

You are considered a child if you are under the age of 18



POTENTIAL CHILD VICTIM OF TRAFFICKING

YOUR RIGHTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

A graphic illustration of four hands reaching out from the bottom of the page towards the center. The hands are rendered in a light, semi-transparent style, with colors ranging from light green to light orange. They are arranged in a circle, suggesting support and assistance.

SOME
USEFUL
ADVICE AND
CONTACTS TO
HELP YOU



Co-funded by the European Union



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT



Your guardian will help you to get access to **free assistance** (food, accommodation, showers, doctors, school...) and will ensure that your rights are respected

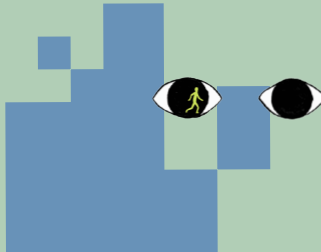
Professionals (police officers, lawyers, guardians, judges, doctors etc) are persons you can trust

A **guardian** or **social worker** will help making decisions with and for you

You have the right to a **free interpreter**

You have the right to a **free lawyer**, for example if you are accused of something during court proceedings or for asylum request

WITHOUT BEING SCARED



COMENSHA
If you think you have
been exploited.
Call
**033 -
448 11 86**
or go to
<http://www.fromhereon.eu>
<http://childline.org.uk/>



NIDOS
(guardianship authority
for separated children)
Phone
**0031-
302391200**
E-mail:
directie@nidos.nl



Defence for Children
ECPAT
the Netherlands
Free legal helpdesk
Phone
**003171-
5160980**
Email
info@defenceforchildren.nl

**DO NOT
HESITATE
TO CLAIM
YOUR
RIGHTS!**





WHAT CAN THE POLICE DO FOR YOU?

The police are here to listen to you and protect you if you are victim of violence or forced to do something you do not want to do.

Police officers are reliable people.

The police will **NOT** cause you any harm.

You will **NOT** be punished for something that you were forced to do, even if it is wrong or against the law. But sometimes the police may not understand at first so speak to your social worker and lawyer for advice.

TO REPORT
A CRIME, OR IF YOU FEAR
FOR YOUR SAFETY OR SOMEONE
ELSE'S, CALL THE POLICE.

IF YOU NEED URGENT HELP

112

FOR NON-URGENT MATTERS

0031-900-8844

WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

You or one of your friends may be a victim of trafficking, without realising it.

Have you been in a situation in which you had to:

- **have sex or perform sexual acts?**
- **work** (for example, in someone's house doing housework or childcare, a factory or a restaurant)?
- **beg, steal or commit crime?**
- **grow, carry or deal drugs?**
- **remove your organs to sell?**
- Repay a '**debt**' by working or providing some other service? Have you/your family been threatened?

If you answer "yes" to one of these questions, you or your friend may be a victim of trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious crime and an abuse of your rights. Talk to a professional you trust if you are concerned so they can help stop the abuse, and protect other young people.

**IN ALL CASES,
ASK THE POLICE
TO EXPLAIN
YOUR RIGHTS:**

**RIGHT TO
BE ACCOMPANIED BY A
TRUSTED ADULT, RIGHT TO
HAVE A FREE LAWYER,**

**FREE MEDICAL HELP,
AND
A FREE INTERPRETER**



WHAT WILL YOUR GUARDIAN DO FOR YOU?

➤ In the Netherlands, all children without a legal caregiver are appointed a guardian until they are 18 years old.

Your guardian **will ensure that all decisions about your care and protection are taken in your best interests.**

Your guardian will help you **to get access to medical and psychological care, to school and to appropriate accommodation.**

Your guardian will also support the process of **your application for a residence permit** and will be there to answer your questions.

INTERPRETERS

➤ You have the **right to a professional interpreter, free of charge**, during court proceedings and police interviews. You are always asked whether you prefer a male or female interpreter. If you do not feel comfortable with your interpreter, you can ask to your guardian to change. It is important for you to know that your interpreter **must respect the confidentiality of your exchanges.**

Do not forget that your guardian is someone you can trust. She/He will act with you and for you



LAWYERS

- In The Netherlands, as a child, you have right to a **free lawyer**.
- If you are victim of trafficking, a lawyer will be appointed by the Legal Aid Board (Raad voor de Rechtsbijstand).
- Nidos, the guardianship authority for separated children, can also find a lawyer for you.

How confidential is the information shared with the lawyer?



- The information you will share with your lawyer is generally confidential. However, information in an asylum claim may be shared, although not with the government from your country of origin. In the same way, information regarding a trafficking situation can be shared with the police, **but only to protect you**.





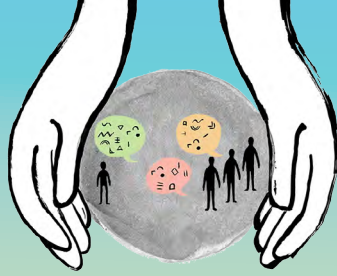
HEALTH

- If you stay legally in the Netherlands, you have access to a free doctor, with whom you can discuss your health issues.
- If you are not staying legally in the Netherlands, you only have the right to necessary free medical care.
- Your guardian will ensure that you receive the medical care you need.

- If you are from another country, you may need permission to stay here. This may mean you have to apply for asylum or a residence permit to remain in the Netherlands. You can apply for asylum at the border or at any point thereafter with the help of your guardian and lawyer.

- Your guardian or immigration lawyer can inform you about your options. It can be a very long and complicated process.

