



## WHERE TO TURN IF A REFUGEE CHILD IS BEING AT RISK

This document was originally developed by the Hungarian Helsinki Committee and other actors<sup>1</sup> working in the field against child abuse. The original document served as a “child abuse case management matrix” or referral pathway for Hungarian children in 2021. It has been adapted by the Child Protection Sub Working Group in 2023 to reflect the referral pathways available to Ukrainian refugee children.

### 1. IF A CHILD IS BEING ABUSED

#### The concept and recognition of child abuse

One of the reasons why recognising and combating child abuse proves to be so difficult is because even our concepts surrounding violence towards children are unclear. [The World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) defines child abuse and neglect as physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, neglect, sexual abuse, and commercial or other exploitation, which results in harm to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity. The [Child Protection Act](#)<sup>2</sup> defines vulnerability as a condition resulting from an activity, a failure to act or a circumstance that inhibits or impedes the child's physical, intellectual, emotional or moral development. According to the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)<sup>3</sup>, violence means physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation and sexual abuse.

Neglect, abuse, violence, endangerment all refer to different concepts, in this document we use the term abuse as a generic term. No matter what we call it, abuse always:

- endangers or harms the child's mental and physical health and development.
- the types and forms of abuse constitute criminal offences
- criminal offences are always preventable
- child abuse always refers to the abuse of a child, a person under the age of 18
- child abuse is never the fault nor the responsibility of the child

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<sup>1</sup> Blue Line Child Crisis Foundation, Hıntalovon Foundation, Hungarian Women’s Lobby, NANE Women’s Right Association, PATENT, Trauma center, National Child Protection Agency, UNICEF Hungary, Terre des hommes Foundation and independent child protection experts. The original document was edited by Viktoria Sebhelyi human trafficking professional

<sup>2</sup> Act XXXI of 1997 on the Protection of Children and Guardianship Administration, Article 5 (n)

<sup>3</sup> Act LXIV of 1991 on the promulgation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, New York, 20 November 1989, Article 19



When talking about abuse, we are referring to physical, mental, sexual abuse and neglect. Abuse can also happen online.

The table below shows the different types of abuse and how to recognise them. Abuse is a spectrum, it has a wide range of different forms and even though not all of them might appear to be abuse in the socially accepted sense of the word, they do have an impact on a child's development.

**Let us not forget that all members of society, including us, are responsible to take action against child abuse.** When it comes to child abuse, the literature agrees that we should trust our instincts and intuition. It is not our job or responsibility to uncover the whole truth, to 'investigate', but if suspicions are raised, our duty as adults is to protect children. The most important thing is to report it immediately, either anonymously or by name, to the local family and child welfare services, the police, and if needed, to the institutions listed in Table 2.

