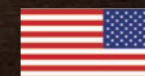




Self Help Booklet

**for awareness-raising and protection
from risks of exploitation and trafficking
in persons in situations of displacement**

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When your protection is a concern,
Your Protection is what we do.



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IOM has been working globally to counter trafficking in persons since the mid-nineties. Our primary aim is to prevent trafficking in persons and to protect victims, in ordinary and in crisis times, while offering them support during the recovery period, including through safe accommodation, medical and psychosocial support, skills development and vocational training, sustainable re/integration, safe return support to their home countries, or in some circumstances, through third country resettlement. To date, IOM has assisted over close to 100,000 trafficked persons globally.

IOM works with various partners to protect victims from trafficking and other associated forms of violence, exploitation and abuse in order to prevent such abuses from occurring; and to support the development and implementation of policies aimed at the prevention and prosecution of these crimes and the protection of victims.



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Acknowledgment and appreciation

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The United Nations Organization for Migration would like also to extend its thanks to IOM colleagues especially the regional thematic specialist covering for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region Irina Todorova, the ATIP Levant regional program officer Dima Haddad, Carly Owens and Manon Cagnard in IOM Iraq, Leen Al Khatib in IOM Jordan, Elissa Bsaibess in IOM Lebanon, Euan McDougall, Khalil Omarshah and Malaz Al Qeddeh in IOM Turkey for their input and review for the information, education and communication (IEC) materials.



Preface

Dear readers,

This book is designed for women, men and children with a view to raise awareness and protect them from the dangers of exploitation or trafficking in persons. Any person may be exposed to these risks as a result of the numerous challenges he/she is facing because of displacement or seeking refuge in another countries.

Displacement often affects individuals and puts them under psychological, economic and social pressure, due to changes the displaced person endures and the implications of this displacement from material, human and social losses.

Sometimes, these changes expose us, dear reader, to many challenges that induce a sense of vulnerability. At times, this sense of vulnerability emanates from the difficult economic situation and the pressing need to improve our economic situation, or from our social status and our attempts to integrate into a new or strange society. Some other times, we may feel very afraid when our life details change from what we were used to in our home country.

Dear reader, this booklet is based on true stories of people who were exposed to human trafficking or exploitation due to vulnerabilities mentioned above. You will also find in this booklet guidelines and recommendations to raise awareness and help you protect yourself from the pitfalls you may encounter on any day of your displacement journey.

Very important note!

The names mentioned in this handbook are fake and do not correspond to the reality. All the drawings and their painters are not connected to the written stories in any way. The paintings and drawings are the product of workshops conducted to raise awareness about the crime of trafficking in persons and exploitation and do not relate directly to the stories.





