



Ministerie van Sociale Zaken en  
Werkgelegenheid

## Prostitution and exploitation

# Are you working as a prostitute against your will? Or do you know someone who is being forced to work as a prostitute?

## Ask for help!

**If you are working as a prostitute, it may be that you are being forced to do so, or that you are being exploited. The Dutch government and help organisations want to prevent this, and can offer you help. If any of the following situations applies to you, it is possible that you are being exploited:**

- You have to do work that is different to what you were promised;
- You are aged under 18 and are working as a prostitute;
- You are being forced to work as a prostitute, for example by someone who has arranged the work for you, or by a so-called lover boy;
- The person you are working for is threatening to report you because you are in the Netherlands illegally;
- You do not have your own passport or travel documents in your possession;
- You have to hand over the money you earn (some or all of it) to someone else;
- You have to work even when you are ill;
- You have to pay off a large debt to the person you are working for;
- You have no say about where you work or live;
- You have to work in different places and often do not know where you are;
- You are not allowed to travel by yourself between where you live and where you work;
- You are not allowed to go shopping or buy new clothes by yourself;
- You or your family are being mistreated, blackmailed or threatened;
- You work in unpleasant or poor conditions;
- You are forced to have unsafe sex;
- You have to work long hours;
- You are only allowed to finish work when you have earned a certain amount of money, or after you have had a certain number of clients.

Do any of these situations apply to you, or to someone you know? Then it is possible that you (or he or she) are the victim of exploitation.

**Do not allow this to happen – ask for help!**

## Where can you get help?

You can get help and information from foundation the Red Thread (Stichting De Rode Draad) – even if you are not sure whether you (or someone you know) are being exploited. The Red Thread is an independent foundation. You can telephone 020 624 33 66 (Monday to Friday between 10.00 and 17.00), or visit the website: [www.rodedraad.nl](http://www.rodedraad.nl).

The social workers in the place where you live can also put you in touch with the Human Trafficking Coordination Centre (CoMensha). This is an independent foundation that also provides shelter for victims of exploitation. Everything you say is in complete confidence – it will not be passed on to anyone else. E-mail: [info@comensha.nl](mailto:info@comensha.nl) or telephone: 033 448 11 86 (Monday to Friday between 9.00 and 17.00). Information is available in Dutch and in English.

You can also go to the police for help. The police in the Netherlands can be trusted. Applications for residence permits are handled by the police. If you prefer not to go the police, ask helpers from the organisations mentioned above to inform the police about your situation.

## What are your rights as a victim?

If you are the victim of exploitation or human trafficking and you are in the Netherlands illegally, you can call upon the Dutch B9 scheme. This gives you the following rights:

- Three months in which to decide whether you wish to make an official complaint to the police. You will not be deported during this three-month period;
- Somewhere to stay, money from the government, and medical help;
- A temporary residence permit if you help the authorities to find and bring criminal charges against suspects. The permit will be valid for the amount of time it takes to find, charge and bring the suspects to trial;
- You are also entitled to work in the Netherlands while you hold this residence permit.



## Reporting information

If you have any information about exploitation or human trafficking, but you are too afraid to go the police, you can report this anonymously and free of charge to

**Report Crime Anonymously (Meld Misdaad Anoniem), telephone number 0800 7000.**

## More information

More information is available at [www.prostitutiegoedgeregeld.nl](http://www.prostitutiegoedgeregeld.nl). For more information about working conditions, you can contact the Labour Inspectorate: [www.arbeidsinspectie.nl](http://www.arbeidsinspectie.nl).

Do you have any questions about this brochure, or would you like to order more copies? Call – free of charge - 0800 8051 (Monday to Friday, between 8.00 and 20.00), or go to [www.postbus51.nl](http://www.postbus51.nl).

This brochure is also available in other languages.

**There are also people who can help you in the town or city where you live.**

**This brochure was produced with the help of:**

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