

CATALOGUE OF THE RIGHTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN THE POLISH LEGAL SYSTEM



Ministerstwo Spraw
Wewnętrznych i Administracji

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International Organisation for Migration;
Empowering Children Foundation;
La Strada – Foundation against Trafficking in Human Beings and Slavery.

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INTRODUCTION

This brochure was created to help anyone who may have become a victim of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a very serious crime that occurs when someone uses unethical methods to exploit another person for work, begging, prostitution, theft, or other activities against their will for profit. It often, but not always, involves people in difficult life situations — including foreigners.

If you are a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to assistance and protection. If you suspect someone else might be a victim, share this brochure with them. You do not have to face this alone. In Poland, there are organisations and institutions that provide **free** support—psychological, legal, and medical—and help find a safe place to live.

In this brochure, you will find information about:

- * what human trafficking is,
- * your rights as a victim,
- * where you can turn for help.

Don't be afraid to seek support. You are not alone, and you have the right to free help.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING - WHAT IS IT?

Human trafficking occurs when someone forces another person to do something against their will—such as hard labour, prostitution, begging, theft, or other activities from which the trafficker gains profit. These victims may be deceived, threatened, beaten, constantly controlled by others, burdened with an unending "debt," or deprived of their documents. Sometimes this is done by strangers, and other times by people pretending to offer help.

Traffickers often exploit people with disabilities or those in difficult life or financial situations—without money, a home, or work—or those who do not speak the language or lack legal residency. Offenders may lure victims by promising a future together, lucrative work, or a better life away from previous problems, such as an abusive family. Human traffickers use various manipulation tactics, such as pretending to be a friend or partner. They often spend a lot of time gaining the victim's trust to lower their defences.

Anyone can become a victim

Often, victims do not realize they are victims—they enter relationships with the trafficker because they were lied to, threatened, had nowhere else to go, or did not know what to do. That is why it is so important to remember that even if a victim agreed to the exploitation, they are still a victim of human trafficking.

Human trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, delivery, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of a person by means of:

- * violence¹, threats², deception,
 - * misrepresentation,
 - * exploitation of vulnerability or difficult circumstances,
 - * giving or receiving financial or material benefits—
- for the purpose of exploitation of that person (e.g. for forced labour, prostitution, slavery, trafficking in human organs and others).

This means that anyone who engages in such actions is breaking the law and is subject to severe penalties. The government and non-governmental organisations have a duty to assist people who have become victims of human trafficking.

¹ Violence is intentional behaviour in which someone harms another person by using their advantage—whether physical, emotional, economic, or social—causing pain, suffering, or physical or psychological harm.

² A threat is a promise to harm someone that causes a reasonable fear that the threat will be carried out. A threat can be expressed through words, gestures, or other behaviour that clearly indicates an intention to cause harm.

1. RIGHT TO ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT

As someone who may have been a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to participate in an identification procedure to determine if you are a victim, as well as the right to immediate, safe, comprehensive, and **free assistance** – even before you file an official report with the police or decide to cooperate with law enforcement agencies. This assistance is available to you regardless of your nationality, gender, age, background, sexual orientation, religion, or residency status. If there is even a suspicion that you may have been a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to protection and support from the very first contact with a helping organisation.



You are entitled to assistance by law – you do not have to “earn” it or prove anything. It is enough that there are serious grounds to believe that you may have been a victim of human trafficking.

Contact the National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking (KCIK) or other organisations such as the La Strada Foundation or the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). You can also seek help from the Voivodeship Office at your place of residence, the Justice Fund, or social welfare centre. In each of these places, you will receive support, protection and information to help you make safe and informed decisions.



You can ask for help at any time; there are no time limits. Do not be afraid to request what you are entitled to.

What does the assistance cover?

If you are recognised as a victim (or presumed victim) of human trafficking, you can receive free assistance including:

- * accommodation in a safe place such as a shelter or sheltered housing,
- * food, clothing and personal hygiene products,
- * basic medical care - access to a doctor, treatment, medication, rehabilitation,
- * psychological and psychiatric help, emotional support,
- * assistance of an interpreter if you do not speak Polish,
- * legal help in criminal, migration, family and civil matters,
- * financial assistance, e.g. a hardship benefit or a designated benefit to cover emergency needs³,
- * support from a companion - e.g. during visits to offices, the police or the border guard, court or hospital.

