

# ALBANIANS IN LONDON

YOU DESERVE TO BE SAFE AND FREE FROM EXPLOITATION



YOU  
DESERVE  
TO BE  
SAFE

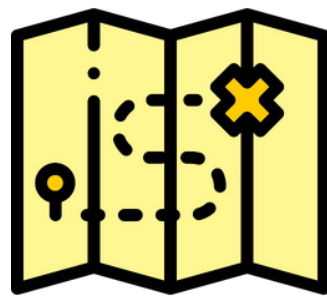


# YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE **SAFE AND FREE** FROM EXPLOITATION

## **REGARDLESS OF**



**WHERE  
YOU WERE  
BORN**



**WHERE  
YOU COME  
FROM**



**YOUR  
LEGAL  
STATUS**

# YOU DESERVE TO BE **SAFE**

# INTRODUCTION

Many people from Albania travel to London following promises of safety, a better life, or offers of employment opportunities. There are reports that, on arrival in London, the offers **were not as promised** with many experiencing:

- Low salaries with deductions (due to costs of travel, accommodation, documents, or other)
- Poor living conditions
- Threats, intimidation, or abuse
- Being tricked or coerced into doing something they do not want to do

If you have experienced any of the above, **this could be exploitation and should not be tolerated**. This resource will outline organisations that can try to support you.

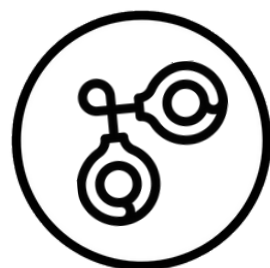
**Please note that your rights in the UK depend on the legality of your immigration status.**

- Unless you have been granted a work visa, you do not have the legal right to work in the UK and may be at risk of being exploited. You can seek immigration advice from someone qualified to give legal advice, such as an immigration solicitor or advisor. ([gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser](https://www.gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser))
- If you have been trafficked to the UK, you may be able to **get support through the organisations listed in this resource**. You can find out more about what being trafficked means on pages 2-3.
- If you have legal status in the UK and have the right to work, but are being treated poorly, you may be entitled to various support and to specific working rights, listed in this resource.

**LABOUR EXPLOITATION** IS WHEN SOMEONE IS COERCED TO WORK FOR LITTLE OR NO PAY, OFTEN UNDER THREAT OF PUNISHMENT



**FORCED CRIMINALITY** IS WHEN SOMEONE IS FORCED TO CARRY OUT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY THROUGH COERCION OR DECEPTION



**SEXUAL EXPLOITATION** IS WHEN SOMEONE IS DECEIVED, COERCED OR FORCED TO TAKE PART IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY IN EXCHANGE FOR SOMETHING THEY WANT OR NEED



## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

Human trafficking is the recruitment or movement of people, by deception, coercion, or force for the purpose of exploitation. This is broken down on the next page.

Traffickers may make **false promises to you** because they want to make money from your situation.

You may have been told that you were coming to the UK to work legally, but once here, you have been asked to do things you didn't want to do, you or your family have been threatened, or you have had to work for little to no money.

## WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING?

**Smuggling** is a service someone requests for illegal entry into a country. Once the journey and payments are complete, the exchange ends.

**Trafficking** involves either forcing a person to travel, or making false promises of jobs or safety at the end of that journey. Exploitation can occur at the final destination and/or during the journey. Some ways people are exploited are explained on the left.

**Smuggling and trafficking can overlap with gangs working together as a criminal network.** The smuggler may be in contact with traffickers and provide information about new people arriving.



# RECRUITMENT OR MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE....

THERE ARE MANY WAYS PEOPLE MIGHT BE RECRUITED, INCLUDING:

- Face-to-face job offers
- Help in return for payment later
- Job offers via social media
- Grooming, through love or friendship

Traffickers know how to gain trust and make you feel special. When trust is established, the trafficker's kind behaviour may change.

## ...BY DECEPTION, COERCION, OR FORCE...

**YOU SHOULD NOT BE DECEIVED OR COERCED AT ANY POINT DURING THE RECRUITMENT OR MOVING PROCESS.**

This includes being deceived about the legality of your immigration status or your right to work, your living conditions, your work conditions or nature of the job, or your wages.

