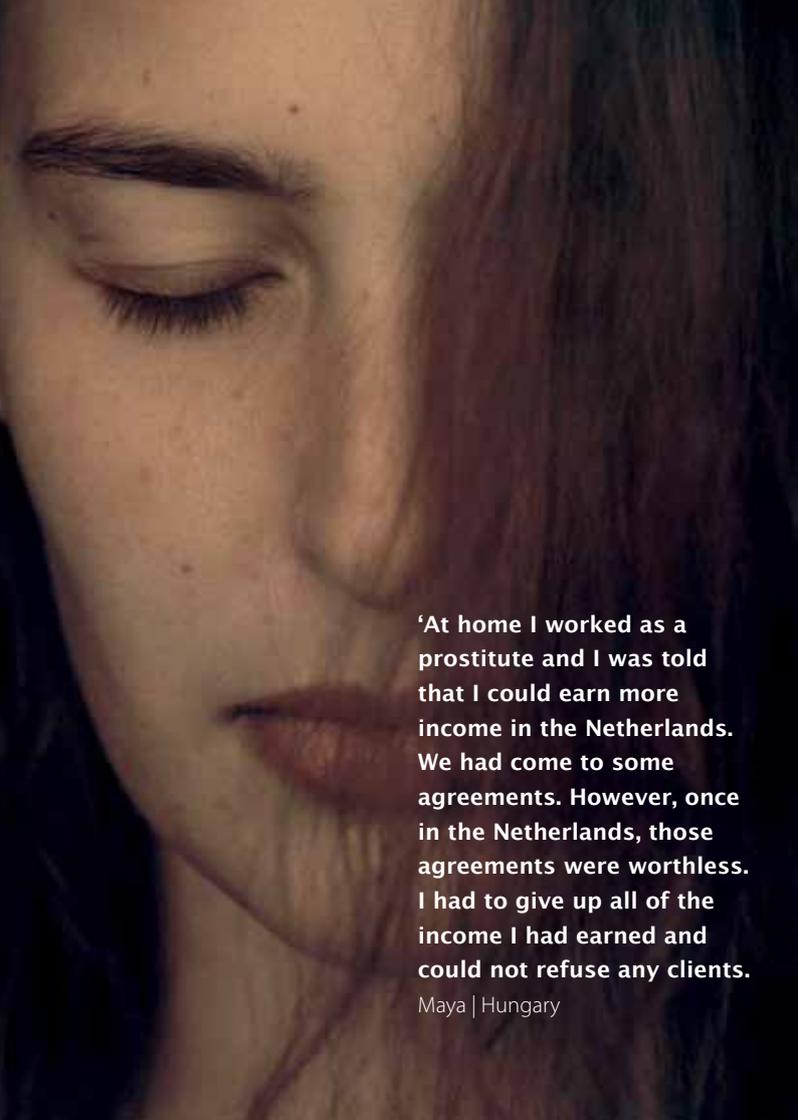


From here on?

INFORMATION FOR VICTIMS OF
HUMAN TRAFFICKING





'At home I worked as a prostitute and I was told that I could earn more income in the Netherlands. We had come to some agreements. However, once in the Netherlands, those agreements were worthless. I had to give up all of the income I had earned and could not refuse any clients.'

Maya | Hungary

If you are not free to travel whenever or wherever you want, If someone has confiscated your passport, If someone has taken control of your income... you may be a trafficked person

Human trafficking is a very serious criminal offence. Criminals take in substantial earnings from human trafficking. This systematic abuse of power is known as exploitation. You are being exploited for example if you are forced to work as a prostitute, are forced to beg or to perform other services. If someone else is earning income from your work while you receive little to no payment, that is exploitation. You can find more information in this brochure about your rights and various procedures that may be important for you. Further information is available at

www.fromhereon.eu

The informational brochure applies to all trafficked persons:

- Netherlands, for example victims of loverboys
- EU nationals
- Non-EU nationals
- Age of consent; 18+
- Minor; 18-

The residence permits section applies to those who do not yet have the Dutch nationality.

