

**STANDARD OPERATING
PROCEDURES
TO IDENTIFY MINORS
WHO ARE VICTIMS
OF TRAFFICKING AND
EXPLOITATION IN ITALY**



Save the Children
100 YEARS



Croce Rossa Italiana

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The mission of Save the Children Italy is to develop and implement training activities to support social workers in the identification, protection and ward ship of minors who are potential victims of trafficking and exploitation.

In addition to this document, Save the Children has also drafted Identifying Minors who are Victims of Trafficking and Exploitation in Italy.

The two documents represent the update of the AGIRE Guidelines (2012) and the Protection First Book (2013).

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1. INTRODUCTION

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: DEFINITION AND PURPOSES

The purpose of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for actual or potential victims of trafficking or severe exploitation of human beings is to formalize a document containing all recommended measures, actions, useful information, modalities and timelines, according to which all minors who are potential victims of trafficking or severe exploitation, particularly Unaccompanied Minors (UAM), can be identified or taken into custody.

The SOPs have been described based on a logical sequence of measures/actions and these should be put in place by various actors, starting from the arrival on the Italian territory. However, the application of the procedures doesn't necessarily imply that the order below will be rigorously followed.

The operators responsible for identifying minors as potential victims of trafficking and/or severe exploitation may change the order of application of the actions, or indeed apply more than one action at the same time, considering the context where the minor is and the specific situation.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES' TARGET AUDIENCE

The target audience of the SOPs is mainly: operators and cultural mediators working on the disembark operations and identification procedures, operators and cultural mediators working in refugee centers, transition camps, communities and anti-trafficking units, but also Public Security Forces, Social Services workers, Judicial authorities and private citizens finding a minor in condition of need or in a risky situation.

TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

In Italy **trafficking** and the **exploitation of human beings**, including minors, are very common issues, tackled daily by the relevant authorities.

Trafficking of human beings: the crime of trafficking comprises three elements¹: the conduct: recruitment, transport, transfer, hosting of people; the tool: the use of force, coercion, abuse of power, exchange of money or benefits to get the victim's "consent"; and the purpose: prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, allocation and removal of organs.

Every person under 18 years old, who is recruited, transported, transferred or hosted for exploitation purpose, in or out of the person's home country, even without being coerced, cheated or abused, can be described as a minor who is a **victim of trafficking**.

The international legislation² describes as severe exploitation of child labor:

1. All forms of slavery and slaveholding practices, such as trade and trafficking of minors, debt servitude, forced labor, including enforced recruitment of minors in the armed forces;
2. Employment, recruitment and proffer of minors for prostitution;
3. Employment, recruitment and proffer of minors for illegal activities;
4. Other forms of labor which, for nature and circumstances under which they are performed, risk compromising the health, safety and the morality of the minor.

No matter how they entered the country of destination, victims are always forced to be dependent and exploited through the use of physical and psychological violence. For this reason, in many cases the victim is subject to forced labor, whose definition can be found on the ILO Convention n. 29 (c. 29) of 1930.

The **trafficking of migrant minors** occurs when illegal entry to a country is given to someone who is not a citizen or resident of that country, in order to gain material or economic benefits.

1 The definition provided by the United Nations was later integrated in the European Conventions and legislation

2 ILO, 1999, Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, available at the following link https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C182.

IDENTIFICATION OF A MINOR WHO IS A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING

Trafficking and exploitation are hidden issues: the emersion and identification of the victims represents a challenge for all the operators involved.

The form of control, coercion and violence the victims receive from smugglers and exploiters are the first reasons why the victims struggle to ask for help and escape from their state of subjugation. At the same time, the fear of the consequences of a potential rebellion, the scarce perception of their status of victims, the feelings of “gratitude” to those who helped them to leave the country of origin, often interfere with the process of identification of the victims of trafficking and therefore the possibility of offering them adequate assistance.

The difficulties of detecting a situation of trafficking or exploitation constitute an obstacle in the attempt of establishing a relationship of trust with the victim and the victim’s identification itself.

On the contrary, an early identification facilitates the adoption of the adequate measures of assistance, contained in the current legislation, allowing the victims to escape from exploitation. The faster the processes of identification, the more efficacious are the measures of assistance: a prompt intervention may prevent the victim from being physically involved in a situation of exploitation³.