³ These benefits are forms of one-off financial assistance that can be provided to cover basic needs, such as buying medicine, food, clothes, school supplies or paying for an appointment with a specialist.

Who provides the assistance?

Assistance to victims of human trafficking in Poland is provided by, among others:

- * National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking (KCIK)
<https://www.gov.pl/web/kcik-en>
- * non-governmental organisations performing public tasks
- * social welfare centres and local government units.

Legal aid - Your right to information and defence

From the moment you are identified as a victim (or presumed victim) of human trafficking, you are entitled to free legal assistance, including but not limited to:

- * information on available legal options,
- * support in matters related to the authorisation of residence,
- * assistance in criminal proceedings (as a victim/witness),
- * assistance in civil cases, e.g. for compensation or maintaining contact with children,
- * support in obtaining the refugee status or the subsidiary protection.

A victim can appoint a legal representative (a lawyer or legal advisor) even if they cannot afford legal assistance on their own—they can apply for such help by contacting the court handling their case. Children who are victims or unaccompanied receive a court-appointed guardian who represents their interests.

2. RIGHT TO INFORMATION

- * As a person who may be a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to clear, understandable, and detailed information—so that you are aware of your rights and know what you can do to get help and protection.
- * The right to information is one of your most important rights—it applies to you from the very first contact with the police, border guard, prosecutor, court, aid organisation, or any other public institution.



You have the right to know what is happening. You have the right to understand. You have the right to ask questions. If something is unclear to you, ask for an explanation. Reach out to a victim support organisation—their main goal is to help.

What will you be informed of?

You have the right to receive information, among others, on:

- * your rights and obligations as a victim/witness,
- * the available forms of assistance and support, including legal, psychological and social assistance,
- * the course of the criminal proceedings - what happens at each stage,
- * your role in the proceedings - as a victim/witness,
- * the possibility of filing a criminal complaint,
- * the possibility of claiming compensation and damages,
- * the possibility of obtaining the residence status (if you are a foreigner),

- * rules of contact with a lawyer, an attorney, a court-appointed guardian or other representatives.

How will you receive the information?

- * orally or in writing – in a clear, simple language,
- * in a language you understand – with the support of an interpreter,
- * free of charge – you will not have to pay anything to receive this information.



If you do not understand something, you have the right to ask questions and request further explanation. Institutions are obliged to provide you with information in a clear and understandable way.

Who must inform you?

- * The police, border guard, prosecutor, court – during the preparatory and court proceedings,
- * social workers and non-governmental organisations – regarding assistance and support,
- * lawyers, translators, attorneys if they act on your behalf.

You can also receive information from:

- * National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking (KCIK),
- * La Strada Foundation and other organisations supporting victims, such as La Strada or IOM or the Office for Foreigners, the Justice Fund, social welfare centres.

What will you learn?

- * what you can do as a victim (e.g. apply for legal aid or compensation),
- * how the criminal procedure works - step by step,
- * who can represent you and how to contact them,
- * what the deadlines and rules are (e.g. appeals against decisions),
- * what to do if you are afraid to testify or want to avoid contact with the perpetrator.

Why is this important?

- * Because you can make informed decisions about your situation - for example, whether to file a report, whether you want to testify, whether you want to apply for assistance.
- * Because you have the right to defend yourself against perpetrators and to seek justice - therefore you need to know what your rights are.
- * Because awareness of the procedures will give you a sense of security and control.

3. THE RIGHT TO LEGAL RESIDENCE

- * If you are a foreigner and you may have become a victim of trafficking in human beings, you have the right to legal residence in Poland, regardless of your previous residency status. This right serves to protect of your life, health, and dignity and enables you to receive assistance and support.
- * The Polish state offers several forms of residence and protection for victims, depending on the situation and the level of cooperation with law enforcement agencies.

