

Trafficking in Children

Recommendations for effective protection in the best interests of the child

1

“First and foremost, I’m a child!”



- Ensure that child trafficking is addressed as a child protection issue within a child protection framework
- Ensure that the National Referral Mechanism recognizes the specific situation of child victims of THB and sets out the referral channels that are most appropriate for children

2

“Keep me safe!”



- From the moment a child is first identified, initiate action to keep the child safe, including action, appropriate to the child’s age and gender, to prevent sexual abuse

3

“Who will take care of me?”



- Ensure that children who may have been trafficked are provided with a temporary guardian as soon as possible after they are identified and that a child’s legal advisor and guardian are involved in decisions concerning a comprehensive solution for the child
- Child protection officials should take the lead in exploring which long-lasting solution would be most appropriate for the child

4

“Who will nurse me back to health?”

- Ensure that child victims of ill-treatment are provided with proper care and rehabilitation programmes and that re-victimization of any kind is avoided

5

“Act in my best interest”

- Ensure that a framework or procedures are in place to involve a multidisciplinary and systematic approach in assessing and determining the best interests of the individual child

6

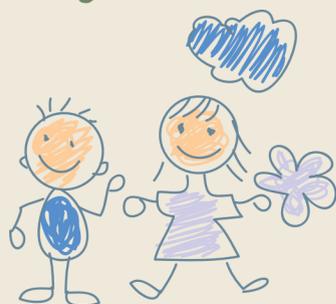
“What if I cannot go back home?”



- Trafficked children who are deemed unable to return home should be provided with specialized safe accommodation from the moment of first identification

7

“What if I come from another country?”



- RETURN/ REPATRIATION
- Before taking a decision on the return of a trafficked child to their country, risk and security assessment must be carried out
- Focal points to deal with social enquiries about trafficked children should be appointed in a central government agency
- Adequate resources should be provided to respond promptly to requests for a social inquiry about a trafficked child

8

“I’m the victim, not the offender”

- Ensure that trafficked children are not detained; restrictions should only be imposed on a child as a last resort