The procedure of identification of the minor, may they be accompanied or unaccompanied, current or potential victim of trafficking and/or severe exploitation, comprises of two stages:

- a first stage of **preliminary and informal identification**, to be executed mainly through the observation and application of trafficking indicators and profiles, in case of emerging suspects and doubts about the minor’s possible status of victim;
- a second stage of **formal identification**, conducted by qualified and authorized operators, whose purpose is definitely to detect and identify the minor as a victim of trafficking.

Two aspects emerge from this distinction⁴: the first is the necessity to know and correctly apply trafficking indicators and profiles in order to guarantee an efficacious preliminary identification of the victim; the second aspect is the importance of a correct *referral*⁵ to the relevant authorities for a formal completion the identification.

In this coordinated process, an early identification is fundamental to guarantee an efficacious formal identification and, consequently, a correct custody of the minor who is a victim of trafficking.

The process of identification, emersion, custody and exit from exploitation is a unique procedure, and it comprises measures and actions to be adopted by various actors as part of the process of the protection of minors victims of trafficking.

3 UNHCR e Commissione Nazionale per il Diritto di Asilo, 2017, Linee Guida per le Commissioni Territoriali per il riconoscimento della protezione internazionale. L'identificazione delle vittime di tratta tra i richiedenti protezione internazionale e procedure di referral, available at the following link <https://www.unhcr.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Linee-Guida-identificazione-vittime-di-tratta.pdf>.

4 This distinction is the product of studies and researches developed on the subject of identification of victims of trafficking. Worthy of particular attention are the attachments to the National Action Plan against human trafficking and severe identification: Attachment 1 “*Meccanismo Nazionale di Referral per le persone trafficate in Italia*” (*National Mechanism of Referral for the victims of trafficking in Italy*); Attachment 2 “*Linee guida per la definizione di un meccanismo di rapida identificazione delle vittime di tratta e grave sfruttamento*” (*Guidelines for the definition of a mechanism of quick identification of victims of trafficking and heavy exploitation*).

5 *Referral* is to act of informing relevant authorities of specific issues. For further details about the referral system in Italy, see Annex 2.

2. STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES TO IDENTIFY MINORS WHO MAY BE VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

ACTION 1: EVALUATION AND SATISFACTION OF PRIMARY NEEDS

- **WHAT:** it is an immediate evaluation and satisfaction of urgent primary needs, such as food, water, hygiene, clean clothes, rest, urgent medical treatments.
- **WHEN:** the evaluation and satisfaction of primary needs must be conducted as soon as a minor in need is detected.
- **HOW:** before starting any procedure, it is important to assess the physical and psychological health of the minor through interviews and observation with the support of cultural mediators, and eventually through medical and/or psychological assistance.
- **WHERE:** the evaluation and satisfaction of primary needs must be conducted during the disembark operations and identification procedures, in communities, refugee camps or transit camps, day or threshold centers and offices of the Public Security Forces.
- **WHO:** the evaluation and satisfaction of primary needs must be conducted by social service workers, legal consultants, road policing units or refugee centers workers, Public Security Forces or judicial authorities able to detect a minor in need.

ACTION 2: EVALUATION OF PROFILES AND INDICATORS OF TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION⁶

- **WHAT:** it is an evaluation of the minor's peculiarities, his/her history, his/her actions, his/her behavior in relation to potential indicators and profiles of trafficking and heavy exploitation⁷.
- **WHEN:** The evaluation of profiles and indicators of trafficking and exploitation must be conducted as soon as a minor who is an actual or potential victim of trafficking and/or heavy exploitation during a working activity is detected by road policing units' operators or by the Public Security Forces.
- **HOW:** The evaluation of profiles and indicators of trafficking and exploitation must be conducted through formal and informal talks with the minor in the presence of a cultural mediator, as well as a detailed observation of the minor's behavior; through the application of the **principle of benefit of doubt**⁸ in relation to the victim's qualities, age, safety and privacy, as well as his/her cooperation with the authorities.