You and your loved ones should not be threatened, detained, trapped in debt, and your money or personal documents should not be withheld from you

## ... FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXPLOITATION

**UNFORTUNATELY, TRAFFICKERS PREY UPON PEOPLE IN A VULNERABLE SITUATION TO MAKE MONEY.**

You should **not** have to experience the following:

- Not being paid, or being paid a significantly low salary
- Being forced to do something you are uncomfortable with
- Being subject to intimidation, coercion, and/or physical or emotional abuse
- Be deceived or coerced to engage in criminal activity
- Being denied breaks and/or rest
- Having deductions from your salary to pay back for a recruitment debt
- Working in unsafe conditions
- Not having access to your passport or identity documents
- Living in crowded, unsafe, or unhygienic accommodation provided by work
- Having your movements restricted

## WHAT IS DEBT BONDAGE?

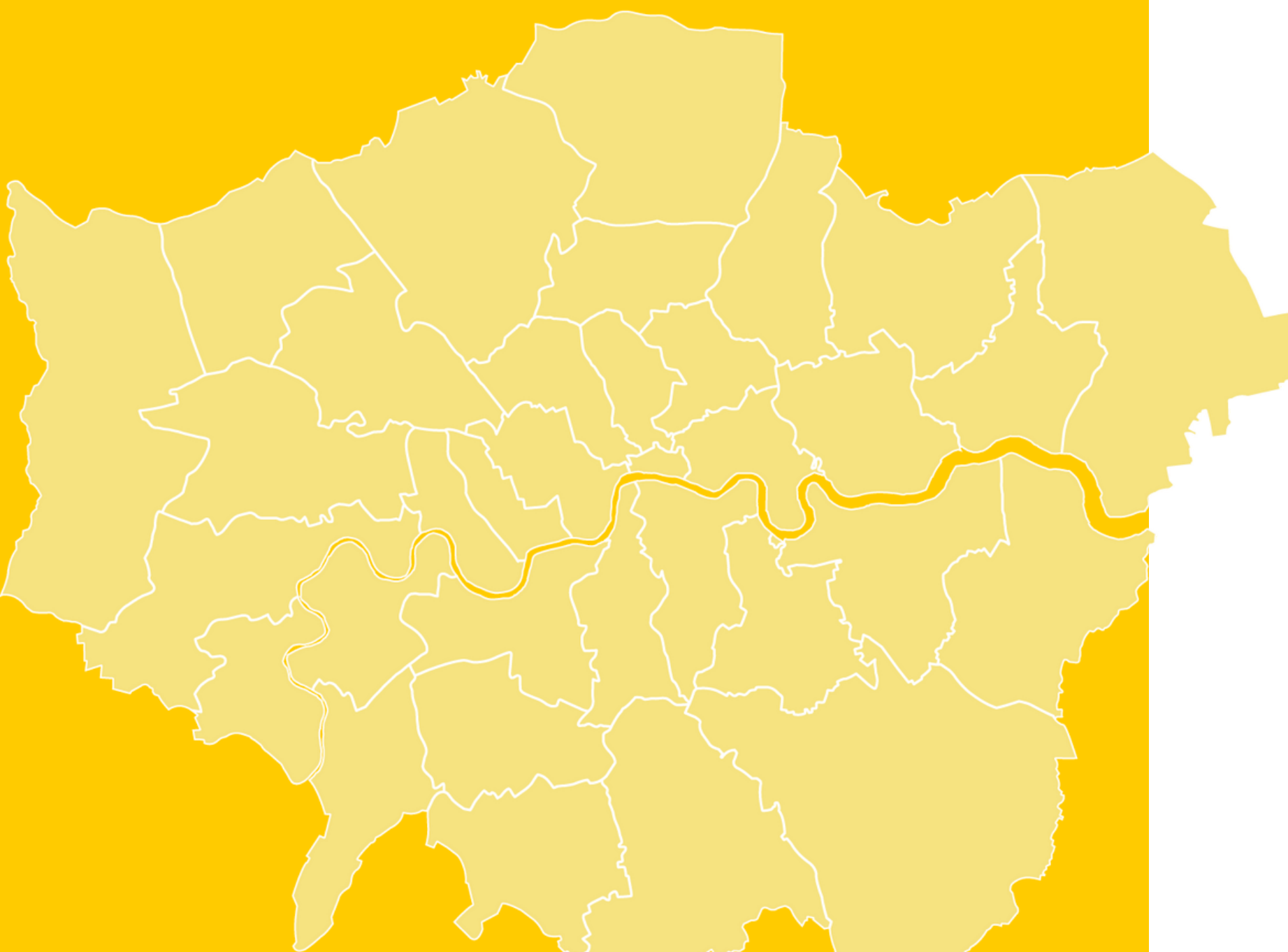
**DEBT BONDAGE IS WHEN SOMEONE IS FORCED TO WORK TO REPAY A REAL OR PERCEIVED DEBT, USUALLY INCURRED THROUGH THEIR TRAVEL.**

