

You are a child if you are under 18 years old



SEPARATED CHILDREN IN THE UK

# WHAT ARE YOUR RIGHTS?

A graphic illustration of four hands reaching out from the bottom of the page towards the center. The hands are rendered in a soft, painterly style with a color gradient from light green on the left to light orange on the right. They are positioned as if offering help or support.

SOME  
USEFUL  
ADVICE AND  
CONTACTS TO  
HELP YOU



Co-funded by the European Union



# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SPEAK OUT

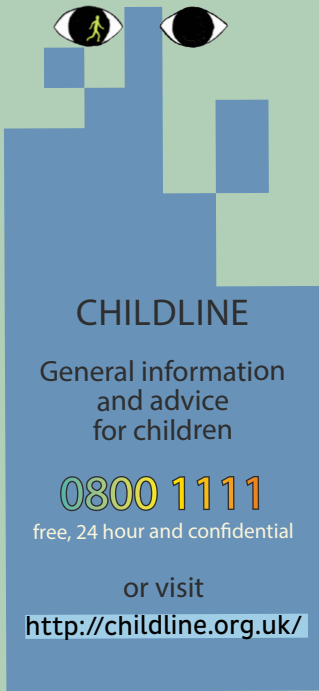


You have the right to **a free interpreter** if English is not your first language (but sometimes this will be done on the telephone). **Try to ensure your interpreter understands your dialect from the start**

Professionals (police officers, lawyers, guardians/advocates, social workers, charity workers, judges, doctors, etc.) are people in positions of **trust**

**DO NOT  
HESITATE  
TO ASK ABOUT  
YOUR RIGHTS  
AND CHALLENGE  
THINGS YOU  
DON'T AGREE  
WITH!**

# WITHOUT BEING SCARED

A stylized blue figure composed of rectangular blocks, with two black eyes on top. The left eye contains a yellow silhouette of a person walking.

**CHILDLINE**  
General information  
and advice  
for children

**0800 1111**  
free, 24 hour and confidential

or visit  
<http://childline.org.uk/>

A stylized yellow figure composed of rectangular blocks, with two black eyes on top. The left eye contains a yellow silhouette of a person walking.

**MODERN  
SLAVERY  
HELPLINE**

To report if you think  
you have been exploited

**0800 0121 700**  
free, 24 hour and confidential

A stylized red figure composed of rectangular blocks, with two black eyes on top. The left eye contains a yellow silhouette of a person walking.

**MISSING PEOPLE**

For advice and  
support if you go  
missing or run away

Call or text  
**116 000**  
free, 24 hour and confidential

To report a crime, or  
if you fear for your  
own or someone  
else's safety,  
call the police:

**999**





## WHAT CAN THE POLICE DO FOR YOU?

### ABOUT THE POLICE

The police are there to help you to keep you safe. For example, you should talk to the police if someone threatens, hurts you or forces you to do something you do not want or that is bad for you.

You should NOT be punished for something that you have been forced to do, even if it is wrong or against the law. The police may ask you lots of questions but try to be honest. You can ask for a trusted adult or advocate to assist you in an interview.

POLICE  
999

### ABOUT LOCAL AUTHORITY SOCIAL WORK

➤ In the UK, if you are seen to be at risk of harm or are separated from your family, you will be assigned a social worker.

➤ His or her role will be to provide assistance, accommodation and support. That is why you should be honest as it will be easier for the social worker to help you and to provide the care you need if he/she knows about your story and your expectations.



# WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

You or one of your friends may be a victim of trafficking, without realising it.

Have you been in a situation in which you had to:

- have sex or perform sexual acts?
- work (for example, in someone's house doing housework or childcare, a factory or a restaurant)?
- beg, steal or commit crime?
- grow, carry or deal drugs?
- remove your organs to sell?
- Repay a 'debt' by working or providing some other service? Have you/your family been threatened?

If you answer "yes" to one of these questions, you or your friend may be victim of trafficking.

Human trafficking is a serious crime and an abuse of your rights. Talk to a professional you trust if you are concerned so they can help it stop and protect other young people.

- Your social worker will put in place a care plan that should be discussed with you. Depending on where you are in the UK, you may also be allocated an independent guardian or advocate who will help explain everything and help advocate for your rights.

- You will be given accommodation but this is different for each young person. Make sure you discuss your preferences with your social worker.





You can ask your social worker, guardian/advocate or charity worker to help you find a lawyer

## LAWYERS

In the UK, in many situations you have right to a free lawyer, including:

- If you claim for asylum
- If there is reason to suspect you have been trafficked
- If your age is disputed
- If you are charged with a crime

If you are from another country, you may need permission to stay here from the Home Office.

This may mean you have to apply for asylum, humanitarian protection or a residence permit to remain legally in the UK. You will need to speak to a social worker and an immigration lawyer about your options.

But remember, you do not need official documents or immigration status to benefit from the child protection system, which is provided to all children in need or children separated from their family.

You can apply for asylum with the help of your social worker and an immigration lawyer, no matter your age. It is often a long and complicated process so don't be afraid to ask questions and ensure you understand your rights.



Children are not allowed to be kept in detention for immigration purposes in the UK

# AGE ASSESSMENT

You should speak to your lawyer, guardian or advocate so they can help you with this.

If you have no documents to prove your age, or your documents are in doubt, your age may need to be assessed.



