

families and living alone in a new country that they are still getting to know. You may end up in the hands of someone who wants to exploit you. You might not realize it because these people are usually good at convincing you that they care about you and that what they do is for your own good. So please keep reading: it's useful to be informed!

This leaflet was written by two groups of teenagers from Senegal, Morocco, Bangladesh, Iraq, Pakistan and Tunisia who live, like you, in residential care facilities (*comunità*) in the Italian regions of Campania and Marche. They were asked to take part in an activity aimed at better understanding some of the risks that teenagers living in such centres may face, having left their homes and

## Beware of illegal things... they come to no good!

- >> If an older person forces you to sell drugs or other illegal things, ask someone you trust for help. **Always** feel free not to accept to do something they ask you to do if you think it could end badly for you, like actions that are not **right**.
- >> Keeping a secret from everyone (included your family, members of staff from your residential care facility, and friends) can be dangerous! It can be risky, for example, if you accept to do something for work and you're told to do it in secret, because it could be illegal or put you in danger.
- >> If someone makes you do something by force which you think is wrong, unjust or dangerous, you should report that person, get away from him/her and ask your friends for help.
- >> If you are under 18, your rights and responsibilities are different from the ones of someone who is over 18. You should know what your rights are, so find out about them!

Ask your guardian or a member of staff from your residential care facility to help you understand your rights.

- >> Knowing what human trafficking is, exploitation and one's rights and responsibilities, it is easier to avoid the risk of becoming a victim and going down the "wrong path".



Credit: Toni Bruno

## And finally...

...a few pieces of advice written by some girls from Romania, Albania and Bulgaria who were victims of exploitation. We asked them what they would say to other girls who left their home country like them, in order not to end up in the hands of people that want to take advantage of their needs and of their difficult situation and exploit them.

- >> **Don't trust** those who tell you that you can earn money easily, even if they say you will work together as equals.
- >> **Watch out** when you make new friends in your country (males and females).
- >> On **Facebook** don't accept people you don't know as "Friends".
- >> **Don't accept** blind dates with people you meet on Facebook.

- >> If you see that your friends have **lots of money**, be wary of how they got it.
- >> **Speak** to your parents, older brothers and sisters, and/or with staff members before accepting a proposition made to you by someone offering you money.
- >> **Always** tell your parents or the reception centre staff members where you are and with whom.
- >> Once you have arrived, if you see that the situation is different from what you thought, **don't be afraid** to talk to your parents or with the staff members you trust.
- >> **Trust** the staff members that come to help you.
- >> Always remember: take care of yourself, your life is in your hands!

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**YOU'RE AWAY FROM HOME? WATCH OUT!**

# Keywords

## WHAT'S **EXPLOITATION**?

When you work but: you don't have a contract, you can't ask to be paid or you're paid very little, you have no rest, it's dangerous for your health and safety.

## WHAT'S **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**?

If you pay a lot of money to a person or an organisation and they promise they will find you a job in another country, you could become a "victim of trafficking", which means they take you to another country to exploit you, depriving you of your freedom.