Forms	Manifestations of abuse	Signs of abuse in children		
		Physical symptoms	Behavioural symptoms	Emotional signs
<b>Physical violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● slap, beating, kicking</li> <li>● shoving</li> <li>● strangulation</li> <li>● scalding,</li> <li>● poisoning, forcing drug use</li> <li>● physical punishment</li> <li>● shaking a baby</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● injuries, bruises, fractures on the body, fractured ribs, fractures of several bones, physical injuries and broken bones in the case of babies indicate physical abuse</li> <li>● breathing problems, vomiting, seizures</li> <li>● torn clothes, broken glasses</li> <li>● open wounds, cuts, untreated injuries, bite marks, burns, rope marks</li> <li>● hearing loss, injuries to the mouth or teeth</li> <li>● not taking prescribed medication, drug use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● aggression or passive behaviour</li> <li>● avoids being touched, gets frightened, shudders</li> <li>● alertness or fear, feelings of anxiety or extreme sleepiness</li> <li>● fear of going home</li> <li>● uses aggressive language during play</li> <li>● covers up injuries, e.g. wears long-sleeved clothes in summer (as well)</li> <li>● the child (or parent) is unable to explain the changed physical symptoms, the nature of the injuries is not consistent with what the child says</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● changes in eating and sleeping habits, dressing differently</li> <li>● changes in mood and personality, aggression may appear</li> <li>● the child is alert, asking questions about what is going to happen</li> </ul>
<b>Sexual violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● creating a sexualised atmosphere (telling obscene jokes, making sexually explicit, sexually charged comments)</li> <li>● sexual activity in front of a child, exposing oneself, watching pornographic films with the child, showing sexual images</li> <li>● groping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pregnancy,</li> <li>● genital injuries, infections, oral injuries</li> <li>● sexually transmitted diseases (lower abdominal pain, vaginitis, vaginal discharge, urinary tract infection, pain, burning sensation when urinating, warts)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● avoids being touched, avoids certain people</li> <li>● shy in front of others, does not dress up in front of others in PE class</li> <li>● hardly changes clothes, does not shower or rarely showers</li> <li>● becomes quieter, wants to be alone</li> <li>● becomes overly compliant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● changes in eating and sleeping habits, dressing differently</li> <li>● changes in mood and personality, aggression may appear</li> <li>● strong emotional outbursts or apathy (depending on the time passed since the abuse)</li> <li>● shame, self-blame</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● coercion into nudity</li> <li>● forced oral and/or anal and/or vaginal penetration</li> <li>● sexual exploitation,</li> <li>● child pornography, human trafficking</li> <li>● online sexual harassment: takes place online, can take the form of creating and/or sharing sexual pictures and videos, coercion into online sexual activity, blackmailing for sexual purposes, receiving unwanted sexual requests or comments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● regressive behaviour, such as wetting themselves</li> <li>● bleeding (on genitals, underwear)</li> <li>● feels unwell and experiencing health problems such as headaches, abdominal pain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● knowledge exceeding age or level of maturity about the body's functions and sexuality, sexualised behaviour</li> <li>● violence-related symbols appearing in children's drawings, e.g. drawings of intimate body parts, missing body parts</li> <li>● changes in the child's finances e.g. sudden wealth, new mobile phone, new clothes</li> <li>● drug and alcohol use</li> <li>● truancy, running away from home, running with a gang</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● sense of fear or anxiety, fear of being alone</li> <li>● nightmares, sleep problems</li> <li>● memory intrusions, which is why it seems that the child is not listening, is elsewhere, "daydreaming"</li> <li>● self-harming behaviour (e.g. cutting, wounding, vomiting, etc.)</li> <li>● reduced interest in school, leisure activities, friends, etc.</li> <li>● fear and dread of repeated victimisation (especially in the case of online sexual harassment)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mental, emotional violence</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● intimidation, threats, shouting, screaming</li> <li>● mocking, shaming, ridiculing</li> <li>● "bullying", harassment at school, theft at school</li> <li>● teasing, harassment, "giving a hard time", name-calling</li> <li>● belittling, disparaging the child's performance, rejection</li> <li>● ostracism, isolation</li> <li>● witnessing or listening to domestic violence or the torture of animals</li> <li>● forcing a child to do something they are afraid of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● developmental disorders (in terms of weight and physical growth, speech impediment)</li> <li>● depression and low self-confidence</li> <li>● poor or affected school performance</li> <li>● feeling unwell and experiencing health problems such as headaches, abdominal pain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● deterioration in school grades or very strong compulsion to perform at a maximalist level</li> <li>● does not want to go to school, does not want to go home</li> <li>● extreme behaviour: aggressive or passive behaviour</li> <li>● a compulsion to conform</li> <li>● suicidal or self-harming thinking or behaviour</li> <li>● drug and alcohol use</li> <li>● truancy, running away from home, running with a gang</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● nightmares, sleep problems</li> <li>● health problems such as headaches, stomach pain</li> <li>● shame, self-blame</li> <li>● sense of fear or anxiety</li> <li>● self-harming behaviour (e.g. cutting, wounding, vomiting, etc.)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Neglect</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● physical neglect (the child's basic needs, food, shelter, clothing are not provided or are unsafe, decayed teeth, etc.)</li> <li>● educational neglect (education is not provided)</li> <li>● health and development problems</li> <li>● emotional neglect (lack of a basic sense of security, lack of positive, supportive relationships)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● dehydration</li> <li>● malnutrition</li> <li>● untidy appearance, clothing</li> <li>● Inadequate hygiene (dirty clothes, seasonally inappropriate clothing, scarred body, hunger, unwashed, stool and urine odour)</li> <li>● an illness or deteriorating health condition that has been ignored or left untreated</li> <li>● unsafe housing conditions (e.g. no heating in winter, lice, dirty bed linen, no working toilet in the home)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● sleep problems, eating disorders, hyperactivity and difficulty in concentration</li> <li>● has trouble or is unable to build relationships</li> <li>● extreme behaviour: aggressive or passive behaviour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● nightmares, sleep problems</li> <li>● sense of fear or anxiety</li> <li>● phobias</li> </ul>