6 For further information on measures and actions to identify minors victims of trafficking, please refer to the National Referral Mechanism for trafficked people in Italy, available at the following link <https://www.osservatoriointerventitratta.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/allegato-1-meccanismo-nazionale-referral.pdf>

7 For a more in-depth analysis on indicators, please see: Save the Children, 2020, Saper riconoscere minorenni vittime di tratta e sfruttamento in Italia (Identifying minors who are victims of trafficking and exploitation in Italy), in course of publication.

8 The benefit of doubt in relation to the status of victim is applied in case of doubts during the process of identification: the minor is classified as a victim, so that all the actions necessary to his/her protection and safeguard are adopted. For further information, please see Box – *The benefit of doubt*.

- **WHERE:** The evaluation of profiles and indicators of trafficking and exploitation must be conducted in a place where the minor is safe and protected.
- **WHO:** The evaluation of profiles and indicators of trafficking and exploitation must be conducted by immigration workers, operators of local and other public authorities, international organizations or health workers, Public Security Forces or Juvenile Justice authorities.

If the emersion does not occur during the activities mentioned above and if the person who talks first to the minor does not have the opportunity or the adequate expertise to complete a first assessment of the possible trafficking indicators and profiles, that same person needs to call the relevant authorities on the **Anti-Trafficking Green Phone Number 800 290 290**.

CULTURAL MEDIATION

It is paramount to ensure cultural mediation during all the phases of identification process for a victim of trafficking. In fact, the cultural mediator has a key role to develop a relationship of trust with minors, promote the identification process as victims of trafficking, and every protection and inclusion procedure dedicated to them.

Besides, cultural mediators ensure effective and clear communication with all minors, whether they are accompanied or not, thanks to the common linguistic and cultural background.

ACTION 3: ASSESSMENT OF FAMILY RELATIONS

- **WHAT:** The assessment of family relations is the establishment of a potential family relation between the minor and the adults accompanying him/her.
- **WHEN:** An immediate check of a presence of an adult of reference for the minor and the nature of their relationship is necessary. The check has to be executed to provide a quick assessment of the minor's risks and safety.
- **HOW:** The assessment of potential family relations starts with an inspection of the available identity documents; furthermore, the minor and the adults accompanying⁹ him/her will be interviewed separately with the support of a cultural mediator, and the information provided in all the interviews will be compared and examined. In the case of minors, it is necessary to be present during the first telephone calls with the minors family in the country of origin for a complete assessment of risks and safety.
- **WHERE:** The assessment of family relations must be conducted in a place where the minor is safe and protected.
- **WHO:** The assesmet of family relations involve various actors (Public Security Forces, NGOs and International organizations, Embassies or Consulate workers). If you want to verify the possibility to start the procedure, you will take contact with Social Services and with the Juvenile Justice authorities.

⁹ If you want to start a family reunification procedure, you should immediately inform the Social Services and the competent Juvenile Court, in order to verify the relationship between the minor and the adult, and ascertain if there are all the conditions to guarantee the best interest for the minor.

ACTION 4: AGE ASSESSMENT

- **WHAT:** the age assessment involves all the procedures and methods to assess the age of a minor.
- **WHEN:** The age assessment is conducted only in case of well-founded doubts¹⁰.
- **HOW:** The assessment is first of all executed through registry office paperwork with the cooperation of the consular authorities¹¹. If the paperwork is not available or not easy to find and the age of minority is not clear, a social and health assessment may be required to determine the minor's age¹².
- **WHO:** In case of doubt about the age of minority, the age assessment is conducted by the Public Prosecutor's office in the Juvenile Court. In accordance with the guardian and based on specific reasons, the Public Prosecutor's office in the Juvenile Court may in fact request an assessment through a social and health check¹³, under advice of the Public Security Forces or operators of immigration centers.

The social and health check must be executed by a multidisciplinary staff in an adequate environment, in the presence of a cultural mediator and by adopting non-aggressive methods, in respect of the person and his/her alleged age.

THE BENEFIT OF DOUBT

The benefit of doubt is described as the right of an individual to be regarded as a minor even in spite of doubts about that person's actual age.