Certificate of presumed victim of trafficking

If there are suspicions that you may be a victim of human trafficking (even without full identification), you can receive a certificate that entitles you to legal residence in Poland:

- * for **3 months** - in the case of adults,
- * for **4 months** - in the case of children (persons under 18 years of age).

The certificate is issued by:

- * police,
- * border guard,
- * prosecutor.

What are the benefits of this certificate?

- * Legal stay in Poland, during which you can receive first aid, rest and make further decisions.
- * No risk of deportation - you cannot be expelled from Poland.
- * The right to social assistance - accommodation, food, medical care, psychological support.

If the certificate is revoked (e.g. due to renewed contact with criminals), you will automatically lose your right to legal residence in Poland.

Temporary residence permit

If you decide to cooperate with law enforcement agencies (e.g. testify against the perpetrators), you can apply for a temporary residence permit:

- * for at least 6 months,
- * with the possibility of extension.

You must meet certain conditions:

- * you must be staying in Poland,
- * you must cooperate with the police, border guard, the prosecutor's office, or court in the human trafficking case,
- * you must cut off contact with people who exploited you.

What does the temporary residence give you?

- * you can work without an additional permit,
- * you have access to health care, education, and social assistance,

- * you can benefit from vocational courses, language courses, and career counselling,
- * you can live in Poland safely and legally - you can get help in filling in your application in KCIK.

Permanent residence permit

After at least 1 year of legal temporary residence as a victim of human trafficking, you can apply for permanent residence - for an indefinite period.

You must meet certain conditions:

- * still be recognized as a victim of human trafficking (Article 115 § 22 of the Penal Code),
- * cooperate with law enforcement authorities,
- * fear returning to your country (due to the risk of revenge, violence, or persecution)

Permanent residence provides stability, the right to long-term stay in Poland and the possibility of further integration. Assistance with the application is available at KCIK.

International protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection)

If you are afraid to return to your country because of:

- * persecution (because of your race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group), or
- * risk of serious harm,

you can receive international protection (refugee status or subsidiary protection) in Poland.

Report to the nearest border guard post, which will accept your application for international protection. Your application will then be considered by the Head of the Office for Foreigners.

During the proceedings, you have the right to:

- * legal residence,
- * accommodation and meals,
- * healthcare,
- * free legal information and interpreter support during the proceedings.

If granted international protection, you will receive a residence card and have the same rights as Polish citizens (except for the right to vote).

Polish identity document for foreigners

If you do not have a passport or other document and stay in Poland based on a certificate of presumed victim of human trafficking, you can receive a temporary identity document valid for 1 year.

This document:

- * confirms your identity in Poland,
- * does not entitle to international travel nor does it confirm citizenship.

Why is this important?

The right to legal residence offers you:

- * protection against deportation,
- * time to make decisions,
- * access to the support,
- * a sense of security and a chance to rebuild your life.

If you are in this situation, you do not have to manage alone.
You can contact:

- * KCIK – <https://www.gov.pl/web/kcik>,
- * The La Strada Foundation or another organisation helping victims of human trafficking,
- * the Voivodeship Office in your place of residence,
- * or the local social welfare centre.

There you will receive help and support in obtaining the relevant document and assistance for the next stage of your life in Poland.

4. RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE IN CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS

- * If you are a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to participate in the criminal case against the perpetrator - as a victim (a person who has been harmed).
- * You do not need to be afraid - you have the right to protection, assistance, and to be heard in safe conditions.

What does this right mean?

It means you can:

- * report the crime to the police or prosecutor's office,
- * participate in the court hearing,
- * answer questions, and also ask questions to others (e.g. witnesses, experts),
- * have a lawyer or representative by your side and during the preliminary proceedings, someone close to you or someone from a supporting organisation,
- * submit a claim for compensation or redress for harm suffered.

What are your rights?


- * the right to an interpreter if you do not speak Polish well,
- * the right to data protection - your name, address and other information will be kept confidential,
- * the right to testify without contact with the perpetrator (e.g. behind a screen, from a separate room or with the assistance of a psychologist),
- * the right to psychological support if you are afraid or emotionally distressed,

- * the right to be informed about the developments in the case – e.g. court hearing dates, court decisions, or the perpetrator's status.



