

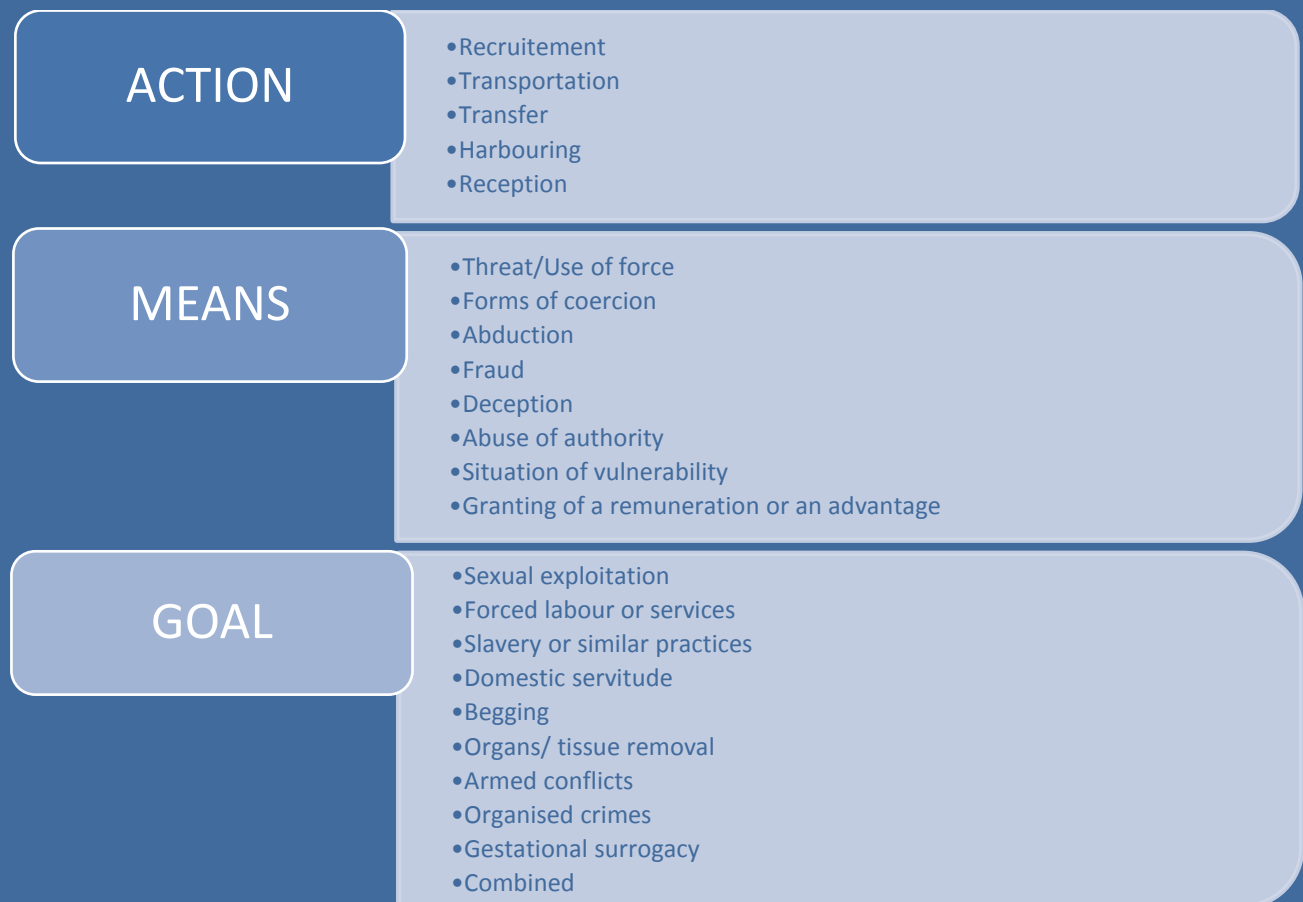


## MAIN INDICATORS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

« Identifying a trafficking victim through one or several interviews (carried out outside of the exploitation site) can rely on multiple concordant indicators. It is not a matter of proving anything, but rather of identifying certain situations, often complex, where the persons do not define themselves as victims per say.” (Ac-Sé scheme, ALC association).

The identification process consists of examining the specific circumstances of each individual case before asking the person targeted questions related to trafficking.