## The fight against abuse

Presently in Hungary, the so-called signalling system institutions<sup>4</sup> provide care and different services in order to enforce children's right to protection from abuse. These institutions work according to a set of uniform principles to prevent and eliminate the vulnerability of children. The summary of the rules of procedures can be found [here](#).

A Q&A developed by the Hungarian Child Protection Sub Working Group on the Hungarian signalling system is available [here](#).

**Member institutions of the signalling system<sup>5</sup> are obliged to report** child endangerment to the **child welfare services** and to initiate an administrative procedure if the child has been seriously abused, neglected or is a danger to themselves. The mandatory reporting requirement includes registered foundations, associations, faith based and charity organizations working with children. These organizations might receive information or notice signs of endangerment throughout their social and educational activities, hence **temporary refugee shelters and collective sites** are also obliged to signal. **However, any Hungarian citizen can make a report, including you.**

**The report must be made in case of known abuse and also when the abuse is only alleged (suspected).** The responsibility falls on the member institutions of the signalling system and on citizens to report! Uncovering the details of the abuse is not the duty nor the responsibility of the reporting party but of the investigating authority.

The report must be submitted in writing in Hungarian to the child welfare centres. The report must contain the following information:

1. *Information relating to the child(ren) involved in the abuse or neglect* (name, date of birth, place, mother's name, names of family members if any, addresses).
2. *Information relating to the reporting institution or individual* (name, address, name and contact details of the reporting party).
3. *A brief description of the problem* (the risk factors observed in the life of the child and their family, date of the problem observed, duration of the problem, the frequency of its occurrence).
4. *Actions and proposals made so far.*

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<sup>4</sup> The term signaling system institution refers to institutions that work directly or indirectly with children. A list of these institutions can be found at the end of this document.

<sup>5</sup> Including health care providers (e.g. nurse, general practitioner, pediatrician); institutions providing psycho-social support (e.g. child welfare services and child welfare centers); public educational institutions (e.g. schools, pedagogical services); police, prosecutors, courts; probation services; victim support services; refugee reception centers, temporary refugee shelters; associations, foundations; churches; employment authorities; children's rights representative; juvenile justice facilities; guardianship offices; government offices.







The following institutions can be contacted in cases of child abuse<sup>6</sup>:

name of organisation	contact details of the organisation	outreach	persons they can help	forms of assistance	important information
<b><i>Institutions to be notified first</i></b>					
Family and child welfare services (in whose area of competence the child's habitual residence is located)	<p>Based on the location of the child, the relevant child welfare service can be contacted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://szocialisportal.hu/szakmai-intezmenykereso/">https://szocialisportal.hu/szakmai-intezmenykereso/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://csaladitudakozo.kormany.hu/gyermekjoli-etalapellatasok-rendszere">https://csaladitudakozo.kormany.hu/gyermekjoli-etalapellatasok-rendszere</a></li> </ul>	national	children, families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides services for children and families with social, mental health problems and in case of a crisis</li> <li>• Using the tools of social work to provide family support, counselling on benefits and social services, crisis management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is run by local governments (family and child welfare services) or district governments (family and child welfare centres)</li> <li>• Family and child welfare centres provide an out-of-hours stand-by service for crisis situations</li> <li>• Running the signalling system at local level</li> <li>• They can be contacted in Hungarian.</li> </ul>
Hungarian police	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone: 112</li> <li>• Toll-free 24-hour on-call service</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.police.hu/ugyintezes/mit-tegyek">http://www.police.hu/ugyintezes/mit-tegyek</a></li> </ul>	national	adults, children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In case of severe endangerment of the child, immediate (temporary) placement of the child (in a childcare facility, with a foster parent or a relative suitable for fostering)</li> <li>• Police can impose a temporary (72-hour) preventive restraining order</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The police will also make a report to the competent family and child welfare service and involve the guardianship authorities, if needed</li> <li>• The child's testimony should be conducted in a special child-friendly interview room</li> <li>• They can be contacted in Hungarian and English.</li> </ul>
Child protection number (DG Social Affairs and Child Protection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone: 0880212021</li> <li>• Free 24-hour on-call service</li> </ul>	national	adults, children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information, signalling of child at risk</li> <li>• Forwarding the notification to the competent authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be called anonymously</li> <li>• It can be contacted in Hungarian.</li> </ul>
Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (Ombudsman)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phone: +3614757100 and +3680215000</li> <li>• E-mail: <a href="mailto:panasz@ajbh.hu">panasz@ajbh.hu</a></li> </ul>	national	adults and children who have suffered fundamental rights violation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An investigation is carried out in cases of serious (fundamental) rights violations (e.g. child abuse in an institution)</li> <li>• Recommendations are made to the institutions and authorities on the basis of the investigations, monitoring of the implementation is carried out</li> <li>• Their recommendations may result in changes to legislation or practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a general rule, they investigate based on documents, there are no hearings. The only exception is if the complainant explicitly requests a hearing.</li> <li>• There is an on-site investigation if the incident is serious or involves many people.</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> This is a non-exhaustive list and will be updated on a regular basis.



**NGOs that can provide help, support and information in UKRAINIAN. The "forms of assistance" and "important information" columns help you to decide which organisation to contact in individual cases.**

<p><b>Blue Line Foundation for Children in Crisis</b></p> 	<p>Free 24-hour on-call service in Hungarian: Phone: 116111 E-mail: <a href="https://kek-vonal.hu">https://kek-vonal.hu</a></p> <p>In Ukrainian the helpline is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 4-8 PM Phone: +36-80/984-590 E-mail: <a href="mailto:ukraine@kek-vonal.hu">ukraine@kek-vonal.hu</a></p> <p>Website: <a href="https://kek-vonal.hu/">https://kek-vonal.hu/</a></p>	<p>national</p>	<p>adults, children, professionals, relatives</p>	<p>Mental health helpline for children</p>	<p>They can be contacted in Hungarian, but also in Ukrainian during dedicated hours</p> <p>Can be called anonymously</p>
<p><b>Menedek Association</b></p> 	<p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:menedek@menedek.hu">menedek@menedek.hu</a> Phone: +36204507245 Website: <a href="https://menedek.hu/">https://menedek.hu/</a></p>	<p>national, in-person support mainly in Budapest</p>	<p>children, adults</p>	<p>Psycho-social support for families: Holistic support for integration, including counselling on livelihood, employment, school enrolment, mental health. Referral to other organizations on a need basis.</p>	<p>They can be contacted in Ukrainian, English or Hungarian.</p> <p>Referrals can be made to specific services.</p>
<p><b>Cordelia Foundation</b></p> 	<p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:cordelia@cordelia.hu">cordelia@cordelia.hu</a> Phone: +3613491450 Website: <a href="https://cordelia.hu/en/">https://cordelia.hu/en/</a></p>	<p>national, in-person support mainly in Budapest</p>	<p>children, adults</p>	<p>Psycho-social support for families: Individual and group sessions for psychosocial support for children and adults.</p>	<p>They can be contacted in Ukrainian, English or Hungarian.</p>
<p><b>UNHCR Helpline</b></p> 	<p><b>Phone:</b> <a href="tel:+3680984583">+3680984583</a> (Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm) <b>Website:</b> <a href="https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/">https://help.unhcr.org/hungary/</a></p>	<p>national</p>	<p>information provision, referrals to specific services</p>	<p>UNHCR Refugee Helpline is toll free from Hungarian numbers. The helpline provides information on available services or makes referrals if needed.</p>	<p>They can be contacted in Ukrainian, English or Hungarian.</p> <p>Referrals can be made to specific services.</p>



