

# NSPCC



## Are you a child who has come to the UK from another country?

FIND OUT ABOUT CHILDREN'S  
RIGHTS IN THE UK AND  
WHO CAN HELP YOU



EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

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# Hello

**If you are a child who's come to the UK from another country, this booklet can help you.**

It explains what words like 'refugee', 'asylum seeker' and 'trafficking' mean. And you can read about all the different people you might meet and the places you might go.

You will also find lots of useful phone numbers, websites and email addresses. And if you would like to talk to someone right now, you can call the NSPCC on **0808 800 5000** or email **[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)**

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## Am I legally a child?

A child in the UK is anyone under the age of 18. Over this age, you will be considered an adult and will have different rights to children.

Some young people are 'age disputed' which means that their age is under question. They must be treated as a child until an age assessment has been carried out.



# Understanding all the different names

There are many different names for children that arrive in the UK. You may be given one or more of these names. Can you answer yes to any of these questions?

## Trafficked child

Did someone bring you to the UK and force you to work very long hours for no money?

When you arrived here, were you made to have sex with people?

Has someone made you steal things, look after cannabis plants or carry or sell drugs?

Have you been forced to live with a family you do not know and made to do housework and look after children?

Were you forced to marry a stranger?

## Refugee

Did you leave your home country because it was not safe?

Have you been given legal documents saying you are a refugee and can now live and work in the UK?

## Unaccompanied asylum seeker

Have you run away from your home country by yourself to escape violence or threats?

Are you not with your parents or carers?

Have you been to the Home Office to apply for asylum to stay in the UK?

## Foreign national child

Were you born outside of the UK and do you not have a British passport?

## European Union (EU) citizen

Are you a citizen of a country that's part of the EU? If you're an EU citizen, you have freedom of movement within the EU.



# What is trafficking?

Trafficking (sometimes called ‘modern slavery’) is where children (under 18 years) are moved from one place to another or one country to another. Children are moved to be exploited or taken advantage of in some way.

**There are people that can make this stop.**

## Who is a ‘trafficker’?

A trafficker is a person who is involved in moving a child from one place to another. This is to exploit you or harm you in some way.

## How does this happen?

You or your family may meet someone who make promises they can’t keep, such as a better life, an education, a job or money.

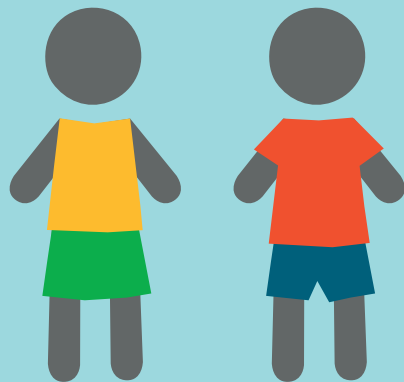
In some cases, someone may threaten to hurt you and your family unless you do what they say. Or they may claim you owe them money for bringing you to the UK.

You could be sold or trafficked by a family member or someone you know.

## What help is available?

In the UK, the law requires for all children to be protected so that they are safe and well.

On the next few pages, you can read about all the different people who can help you.



# People and places

You may have to meet lots of different people and go to many different places to receive help. Do you know about all the different people and places below?



## The police

If you have been hurt by someone, the police can help. You can call them on 999.

The police have a duty to investigate crimes and to protect the public.



## Social worker

It is social worker's responsibility to keep you safe. They can help with things such as finding a safe place to stay, seeing a doctor or joining a school or college.

If you need to stay in the UK, your social worker can also make sure you have a solicitor. **You do not have to pay** for a social worker.



## Solicitor

This is someone who can help you with legal issues. You may meet different types of solicitors.

A community care solicitor will help you if people don't believe you are a child, or if you are not getting the help you need.

An immigration solicitor will help you to apply to remain in the UK.

A criminal solicitor will represent you if you are in trouble with the law.



## Foster carer / residential staff

Foster carers or residential staff have a responsibility to look after you. They'll look after you by providing everything you need, such as a home, meals and clothes.

You are free to practise your religion in this home, even if your religion is different from the people you live with.



## Judge

An immigration judge is a person who decides if you are allowed to live and work in the UK.

You may meet them if your application to stay in the UK is refused and you need to go to an appeal. You may also meet a criminal judge in a criminal court if you have committed a crime. In these situations, your solicitor will be there to help.