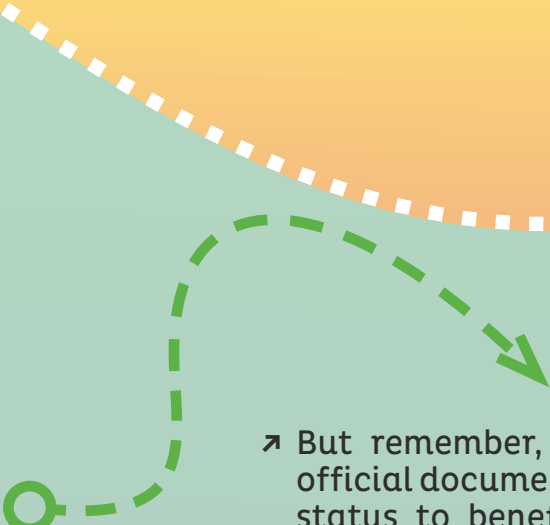




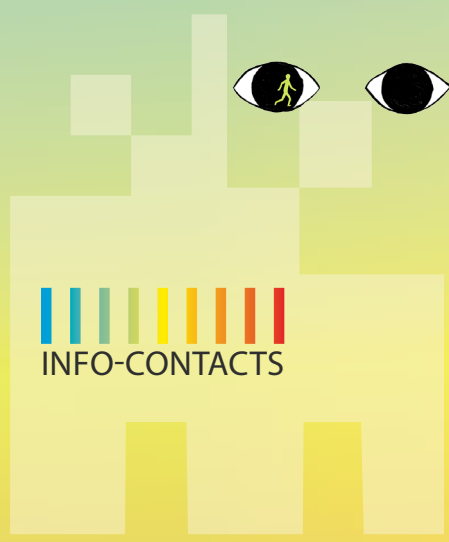
EDUCATION

What are the conditions of access to school?

- In the Netherlands, all children (below 18 years of age) have free access to education. Your guardian will help you to find suitable education.

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- But remember, you do not need official documents or immigration status to benefit from the child protection system.

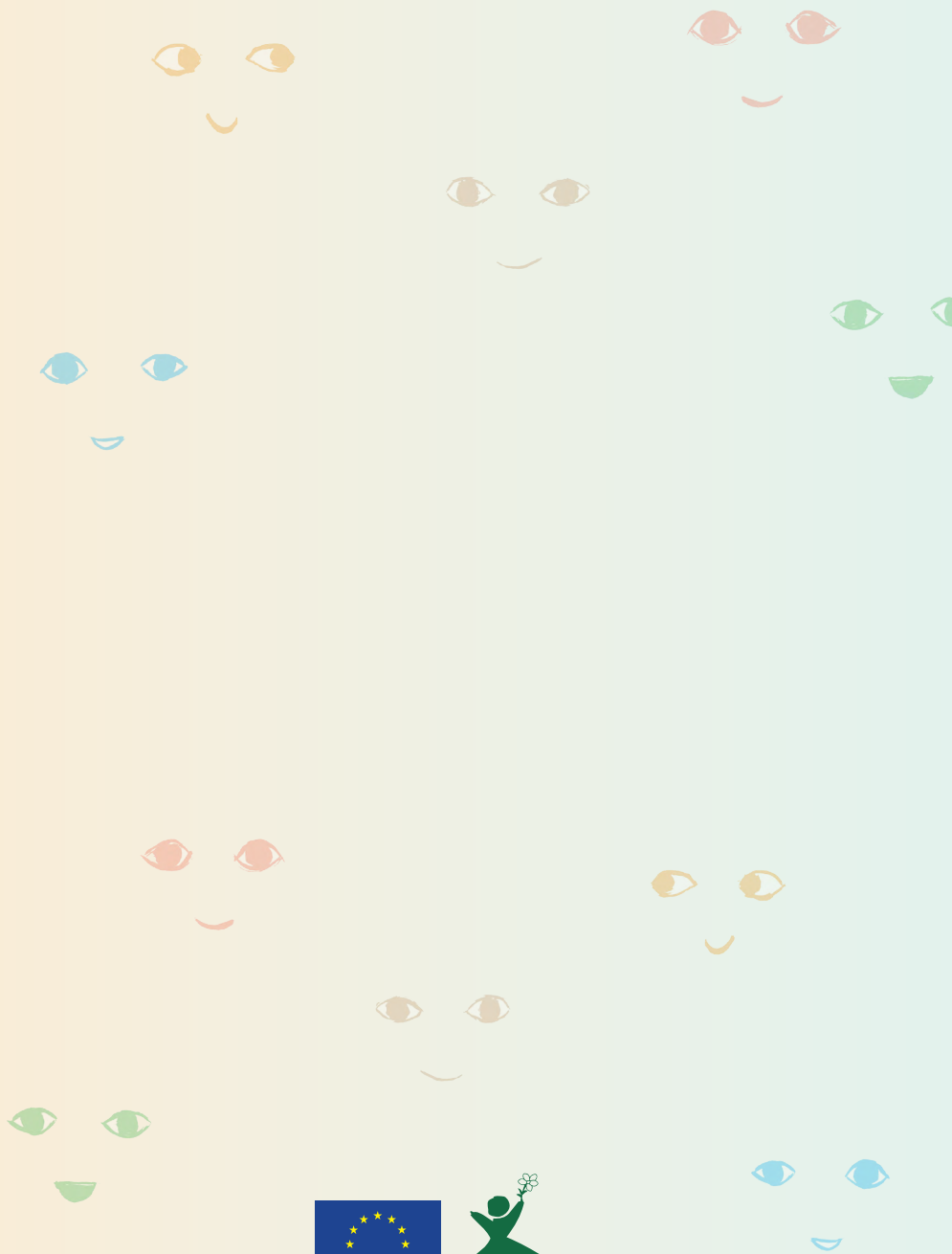




INFO-CONTACTS







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