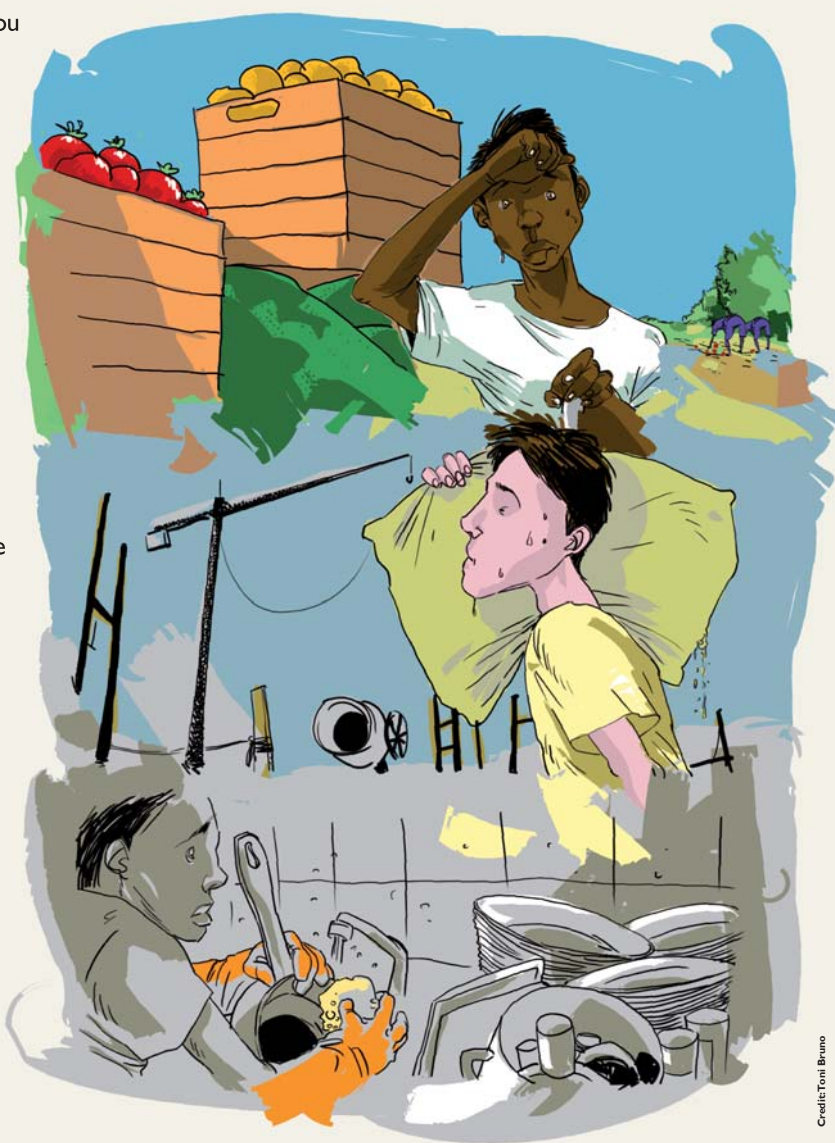
## WHAT'S A **"GOOD" JOB**?

For us a "good" job is when you have free time and you can rest, when you have a contract, when it helps you with your documents and you get a decent pay.

Even if you've never heard of child trafficking and exploitation and even if you don't know what these words mean, this doesn't mean you have never been in danger or you are not at risk of experiencing such situations today or in the future.

## We'd like to give some advice: the most important thing is you freedom!

- >> Never allow someone to take your freedom away from you, take you somewhere you don't want to go, not respect you, use you. To be free means that no one orders you around or uses you. If you are never permitted to use your time as you please, it means that someone is ordering you around and you aren't free.
- >> If a person you trust treats you with contempt and/or doesn't respect you, that person is probably not your friend. Sometimes even someone you think is your friend (either Italian or from your own country) can convince you to make decisions that are bad for you.
- >> Don't trust people you haven't known for long, people who lie or harm you or your friends.
- >> If someone helps you to find a job, but asks you for money in return, don't trust him or her! People who really want to help you do it without asking for anything in return.
- >> You have to be in control of your documents at all times and be able to have them when you need them. You're responsible for your documents and you're the only owner. Don't allow anyone to take them without your permission and to threaten you not to give them back if you don't do what he/she tells you to do.
- >> When you're down, sad or feeling lonely, look inside yourself, try to find strength from principles you value (religion, family, friendship) and try to speak to someone you trust.
- >> You arrived in Europe after facing many risks and dangers. But you still need to be careful because traveling illegally can also be dangerous here. There are people that might take advantage of you, especially if you have debts to pay, you don't know the language and the country that you are in and you feel lonely. If someone offers you a job or money, before accepting, talk about it to a member of staff of the residential care facility you are living in or with an adult that you trust.



## What work is, from our point of view...

- >> Begging is not a good job.
- >> A good job is when they pay you for what you do and you have a contract. Even if you are in need of money, watch out because someone could take advantage of your need and make you do dangerous things, make you work without paying you or without a contract.
- >> Don't accept a job that doesn't allow you to rest, or where you may get hurt or get sick, even if the pay is very good.
- >> You should know that if you work without a fixed term contract (*contratto a tempo determinato*), a

permanent contract (*contratto a tempo indeterminato*), or a specific purpose contract (*contratto a progetto*), you have to be careful because it is illegal work (*lavoro nero*) and your employer may not respect your rights (for example he/she could not pay you, or make you do dangerous things).

- >> If someone makes a much bigger profit from your work than you do, or gives you money irregularly, when and how much they like, he/she is likely exploiting you: taking advantage of your need of money. Before starting to work you should ask what exactly you will have to do, how much they will pay you, for how many hours and days you will have to work.