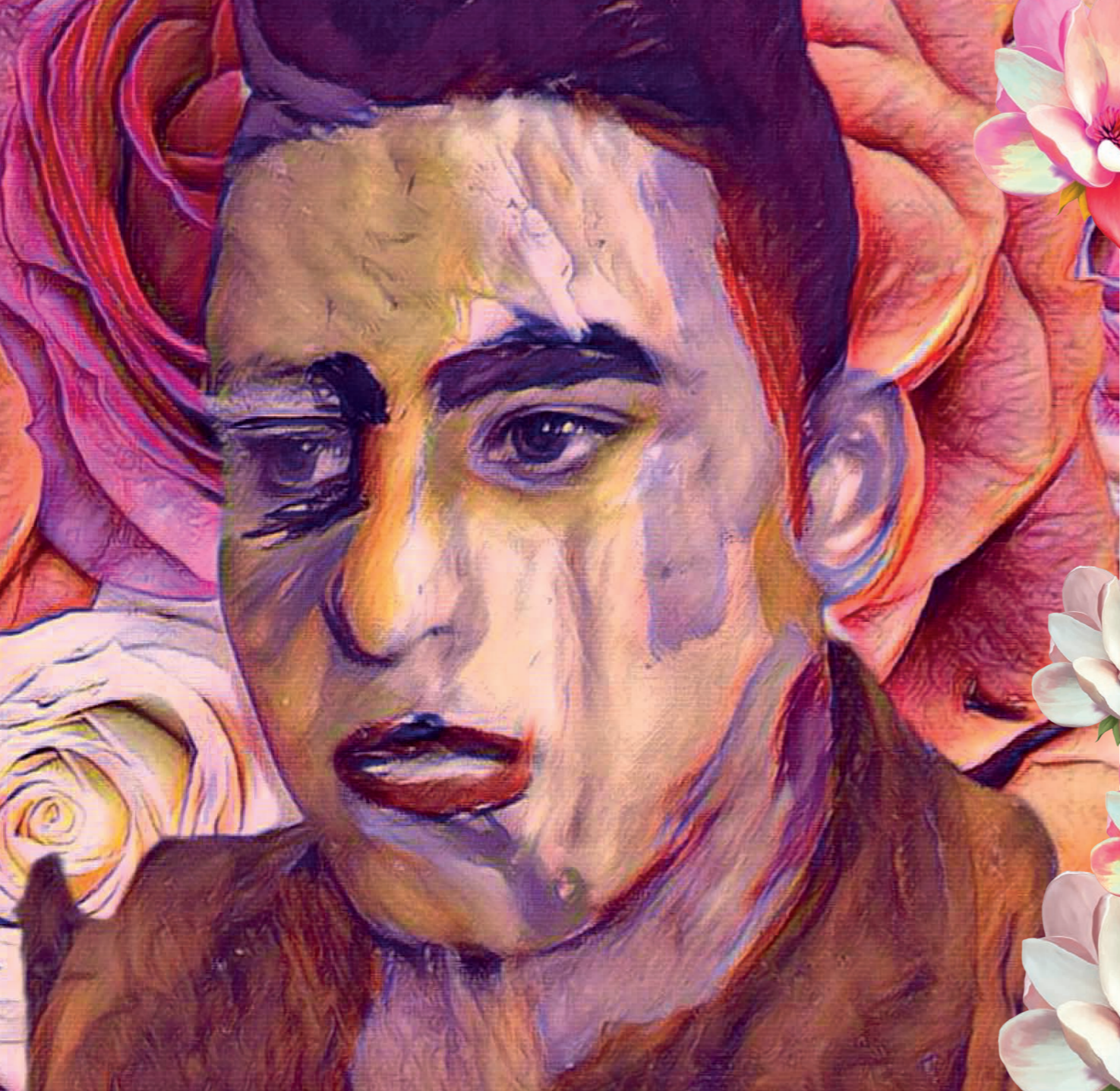
I am Rafah,

Everyone says I am beautiful. I was 14 years old when suddenly an elderly man approached my family and started offering us gifts and solving our financial problems. Suddenly, he proposed to marry me even though we didn't know him. My family does not know anything about him because he didn't live in our camp. One day, he visited us with one of his acquaintances from the camp, who later on started frequenting our home alone bringing us gifts. Everyone is aware of the difficult economic situation we are enduring in the camp. Everyone knows that marriage of girls constitutes a solution for family crises, especially financial problems. Every girl is waiting her charming prince. A lot of girls got married. Some are happy, some others returned to their parents after four or five months claiming that their husband didn't want them anymore. I couldn't refuse because it was not my decision. I wished I could get lucky for once like the others but unfortunately my wish didn't see the light. I was merely a toy with which this stranger was having fun. Later, he forced me to have sexual relationships with other men. Then I knew that my husband is paying an amount of two hundred dollars to the neighbor in exchange of finding girls for him and convincing their parents to get married to this man.

Dear reader,

🌸 If you are a child and someone proposed to marry you, you have to wait until you are of age, which is not before the age of 18, this is because marriage can morally and physically harm you if you are still a child. 🌸 If you face such a situation and a stranger proposes to marry you, first seek assistance from the protection team and explain to your parents that you do not want to get married, clarifying your young age and the harm that this marriage will cause. If you do not come up with a positive result, tell your family to ask about the man before the marriage, which can sometimes reveal the intentions of the person who is proposing to marry you. 🌸 If you are reading this booklet after getting married and you are facing a similar situation, do not hesitate to resort to the protection team specialized in combatting the crime of human trafficking and exploitation in order to help and support you in solving your problem. 🌸 We encourage you also to seek assistance from the protection and psychosocial support team where they can understand your situation and provide you with needed awareness and protection. This team can also help you through participating in the educational and recreational programs, or by consulting the psychologist to express your feelings and alleviate your distress. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential.