If you are afraid to testify or do not understand what is happening – you have the right to full explanations and assistance.

Contact:

- ! The National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking –
<https://www.gov.pl/web/kcik>
 **22 628 01 20**
- ! La Strada Foundation or other victim support organisation.

5. RIGHT TO COMPENSATION

If you are a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to claim compensation and redress for the harm caused to you - physical, psychological, and material. Compensation is a form of justice that aims to compensate for the damage you have suffered as a result of a crime and to help you rebuild your life.



You have the right to seek justice. You are not alone. Lawyers, NGOs, and support centres can help you obtain compensation. Use your rights.

What is the difference between compensation and redress?

- * Compensation is the reimbursement of actual losses, such as lost earnings, medical treatment, rehabilitation, living expenses, transport, attendance at hearings, etc.
- * Redress is compensation for psychological suffering, pain, stress, humiliation—i.e., moral harm.

What can you apply for?

As a victim, you can apply for:

- * redress for physical and psychological suffering,
- * reimbursement of medical, rehabilitation, and medication costs,
- * compensation for lost earnings,

- * reimbursement of costs related to participation in proceedings (e.g. travel, interpretation),
- * compensation from the state if the perpetrator is unknown, insolvent, or has escaped.

How can you obtain compensation?

There are four main paths:

1. In criminal proceedings – the court may order the perpetrator to pay compensation at your request. State this at the hearing.
2. In civil proceedings – if the criminal court did not grant you compensation or awarded an insufficient amount, you can apply to the civil court.
3. Independently in civil proceedings – even if no criminal proceedings took place.
4. From the state – through compensation – if you are unable to obtain funds from the perpetrator, you can file a claim under the *State Compensation Act*.

What is state compensation?

If you have not been able to recover money from the perpetrator (e.g. they are unknown, have no assets, or fled), you can apply for compensation payment from the state budget.

What does compensation cover?

- * lost earnings or means of support,
- * medical, rehabilitation, and medication costs,
- * funeral expenses (in case of death).

Conditions

- * the crime must be reported to the police, border guard or prosecutor's office,

- * compensation is not granted if the victim has already received funds from other sources (e.g. from the perpetrator, insurance, social assistance).

Applications are submitted to the district court having jurisdiction over the [victim's place of residence](#). Assistance in preparing the application is available through support organisations.

Help from the Justice Fund

If you are a crime victim, you can benefit from immediate assistance - even before a verdict is issued in your case.

The Justice Fund offers:

- * free legal assistance,
- * psychological and therapeutic support,
- * material aid, such as clothing, food, hygiene products, medicines, and hotel accommodation.

Procedures - what to know:

- * In criminal proceedings, the victim or prosecutor can file a request for compensation or redress until the end of the trial.
- * The court may award compensation ex officio (without a request) if it finds the perpetrator caused harm.
- * The prosecutor is obligated to check whether the perpetrator has assets from which money can be recovered.

6. RIGHT TO MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL CARE

If you are a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to assistance. Whether you are in Poland legally or not, you have the right to feel safe and receive support.

What does this mean?

You have the right to:

- * treatment of illnesses and injuries,
- * psychological consultations,
- * psychiatric therapy,
- * access to medications and specialists,
- * rehabilitation.



If help is provided from the Justice Fund, coverage of healthcare costs is possible only if the health impairment resulted from the crime or its consequences.

7. RIGHT TO RETURN TO YOUR COUNTRY

- * If you are a foreigner and have been a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to voluntary and safe return to your country of origin or another country where you previously had legal residence. The decision to return must be voluntary, informed, and made without pressure.
- * The Polish state, in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), provides full organisational, logistical and reintegration support in this regard.



You have the right to decide yourself what is best for you – whether you want to remain in Poland and take advantage of the protection available, or return safely to your country with the help of an international organisation. In every situation, you are entitled to information, support, and protection.

What does the return assistance involve?