The victim is effectively classified as a minor, regardless of doubts of his/her actual age, in order to receive immediate access to assistance, support and protection.

The assessment is never completely correct: it is scientifically proven that no medical assessment can provide an exact definition of a person's actual age. In case the result of the social and health exams is uncertain, the age of minority is estimated by law.

ACTION 5: CONTACT AND REFERRAL OF THE MINOR'S GUARDIAN

- **WHAT:**
- ✓ If you are not the guardian, but you are acquainted with the minor, you need to promptly warn the guardian of any doubts whether the minor may or may not be a victim of trafficking.
- ✓ If you are the guardian and the minor may confide you that he or she is victim of trafficking, or you perceive so, promptly inform the social services or the Juvenile Court. If however the danger is imminent, refer to the Public Security Forces. For further instructions and information, call the **Anti-Trafficking Green Phone Number 800 290 290**.
- ✓ If you are the coordinator of the community where the minor is based, promptly inform the guardian about your doubts and together set a plan of action.
- ✓ If you are the coordinator of the community where the minor is based, or an agent of the Public Security Forces dealing with a minor without any form of protection, inform the relevant authorities of the presence of the minor and apply to the relevant Juvenile Court for protection for the minor.

10 Under the pressures from criminal organizations a minor victim of trafficking could declare him/herself as an adult in order to be transferred in a camp or center for adults - with less restrictions - and could more easily be victim of exploitation.

11 The intervention of consular-diplomatic representatives is not requested in case the alleged minor specifically requested for personal protection, or the intention of the alleged minor to request international protection emerged from the interviews, or in case the alleged minor is not in need of international protection.

12 Article 4, comma 2 Legislative Decree N. 24/2014, DPCM (Council of Ministers Presidential Decree) 234/2016.

13 Article 5 comma 4, Legislative Decree 47/2017.

- **WHEN:** The application for protection must be completed as soon as possible when dealing with a minor without a guardian ship¹⁴.
- **HOW:** The application for protection must be conducted by sending the request to the local Juvenile Court.
- **WHO:** The application for protection must be conducted by the legal worker of the center where the minor is based, or it can be requested by the public security authority dealing with an minor.

WHO IS THE GUARDIAN?¹⁵

In the absence of adults, the local Juvenile Court nominates a volunteer within 30 days from the date of the referral. He or she will be the guardian and the legal representative of the minor during the administrative process and will look after the minor.

The guardian must be an adequately experienced and prepared individual that will guarantee the minor specific needs and establish common action with the community where the minor is based; if the minor is not based in any community, the guardian will request the minor to be transferred to a safer place through the relevant Social Services or the Public Security Forces.

ACTION 6: INFORMATION¹⁶

- **WHAT:** The minor must be informed about the risks of exploitation, his/her condition of victim and how to be protected and removed from exploitation¹⁷.
- **WHEN:** During the disembark and identification procedures, or when the minor is transferred in a center or identified in a transit camp, it is possible to proceed with a first report on risks of trafficking and exploitation, to continue with more details after the completion of a preliminary identification of the victim.
Each case is different. The right time for the emersion of the victim's history of trafficking and severe exploitation must be selected cautiously and after a deep evaluation of risks, and attentive consideration of the minor's safety and his/her best interest.
- **HOW:** The information will be provided to the minor through a formal interview and/or a structured activity in a quiet place and in the presence of a cultural mediator. The information provided must be reliable, coherent and clear; it must not raise false expectations and/or confuse and scare the minor.
- **WHERE:** a report on trafficking related risks, as well as possible emersion from exploitation, must be conducted in a safe and protected place for the minor¹⁸.
- **WHO:** The information will be provided to the minor by mediators working in an immigration center, legal consultants or guardians, road policing unit workers, the Public Security Forces or judicial authorities, cultural mediators.

14 Articles. 343, 354, 352, 402 of the Civil Code; Article 19 comma 4 e 4 Legislative Decree 142/2015 and modifications from Legislative Decree 220/2017,

15 Save the Children, 2019, Vita da Tutore (Life as a Guardian), available at the following link <https://www.savethechildren.it/cosa-facciamo/pubblicazioni/vita-da-tutore>.