# EDUCATION

You have a right to access FREE education and your social worker should help make sure this happens.



# HEALTH

You have the right to FREE medical and can obtain free treatment at hospitals. Ask your social worker where you can have access to it.

ABOUT GENERAL ASSISTANCE



### What are charities?

- These are organisations independent of the government that are designed to help children. You can contact them directly yourself or ask a professional to help find a suitable charity to assist you.

### What can they do for you?

- They can provide extra assistance and support, such as social groups, advocacy, English lessons, etc.

### Why should you trust them?

- They will work in your best interests and help you understand your rights.





# USEFUL CHARITY/NGO CONTACTS (NON-EMERGENCY)



The top section features three stylized faces composed of geometric shapes. The left face is blue and green, the middle is white and green, and the right is red. Each face has two eyes, one of which contains a yellow silhouette of a person walking. The text for each organization is placed within their respective face shapes.

**BARNARDO'S**  
0207 700 2253  
(9am-5pm)

**ECPAT UK**  
0207 607 2136  
(9am-5pm)  
[www.ecpat.org.uk](http://www.ecpat.org.uk)

**CORAM CHILDREN'S LEGAL CENTRE**  
0207 636 8505  
(Tuesday-Thursday  
10am-4pm)

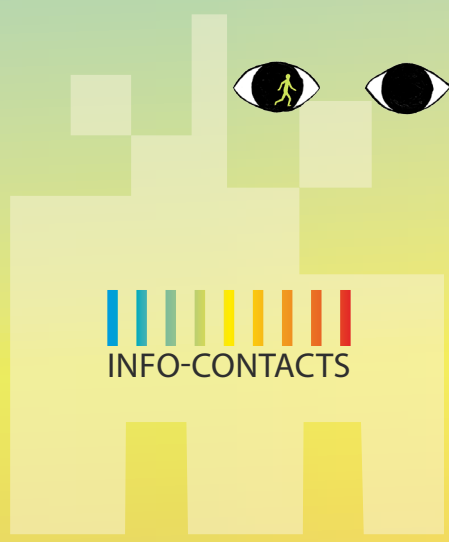


The bottom section features two stylized faces. The left face is yellow and orange, and the right is light green and orange. Each face has two eyes, one of which contains a yellow silhouette of a person walking. The text for each organization is placed within their respective face shapes.

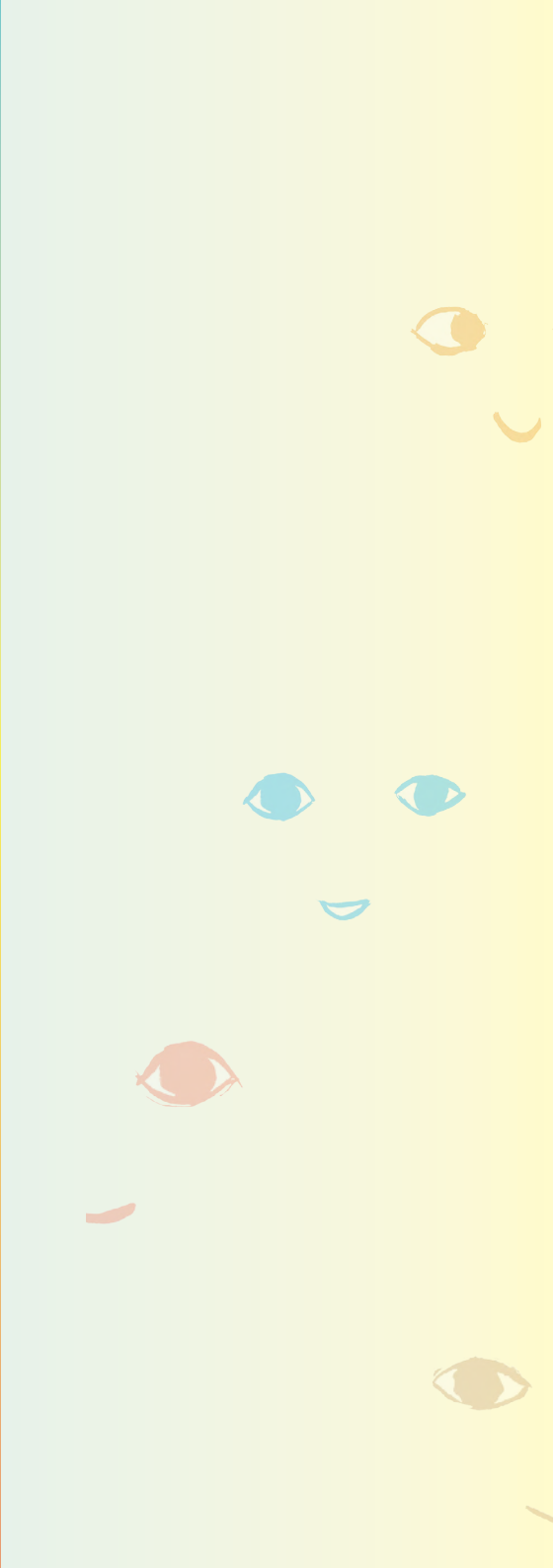
**THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**  
0208 221 8200  
(9am-5pm)

**NSPCC CHILD TRAFFICKING ADVICE CENTRE**  
020 3772 9513





INFO-CONTACTS







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