I am Mohamed,

I am twelve years old, I had to work because my parents couldn't find a job since we moved. I started working in an amusement park 8 months ago. I work for more than sixteen hours a day without resting. The owner often beats me without any reason and insults me a lot. Every month, he pays me way less than we had agreed on; last month he only paid me fifty thousand Lebanese pounds for the whole month. He said that I will be working for him and threatened me that if I go to work elsewhere in the same area, he would tell them to refrain from employing me and to beat me up. I still work for him because I do not know what to do.



Dear reader,

 If you are under the age of 18 and have been experiencing such exploitation in your work, do not hesitate to seek assistance from the protection or the psychosocial support teams working in the field of counter-trafficking. They will help and support you in finding a solution to your problem and will understand your situation and provide you with needed awareness and protection.  This team will help you look for formal or informal education opportunities at an international or local organization in your area. This team can also help you through participating in the educational and recreational programs. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential.





I am Abu Fahd,

I moved to a village here when it was no longer possible for me to stay in my country. I used to work for the landlord where I lived with my family in a tent. I quit work because I was very tired of working and earning a very small salary that was not worth half the required effort. However, the employer did not like my decision, and since I live in his land, he attacked me one night with other men, threatening with their weapons to evict us if I don't go back to work on his terms. My family and I were frightened, angry and very sad because I didn't have another choice. I got back to work and I'm trying to find another shelter but found nothing till now.



Dear reader,

🌻 If you are subjected to threats for the purpose of labor exploitation, do not hesitate to seek assistance from the protection or the psychosocial support teams working in the field of counter-trafficking. We also advise you to always follow up with the person from whom you sought assistance. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential. 🌻 Do not hesitate to participate in the social support programs for men, including educational, recreational and other programs. It will help you engage in the society and meet new people, and thus have new horizons. In addition, these programs will reduce the psychological pressure you are enduring.





I'm Sanaa,

Years after seeking refuge in Lebanon with my family, I met a young man who pretended to love me madly. In the beginning we had a nice relationship, he wanted to chat and talk with me to get to know more about each other. One day, he wanted me to send my picture to him. At first, I refused, but he told me that if I do not send it our relationship would end; I loved him very much. Meanwhile, my family's financial situation worsened a lot. I thought he might marry me thus take the burden off my family, I sent him my picture. He didn't like the picture and said it looks very formal. He wanted a picture that highlights my beauties and swore that no one would see it. I sent him another picture. And here the catastrophe struck; he started exploiting me and asking me to go out with him at night and when I refused, he told me he would publish my pictures all over the camp. In fact, he sent it to someone else to put additional pressure on me. I wished I was dead before this happened to me. My health deteriorated because I couldn't eat and couldn't stop thinking. I had no solution other than accepting his offer. This wasn't enough for him; instead he kept on increasing the pressure on me and started asking me to go out with other men and if I refuse, he would circulate my picture everywhere. I went out with one man and felt that I was suffocating. I hated myself. I decided to put an end to this exploitation; I refused going out with the second man. I got the courage and recorded my conversation with him and then told the camp director "Shawish" about what is happening with me and showed him the conversation. He went after him and reported the incident to the authorities. They confiscated his phone and his friends' phones; they signed a pledge not to circulate my pictures anymore otherwise they will be subject to prosecution. However, the problem didn't end there. I could no longer confront my community; all the girls in the camp were gossiping about me. I was continuously frightened, sad and depressed. Therefore, I accepted to marry a man around twenty-five years older than me because I felt that I had lost everything that made me strong in my life.

