



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
National Commission for Combating
Trafficking in Human Beings



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

IN CASE OF RISK, SEEK HELP AND CALL THE FOLLOWING
TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

- Single European Emergency Number: **112**
- National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings:
+359 2 807 80 50
 - National hotline against trafficking in human beings
(Foundation Campaign A21): **0800 20 100**
 - Hotline regarding labour exploitation and labour rights violation
(Executive Agency “General Labor Inspectorate”):
0700 17 670
- National telephone line for children (State Agency for Child Protection):
116 111
 - Hotline for support of victims of violence and trafficking
(“Animus Association” Foundation):
0800 1 8676; +359 2 981 7686

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PEOPLE FLEEING UKRAINE AND SEEKING PROTECTION IN BULGARIA

People fleeing areas of military conflict seeking protection in other countries are extremely vulnerable to involvement in human trafficking and exploitation. Many will want to help you, but not everyone is whom they say there are. Some people want to take advantage of your situation. Human trafficking is a serious crime against the person, a serious violation of human rights, and abuse of human dignity.

- **Human trafficking always involves the exploitation of victims in various forms:**
 - sexual exploitation, including forced prostitution;
 - forced / compulsory labor;
 - slavery, forced obedience and similar practices;
 - removal of organs;
 - begging and other coercive criminal activities.
- **In Bulgaria, the use of services provided by victims of trafficking is a crime.**

Find more information about human trafficking at
www.antitraffic.government.bg

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THERE ARE SIGNS YOU CAN LOOK FOR TO KEEP YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE. BE ALERT OF SOMEONE WHO:

- Is asking for **your passport or other identification documents** (apart from public authorities, for example, at border checkpoints or when they are needed for official registration);
- Is asking for **your phone, laptop, or other means of communication**.
- Wants to **remove you from your family** or others you are traveling with.
- Is **offering you a job** that sounds too good to be true.
- Is pressuring you **to perform work, services, or sex** (including to repay 'debts');
- Is offering you **assistance** – such as food – **only if you do such 'services'**
- Is promising to help you **get registered, relocated, or resettled to another country against payment** (except for regular transportation fees);
- Is hiring you but **not paying you or paying only part** of what was promised.
- Is hiring you but **not giving you decent working conditions** or limiting your movement, such as taking your documents or locking the door.



WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR:

- Be alert and follow your intuition about **people you don't know**.
- Do not disclose **your identity documents** to anyone other than government officials.
- Do not show how much **money you have** and do not give **your personal belongings**, especially your mobile phone to others.
- Always **inform your loved ones about where you are** and keep in touch with them if possible.

- Be careful when arranging **transport and accommodation**.
- **When you are offered a job**, research the offer and, in case of doubt, contact the authorities.
- **Know your rights** and where you can access help.
- Seek **reliable information** from trusted sources.



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY:

- Use organized accommodation by **known organizations**, if possible.
- Many reception centers, hotels, hostels, and non-government organizations offer accommodation. Bulgarian National portal for the people affected by the war in Ukraine provides **information on available accommodation**: <https://ukraine.gov.bg/advanced-search/>
- If using an online service provider, select **hosts that have a positive rating** and look at the reviews on the page.
- If you stay with private individuals, try to ask about the person first. **Don't accept to be removed from your family or those you arrived with, and don't give away your documents**. Ask if anything is expected of you in return and always agree on a price beforehand.



IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR TRANSPORTATION:

- Use organized **transportation by known providers**, as far as this is possible.
- Many companies in Europe are now **offering free travel for Ukrainians**. See this webpage for options: <https://ec.europa.eu/free-travel-options>
- **Don't accept to be removed from your family or those you arrived with**, and don't give away your documents. Always agree on a price beforehand.