Contacting the police

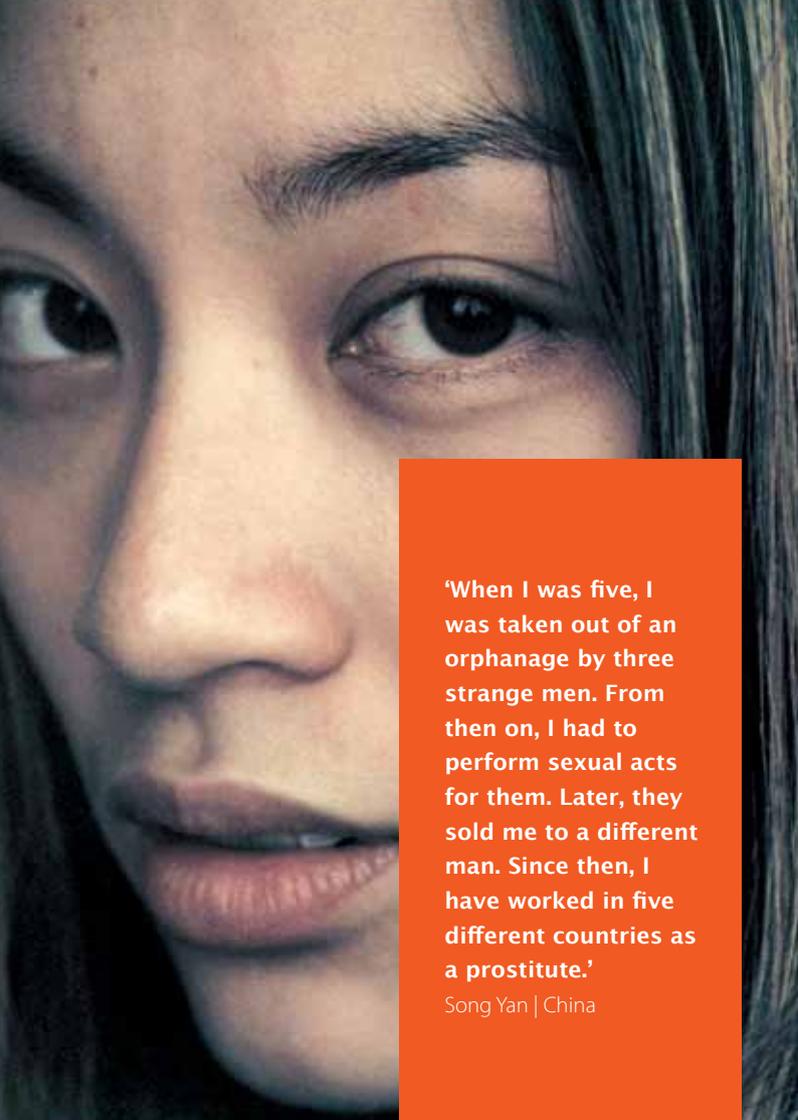
If you believe you are a trafficked person, you can tell your story to the police or a specialist organisation like the Royal Dutch Marechaussee (Koninklijke Marechaussee, KMAR) or the Social Affairs and Employment Inspectorate (Inspectie Sociale Zaken en Werkgelegenheid, SZW). You may have already done this. The police will ask many questions which can be difficult. However, it is important to tell the police about your experiences. This is one way that you can cooperate with the criminal proceedings against the perpetrators. If you are not sure what you would like to do, you may take some time to consider this. You can choose to make a report of a crime or provide a statement. Either way, you tell the police about what has happened to you. For your convenience, more information is available on how to make a report further in this brochure.

REFLECTION PERIOD Would you like to share your story but - for whatever reason - are not yet able to share all the details? The police will provide you with a three month period to think about it. The police understand that it is difficult to explain everything at once. This three month period for consideration is called the 'reflection period'. You can make a report or give a statement after the reflection period. You have the right to stay in the Netherlands

during these three months. At that point, you can choose to go to a shelter or find your own housing. During these three months, you will receive money to live from in the form of a social benefit. But first you have to request this money and you will not receive it immediately. You are also insured for medical care so that you can go to the doctor's if necessary. You should request this insurance at the same time that you request the money benefit. You can inquire about how exactly the procedure works by the police or CoMensha.