## 2. IF A CHILD IS BEING UNACCOMPANIED

### Who is an unaccompanied child?

- **According to European Law: Art. 2 f 2001/55/EC** (Temporary Protection Directive) *'unaccompanied minors'* means *third-country nationals or stateless persons below the age of eighteen, who arrive on the territory of the Member States **unaccompanied by an adult responsible for them whether by law or custom**, and for as long as they are **not effectively taken into the care of such a person**, or minors who are left unaccompanied after they have entered the territory of the Member States.*
- *According to Hungarian law<sup>7</sup> the term "unaccompanied minor" is defined similarly, namely as follows: "unaccompanied minors: citizens of a third country below the age of **18 years** who have entered the territory of Hungary **without the company of a person of adult** age responsible for their supervision **under law or custom**, or who remained without supervision following entry; as long as they are not effectively taken into the care of such a person."*
- This includes the following situations:
  - **a child is completely alone**
  - **a child is travelling with related adult(s), but not with the parent/legal guardian (e.g. a child with a grandmother, uncle, cousin, etc.)** – these children are also considered 'separated'<sup>8</sup>: A 'separated child' is a child who has been separated from both parents, or from their previous legal or customary primary care-givers, but not necessarily from other relatives. These may, therefore, include children accompanied by other adult family members.<sup>9</sup>
  - **a child is travelling with non-related adult(s), without the parent/legal guardian** – a child might be travelling with a neighbor or with friends of the parents, they are considered unaccompanied irrespectively whether the adults have been provided by the **parent(s) an authorization** to travel with the child and/or provide temporary care.
  - **a child is travelling with peers but without the parent/legal guardian**

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<sup>7</sup> Section 2(b) of Act II of 2007 on the Admission and Right of Residence of Third-Country Nationals (hereinafter "Third Country Nationals Act") and Section 2(f) of Act LXXX of 2007 on Asylum.

<sup>8</sup> [FAQs UAMs and separated children TPD\\_en\\_1.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> General Comment No. 6 from the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Treatment of unaccompanied and separated children outside their country of origin, 2005 ([here](#)).





### To report a case of an unaccompanied child

During working hours please contact the Legal Guardianship authorities.

Outside of working hours please contact the Police.

However, if you are at a border crossing point, please always reach out to the Police first.

**The Legal Guardianship authority** will – in cases of children travelling with adults that are not their parents – assess the relationship between the child and the accompanying adult, or in cases of children travelling alone or with their peers place the child in suitable childcare facilities and appoint a legal guardian.

You can search for the territorial (járások) legal guardianship office at this website: <https://www.kormanyhivatal.hu/hu>

You will need to select the county first on the left side of the page, then the relevant territorial office ('járási hivatal').

Otherwise, you can also contact the **Budapest Guardianship Office Guardianship Department** from anywhere in the country via **(1) 896-0468 or (1) 896-0469 gyamugyi.fosztaly@bfkh.gov.hu**

**The Police** is available 24/7 and will refer cases of unaccompanied and separated children to the Legal Guardian authority.

**You can contact the police at the general emergency line wherever you are in the country: 112.**

Alternatively, you can contact the **local county police**:

County police	Contact
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	06-46/514-500, 06-46/514-506, <a href="mailto:borsodmrk@borsod.police.hu">borsodmrk@borsod.police.hu</a>
Szabolcs-Szatmár	06-42/524-600, <a href="mailto:szabolcsmrk@szabolcs.police.hu">szabolcsmrk@szabolcs.police.hu</a>
Hajdú-Bihar	06-52/516-400, <a href="mailto:hajdumrk@hajdu.police.hu">hajdumrk@hajdu.police.hu</a>
Nógrád	06-32/411-255, <a href="mailto:nogradmrk@nograd.police.hu">nogradmrk@nograd.police.hu</a>
Heves	06-36/522-111, <a href="mailto:hevesmrk@heves.police.hu">hevesmrk@heves.police.hu</a>
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	06-56/501-600, <a href="mailto:jaszmrk@jasz.police.hu">jaszmrk@jasz.police.hu</a>
Békés	06-66/523-700, <a href="mailto:bekesmrk@bekes.police.hu">bekesmrk@bekes.police.hu</a>
Budapest	06-1/443-5000, <a href="mailto:budapest@budapest.police.hu">budapest@budapest.police.hu</a>
Pest	06-1/443-5800, <a href="mailto:pestmrk@pest.police.hu">pestmrk@pest.police.hu</a>
Bács-Kiskun	06-76/513-300, <a href="mailto:bacsmrk@bacs.police.hu">bacsmrk@bacs.police.hu</a>
Csongrád-Csanád	06-62/562-400, <a href="mailto:ugyelet.csongradmrk@csongrad.police.hu">ugyelet.csongradmrk@csongrad.police.hu</a>
Komárom-Esztergom	06-34/517-777, <a href="mailto:komarommrk@komarom.police.hu">komarommrk@komarom.police.hu</a>
Fejér	06-22/541-600, <a href="mailto:fejermrk@fejer.police.hu">fejermrk@fejer.police.hu</a>



Tolna	06-74/501-100, <a href="mailto:titk.tolnamrfk@tolna.police.hu">titk.tolnamrfk@tolna.police.hu</a>
Baranya	06-72/504-400, <a href="mailto:ugyelet.baranyamrfk@baranya.police.hu">ugyelet.baranyamrfk@baranya.police.hu</a>
Somogy	06-82/502-700, <a href="mailto:somogytitk@somogy.police.hu">somogytitk@somogy.police.hu</a>
Veszprém	06-88/428-022, <a href="mailto:titk.veszpremmrfk@veszprem.police.hu">titk.veszpremmrfk@veszprem.police.hu</a>
Győr-Moson-Sopron	06-96/520-000, <a href="mailto:gyormrfk@gyor.police.hu">gyormrfk@gyor.police.hu</a>
Vas	06-94/521-011, <a href="mailto:vasmrfk@vas.police.hu">vasmrfk@vas.police.hu</a>
Zala	06-92/504-300, <a href="mailto:zalamrfk@zala.police.hu">zalamrfk@zala.police.hu</a>

