

# Safeguarding 7 minute briefing: Child Trafficking

## Support for C&YP

C&YP might find it difficult to talk about their experiences/tell anyone what's happened to them. Children are often scared to speak out. They might be frightened of: \*what'll happen to themselves, their friends/family \*all adults & authorities \*being prosecuted for a crime \*being returned to their home country where their situation may be even worse \*Juju or witchcraft rituals performed during their experiences \*judgement from their community and families. They may also feel guilty or ashamed.

## Report child trafficking

Children are intentionally hidden & isolated from the services & communities who can identify & protect them. If you think a young person is in danger, contact the police on [999](tel:999).

\*Contact your local child protection services. \*Contact the Modern Slavery Helpline to get help, report a suspicion or seek advice. Call [0800 012 1700](tel:08000121700) or fill in their [online form](#).

## Who's at risk?

Any child is at risk. Human trafficking happens due to: \*inequalities between countries, such as different education or employment opportunities \*poverty \*the effects of war \*the demand for cheap/free labour or a workforce who can be easily controlled and forced into criminal activity \*low levels of education \*lack of equal opportunities, discrimination or marginalisation.



[Click for quiz](#)

## What is it?

C&YP are tricked/forced/persuaded to leave their homes & are moved/transported then exploited, forced to work or sold. Children are trafficked for: \*sexual exploitation \*benefit fraud \*forced marriage \*domestic slavery \*forced labour in factories/agriculture \*committing crimes like theft, working on cannabis farms/moving drugs. Traffickers use physical, sexual & emotional abuse as a form of control. C&YP are also likely to be physically and emotionally neglected & may be sexually exploited.

## Types of child trafficking

**Grooming**- children/families/communities to gain trust. Threaten families with violence. Promise of a better future elsewhere.  
**Economic**- may ask families for money for documents/transport & that they'll make a profit from money a child "earns" through exploitation/forced labour/crime- told this money pays off debt they/their family "owe". Traffickers may: \*work alone/in small groups, recruiting small numbers of children from areas they know/live in \*be medium-sized groups who recruit, move & exploit C&YP on a small scale \*be large criminal networks operating internationally with high-level corruption, money laundering & numbers of victims.

## Signs of child trafficking

\*spend a lot of time doing chores \*rarely leave the house \*be orphaned/living apart from family \*live in low-standard accommodation \*be unsure which country/city/town they're in \*can't/ reluctant to share personal information/address \*not be registered with a school/GP \*have no access to parents/guardians \*be seen in inappropriate places \*have money/things you wouldn't expect \*have injuries from workplace accidents \*give a prepared story.

## Effects of child trafficking

Trafficking can have short/ long term effects- the impact can last a lifetime. C&YP who've been trafficked might: \*not understand what's happened to them is abuse - especially if they've been groomed \*believe they're in a relationship with their abuser & unaware they're being exploited \*think they played a part in their abuse or have broken the law \*feel very guilty or ashamed about the abuse they've suffered.

Being kept captive/living/working in poor conditions can have a serious impact on a child's mental and physical health. They might be suffering from the effects of abuse and neglect. Children may feel distressed & alienated if they've been separated from family, friends, community & cultures. They'll often have had no access to education or opportunity for social & emotional development. Children exploited for domestic servitude & forced labour can suffer physical injuries, develop problems with their emotional health & be denied access to education. Children trafficked for sexual exploitation are at high risk of prolonged periods of sexual violence, physical injuries, sexually transmitted infections &, for girls, multiple pregnancies.