## Interpreter / translator

This is a person who will translate what other people say into your own language. It is not rude to ask the interpreter to repeat what has been said if you do not understand.



## Health services

If you need medical treatment, you can go to any hospital or walk-in centre to see a doctor or nurse. **You do not need to pay.**



## Home Office

The Home Office is a government department for immigration and passports and other things. You will meet someone from the Home Office if you are from outside the EU.

The Home Office will decide if you are allowed to stay in the UK or not. You will meet someone from the Home Office if you are from outside the EU.

## Non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

These are organisations that help people. They are a bit like charities. There are many NGOs that help children from other countries, such as The Refugee Council.

## ASSESSMENTS

Social workers have to assess your safety, your needs and make plans for your life. Sometimes they work with the police when a child has been hurt and investigate when a child has been abused, exploited and trafficked.

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is how people are identified as victims of trafficking. Ask your social worker or a police officer for more information about it.

An 'age assessment' is a way to find out how old you are.

You might have an age assessment if people doubt your age.

Two social workers will carry out the age assessment. You can bring

someone with you, such as a support worker. It is your right to have someone with you.

The assessment can take a long time and you should be given chances to have a break. You should also be allowed to answer any doubts the social workers may have about what you say.

After the assessment, you will be told the decision and what this means for you. If you disagree with the decision, a solicitor can help you challenge it.

You should be given the decision in writing and told what this means for you. **Make sure you do this within 3 months after the assessment takes place.**

## DO YOU NEED HELP?

There are lots of different organisations that can help you. Here are some useful phone numbers, websites and email addresses.

### Police

Call 999 (Emergency) or 101 (Non-emergency)  
[www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

If you want to make a complaint about the police, visit  
[www.ipcc.gov.uk/complaints](http://www.ipcc.gov.uk/complaints)

### NSPCC Helpline

0808 800 5000  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)  
[help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

### Refugee Council

0207 346 1134 (Ask to speak to the children's section)  
[www.refugeecouncil.org.uk](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk)  
[children@refugeecouncil.org.uk](mailto:children@refugeecouncil.org.uk)

### Modern Slavery Helpline

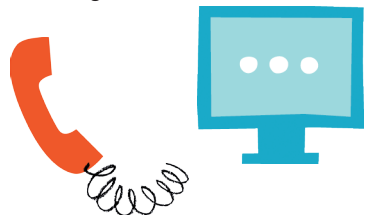
0800 0121 700  
[www.modernslavery.co.uk](http://www.modernslavery.co.uk)

### Citizens Advice Bureau

03444 111 444 (England)  
03444 77 20 20 (Wales)  
[www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)

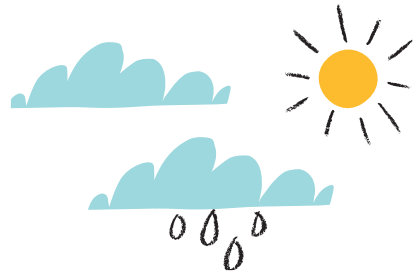
### ChildLine

0800 1111  
[www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)



## THREE TIPS FOR ASKING FOR ADVICE

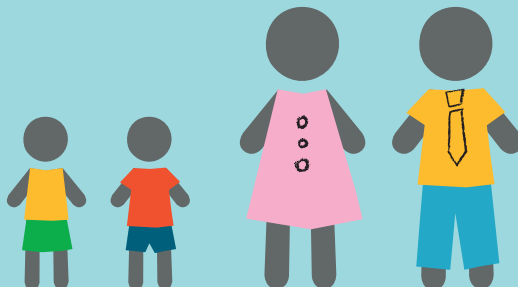
1. Never feel afraid to ask for advice or to say you do not understand what has been said.
2. When you phone someone for advice, always ask for their name, department and role. You may need this information if you call back.
3. Remember that you have the right to seek help and to get the information you need.



## Who is the NSPCC?

We help children rebuild their lives, and we find ways to prevent abuse from ruining any more. So when a child needs a helping hand, we'll be there.

[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)





# My contacts



My social worker is .....

and their phone number is .....



My foster carer is .....

and their phone number is .....



My solicitor is .....

and their phone number is .....



My support worker is .....

and their phone number is .....