Dear reader,

✧ If you are being similarly blackmailed, try to directly contact the protection or the psychosocial support team to help you solve this issue. This team can refer you also to a psychologist with whom you can share your story, relieving subsequently your psychological fatigue, which prevents you from surrendering to your reality. Please always bear in mind that every provided information remains confidential. ✧ We advise you as well to make sure, whenever you share a photo of yourself, to cover your face or any mark (tattoo, scar, house furniture, etc.) that proves that this picture belongs to you, especially if you are sending it to someone you don't trust because it facilitates the exploitation process. ✧ If you come across a person facing a similar problem, do not prejudge him/her as this situation might be out of his/her control. Instead, try to guide the person to receive needed assistance and support.

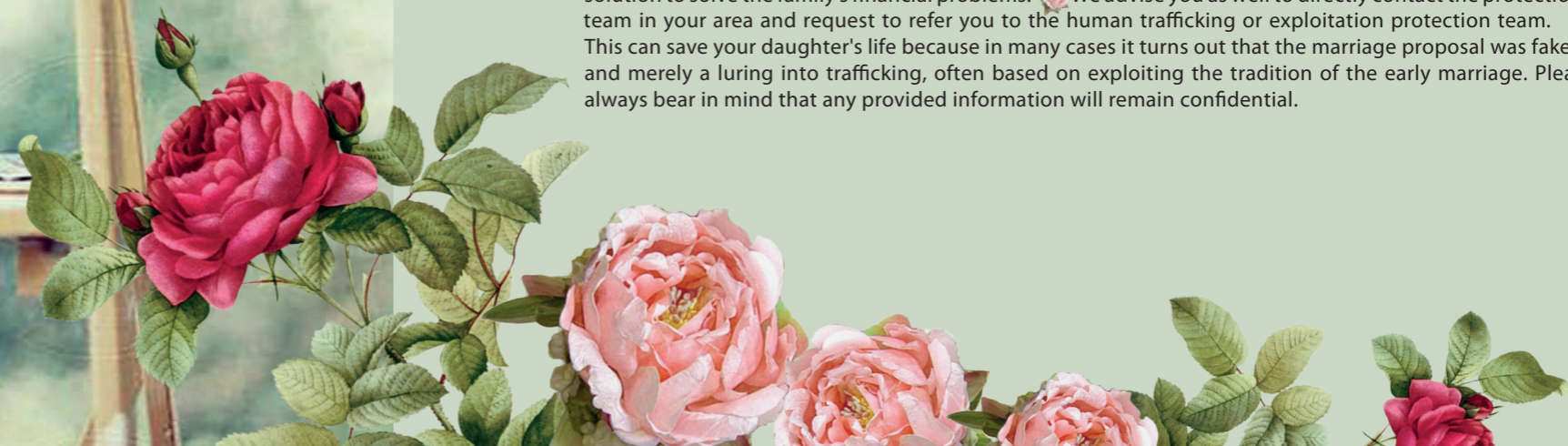


I am Abu Hamed,

I have a big family; we came to Lebanon after the war started. I had a clothing store in Syria. When we came here, one of my children fell seriously ill and needed continuous treatment. Of course, I couldn't provide my family their basic needs. One of the camp's residents suggested to marry my daughter to a rich man living abroad. He said the husband would pay the expenses of my son's treatment. My 16-year-old daughter accepted to marry the fifty-five years old rich man. At first, the mediator paid \$ 1,500 for my son and then \$ 750 for my daughter. My daughter was pretty glad about the money; he promised that she will be living the sweetest days of her life. My daughter traveled illegally to marry her groom and since then we know nothing about her. The mediator says that since she left the country, he hasn't heard anything about her and nor about the smuggler. He always tells me to wait and be patient as he keeps calling the husband, but his phone is always turned off.

Dear readers, especially mothers and fathers,

🌹 If a stranger proposes to marry your daughter, often rich or old, and especially if she is a child, beware of this marriage that will hurt her mentally and physically since usually such marriages are not the appropriate solution to solve the family's financial problems. 🌹 We advise you as well to directly contact the protection team in your area and request to refer you to the human trafficking or exploitation protection team. This can save your daughter's life because in many cases it turns out that the marriage proposal was fake and merely a luring into trafficking, often based on exploiting the tradition of the early marriage. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential.





