

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR, MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

13 JANUARY 1997- Instructions to the Foreigners Department (Office des Etrangers), the prosecuting authorities, the police and the social law inspection service and social inspection services concerning assistance to victims of human trafficking¹

These instructions are for the practical application of the circular regarding the issue of residence and work permits to foreign nationals who have been victims of human trafficking, published in the *Moniteur Belge* of 7 July 1994. The circular comes under the implementation of the act of 13 April 1995 (M.B. 24.04.1995) providing for the suppression of human trafficking and child pornography.

(...)

5. Organising contact with victim support centres

1. If the police or social inspection service has good reason to believe that they are dealing with a victim of human trafficking, they take the necessary measures to ensure that the person is taken in by a victim support centre, and they inform the Foreigners Department of the fact if he or she is an illegal or provisional resident.

2. If the police or social inspection service is not certain whether a person is a victim of human trafficking, the support centre must be given the opportunity to establish contact with this person. This can be done by, for example, inviting a staff member of the support centre to the police station, if the person in question agrees to this.

3. Finally, if there are indications that one or more persons detained are implicated in the organisation or pursuit of human trafficking, and are therefore not victims, they are not to be put in contact with a victim support centre.

Whenever the police or a social inspection service encounter a person who may be a victim of human trafficking, it is their duty to give him or a her the information leaflet about the support centres, which has been produced in different languages by the Centre for Equal Opportunities and Action Against Racism and is available from the organisations mentioned in this circular .

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