COOPERATING WITH THE CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS Would you like to cooperate directly with the criminal proceedings? You can. For example, you can report a crime or provide a statement. If you find it difficult to speak with male police officers you can always ask to speak with a female officer. Once you have provided a statement, the public prosecutor will begin criminal proceedings against the perpetrators. When you report the incident, the police will note down everything that is said and will videotape the session. During this session, it is best to explain everything that you know about your situation. If you do not speak Dutch, an interpreter will be arranged for you. The police will then request that you sign your statement.

The police can provide further information about reporting a crime or submitting a statement. Further information is available on the website.



'When I was five, I was taken out of an orphanage by three strange men. From then on, I had to perform sexual acts for them. Later, they sold me to a different man. Since then, I have worked in five different countries as a prostitute.'

Song Yan | China

After the session, the police begin criminal proceedings. During the course of the proceedings, the police may have more questions. If so they will ask you to come to the police station. Please note: if you have reported a crime, you are obliged to cooperate with the investigation.

RESIDENCE PERMITS If you are cooperating with criminal proceedings, you will receive a residence permit for one year. In the event that you do not have a passport, you will be exempted from the passport requirement. That means that you do not need to have a passport. If you request an extension of your residence permit after one year, then you are required to obtain a passport. This is often difficult, but you should always attempt it. The police can help you apply for a passport. If you are not able to obtain a passport, you must be able to demonstrate that you have done everything you could to obtain one. If you cannot demonstrate this, the chance is great that your application will be rejected.

FINANCES AND SHELTER AFTER REPORTING A CRIME After reporting a crime, you will receive money for living expenses and a place at a shelter can be arranged for you. Once you have reported a crime, the police will submit a request for you for a residence permit. Not long after, you will receive a card with your name and picture on it so you can demonstrate who you are and that you have the right to stay in the Netherlands. You may stay in the Netherlands until the police have finished the criminal proceedings. You will receive money during this time in the form of a social benefit payment.

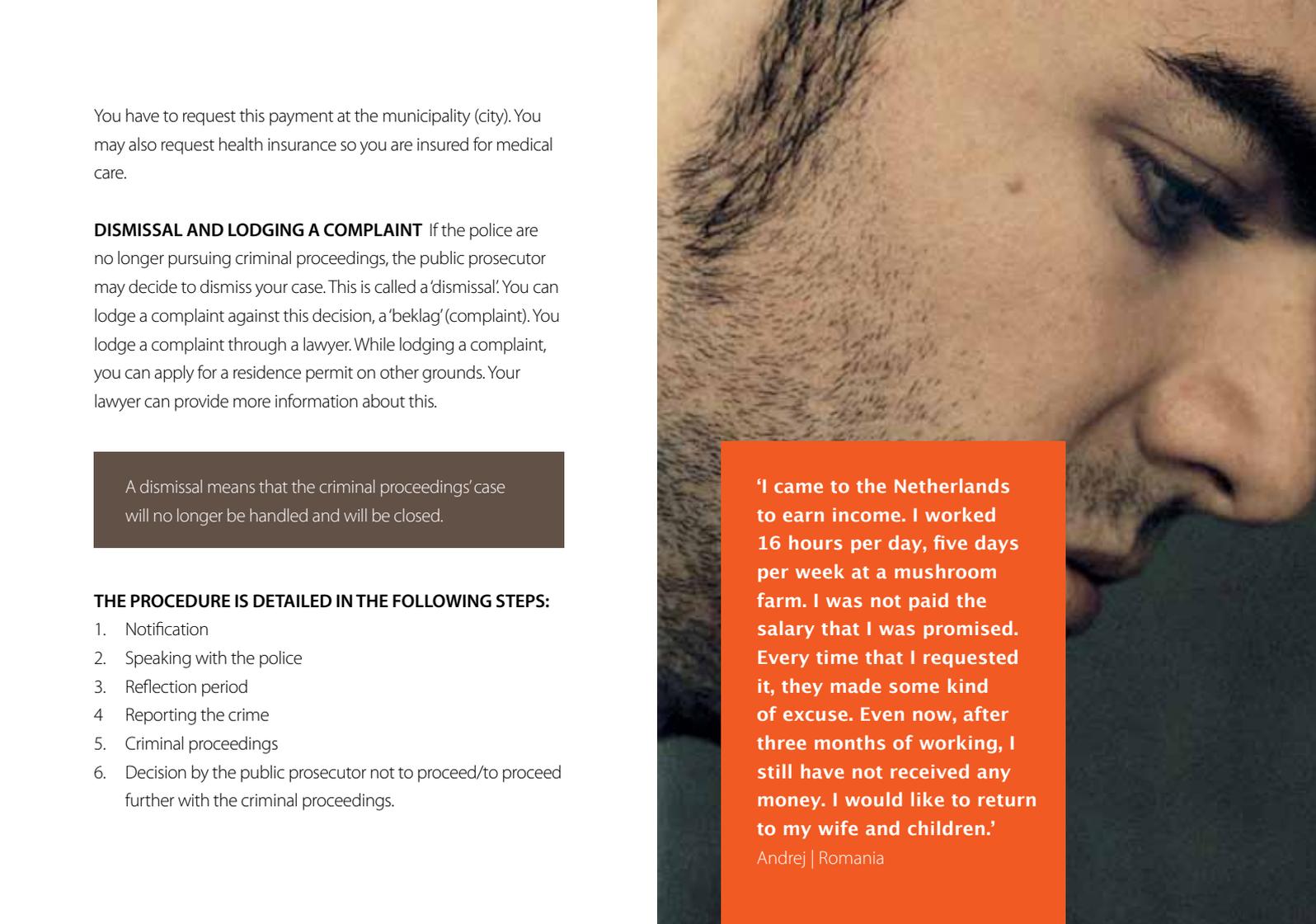
You have to request this payment at the municipality (city). You may also request health insurance so you are insured for medical care.