If you wish to return to your country, you may receive:

- * information on the situation in the country of return and available forms of support,
- * help in obtaining travel documents (e.g. passport or temporary document),
- * safe transport to the final destination,
- * accommodation and meals before the trip (if needed),

- * medical consultation and care during your trip, if you require them,
- * reintegration, financial, and material assistance after return (intended, for example, for employment, education, healthcare, or purchasing essential items).

Institutions providing assistance

Voluntary return assistance is provided by:

- International Organisation for Migration (IOM) - in cooperation with the border guard and the Office for Foreigners,
- in exceptional cases, also the National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking (KCIK), if the return is temporary or results from other important circumstances.

More information:

 www.migrant.info.pl

Voluntariness and protection of the victim's rights

Participation in the return programme is voluntary, which means that:

- * you decide about your return independently,
- * you can withdraw your consent and cancel your return at any stage,
- * all information is provided in the language you understand,
- * IOM does not provide information about your return to third parties without your consent.

Return risk assessment

If you have been recognised as a victim or alleged victim of human trafficking, before your return IOM:

- * conducts risk assessment related to your return to your country of origin,
- * checks that your return is not associated with a threat for you (e.g. violence, revenge, repressions),
- * consults the local IOM office,
- * analyses together with you whether your return is safe and possible.

Travel arrangements

If you decide to return:

- * IOM will take care of arranging the entire trip, including purchasing tickets, providing transport to the place of departure (airport, railway station),
- * if necessary, they will provide care of an accompanying person (e.g. a physician),
- * IOM also coordinates the so-called transit assistance if there are no direct flights to the country of return, and reception assistance provided upon arrival in the country of destination; as part of this activity, IOM arranges transport from the airport/railway station to the place of residence.

8. RIGHT TO REINTEGRATION

- * If you have been a victim of human trafficking, you have not only the right to protection, but also to return to a normal life - social, family and professional life. This is what the right to reintegration means.
- * Reintegration is a process that helps you regain independence and control over your life, rebuild a sense of security, acquire new skills and become part of society again.



You have the right to new life. Reintegration is not a privilege - it is your right as a survivor of human trafficking. Support is always available, and it is important to make use of it.

What does it mean in practice?

This means that you can benefit from different forms of support that are tailored to your situation and needs. Such assistance may include:

- * language courses if you do not speak Polish,
- * vocational and educational courses that will help you acquire new skills and find a job,
- * assistance in finding a job, including CV preparation, participation in meetings with a career advisor,
- * psychological and social counselling that will help you cope with difficult experience,
- * learning how to plan your budget and daily life so that you can function independently,
- * recreational and social activities that will help you feel a part of society.

How does it look like within KCIK?

In the National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking (KCIK), each person receives an individual assistance plan prepared by specialists. This plan may include:

- * a safe place of residence,
- * material and in-kind support,
- * psychological and psychiatric assistance,
- * free legal aid,
- * health care,
- * participation in language and vocational courses,
- * career guidance and job placement,
- * accompaniment in official and medical matters,
- * organising free time (e.g. arts, sports, integration activities),
- * regular evaluation of your progress and tailoring the support to your situation.

The reintegration's goal

The aim is to enable you to:

- * live independently and safely,
- * return to education or work,
- * regain a sense of self-esteem and empowerment,
- * exercise your full rights as a human being and as a citizen of Poland,
- * be an active member of society.

9. RIGHT TO PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- * As a person who may have been a victim of human trafficking, you have full right to the protection of your privacy - so that no one learns about your situation without your consent.
- * Your personal data, place of residence, life situation, and statements are kept confidential. This is to ensure you feel safe and do not have to worry about any further contact with the perpetrator or being recognised by anyone.



You have a right to protection. You do not have to accept contact with the perpetrator or be afraid that someone will learn your story without your consent and knowledge. All institutions have a duty of care about your privacy.

What does it mean in practice?

