

# Support and help

The Ostrobothnia Police Department has conducted house searches and detained people in Närpiö on suspicion of extortion in cases that have caught the attention of the media.

- Tipoffs in the case are still being accepted, and they can be sent by e-mail to [ihmiskauppa@poliisi.fi](mailto:ihmiskauppa@poliisi.fi) and/or [vihjeet.pohjanmaa@poliisi.fi](mailto:vihjeet.pohjanmaa@poliisi.fi).

## 1. SERVICES OF VICTIM SUPPORT FINLAND

Victim Support Finland (RIKU) is an organisation whose task it is to help the victims and witnesses of crimes. Victim Support Finland offers confidential discussions, advice, and support in the situation at hand. No information on the discussions is disclosed to others without the permission of the person who initiated the contact. Victim Support Finland can also be approached anonymously. Contacting Victim Support Finland does not mean that you have made a commitment to report a crime, for example, but you can get advice on how taking such action could affect your situation.

Victim Support Finland has a special support service whose employees are specialised in advising and helping victims of human trafficking and related crimes: for example, if someone has not been paid legally required wages for work, has worked long hours without proper compensation, or has had to pay for getting a job. Customers are accepted without regard to gender, place of residence, or citizenship, and it is also possible to use one's own language. We translate messages, and reliable interpreters can be used in telephone conversations and meetings. As a customer you can affect who is your interpreter, or whether your identity is disclosed to the interpreters.

You may contact special support services when you think that you or someone you know may have become a victim of human trafficking or other exploitation, or if you need advice and guidance in questions such as your rights as a victim, seeking out services, reporting a crime, or on how doing so might affect your situation.

Above you can find contact information for special support services. E-mail, text, and WhatsApp messages can be sent in any language.

- E-mail: [help@riku.fi](mailto:help@riku.fi) (responses to e-mail come within three days)
- By telephone (including text messaging or Whatsapp), tel. 040 632 9293

### Further information

- Victim Support Finland service Brochures are available in different languages  
[Brochures in different languages - Victim Support Finland \(riku.fi\)](#)
- Further information on exploitation of foreign labour and work discrimination  
[Exploitation of labour - Victim Support Finland \(riku.fi\)](#)

## 2. RESIDENCE PERMIT AND THE RIGHT TO WORK

If a person has become a victim of exploitation or significant neglect by an employer, the person may apply for an expansion of their work permit or a certificate of an extended right to work, or switch employers. The employee must have a Finnish residence permit, which includes the right to work. It is not possible to apply for a permit or certificate if the person has worked in Finland on a seasonal work permit or without a residence permit. However, a person who has found a new job, may apply for their first residence permit based on employment.

When an extension of a permit or certificate of the right to work is applied for based on neglect or exploitation by an employer, the Finnish Immigration Service will evaluate if there is a well-founded cause to suspect that the employer's actions constitute serious negligence or other exploitation. If an extension of a permit, or a certificate is granted on the grounds of exploitation by an employer, the person in question may work in any field - in other words, the right to work is unlimited.

### Further information

- Further information on applying for a new permit or certificate, if the employer has mistreated the employee  
<https://migri.fi/-/voit-hakea-uutta-lupaa-tai-todistusta-jos-sinulla-on-suomessa-oleskelulupa-ja-tyonantajasi-on-kohdellut-sinua-kaltoin>
- Further information on a permit extension for victims of an employer's negligence or exploitation  
[Permit extension for victims of an employer's neglect or exploitation | Finnish Immigration Service \(migri.fi\)](#)
- Further information on right to work certificates for victims of employer negligence or exploitation  
[Right to work certificate for victims of employer neglect or exploitation | Finnish Immigration Service \(migri.fi\)](#)
- Further information on significant negligence or exploitation by an employer  
<https://migri.fi/tyonantajan-merkittava-laiminlyonti-tai-hyvaksikaytto>

## 3. CITY OF NÄRPIÖ OFFERS GUIDANCE ON SERVICES

The City of Närpiö offers service guidance through the Welcome Office and the Integration Coordinator. You may reach them from this switch: 06-2249111

## 4. WELLBEING SERVICES COUNTY OF OSTROBOTHNIA

[www.osterbottensvalfard.fi](http://www.osterbottensvalfard.fi) | [www.pohjanmaanhyvinvointi.fi](http://www.pohjanmaanhyvinvointi.fi)

Please do not isolate yourself or ignore the plight of someone close to you when there is an urgent need of help from social services. The crisis telephone hotline of the Wellbeing Services County of Ostrobothnia responds to urgent needs for social services 24/7. You may call the hotline at 06-218 9555

- in urgent matters involving child welfare
- in a serious crisis situation affecting a family, individual, or next of kin
- in situations involving domestic violence
- if there is an immediate need for an evaluation and action by a social welfare official

#### **Child and family services**

Visiting address: Social and family services, Närpiöntie 4, 64200 Närpiö

#### **Adult social work and economic support**

Visiting address: Social and family services, Närpiöntie 4, 64200 Närpiö

#### **Crisis group activities**

Crisis group activities are coordinated by the Psycho-social Centre in Närpiö. A local crisis group that conducts psychological debriefings after traumatic accidents or after close-call situations operate in Kaskinen, Kristiinankaupunki, Närpiö, and Maalahti/Korsnäs.

You can reach us through the switchboard of the Psychosocial unit, tel. 06 224 1831 (Mon-Fri 8–15). Next of kin or care staff may also make contact. All our services are free of charge.

#### **Student welfare**

School pupils and students can use student welfare services to get help and support from school counsellors, school psychologists, and school health care.

#### **Contact information**

- Telephone hours Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 8:15-9:00
- Telephone number: 06 2249 681
- Requests for call-back can be left on weekdays 8:00-12:00
- School health care can also be reached through Wilma.