DISMISSAL AND LODGING A COMPLAINT If the police are no longer pursuing criminal proceedings, the public prosecutor may decide to dismiss your case. This is called a 'dismissal'. You can lodge a complaint against this decision, a 'beklag' (complaint). You lodge a complaint through a lawyer. While lodging a complaint, you can apply for a residence permit on other grounds. Your lawyer can provide more information about this.

A dismissal means that the criminal proceedings' case will no longer be handled and will be closed.

THE PROCEDURE IS DETAILED IN THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

1. Notification
2. Speaking with the police
3. Reflection period
4. Reporting the crime
5. Criminal proceedings
6. Decision by the public prosecutor not to proceed/to proceed further with the criminal proceedings.



'I came to the Netherlands to earn income. I worked 16 hours per day, five days per week at a mushroom farm. I was not paid the salary that I was promised. Every time that I requested it, they made some kind of excuse. Even now, after three months of working, I still have not received any money. I would like to return to my wife and children.'

Andrej | Romania

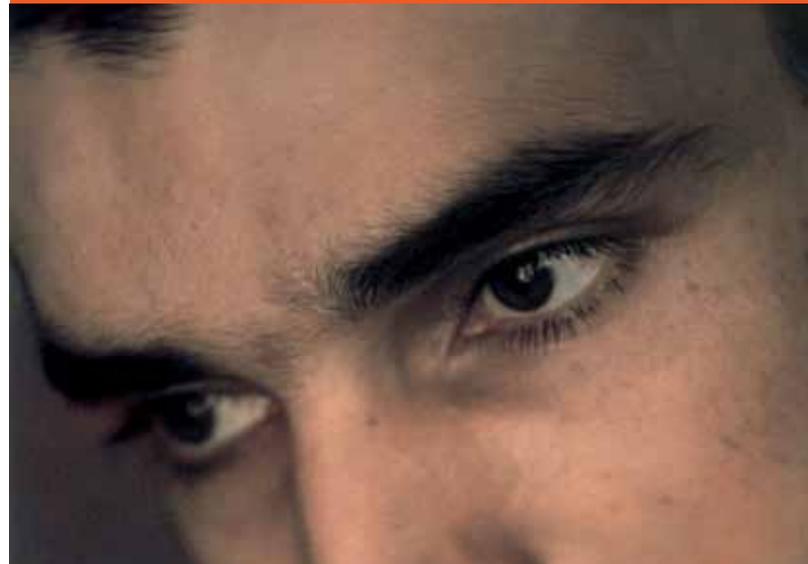
Medical and legal assistance

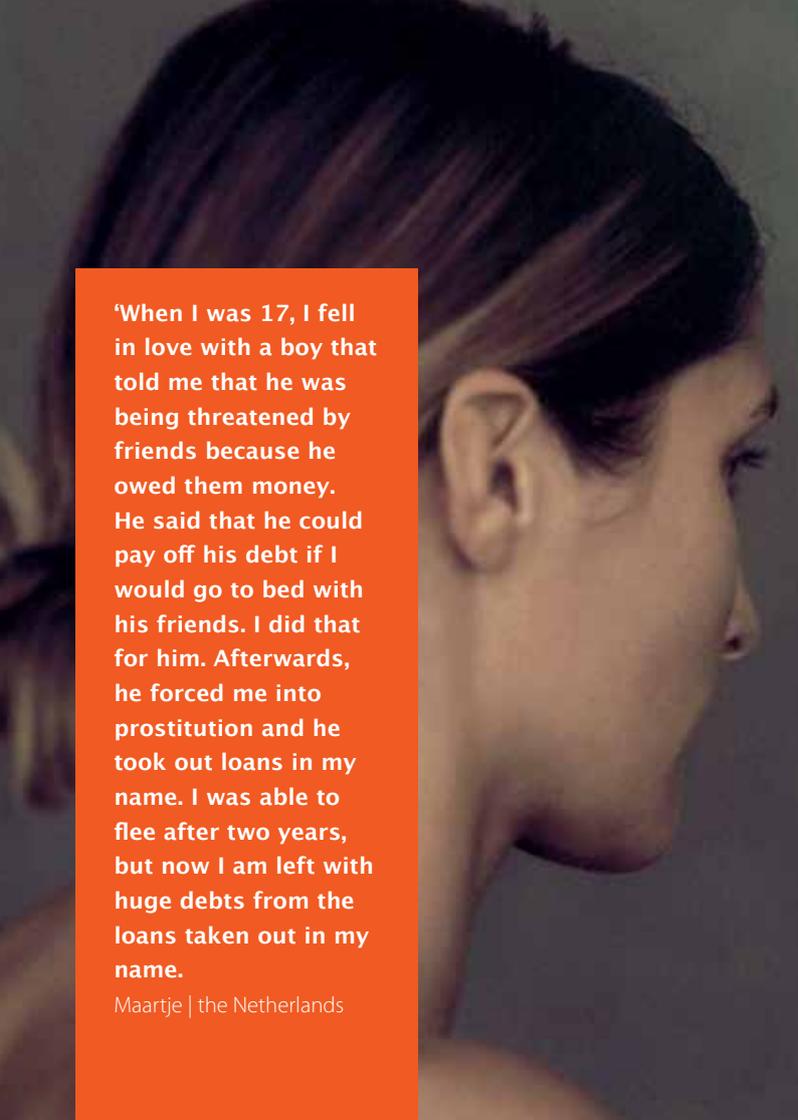
MEDICAL ASSISTANCE You always have the right to medical assistance. It does not matter whether you are in the reflection period or have already reported the crime - in all cases, you may undertake the following steps:

- If you are not from the European Union (EU) you will have to be tested for tuberculosis (TB). You can obtain an application for this from the police. You may undergo this test for free at the Municipal Health Service (GG&GD).
- If you have had sex with men or women, you can be examined for sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. You can also undergo a test at the Municipal Health Service (GG&GD). This is usually free.
- If you are experiencing physical or psychological symptoms, like nightmares and sleeplessness, you can go to a doctor. The doctor will then explain what you can do or provide medicine which may help you feel better. This is not free but is paid for by your health insurance coverage. During the reflection period, health insurance is applied for for your benefit. If you have made a report to the police but have not yet applied for health insurance, you still have to do that at a later date.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE It is nice if someone is available to help you with the procedure. This means that someone can continually monitor whether you have to do something for a residence permit. A lawyer can do this for you. There are lawyers who have acquired a lot of experience as it concerns residence rights for trafficked people. CoMensha can tell you precisely who these lawyers are.

