



# ESOL Scotland

## Human Trafficking Statement

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Adults can be at risk of harm from a variety of factors. Adult ESOL learners may be at greater risk of harm due to not having language skills or knowledge of life in Scotland, and therefore be more susceptible to human trafficking and exploitation. ESOL Scotland's Adult Protection Policy should be followed, if someone is concerned about an adult being at risk from abuse or harm. Adults must make their own decisions and supported to make their own decisions.

[Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act \(Scotland\) 2015](#) exists to prevent the crimes of human trafficking and exploitation. These are crimes that involve trading human beings as commodities and exploiting them for profit or personal benefit. These crimes that can be committed against men and women, adults and children, UK citizens and non-UK citizens. Travel from one place to another is not a required action for there to be an offence of human trafficking in Scotland and it does not matter if the victim 'consented'.

(from <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/scotland>)

### Examples of human trafficking and exploitation

Some examples of the forms of exploitation to which victims can be subjected are:

- **Sexual** – including commercial sexual exploitation such as prostitution, pornography, lap dancing and stripping.
- **Labour** – e.g. factory, agricultural, food industry, care work, hospitality industry, construction,
- **Domestic Servitude** – e.g. housework, cooking, childcare
- **Criminal** – e.g. cannabis cultivation, shoplifting, petty crime, fraud (benefits/identity thefts), forced and sham marriages
- **Organ Removal**

### Signs of human trafficking

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Signs that a person is a victim of human trafficking may include the following:

- **Physical Appearance** - Show signs of physical or psychological abuse, look malnourished or unkempt, anxious/ agitated or appear withdrawn and neglected. They may have untreated injuries.
- **Isolation** - Rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control, influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work. Relationships which don't seem right – for example a young teenager appearing to be the boyfriend/ girlfriend of a much older adult.
- **Poor living conditions** - Be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and/ or living and working at the same address.
- **Restricted freedom of movement** Have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes day in day out.
- **Unusual travel times** - Be dropped off / collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night. Unusual travel arrangements- children being dropped off/ picked up in private cars/ taxis at unusual times and in places where they it isn't clear why they'd be there
- **Reluctant to seek help** - Avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where to get help, fear of deportation, fear of violence to them or their family.
- (from <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/scotland>)

If you have a concern, you should discuss this with your manager or development worker immediately. If appropriate, ESOL Scotland's Adult Protection Policy will be followed.