

Examples of suspicious situations

If you find yourself in any of these situations, you might be at risk of being groomed for sexual exploitation.

- You have contacted or have been contacted by websites or groups on the Internet (i.e. Telegram) that offer you help outside the official channels, and you don't know who is behind it or what they will ask for in return.
- Someone has asked you for photos, personal data or locations via your mobile phone.
- The person takes away your personal documents;
- The person only provides support to young women or women traveling alone;
- Someone shows a strange interest in your children or in other children during the journey or in the reception center.
- The person wants to isolate you, restrict your movements and your communications;
- The person proposes accommodation or transport without being clear about the payment conditions;
- The person advises not to contact the police and encourages you to not trust public authorities ("they are racist", "they are bad to refugees", etc.);
- The person advises to only trust them;
- The person requires you to make decisions very quickly/urgently, without time for telling people, getting proper documentation, etc.;
- The person gives you documents to sign in a language you don't understand;
- The person makes big promises, such as they can "save you", give you a lot of money and material goods, etc.;
- The person offers to execute administrative procedures on your behalf without you;
- The person communicates a lot with teenage girls (faking friendships or romantic relationships is one of the ways used to groom women and girls to sexual exploitation);
- The person offers to help you find a job, or provide you with a job, without being clear about the field of employment;
- The person offers you to work in "massage parlors" or "clubs" without detailing the job description;
- The person offers to pay you for photo or video shootings;
- The person makes sexual remarks or has sexually inappropriate behavior;
- The person offers you drugs and alcohol

BEWARE OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



***Sexual exploitation
is sexual violence***

What is sexual exploitation?

- manipulating someone in order to gain sexual access to them;
- causing the prostitution of another person;
- trafficking another person for sexual purposes;
- recording, photographing or transmitting images of sexual activity, or a nude image of someone without their consent;
- intentionally exposing another person to a risk of a sexually transmitted infection.

Human traffickers try to trap women and children during their escape or in the countries they travel to. They organize themselves and wait for women and girls at the borders, railroad stations, distribution points, refugee camps, emergency shelters, etc.

It is hard to believe it but sometimes traffickers can be members of the family or the very persons we are in love with, i.e. a boyfriend.

How exactly do traffickers work? They use:

- false promises (money, job, material possessions, drugs, protection, safety, etc.)
- lies
- blackmail and threats
- isolation
- psychological and physical violence.

Where and how to find help?

Find an official/registered non-governmental organization who supports women victims of violence, migrant and refugee women, or migrants. **Google: "NGO that helps women victims of violence in my area/in my country."**

Call national helpline for women victims of violence and sexual exploitation. Visit:

migrantwomennetwork.org/ukraine

For a person who wants to traffic a woman or a girl it is important that she trusts him, so he will use all possible means to gain her trust. When the exploitation starts, usually, it is very hard for the victims to believe that the person they trust wants to harm them.

Sexual exploitation is forbidden by International and European Law - It is a serious crime against a person and its perpetrators must be punished by police. When caught, very often they blame their victims to avoid responsibility for their actions. They can also blackmail other members of the family of the victims (children or parents) to make sure the victim does not report them to police.

PAY ATTENTION

Most perpetrators of sexual exploitation are men. However, they can also use women to trick their victims through provoking a false sense of safety and trust. Perpetrators of sexual exploitation take advantage of the stress you can be in.