### 3. IF A CHILD IS BEING AT RISK OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

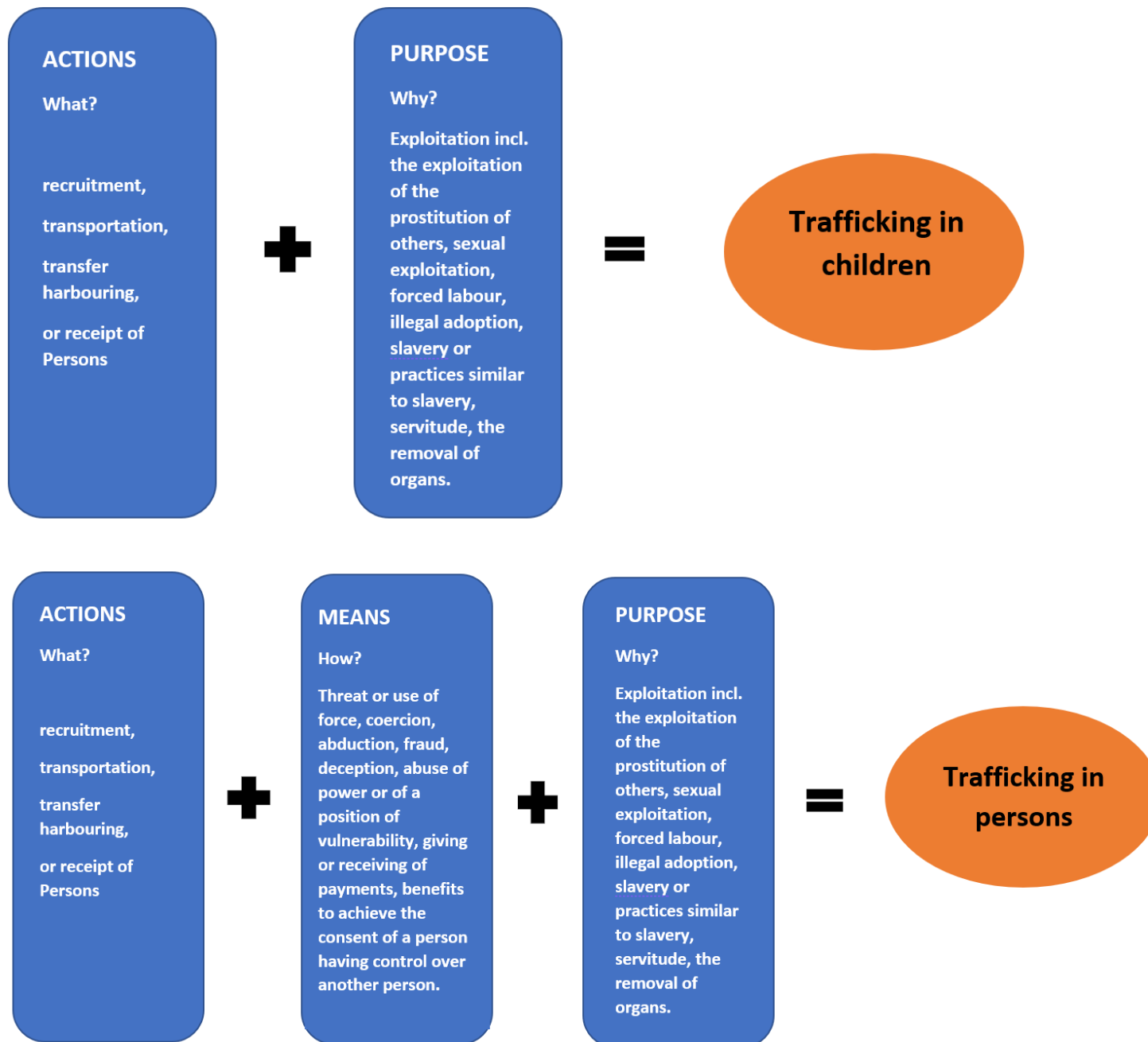
#### The concept of trafficking in persons

**Trafficking in persons** means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. ([Art. 3 of the UN Trafficking Protocol](#))

It is possible to identify a case or incident of human trafficking by establishing if three key elements of the definition (in Article 3 of the Trafficking Protocol and from the national legal framework) are present. The three elements are, **The Act** – what is done, **The Means** – how it is done, and **The Purpose** – why it is done. One of these three elements is sufficient to identify a potential case of Human Trafficking.

**Trafficking of children** - The UN Trafficking Protocol states that, “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered “trafficking in persons” even if this does not involve any of the means” [Article 3 (c)]. This is due to the particular vulnerability of children.

A **child** is a person **under the age of 18 years**.





### Special indicators for relevant stakeholders that a child may have been trafficked/'at risk' of being trafficked

Source: UNICEF, [Practical Guide on identification of victims and persons at-risk of trafficking in human beings](#)

- The child does not appear to be the age given in the passport (i.e., appears older or younger);
- The child says she or he has a different name or other personal details to those in the passport;
- A child is unaccompanied and is not participating in a group visit organized by a recognized school, church or sporting organization;
- When asked whether she or he is being met on arrival, the child says she or he has to make a telephone call;
- A child is unable to produce their passport;
- The child is 'unaccompanied'
- The child looks intimidated and behaves in a way that does not correspond with behaviour typical of children their age;
- Claim made by an adult that he or she has "found" an unaccompanied child;
- Child presenting the accompanying adult as a relative different than his/her parents (uncle, cousin, etc.);
- Infants found with people of other nationalities indicating illegal adoptions/ trafficking.

UNICEF, [Practical Guide on identification of victims and persons at-risk of trafficking in human beings](#) provides some guiding questions for all frontline responders.

Reporting and referrals should always be done with the informed consent of the victims. Victims of human trafficking often worry about reporting and referrals to the police due to their immigration status, fear of deportation and fear from real and credible reprisals from the traffickers.