You have the right to a lawyer, so always request one. Often, you do not have to pay. If you do have to pay something, it will only be one time. And you can pay afterwards from the social benefit money that you will be receiving.





'When I was 17, I fell in love with a boy that told me that he was being threatened by friends because he owed them money. He said that he could pay off his debt if I would go to bed with his friends. I did that for him. Afterwards, he forced me into prostitution and he took out loans in my name. I was able to flee after two years, but now I am left with huge debts from the loans taken out in my name.'

Maartje | the Netherlands

Shelter and social support

SHELTER If you do not have a place to sleep, you can go to a shelter. You can do this during the reflection period, if you have made a statement, or if you would like to go to the police but have not yet spoken with them.

A shelter is a large house where people can live temporarily. There are shelters especially for women and children, and especially for men. There are also mixed shelters. You will either receive a bedroom to yourself or you will share a room with someone from the same gender.

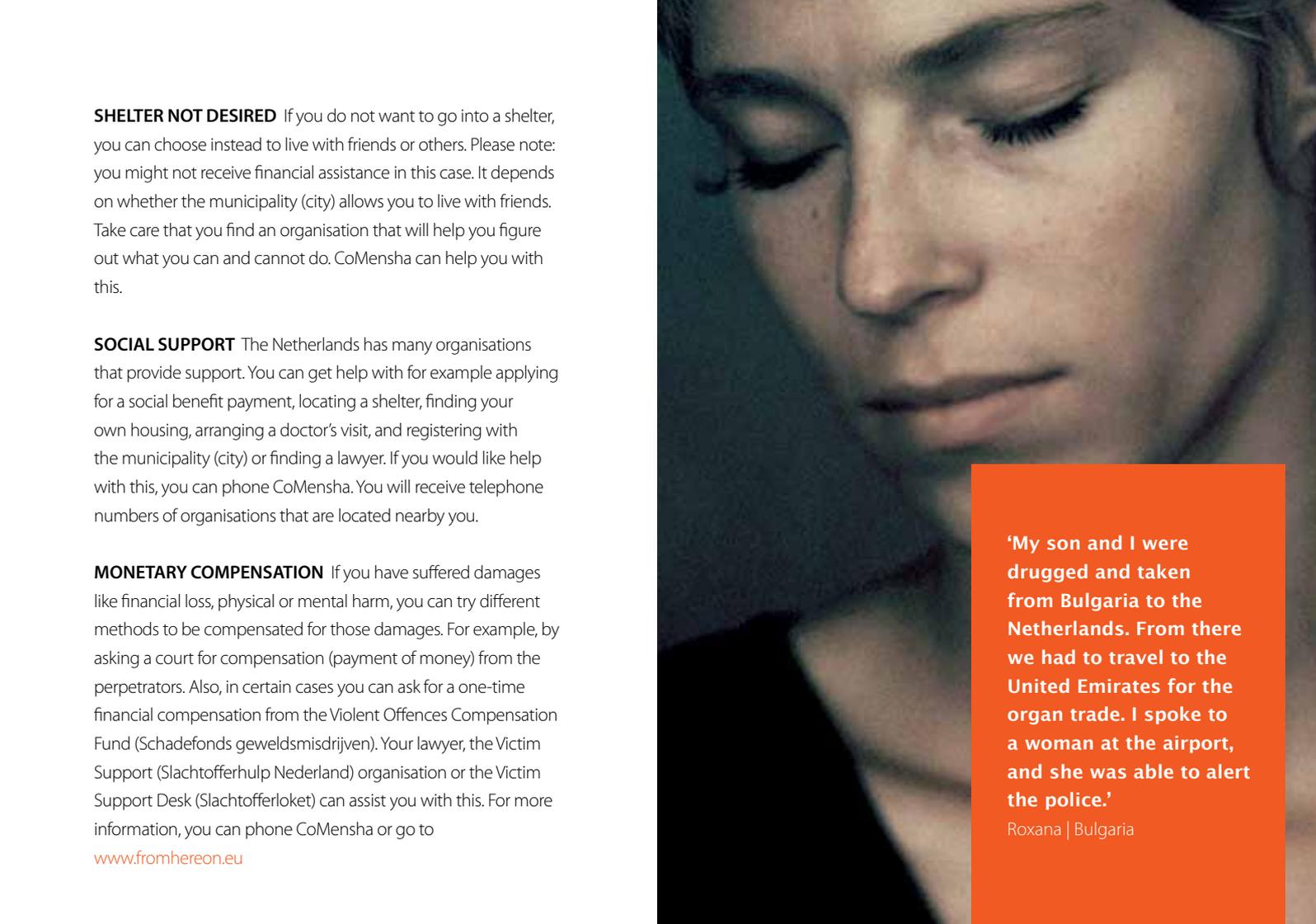
The purpose of the shelter is to provide you with rest and security. Together with you, the people who work there can help you to take care of matters like requesting the social benefit money. It is possible that you might not be able to stay for a long time in a shelter. If so, another place will be requested for you. All of the shelters have rules that you need to observe. If you do not follow the rules, you can be requested to leave, in which case you could become homeless.

