

## WHAT WE DO:

Providing legal assistance to victims of human trafficking in criminal proceedings to persons harmed by criminal acts and to witnesses, as well as filing claims for damages and legal counseling; Filing lawsuits and representing in civil proceedings for compensation and other rights of human trafficking victims;

Representing victims of human trafficking in proceedings to exercise rights in administrative, executive, and other procedures before competent authorities and courts;

Providing legal support to victims of human trafficking in procedures for obtaining temporary residence, asylum, or other types of protection prescribed by law and subordinate legislation;

Educating and advising victims of human trafficking about their rights and procedures related to their case;

Monitoring the application of laws and policies related to victims of human trafficking and advocating their interests in the process of developing public policies;

Cooperating with other organizations and institutions to better protect and support victims of human trafficking, as well as with civil society organizations.

### FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND REPRESENTATION OF VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA:

**VPBiH Sarajevo**  
Safeta Hadžića 66 A  
71000 Sarajevo  
+387 33 789 105

**VPBiH Mostar**  
Hasana Zahirovića  
Lace bb  
88000 Mostar  
+387 36 558 580

**VPBiH Tuzla**  
Rudarska 63  
75000 Tuzla  
+387 35 210 210

**VPBiH Prijedor**  
Kralja Aleksandra br. 29  
79000 Prijedor  
+387 52 241 290

[www.vasaprava.org](http://www.vasaprava.org)

e-mail: [thb@vasaprava.org](mailto:thb@vasaprava.org)



VAŠA PRAVA BiH  
Legal Aid Network

### BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA NATIONAL RESPONSE FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



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The protection of victims of human trafficking in criminal proceedings is regulated by criminal laws that are applied at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Republika Srpska, and these laws provide the basis for the criminal prosecution and punishment of perpetrators. All these laws, in accordance with the division of legislative jurisdiction in criminal law matters between the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its entities, prescribe the criminal offense of human trafficking.

The provision of assistance to victims of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina is regulated by the Law on Foreigners, the Rulebook on the Protection of Foreign Victims of Trafficking, and the Rules on the Protection of Victims and Witnesses of Trafficking who are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as other legislative and subordinate acts that regulate specific areas or prescribe a certain range of rights and protection for victims of trafficking.

Victims of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina have the right to protection during criminal proceedings against perpetrators of the crime of human trafficking, including the right to rapid and effective protection of their fundamental rights, such as the right to life, freedom and security, the right to integrity, the right to privacy, and the right to a fair trial.

The Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina also provides specific measures for the protection of victims of human trafficking, such as protection of the victim's identity, protection from additional violence and intimidation,

provision of appropriate medical and psychological support, and protection of the victim from further traumatic experience.

Furthermore, victims of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina have the right to adequate protection measures, including accommodation in a safe house, financial support, and professional assistance, as well as help in re-socialization, repatriation, and return to their countries of origin.

In criminal proceedings, victims of human trafficking also have the right to rapid and effective legal assistance and protection by the police, prosecution, and court.

In civil proceedings, victims of human trafficking have the right to compensation for material and non-material damages suffered due to this crime, including physical and emotional injuries, loss of income, and medical expenses. In civil proceedings, victims of human trafficking also have the right to protect their rights, including the right to respect for their privacy and dignity, the right to an effective trial, and the right to adequate representation in legal disputes.

Administrative proceedings are conducted to resolve administrative matters related to victims of human trafficking, such as asylum requests or protection from deportation. In administrative proceedings, victims of human trafficking also have the right to adequate and efficient procedures, including the right to a quick and efficient response to their requests, the right to be informed about their rights and obligations, and the right to fair and objective treatment by the competent authorities.

Advocating for the rights of victims of human trafficking and proactively punishing perpetrators of this crime is important because victims are often unaware of their rights and how to protect them. Victims often live in fear and lack support in seeking justice. By advocating

for their rights, victims of human trafficking have the opportunity to receive the necessary support and assistance and to oppose the violation of their rights, and by advocating for changes in laws and policies, further strengthening of the protection of victims' rights and the enhancement of punitive measures for traffickers will be achieved.

Public education and awareness of relevant institutions about the problem of human trafficking and the rights of victims are important parts of advocacy activities. The goal is to ensure awareness of the problem and the need to strengthen the protection of victims' rights.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there is a Coordination Mechanism for the Protection of Victims of Trafficking, consisting of representatives of various state institutions, including the police, courts, government agencies for the protection of human rights, and civil society organizations.

Cooperation between the coordination mechanism for the protection of victims of human trafficking and monitoring teams and civil society organizations is of key importance for the successful fight against human trafficking and the protection of victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These institutions and organizations collaborate to ensure that victims of human trafficking are protected as efficiently as possible, that they receive the help and support they need, and that human trafficking in the country is effectively combated.

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