16 Save the Children, 2020, *Saper riconoscere minorenni vittime di tratta e sfruttamento in Italia (Identifying minors who are victims of trafficking and exploitation in Italy)*, in course of publication.

17 Article 15, Legislative Decree 47/2017.

18 The right of minors to be listened and considered in their opinions must be guaranteed according to article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the interviews must be conducted by adopting a "child-friendly" approach, with the support of a cultural mediator and through a structured method. For more information, please see Save the Children, 2019, Partecipare Si Può! Volume 2. Strumenti e buone pratiche di partecipazione e ascolto dei minori migranti ("Yes! We participate" Volume 2. Tools and good practices to ensure that migrant children arriving in Italy are heard and are offered the chance to participate within society), available at the following link <https://www.savethechildren.it/cosa-facciamo/pubblicazioni/partecipare-si-puo-volume-2>.

ACTION 7: RISK ASSESSMENT¹⁹

- **WHAT:** the risk assessment includes all the activities necessary to evaluate:
 - ✓ The perceptions of the minor in relation to his/her own safety or the safety of his/her family.
 - ✓ Potential immediate or future risks for the minor's safety.
 - ✓ Useful information the minor may already possess to take informed decisions for his/her future.
 - ✓ The awareness of the minor of his/her future.
 - **WHEN:** A prompt risk assessment must be conducted as soon as the victim emerges.
 - **HOW:** A plan for the individual safety of the minor, based on the assessment of his/her risks, his/her needs and their best interest, will be developed after the completion of the identification of the minor a victim of trafficking²⁰.
 - **WHO:** The plan of risk assessment will be conducted and coordinated by several operators: Public Security Forces, judicial authorities, operators of local and other public authorities, immigration services, mediators, NGOs and other international organizations, health workers. If the danger is imminent, an immediate assessment must be requested to the Public Security Forces.
- NB** The necessary prerequisites for an efficacious risk assessment are:
- Safe place;
 - Right time;
 - Adequately prepared professionals;

ACTION 8: FORMAL IDENTIFICATION²¹

- **WHAT:** A formal identification is a procedure to establish if a minor may or may not be a victim of trafficking and exploitation.
- **WHEN:** The formal identification must be conducted after a preliminary identification of the minor as actual or potential victim and exploitation and after a period of recovery and consideration.
- **HOW:** The formal identification must be conducted through a detailed formal interview and after preliminary identification; it is also useful to continue collecting indicators to verify the information provided to the alleged victim of trafficking.
- **WHERE:** Interviews must be conducted through a non-judging approach in a child friendly place, to adequately welcome the minor in an environment which is serene and suitable to the minor's necessities as possible. The interview for the identification must not take place in the same place where the minor is exploited.
- **WHO:** The formal interview must be conducted by professionals working in human trafficking assistance offices²² (public and private social authorities specialized in the realization of programs for emersion, assistance and social integration ex Article. 8, Legislative Decree 286/98 of the Italian legislation), in accordance with other professional figures.

19 A first risk assessment should be put in place when the initial contact with minors begins.

20 Please see Box - "The best interest of the minor".

21 For further information on measures and actions to identify minors victims of trafficking, please refer to the National Referral Mechanism for trafficked people in Italy, available at the following link <https://www.osservatoriointerventitratata.it/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/allegato-1-mecanismo-nazionale-referral.pdf>

22 According to the attachments of the National Plan of Action against human trafficking and severe exploitation, the identification must be carried out by NGOs and the Public Security Forces.

ACTION 9: TRANSFER TO A SPECIALIZED REFUGEE CENTER

- **WHAT:** The transfer to a specialized refugee center is the activity aiming to address the minor to an immigration center specialized in dealing with minors who are victims of trafficking²³.
- **WHEN:** The transfer to a specialized refugee center, subject to tutor's authorization, must take place after the identification of the minor as a victim of trafficking.
- **HOW:** The transfer to a specialized refugee center following tutor's authorization, must take place after a formal identification and risk assessment, after informing the minor and listening to his/her opinion, and if only the transfer represents minor's best interest.
- **WHO:** The transfer to a specialized refugee center must be conducted by the guardian in coordination with the Social Services and anti-trafficking units' workers.

THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MINOR²⁴

The assessment of the best interest of the minor²⁵ is essential when setting a plan of action for the minor. The definition of the best interest is a continuous, transversal and multidisciplinary process which is conducted in every stage of the guardian ship of minor, taking the opinion of the minor into account.

This process is to be conducted by the guardian in coordination with the workers of the community where the minor is based and the relevant social services. In few specific cases operators of road policing unit or international organizations and more often Public Security Forces may be present during the BIA²⁶.

²³ Article 17 Legislative Decree 47/2017; Article 13 Legislative Decree 228/2003.

²⁴ "The evaluation of the best interest has to be based on the specific circumstances of each minor and has to consider specific criteria: family context, condition of the country of origin, particular vulnerabilities, safety, risks the minor is exposed to and relative measures of protection, level of integration in country of arrival, mental and physical health, education and socio-economic conditions". Annex 1 - National Plan of Action against trafficking and severe exploitation of human beings.

²⁵ Article 3, co.1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. "In all decisions regarding a child, of which social assistance public or private institutions, juvenile courts, administrative or legislative authorities have jurisdiction, the best interest of the child must be of primary consideration."

²⁶ The Best Interest Assessment.

ANNEX I

GLOSSARY

- **TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS:**²⁷ is a severe crime²⁸ against the person. In this case, the criminal exploits the victim to gain financial and material benefits. In order to report a crime of trafficking, it is not necessary to have crossed the border, but to have an actual purpose of exploitation.
- **SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS:** it is a crime²⁹ against a State, involving the facilitation of a person's illegal entry into a State, for financial or material benefits. The purpose of this action, although illegal, is not to exploit the person, but to organize the transfer from one state to another.
- **UNACCOMPANIED MINORS:** people below the age of 18 who, after a journey which is often long and dangerous, arrive to Italy unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them or accompanied by an adult who is not an effective relative according to the assessment made by the authorities.
According to the Italian legislation, as minors unaccompanied by an adult, minors have got the right to stay in the Italian territory and start a process of integration, hosted in communities for minors and accompanied by a guardian nominated by the Juvenile Court.
- **A MINOR WHO IS A VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING:** A child who is a victim of trafficking is any individual aged under 18 years who is, inside or outside a country, recruited, transported, transferred, harbored or received for the purpose of exploitation, even if there has been no coercion, deceit, abuse of power or other forms of abuse.
- **EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR:** It means to gain benefits, not necessarily financial, from activities, skills, or actions committed by a minor through imposition, taking advantage of the minor's condition of vulnerability and need.
- **SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:** it is the most common form of exploitation³⁰, is based on the constraint of a person to perform sexual activity in exchange of money. The sexual activity can be performed outdoor, indoor (in a private household), in a night club, in a beauty center or for the production of pornographic material. Victims of sexual exploitation are often victims of violence and other forms of abuse. In Italy, the majority of minors who are victims of trafficking are sexually exploited.

27 Article 3 of the Protocol of the United Nations General Assembly to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000

28 Articles 600 and 601 of the Penal Code, and modifications introduced by the Legislative Decree n.228 of 2003 and n. 24, 2014

29 Article 10bis Legislative Decree n. 286 of the Consolidated Immigration Act, 1998

30 Article 603bis of the Penal Code..

- **LABOR EXPLOITATION:** it is the second most common form of exploitation³¹ among minors in Italy and it occurs when working conditions are disproportioned compared to other workers legally employed. This disproportion is related to lack of a contract, the form of contract, wage, working hours, rest, safety, health of the working environment, health of the workers³².
Labor exploitation is most common in the sectors of agriculture, construction, manufacturing and domestic care³³.
- **NATIONAL ACTION PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OF HUMAN BEINGS (PNA):** it is a program³⁴ elaborated by the Department for Equal Opportunities within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers³⁵ aiming to raise awareness on the issue of trafficking, increase prevention, increase protection and assistance for the victims, and to reinforce prosecution for smugglers and improve coordination between all operators involved in the fight against trafficking.
- **THREE-YEAR PLAN AGAINST LABOR EXPLOITATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT OF WORKFORCE³⁶:** it is a program aiming to tackle the illegal recruitment of workforce and labor exploitation in the agricultural sector and it comprises of three different phases: analysis, emergency intervention and coordinated action that will be conducted in the whole territory of Italy. The coordinated action will be developed according to four priorities: prevention, surveillance, contrast, protection and support for the victims, their social and professional integration.
- **ANTI-TRAFFICKING GREEN PHONE NUMBER (800 290 290):** it is an important telephone helpline which is anonymous, free of charge, active 24/7, in the whole national territory, through which potential victims of trafficking, the police, public and private authorities, associations or private citizens may get in contact with linguistic and cultural mediators covering all linguistic targets and acting in support of victims of trafficking and exploitation.