SHELTER NOT DESIRED If you do not want to go into a shelter, you can choose instead to live with friends or others. Please note: you might not receive financial assistance in this case. It depends on whether the municipality (city) allows you to live with friends. Take care that you find an organisation that will help you figure out what you can and cannot do. CoMensha can help you with this.

SOCIAL SUPPORT The Netherlands has many organisations that provide support. You can get help with for example applying for a social benefit payment, locating a shelter, finding your own housing, arranging a doctor's visit, and registering with the municipality (city) or finding a lawyer. If you would like help with this, you can phone CoMensha. You will receive telephone numbers of organisations that are located nearby you.

MONETARY COMPENSATION If you have suffered damages like financial loss, physical or mental harm, you can try different methods to be compensated for those damages. For example, by asking a court for compensation (payment of money) from the perpetrators. Also, in certain cases you can ask for a one-time financial compensation from the Violent Offences Compensation Fund (Schadefonds geweldsmisdrijven). Your lawyer, the Victim Support (Slachtofferhulp Nederland) organisation or the Victim Support Desk (Slachtofferloket) can assist you with this. For more information, you can phone CoMensha or go to

www.fromhereon.eu



'My son and I were drugged and taken from Bulgaria to the Netherlands. From there we had to travel to the United Emirates for the organ trade. I spoke to a woman at the airport, and she was able to alert the police.'