- * Your data concerning your place of residence or stay, place of work, telephone number, e-mail address - in the case file - is always kept confidential without you needing to submit a request.
- * Your personal details (first name, surname) may become confidential - in case files, court documents, and even during the hearing.
- * If the public prosecutor or the court deems that your life, health, freedom or property is at risk, it can

order so-called data anonymisation - i.e. replacing your data with a symbol (e.g. "Witness X") or concealing it completely.

- * In special cases, you may be interviewed as an anonymous witness, which means that no one, not even the perpetrator, will know your identity.
- * You have the right to testify without the presence of the offender - e.g. from another room, from behind a screen or via technical devices.
- * If you feel threatened, you can apply for police protection or the right to relocate.

Who must protect your data?

- * the police, the border guard, the prosecutor, the court,
- * NGOs, physicians, psychologists, interpreters,
- * lawyers and advisors - all these people are obliged to keep professional secrecy.

If the perpetrator threatens you or tries to contact you:

- * You have the right to report this to the police or the border guard - protection measures may then be applied (e.g. restraining order).
- * You can receive legal and psychological help from the Justice Fund or KCIK and from organisations such as La Strada.
- * You do not have to prove anything yourself - the institutions are obliged to act if you report a threat.

10. RIGHT TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION

- * Everyone deserves respect, no matter who they are, where they come from, what they look like, what they believe in, what their gender is, what orientation they have or what language they speak.
- * As a person who could have been a victim of human trafficking, you have the right to be treated with dignity and understanding. No one can insult, judge, mock or blame you for what has happened to you.



Your dignity is very important. What happened to you is a crime and it is not your fault. No one has the right to judge you or treat you badly.

What does this mean?

- * You have the right to be treated with respect by everyone you encounter — whether they are law enforcement officers, officials, doctors, translators, lawyers, or organisation staff.
- * You have the right to speak your language - an interpreter should be available.
- * No one has the right to humiliate you, yell at you, ignore you, or make you feel inferior.
- * You have the right to be heard without being interrupted, judged or pressured.
- * No one can discriminate against you because of: nationality, gender, sexual orientation, gender

identity, skin colour, religion, age, disability, the form of exploitation (e.g. sexual work), or residence status.

If someone treats you badly:


- * You have the right to report this, e.g. to the Ombudsman, to an NGO or to KCIK.
- * You can ask for a change of the person helping you if their behaviour hurts or intimidates you.
- * You have the right to assistance and protection - whether you have documents or not and whether you want to testify in court or not.

Where can you find help?

KCIK - Your helpdesk


KCIK is a place of first contact where you can expect full support and care. It is a safe space for anyone who may have been exploited or threatened by human trafficking. The help is completely free and also available to foreigners.

The scope of KCIK's activities includes, among others:

- * 24-hour hotline (also in foreign languages)
 **+22 628 01 20**
 **+48 605 687 750**
- * preliminary identification of victims and assessment of their needs,
- * providing a safe shelter,
- * crisis intervention and coordination of continued assistance,
- * psychological, social and legal counselling,
- * assistance with reintegration and return to normal life.

Justice Fund

List of assistance points across Poland:


 <https://www.funduszsprawiedliwosci.gov.pl/pl/znajdz-osrodek-pomocy>

24-hour support line:

- *  **+48 222 309 900** (Polish, English, Ukrainian, Russian)

The Justice Fund offers:

- * free legal assistance,
- * psychological and therapeutic help,
- * material aid, e.g. purchase of clothing, food, hygiene products, medicines, payment for accommodation.

 International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as part of IOM programme:

- * informs about the availability of assistance and its scope,
- * provides advice on return and reintegration after return;
- * provides accommodation and meals before return;
- * carries out risk assessments related to return in the case of trafficking victims;
- * verifies the validity of travel documents and assists in obtaining them,

- * if necessary, organises a medical escort and provides medical consultation to assess fitness to travel,
- * provides reintegration assistance after return in cooperation with IOM offices in the countries of return.

 <https://poland.iom.int/pl>

 <https://avr.iom.pl/index-pl.html>

 <https://migrant.info.pl/pl/>

REMEMBER:

- ! You have the right to protection, assistance and justice. If you suspect that, someone has abused you or forced you to do something - apply for support.
- ! Your rights are guaranteed by Polish and international law.
- ! If you face such a situation - you do not need to be alone. You can receive help, for example, from the National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the Victims of Trafficking (KCIK).
Contact KCIK or the organisation providing help to victims.