Often the debt grows at a rate they are unable to meet.

**No one has the right to force someone to work for them, even if money is owed.**



# HOW TO STAY SAFE FROM EXPLOITATION IN LONDON



## 1 NEVER AGREE WITHOUT MORE DETAILS



If approached in person or online and offered shelter or help, never agree unless you know more details.

## 2 BE CAREFUL WITH WHO YOU TRUST



Some people might speak your language or be from your country. That does not always mean you can trust them.

## 3 TELL PEOPLE WHERE YOU ARE WORKING



Note down the address and share it with your friends and family. You can also send them a photo of the address and share your location on your phone.

## 4 SAVE EMERGENCY NUMBERS ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE [UK: 999]



Always keep it with you. Make note of support organisations that can help you. You could save them under a fake name.

## 5 YOUR EMPLOYER DOES NOT HAVE THE RIGHT TO KEEP YOUR PASSPORT OR PERSONAL DOCUMENTS



If they are asking to do this, it isn't legal.

## 6 SET UP A SAFETY WORD WITH SOMEONE IN YOUR CIRCLE



You can use the secret safety word to let someone trustworthy know you need help.

# WHAT CAN I DO IF I BELIEVE I HAVE BEEN TRAFFICKED?

## THE MODERN SLAVERY AND EXPLOITATION HELPLINE

You can call the helpline for information, advice, and guidance about any human trafficking issue in the UK. It is free, confidential, available 24/7, and available in 200 languages.

**08000 121 700**

[modernslaveryhelpline.org](https://modernslaveryhelpline.org)

The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a **UK Government system for identifying and referring potential survivors of trafficking**. If you are over 18 and have experienced trafficking, you have the choice whether to enter the NRM or not. It is **important that you consider your options carefully**.

If you have experienced trafficking, you can ask a 'first responder' to submit an NRM referral. You may be entitled to legal, emotional, practical, and accommodation support while your claim is being considered.

**If you do not want to enter the NRM and do not have the legal right to be in the UK**, you can seek advice from someone qualified to give legal advice, such as an immigration solicitor or advisor.

### MEDAILLE TRUST

The Moving on Project provides tailored, one-to-one support and a drop-in service to women affected by trafficking across London.

0800 06 999 16

[movingonenquiries@medaille-trust.org.uk](mailto:movingonenquiries@medaille-trust.org.uk)

### THE SALVATION ARMY

If you, or someone you know, suspect you might be a victim of modern slavery and are in need of help, you can call The Salvation Army Referral Helpline. It is free, confidential, and available 24/7.

0800 808 3733

[salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery/supporting-survivors](https://salvationarmy.org.uk/modern-slavery/supporting-survivors)



# WHERE ELSE CAN I GET HELP, ADVICE, OR SUPPORT?

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, please contact 999. You will be connected to emergency services (the police, an ambulance, the fire brigade). It is free to contact 999. You can use a phone box to call 999 and if you have no money, you will still get through. You can also walk in to a hospital without an appointment if you need urgent care.