31 Save the Children, 2019, Piccoli Schiavi Invisibili 2019. Rapporto sui minori vittime di tratta e grave sfruttamento in Italia. IX edizione (Young Invisible Enslaved: The child victims at the heart of trafficking and exploitation in Italy), available at the following link <https://www.savethechildren.it/cosa-facciamo/pubblicazioni/piccoli-schiavi-invisibili-2019>

32 "Labor exploitation comprises of illegal forms of intermediation, recruitment and organization of workforce out of regular employment channels, in violation of the dispositions on the subject of working hours, minimum wages, pension contributions, health and safety at work, degrading conditions workers are subject to due to their condition of vulnerability and need. In case of coercion, labor exploitation can be classified as forced labor". Ministry of Labour and Social Policies, Piano Triennale contrasto a sfruttamento lavorativo in agricoltura e al caporalato 2020-2022 (Three-year Plan against labor exploitation in the agricultural sector and illegal recruitment of workforce 2020-2022), available at the following link <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/priorita/Documents/Piano-Triennale-contrasto-a-sfruttamento-lavorativo-in-agricoltura-e-al-caporalato-2020-2022.pdf>

33 Osservatorio Interventi Tratta (Trafficking Operations Observatory), Department for Equal Opportunities within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

34 Article 13 comma 2Bis Legislative Decree n. 228 of 2003, as introduced by article 9, comma 1, legislative decree n. 24 of 2014.

35 Department for Equal Opportunities within the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, 2016, Piano Nazionale d'Azione contro la tratta e il grave sfruttamento di esseri umani 2016-2018 (National Action Plan against trafficking and severe exploitation of human beings 2016-2018), available at the following link https://www.legislationline.org/download/id/7377/file/Italy_national_action_plan_trafficking_2016-2018_en.pdf

36 The National Action Plan was handled by a technical table at the Ministry of Labor and Social Policies, formed by the representatives of workers and employers of the agricultural sector and the associations of the Third sector; for further information please see note 27.

ANNEX II

THE REFERRAL SYSTEM AND THE LIST OF ANTI-TRAFFICKING AGENCIES

The operators pre-identifying a minor who is potentially a victim of trafficking will have to conduct a referral to the relevant authorities in order to complete the identification. Through referrals, operators communicate the case of the minor and all the information emerging from the measures previously adopted to the relevant authorities.

A correct execution and completion of the referral mechanism is fundamental to support the victims and allow them to exit exploitation. In fact, a minor is identified as a victim can have access – if this is in his/her best interest – to a new accommodation in a secret place and participate to a program of support and social integration; the minor identified as a victim will also be able to request, under specific conditions, a special residency permit for victims of trafficking and/or exploitation.

According to the *Referral* National System, after a preliminary identification of the minor as a potential victim of trafficking, the case of the minor is referred to the local public or private social authority responsible of conducting a program of emersion, support and social integration according to the article 18, comma 3bis, Legislative Decree 286/98 of Italian Legislation.

All anti-trafficking authorities are enlisted in the chart below. In the absence of local relevant authorities, the Anti-Trafficking free phone number can be reached to ask for the correct office where to proceed with the referral.