However, when it comes to **children**, frontline responders have an obligation and a unique position to observe and report signs of human trafficking encountered in their daily work. Their role is not to formally identify victims of trafficking but to recognize or spot certain signs that may indicate a potential case and **refer/report the case to the relevant authorities**.

**You can contact the police at the general emergency line wherever you are in the country: 112**



Alternatively, you can contact the **local county police**:

<b>County police</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	06-46/514-500, 06-46/514-506, <a href="mailto:borsodmrfk@borsod.police.hu">borsodmrfk@borsod.police.hu</a>
Szabolcs-Szatmár	06-42/524-600, <a href="mailto:szabolcsmrfk@szabolcs.police.hu">szabolcsmrfk@szabolcs.police.hu</a>
Hajdú-Bihar	06-52/516-400, <a href="mailto:hajdumrfk@hajdu.police.hu">hajdumrfk@hajdu.police.hu</a>
Nógrád	06-32/411-255, <a href="mailto:nogradmrfk@nograd.police.hu">nogradmrfk@nograd.police.hu</a>
Heves	06-36/522-111, <a href="mailto:hevesmrfk@heves.police.hu">hevesmrfk@heves.police.hu</a>
Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok	06-56/501-600, <a href="mailto:jaszmrk@jasz.police.hu">jaszmrk@jasz.police.hu</a>
Békés	06-66/523-700, <a href="mailto:bekesmrfk@bekes.police.hu">bekesmrfk@bekes.police.hu</a>
Budapest	06-1/443-5000, <a href="mailto:budapest@budapest.police.hu">budapest@budapest.police.hu</a>
Pest	06-1/443-5800, <a href="mailto:pestmrfk@pest.police.hu">pestmrfk@pest.police.hu</a>
Bács-Kiskun	06-76/513-300, <a href="mailto:bacsmrfk@bacs.police.hu">bacsmrfk@bacs.police.hu</a>
Csongrád-Csanád	06-62/562-400, <a href="mailto:ugyelet.csongradmrfk@csongrad.police.hu">ugyelet.csongradmrfk@csongrad.police.hu</a>
Komárom-Esztergom	06-34/517-777, <a href="mailto:komarommrfk@komarom.police.hu">komarommrfk@komarom.police.hu</a>
Fejér	06-22/541-600, <a href="mailto:fejermrfk@fejer.police.hu">fejermrfk@fejer.police.hu</a>
Tolna	06-74/501-100, <a href="mailto:titk.tolnamrfk@tolna.police.hu">titk.tolnamrfk@tolna.police.hu</a>
Baranya	06-72/504-400, <a href="mailto:ugyelet.baranyamrfk@baranya.police.hu">ugyelet.baranyamrfk@baranya.police.hu</a>
Somogy	06-82/502-700, <a href="mailto:somogytitk@somogy.police.hu">somogytitk@somogy.police.hu</a>
Veszprém	06-88/428-022, <a href="mailto:titk.veszpremmrfk@veszprem.police.hu">titk.veszpremmrfk@veszprem.police.hu</a>
Győr-Moson-Sopron	06-96/520-000, <a href="mailto:gyormrfk@gyor.police.hu">gyormrfk@gyor.police.hu</a>
Vas	06-94/521-011, <a href="mailto:vasmrfk@vas.police.hu">vasmrfk@vas.police.hu</a>
Zala	06-92/504-300, <a href="mailto:zalamrfk@zala.police.hu">zalamrfk@zala.police.hu</a>

**You can also contact the Legal Guardianship authorities.**

The Legal Guardianship authority will – in cases of children travelling with adults that are not their parents – assess the relationship between the child and the accompanying adult, or in cases of children travelling alone or with their peers place the child in suitable childcare facilities and appoint a legal guardian.

You can search for the territorial (járások) legal guardianship office at this website: <https://www.kormanyhivatal.hu/hu>

You will need to select the county first on the left side of the page, then the relevant territorial office ('járási hivatal').

Otherwise, you can also contact the **Budapest Guardianship Office Guardianship Department** from anywhere in the country via **(1) 896-0468 or (1) 896-0469 and [gyamugyi.fosztaly@bfkh.gov.hu](mailto:gyamugyi.fosztaly@bfkh.gov.hu)**



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