Roxana | Bulgaria

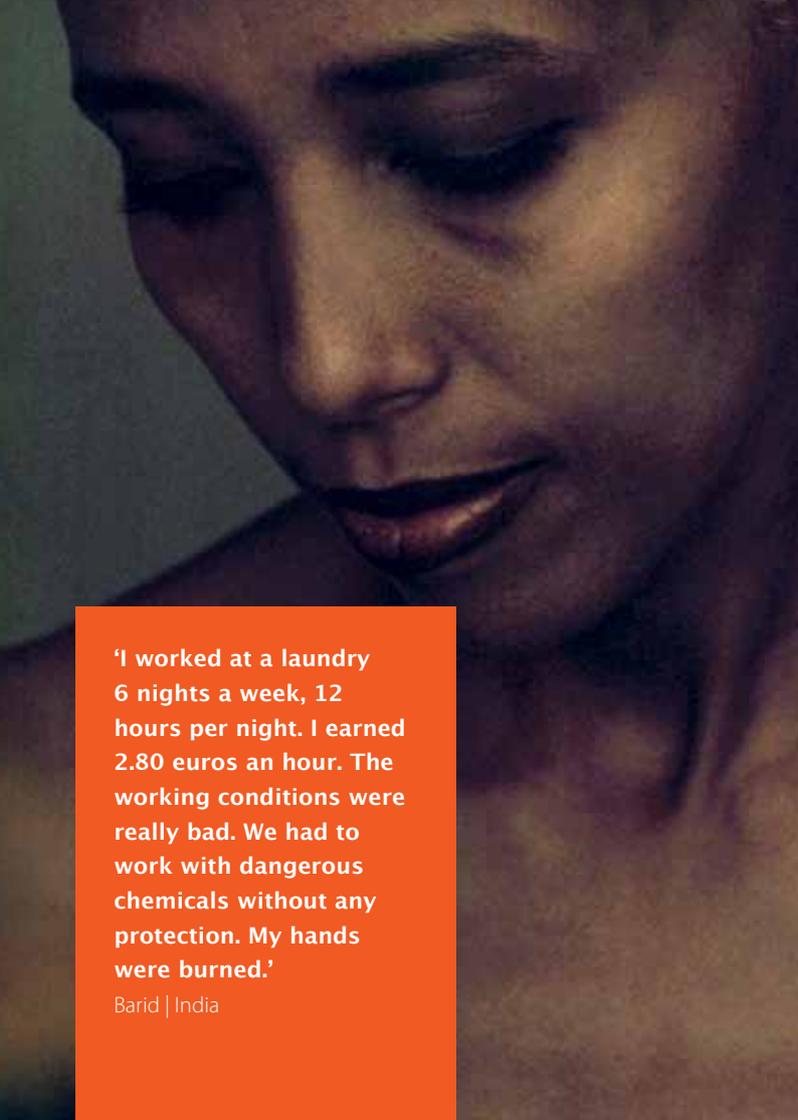
Returning home

(VOLUNTARY) RETURN If you prefer not to report a crime or if you have already reported a crime and you would rather go back to your home country and/or family, you can also do that. You can tell the police or a social worker that you would like to go back to your home country. An appointment is then made with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). The IOM will arrange for your trip home. In most cases you receive a small amount of money for living expenses for the first few days that you are back home.

(INVOLUNTARY) RETURN In the event that the police choose not to continue with the proceedings and you have not yet lodged a complaint through a lawyer or requested a residence permit - you will be required to leave the Netherlands. Even if you have requested a residence permit but have not received one, you must still leave the Netherlands. You can arrange for this departure yourself with the IOM. If you do not make plans to leave, you could end up in prison and the police will then take the necessary measures to make sure that you return to your country.

MINOR The procedure for finding a shelter is different for a minor in the Netherlands. You are a minor if you are under 18-years-old. If you are a minor, you cannot choose where you go to. You are brought to a shelter where only minor residents are allowed. Also, you will receive a lawyer and a guardian. Your guardian is someone that legally represents you for the government. He or she will help with the procedure and make sure that you are doing alright. If you are a minor, you will also attend a school. While you are in a shelter, you and your guardian will examine what the next steps should be.





About CoMensha

COMENSHA (Anti-Trafficking Coordination Centre) runs a national help line for the central reporting, placement and registration of trafficked people. CoMensha organises and coordinates the initial reception and support for trafficked people and initiates the social support Tel: 033-4481186

'I worked at a laundry 6 nights a week, 12 hours per night. I earned 2.80 euros an hour. The working conditions were really bad. We had to work with dangerous chemicals without any protection. My hands were burned.'

Barid | India

Important telephone numbers

COMENSHA

T 033 448 11 86

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALISATION SERVICE

T 0900 123 45 61

POLICE

T 0900 88 44

ROYAL DUTCH MARECHAUSSEE

T 0343 52 89 99

VICTIM SUPPORT NETHERLANDS

T 0900 01 01

VIOLENT OFFENCES COMPENSATION FUND

T 070 414 20 00

SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT

INSPECTORATE

T 0800 270 00 00

MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICE

T 030 252 30 04

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION

T 070 318 15 00

VICTIM SUPPORT DESK

www.slachtofferloket.nl

FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THESE ORGANISATIONS
IS AVAILABLE AT WWW.FROMHEREON.EU



This brochure was created by the Anti-Trafficking
Coordination Centre (CoMensha) in collaboration with
the police and the Ministry of Security and Justice.

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