Region in Italy	Anti-Trafficking Authority	Contacts
TRENTINO ALTO ADIGE	ASSOCIAZIONE LA STRADA (LA STRADA ASSOCIATION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • info@lastrada-derweg.org • tel. 0471 203 111
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA	REGIONE FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA (FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA REGION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • art.18fvg@gmail.com • tel. 331 7705906
LOMBARDY	ASSOCIAZIONE LULE (LULE ASSOCIATION Provinces of Bergamo, Cremona, Mantova, Lecco, Lodi, Pavia, Brescia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tratta@luleonlus.it • tel. 3497537124
	(MUNICIPALITY OF MILAN Metropolitan City of Milan; provinces of Monza Brianza, Varese, Sondrio, Como)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSS.Filtrotratta@comune.milano.it
PIEDMONT AND VALLE D'AOSTA	REGIONE PIEMONTE (PIEDMONT REGION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interventitratta@regione.piemonte.it
LIGURIA	REGIONE LIGURIA (LIGURIA REGION)	HTH Liguria: Hope This Helps 2 – <i>Il sistema Liguria contro la tratta e lo sfruttamento minorile (the Liguria system against trafficking and exploitation of minors)*</i>
VENETO	COMUNE DI VENEZIA (MUNICIPALITY OF VENICE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protezionesociale@comune.venezia.it
EMILIA-ROMAGNA	REGIONE EMILIA ROMAGNA (EMILIA ROMAGNA REGION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servizio Politiche per l'integrazione sociale, il contrasto alla povertà e Terzo settore (Service Policies for Social Integration against poverty and Third Sector) • tel. 0515277073 • info@mondodonna-onlus.it
MARCHE	SOCIETÀ COOPERATIVA SOCIALE ON THE ROAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dropin@ontheroad.coop • tel. 0861 796666 • tel. 3488516943 • dropinpe@ontheroad.coop • tel. 3488516947
TUSCANY	COMUNE DI VIAREGGIO (MUNICIPALITY OF VIAREGGIO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • segreteriatratta@satistoscana.org • Anti-Trafficking Helpline Tuscany 800 186 086

Region in Italy	Anti-Trafficking Authority	Contacts
UMBRIA	REGIONE UMBRIA (UMBRIA REGION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • area.emergenzasociale@borgorete.it
ABRUZZO E MOLISE	ASSOCIAZIONE ON THE ROAD (ON THE ROAD ASSOCIATION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dropin@ontheroadonlus.it • tel. 0861 796666
LATIUM	REGIONE LAZIO (LATIUM REGION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • s.roxanne@comune.roma.it • tel. 0677072404
CAMPANIA	COOPERATIVA DEDALUS (DEDALUS COOPERATIVE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tratta@coopdedalus.it
APULIA	REGIONE PUGLIA (APULIA REGION)	La Puglia non Tratta 3*
BASILICATA	CESTRIM (STUDIES AND RESEARCH CENTERS ON SOUTHERN TERRITORIES)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • donnaelibera@cestrim.org • tel. 329 63 74 651
CALABRIA	REGIONE CALABRIA (CALABRIA REGION)	IN.C.I.P.I.T. – INiziativa Calabra per l'Identificazione, Protezione ed Inclusionione sociale delle vittime di Tratta* (Calabrian Initiative for identification, protection and social inclusion of victims of trafficking)
SARDINIA	CONGREGAZIONE DELLE FIGLIE DELLA CARITÀ (CONGREGATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF CHARITY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • info@fdcsardegna.it • tel. 070.3423701
SICILY	CASA DEI GIOVANI (HOUSE OF THE YOUNG Metropolitan City of Palermo, Free Communal Consortium of Trapani)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tel. 091.90.30.68 • tel. 091.90.44.26
	PROXIMA (Free Communal Consortium of Ragusa, Siracusa, Caltanissetta, Enna, Agrigento)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • info@proximarg.org • emersione@proximarg.org • tel. 0932 22 81 02
	PENELOPE (Provinces Messina and Catania)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tratta@associazionepenelope.it • tel. 0942 550058

* For further contacts, please call the Anti-Trafficking Green Phone Number 800 290 290.

At Save the Children, we want every child to have a future. We work every day with passion, determination and professionalism in Italy and around the world to give children the opportunity to be born and grow up healthy, receive an education and be protected.

When an emergency breaks out, we are among the first to arrive and the last to leave.

We work with local realities and partners to create a network that helps us to meet the needs of children, guarantee their rights and listen to their voice.

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