KCIK:

 **HOTLINE: +48 22 628 01 20/+48 605 687 750**

(24/7 around the clock)

<https://www.gov.pl/web/kcik-en>

Border Guard

 **EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER:**

+48 800 422 322

Police

 **997**

Important concepts:

designated benefit - one-time financial help that you can receive to cover important expenses such as the purchase of food, medicines, clothing, essential household items, or visits to a specialist doctor.

hardship benefit - typically granted in urgent, random, and intervention situations. It may be more informal and usually does not require meeting as strictly defined criteria as a designated benefit.

redress - compensation for moral injury, redress for pain, suffering, stress, humiliation, or moral harm.

state compensation - a financial payment made by the state to victims of crimes or their close relatives when they cannot obtain compensation or redress from the perpetrator, insurance, or other sources.

compensation - reimbursement of actual losses, such as lost earnings, costs of treatment, rehabilitation, maintenance, transportation, participation in court hearings, etc.

Legal basis:

- * The Constitution of the Republic of Poland of 2nd April, 1997
- * Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, done in Warsaw on 16 May 2005 (Journal of Laws of 2009, No. 20, item 107)
- * Act of 23 April 1964 – Civil Code (Journal of Laws of 1964, No. 16, item 93; of 2024, item 1061, 1237)
- * Act of 26 June 1974, Labour Code (Journal of Laws of 1974, No. 24, item 141; of 2025, item 277, 807)
- * Act of 6 June 1997, Code of Criminal Procedure (Journal of Laws of 1997, No. 89, item 555; of 2025, item 46, 304)
- * Act of 6 June 1997, Penal Code (Journal of Laws of 1997, No. 88, item 553; of 2025, item 383)
- * Act of 13 June 2003 on Granting Protection to Foreigners within the Territory of the Republic of Poland (Journal of Laws of 2003, No. 128, item 1176; of 2025, No. 223, 389, 619, 621)
- * Act of 7 July 2005 on State Compensation to Victims of Certain Criminal Acts (Journal of Laws 2016, item 325)
- * Act of 14 July 2006 on Entry into, Residence in and Exit from the Territory of the Republic of Poland of Nationals of the European Union Member States and their Family members (Journal of Laws of 2006, No. 144, item 1043; of 2025, item 1164)
- * Act of 3 December 2010 on the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the European Union on Equal Treatment (Journal of Laws of 2010, No. 254, item 1700; of 2025, item 620)
- * Act of 12 December 2013 on Foreigners (Journal of Laws of 2024, item 769, 1222, 1688; of 2025, item 619, 621, 622, 1079)
- * Act of 28 November 2014 on the Protection of and Assistance to the Victim and Witness (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 21; of 2024, item 1228)
- * Act of 5 August 2015 on Free Legal Aid, Free Citizen Advice, and Legal Education (Journal of Laws of 2024, item 1534; of 2025, item 1166)
- * Act of 14 December 2018 on the Protection of Personal Data Processed in Connection with Preventing and Combating Crime (Journal of Laws of 2023, item 1206)
- * Act of 20 March 2025 on the Implementation of Certain Provisions of the European Union concerning Equal Treatment (Journal of Laws of 2025, item 620)
- * Act of 12 March 2004 on Social Assistance (Journal of Laws of 2025, item 620)

- * Regulation of the Minister of Justice of 13 September 2017 on the Fund for Assistance to Victims and Post-Penitentiary Assistance – the Justice Fund (Journal of Laws of 2017, item 1760; of 2024, item 1715).
- * Agreement between the Minister of the Interior and Administration of the Republic of Poland and the International Organisation for Migration on Cooperation in the Field of Voluntary Returns of Foreigners Leaving the Territory of the Republic of Poland Republic of Poland concluded on 12 July 2005 and the Act of 12 December 2013 on foreigners (Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland, "Monitor Polski", 2006, item 46).