I am Ahmed,

I am twenty years old, after fleeing our country with my family, we settled in a camp for Syrian refugees. Due to the displacement and war, I was deprived from education. A nearby education center for refugees was inaugurated and it gave us a glimmer of hope. However, I couldn't attend this school and it was then when my father and the camp's director "Shawish" crushed my dreams. Since we first arrived, I noticed that my father could not move or even escape to any other place because the Shawish confined all our identity documents as he was the one who paid for those who moved us from our country to Lebanon, for our tent in addition to all the other costs. To repay him, my father agreed with him that we will all work at his mercy without any salary. Since the day of our arrival till now, almost a year ago, we've been suffering from his arrogance, rudeness and obscene words. I work all day long without mercy and obey him unconditionally; I'm not allowed to take a break; it is as if he owns me. This is our situation because we must repay the debt and all the costs he paid. The most expensive price of this debt was depriving me from learning and exploiting me in such a cruel way. This is the case for many girls and boys of my age and whose parents borrowed money from the Shawish.

Dear reader,

🌿 We recommend in such situation to seek assistance from the child protection and psychosocial support teams working in the counter-trafficking field, who can understand your situation and provide you with awareness and protection. This team will help you look for formal or informal education opportunities at an international or local organization in your area. This team can also help you through participating in the educational and recreational programs. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential.






I am Um Abdo,

I am thirty-two years old; I have three children and am currently pregnant. My husband is unemployed, and I need to work to feed my family. Therefore, I try to work anywhere and accept any salary just to provide basic needs for my family. Despite being pregnant and tired, I am still working in house cleaning, which is not an easy job especially when they know that I am a refugee and really need this work. That happens a lot, I work all day from 7:00 am till 5:00 pm and at the end of the day the employer doesn't give me money but rather food waste, or worn-out clothes or only pays a symbolic amount that doesn't even cover my transportation fees. I feel very sad for being exploited because I cannot claim my rights.



Dear reader,

 If you are facing a similar situation, we advise you to agree on your fees with the employer prior starting the work (a specified amount for specified working hours).  Do not work again with the same person if they don't pay you as agreed.  Do not hesitate to report this incident to the protection team working in the field of protection from exploitation and human trafficking. This team will help you, if desired, to receive assistance from the psychosocial support department, which can ultimately relieve your stress by participating in their educational and recreational programs, or by consulting a psychologist. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential.





I am Abu Hilal,

Due to the severe shelling and terror we were witnessing in our area, I asked someone to help us cross to Lebanon. Once done, he told me that I had to pay the smuggler an amount of one hundred thousand Lebanese Pound per person. I borrowed the money and paid him the required amount. The exploitation journey began when we walked for a day and a half in the bitter cold in the mountains until the smuggler told us that we had to pay him seven hundred and fifty dollars per person in order to keep leading us to our destination. Otherwise, he would leave us alone to continue or return. We didn't know the road and it was freezing; my wife was carrying our three-month-old daughter. We stayed three days in the mountains almost freezing to death. During these difficult days, my daughter was only drinking Coke. We had no other choice but to contact everyone we knew in our destination place until finding someone who would lend us the money. The smuggler told us about a man who can lend us the money and then agreed with him on the way he will receive this amount. In return, I was committed to work for him with my son to repay this debt. He also gave us a tent to live in as per this agreement.

My son and I have been working for more than fourteen hours a day without receiving any salary in order to repay this debt. We've been in this situation for three months which will probably drag on for one year and a half because I cannot secure a new shelter for my family nor their basic needs. My wife works every once in a while to provide food, but it's not enough.

Dear reader,

🌸 If you are being exploited at work in exchange of accommodation or borrowing money, do not hesitate to report. We advise you to contact directly the protection team in your area and ask to refer you to the protection team working in the field of combatting human trafficking or exploitation. We encourage you as well to follow up with the person who will be supporting you. This team will help you, if you wish so, to in the social support programs for men, including educational, recreational and other programs. They participate will facilitate your social engagement thus meeting new people and new horizons. Furthermore, these programs will ease your psychological distress. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential.




