to talk about your situation because you are afraid of certain people's reactions?
- Are there certain people or places where you feel unsafe, and why?

10 Does the person lack trust in the authorities?

- Has anyone told you stories that make you think the police or support services won't help you?
- Have you ever been treated badly by the authorities in this or any other country?

11 Does the person have to work in extremely poor conditions?

- Do you have to work without sufficient rest, food, protection or safety?
- Have you developed any health problems as a result of your work?

12 Does the person have accommodation on site?

- Do you live in the same place as your workplace, and are you free to live elsewhere?
- Who decides where you live and under what conditions you can stay there?

13 Does the person receive no (or almost no) pay?

- Are your wages being withheld for reasons you don't understand or with which you didn't agree?
- Does getting paid depend on vague agreements or promises that are not kept?

14 Has the person been obliged to repay a debt?

- Did anyone tell you that you had a debt (travel, accommodation, equipment) that you had to repay by working?
- Is this debt constantly increasing, or is it uncertain when it will be repaid in full?

15 Are there any signs of physical or mental violence?

- Has anyone ever hit, restrained, humiliated or intimidated you?
- Do you suffer from anxiety, stress, insomnia or other problems because of the way you are treated?