### ◆ DEFINITION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



## MAIN INDICATORS

### I – Identity and travel documents

*The person:*

- did not plan/organize his/her travel herself/himself and/or is not aware of his/her itinerary to the destination country
- has become indebted to a third person who paid for his/her travel to the country of destination
- does not own any identity or travel documents - or those are being held by a third person
- carries forged identity documents
- is originally from an area known as a source of human trafficking victims
- has travelled with other persons whom s/he did not know prior to the travel
- remained in transit countries for a long period of time

### II - Conditions of exploitation

*The person:*

- has been offered work in the destination country
- has been promised an attractive salary and/or working conditions
- works very long hours
- has not any days off
- receive no or little payment
- suffers disproportionate salary deductions in order to pay for rent, clothing, food, etc.
- is deprived of any access to health care
- has not signed any employment contract, or has not received his/her own copy of that contract
- appears to suffer from physical injuries due to the use of coercion means

### III – Housing/Accommodation and living conditions

*The person:*

- is not at all/ or not very familiar with the language of the destination country
- lives in insanitary conditions that do not preserve his/her dignity
- did not choose his/her accommodation and is not allowed to move anywhere else
- is not aware of his/her address
- is not allowed to have guests in his/her home
- has a restricted access to sanitary facilities
- does not have a social life, or only a very limited one
- suffers violence or threats
- is a witness to his/her family suffering violence or threats

### IV- Freedom of speech and movement

*The person:*

- shows signs of anxiety
- shows deep mistrust towards authorities
- allows a third person to speak in his/her place
- is under permanent control and cannot move without being accompanied

## COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

Myth	Reality
« Only women and girls can be victims of trafficking »	Many men and young boys are also victims of trafficking, sometimes to be sexually exploited, and often to be forced into labor. This trend is growing, as identification mechanisms are being developed and systematized.
« Victims of trafficking are always irregular migrants in the country of destination »	Although many trafficking victims are indeed irregular migrants in the country of destination after crossing the border illegally, others were either brought through perfectly legal means (carrying tourism or work visas, etc.), or their situation was legalized after their arrival with the help of their traffickers (through marriages of convenience, asylum procedures, etc.)
« All victims of trafficking are abducted and taken to the site of exploitation against their will. »	Whereas some victims of trafficking are taken by force, many are tricked or lured into leaving willingly, often through false promises of better life/employment opportunities in the destination country.
« If the person knew what was going to happen to him/her, s/he cannot be considered a victim. »	Even if a person accepts a proposed situation or to work under exploitative conditions, s/he can still become a victim of trafficking if the offer s/he accepted differs considerably from the conditions s/he faces in the destination country or if one of the means listed in the definition of trafficking has been used.
« Victims of trafficking are always trafficked by organized criminal networks. »	If some persons are indeed victims of organized criminal networks, single individuals can organize the trafficking of someone. This situation is often found in cases of domestic servitude.
« Victims of trafficking are always beaten, locked up, without identity documents or any freedom of movement. »	This is often true, but victims of trafficking are increasingly not subject to obvious forms of abuse as traffickers change their 'modus operandi' and are using more manipulative methods in order to create the illusion of well-being and freedom for their victims.
« It cannot be human trafficking when the organizer and the victim are related or married/cohabiting/lovers »	Victims are often lured or groomed into a trafficking situation by a friend or relative rather than a stranger or acquaintance.

<p><i>« A person is not a victim of trafficking if s/he claims that s/he has good living conditions. »</i></p>	<p>The traffickers prey on the vulnerable situation of their victims by providing food, clothes, small amounts of money and so forth, to create the illusion of well-being in order to exploit their victims further.</p>
<p><i>« A person is not a victim of trafficking when s/he rejects offers of help and claims that she is not a victim »</i></p>	<p>Among victims, low levels of self-identification exist due to a lack or limited knowledge of their fundamental rights and freedoms as well as fear of imprisonment, retribution and stigmatization.</p>
<p><i>« A person must cross a national border to be considered a victim of trafficking... »</i></p>	<p>Human trafficking does not necessarily imply crossing a border. In some countries, internal trafficking is much more developed than transnational trafficking.</p>
<p><i>« To be considered a victim of trafficking, a person must have experienced a geographical displacement. »</i></p>	<p>One of the « actions » constitutive of trafficking - as defined by the Palermo Protocole - is harbouring/housing. Therefore, a person can become a victim of trafficking without experiencing any geographical displacement.</p>
<p><i>« Smuggling and trafficking are synonyms »</i></p>	<p>Trafficking and the smuggling of migrants are two different things. Smuggling consists in offering services to migrants for a retribution (monetary or else), to allow them to cross a border illegally. Trafficking constitutes a crime against the individual, whereas smuggling is a crime against the country of destination (which does not mean that smuggled migrants cannot be victims of serious violence that might qualify as crimes against the individuals).</p>



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