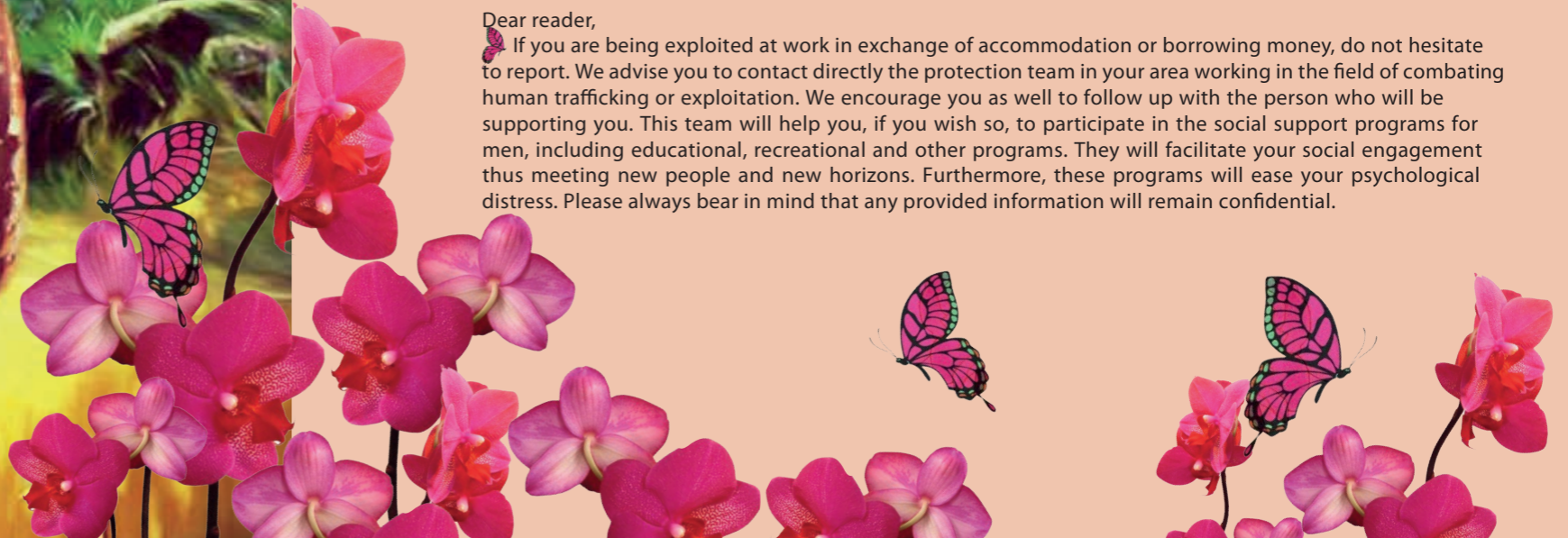


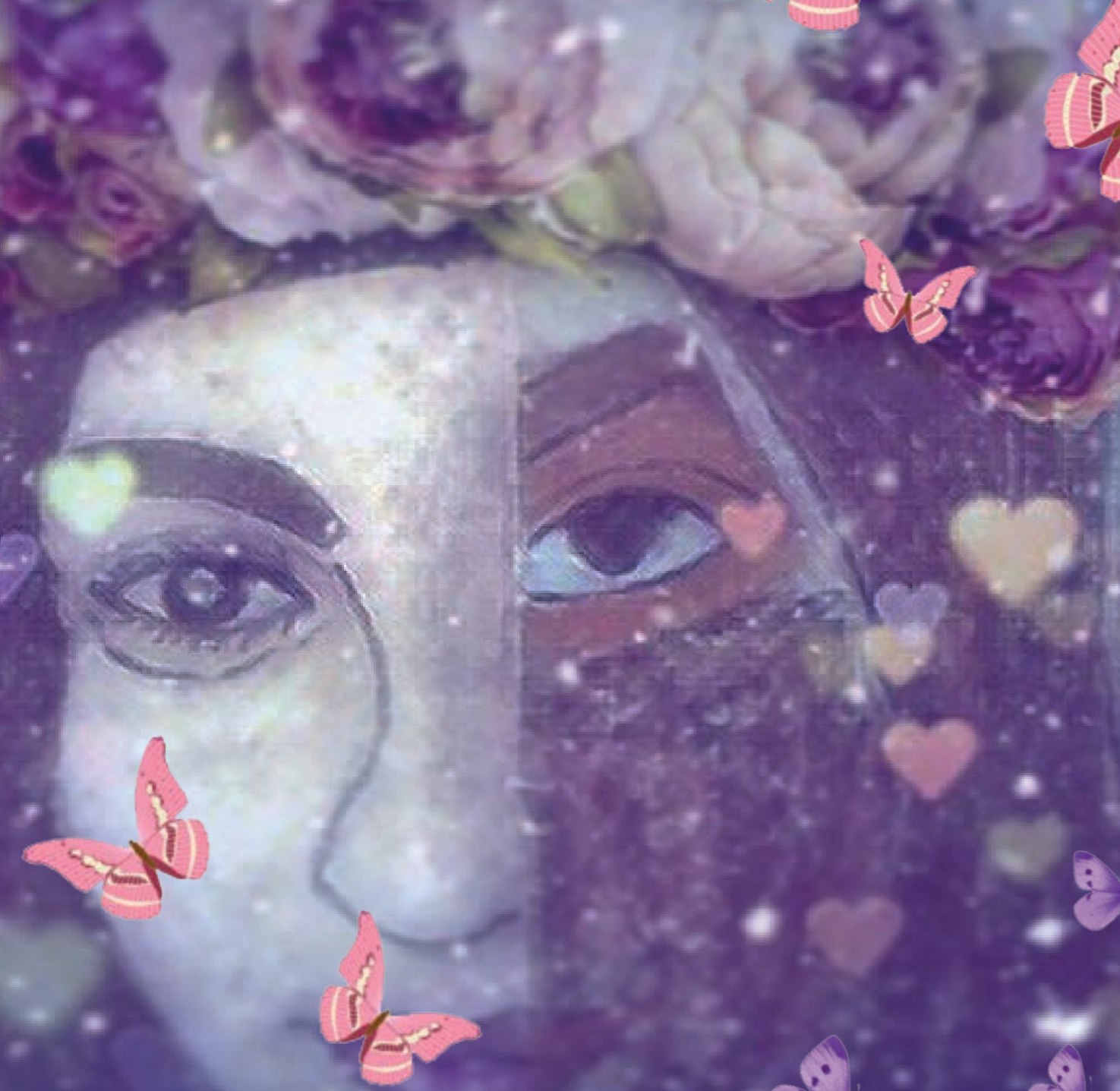
I am Amer,

After seeking refuge in a neighboring country safe for my family and I, we arrived at the camp where I met the Shawish. I knew that I had to register with UNHCR to receive assistance. But I had no idea about the procedure (who to contact, how to register...). However, I decided to register as I needed urgent assistance. My wife told me about someone in the camp who could contact UNHCR and book us an appointment. I met the man who asked me to pay fifty thousand Lebanese Pounds in order to contact them. I knew nothing about the Lebanese currency. I borrowed the money from the Shawish; in exchange my family and I had to work for him. I thought I had registered with UNHCR, but after a while I noticed that everyone in the camp were receiving assistance from the organizations visiting the camp except for me. Whenever I questioned about the reason, they said that I had to wait until receiving a message from UNHCR. One day, the same person visited me and asked if I wanted to receive this assistance. I confirmed and he said that he can help through an employee, but I had to pay again five hundred thousand Lebanese pounds. I borrowed the money and paid him the full amount. One week later, I received a call informing me that I was eligible for UNHCR's assistance. I waited days and weeks but didn't receive anything. I went back to him and told him that UNHCR didn't contact me yet regarding the assistance. He said that the employee he was communicating with traveled to another country and that he couldn't help me anymore. I felt desperate and hopeless, especially that we worked for a period of up to ten months for the Shawish to repay the debt. Whenever I mentioned that I wanted to stop working and that the debt is paid off, he would threaten to throw me out of the camp claiming that the debt was not fully settled. He would justify that by adding the monthly rent of the tent.