## HOUSING SUPPORT

**Shelter** is a free emergency helpline if you are homeless, have nowhere to stay tonight, are worried about losing your home in the next two months or are at risk of harm or abuse: 0808 800 4444 (Monday to Friday, 8am – 8pm. Weekends and bank holidays, 9am – 5pm)

London Adviceline (Monday to Friday, 9:30am - 5pm) :

Under 25 years Old: 0330 053 6091      25 years old and over: 0344 515 1540

**The Passage** is a homelessness charity based in Westminster which provides practical support and services to help change the lives of people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

St Vincent's Centre, Carlisle Place, London, SW1P 1NL (Monday – Friday : 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 3:30pm)

**Glass Door Homeless Charity** provides shelter and support to people experiencing homelessness in the London boroughs of Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith & Fulham, Richmond and Wandsworth.

020 7351 4948

[info@glassdoor.org.uk](mailto:info@glassdoor.org.uk)

## VICTIM SUPPORT

**Victim Support** is a charity providing independent, free, and confidential advice and support to victims of crime and traumatic incidents in England and Wales.

Call Supportline on 08 08 16 89 111

[victimsupport.org.uk/](http://victimsupport.org.uk/)

## IMMIGRATION SOLICITORS

For immigration, you could seek advice from someone qualified to give legal advice , such as an immigration solicitor or advisor listed in the link: [gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser/what-advisers-can-do](http://gov.uk/find-an-immigration-adviser/what-advisers-can-do)

## CITIZENS ADVICE

You can contact your local Citizens Advice for free, confidential advice on issues such as benefits, work, debt, housing, family, health, and immigration in the UK.

Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Westminster each have local bureaux.

Find your local Citizens Advice here: [citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/nearby/](http://citizensadvice.org.uk/about-us/contact-us/nearby/)

## SHPRESA PROGRAMME

Shpresa supports the integration of the Albanian-speaking community in the UK. Shpresa helps Albanian-speaking migrants with understanding their rights and feel empowered with a support network.

020 7511 1586

[shpresaprogramme.org/contact/](http://shpresaprogramme.org/contact/)

## YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL

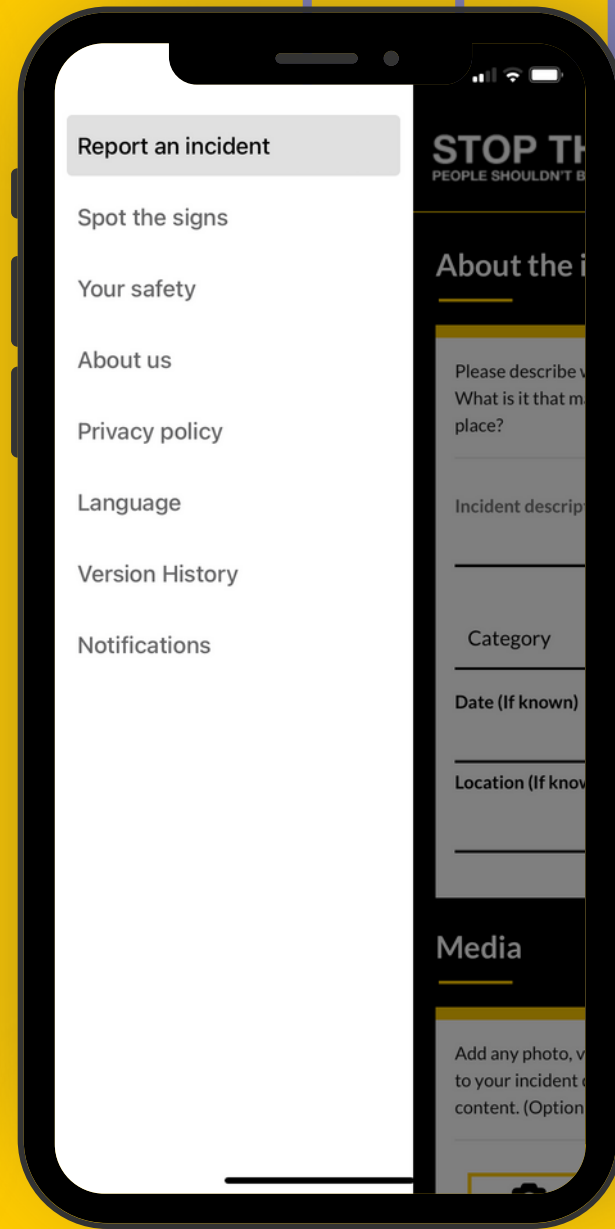
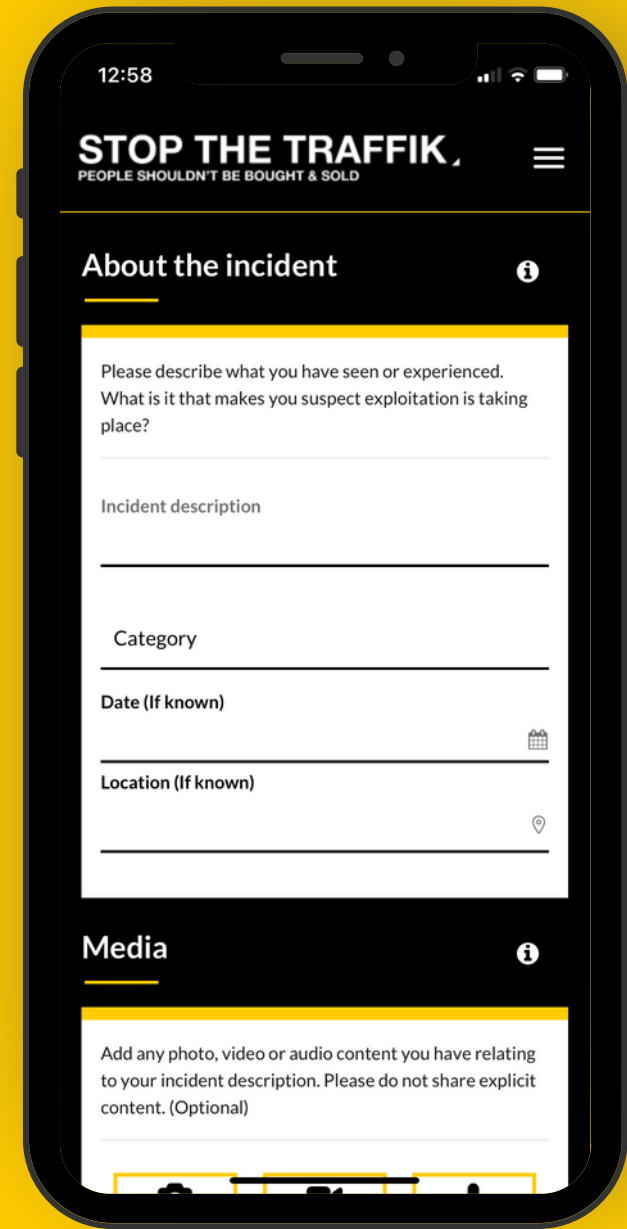
You can contact your local council for support relating to your housing situation or if you are experiencing abuse or neglect. The council can arrange for a translator to assist when you contact them.

[gov.uk/find-local-council](http://gov.uk/find-local-council)

Kensington and Chelsea: [rbkc.gov.uk/contact-us](http://rbkc.gov.uk/contact-us)

Hammersmith and Fulham: [lbhf.gov.uk/contact-us](http://lbhf.gov.uk/contact-us)

Westminster: [westminster.gov.uk/about-council/contact-us](http://westminster.gov.uk/about-council/contact-us)



# REPORT AN INCIDENT ON THE STOP APP

The **STOP APP** enables anybody who knows, has seen or even heard of a situation that they believe to be human trafficking, to talk about it in a safe and secure space. You can report the incident **anonymously and securely** through the STOP APP. There will be no record of the report submitted on your phone.

- Has someone offered you work that seemed suspicious?
- Are you or someone you know being forced to work, or being exploited?

Make sure you are in safe place away from the suspected incident when making the report.

Upload your contact details if you want us to contact you. You have the option to remain anonymous.

The reports are checked by trained members of our charity, who work in intelligence at the STOP THE TRAFFIK Group. Any safeguarding concerns will be referred to the appropriate organisations.

STOP THE TRAFFIK Group is a human trafficking prevention organisation. **This app collects individuals' stories of global human trafficking to disrupt and prevent this crime.** We are not a rescue organisation and this app is not monitored 24/7 but will be checked on the next working day.

**IF ANYONE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER OR A CRIME HAS BEEN COMMITTED PLEASE CONTACT TRUSTED AUTHORITIES.**

## YOU HAVE THE OPTION TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.



**PROJECT SUPPORTED BY**