Dear reader,

 If you are being exploited at work in exchange of accommodation or borrowing money, do not hesitate to report. We advise you to contact directly the protection team in your area working in the field of combating human trafficking or exploitation. We encourage you as well to follow up with the person who will be supporting you. This team will help you, if you wish so, to participate in the social support programs for men, including educational, recreational and other programs. They will facilitate your social engagement thus meeting new people and new horizons. Furthermore, these programs will ease your psychological distress. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential.





I am Samira,

Seven years ago, my family and I fled our country. I grew up here, yet I wish I never did.

I became a mother while I was still a small girl. I accepted to get married due to the bad living conditions we endured. I got married with the hope of easing the burden off my family on the financial and social level, as for example I always avoided going out of the house even to the toilet because of the presence of many young boys in the camp. Everything I did put me in trouble. One day, a man, about twenty years older than me, proposed to marry me. We thought that he had a better economic status, so I agreed to marry him without hesitation believing that he was my only way out. However, four months after the marriage, I discovered that I had married a cruel man. I was a pregnant child and he forced me to work in agriculture. He made me work for long hours and takes my earnings. Since the beginning, he agreed with my employer to take my earnings without my consent; I cannot buy my basic needs, even food. Later on, I discovered that he was unemployed, he married to force me into agricultural work and every time I refused he would hit me. He was married to three other women. He had been forcing the four of us to work and in order to take all our money. He makes the four of us work, confiscates our salaries and exploits us through a paper titled "Marriage Contract", free of charge, instead of an employment contract.

Dear reader,

If you are a child and someone proposes to marry you, you have to wait until you are of age, which is not before the age of 18, because this marriage can morally and physically harm you if you are still a child. Do not hesitate to consult the protection team. If you face such a situation and a stranger proposes to marry you, first seek help from the protection team and explain to your parents that you do not want to get married and that the marriage will cause harm as you are still young. If you do not come up with a positive result, tell your family to ask about the man before the marriage, which can sometimes reveal the intentions of the person who is proposing to marry you. If you are reading this booklet after getting married and you are facing a similar situation, do not hesitate to resort to the protection team working in the field of counter-trafficking in order to help and support you. They can understand your situation and provide you with needed awareness and protection. This team can also help you through participating in the educational and recreational programs, or by consulting the psychologist to express your feelings and alleviate your distress. Please always bear in mind that any provided information will remain confidential.

Possible questions to ask after the session:

- How do you feel after reading these stories?
- After reading these stories, how do you define the concept of exploitation, or the concept of human trafficking?
 - Do you think you know someone who is subjected to similar situations whom we can help?
 - Do you know where the protection team is located in your area?
- In the event you are subjected to any of the exploitation cases or trafficking in persons, do you think you can resort to the support of specialized organizations in protection?
- Do you think this booklet helps you define the concept of exploitation and human trafficking?
 - Do you have any questions?

Trafficking in persons and exploitation are a crime defined by Palermo Protocol:

Palermo Protocol is a universal convention to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially children and women. It complements the United Nations Convention against the Transnational Organized Crime. This Protocol addresses all aspects of human trafficking and includes appropriate measures to prevent it and punish the traffickers and protect victims of trafficking through, inter alia, the protection of their internationally recognized human rights.

"Trafficking in persons" shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. It was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 15/11/2000.

Acts	Means	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment• Transportation• Transfer• Harboursing• Receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threat• Use of force• Coercion• Abduction• Fraud• Deception• Abuse of power or of vulnerability• Giving or receiving payments or benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploitation
Trafficking in person (TIP)		

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in the above paragraph.

Acts	Means	Purpose
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruitment• Transportation• Transfer• Harboursing• Receipt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threat• Use of force• Coercion• Abduction• Fraud• Deception• Abuse of power or of vulnerability• Giving or receiving payments or benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploitation
Trafficking in children		

- Iraq ratified Palermo Protocol and issued Law No. (28) in 2012 to combat this crime.
- Lebanon ratified Palermo Protocol and passed Law No. (164) in 2011 to combat this crime.
- Jordan ratified Palermo Protocol and issued Law No. (9) in 2009 to combat this crime.
- Turkey ratified Palermo Protocol and issued Law No. (29656) in 2016 to combat this crime.

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