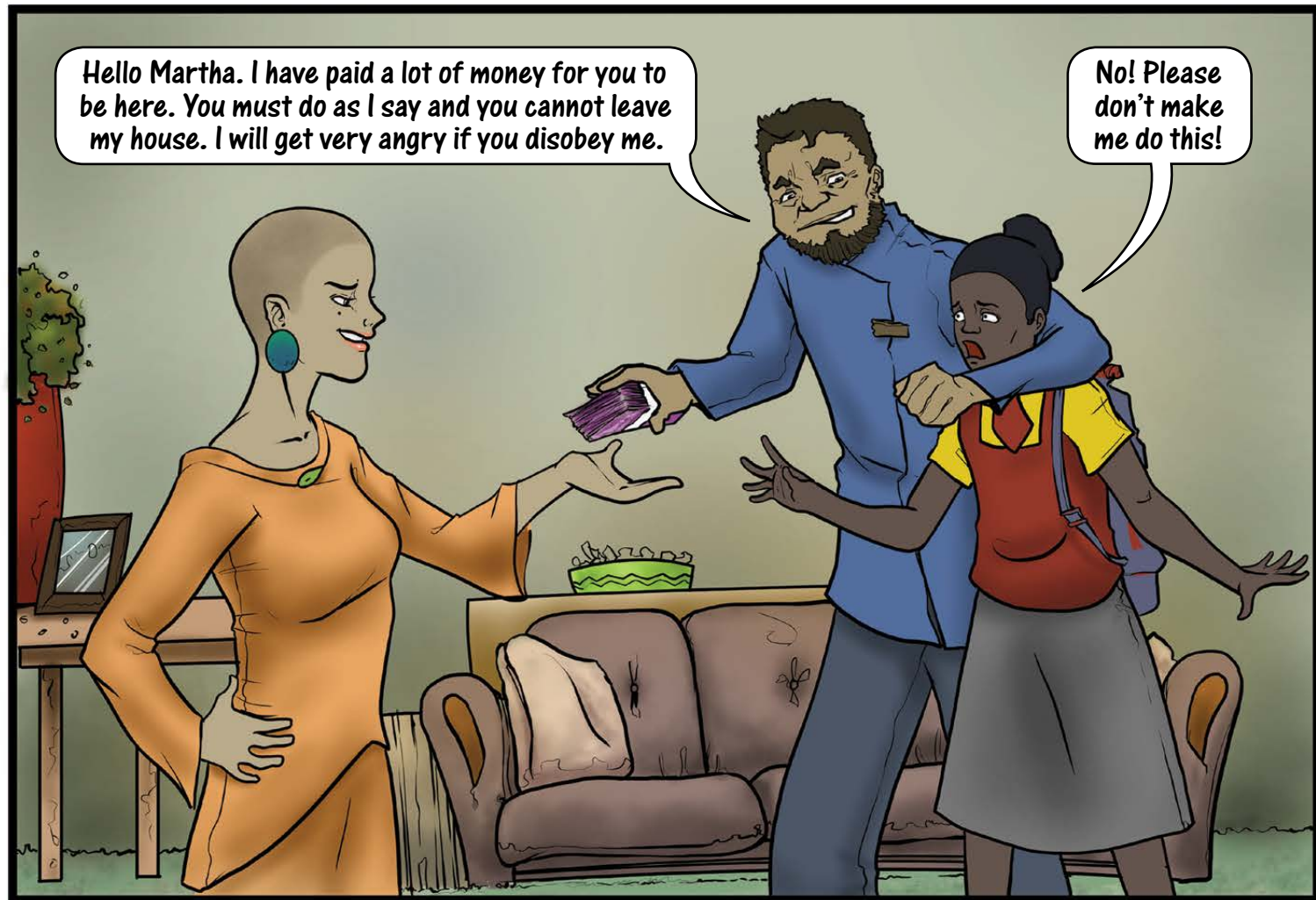


WHAT IS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS?



ONE MONTH LATER ...





SIX MONTHS LATER ...

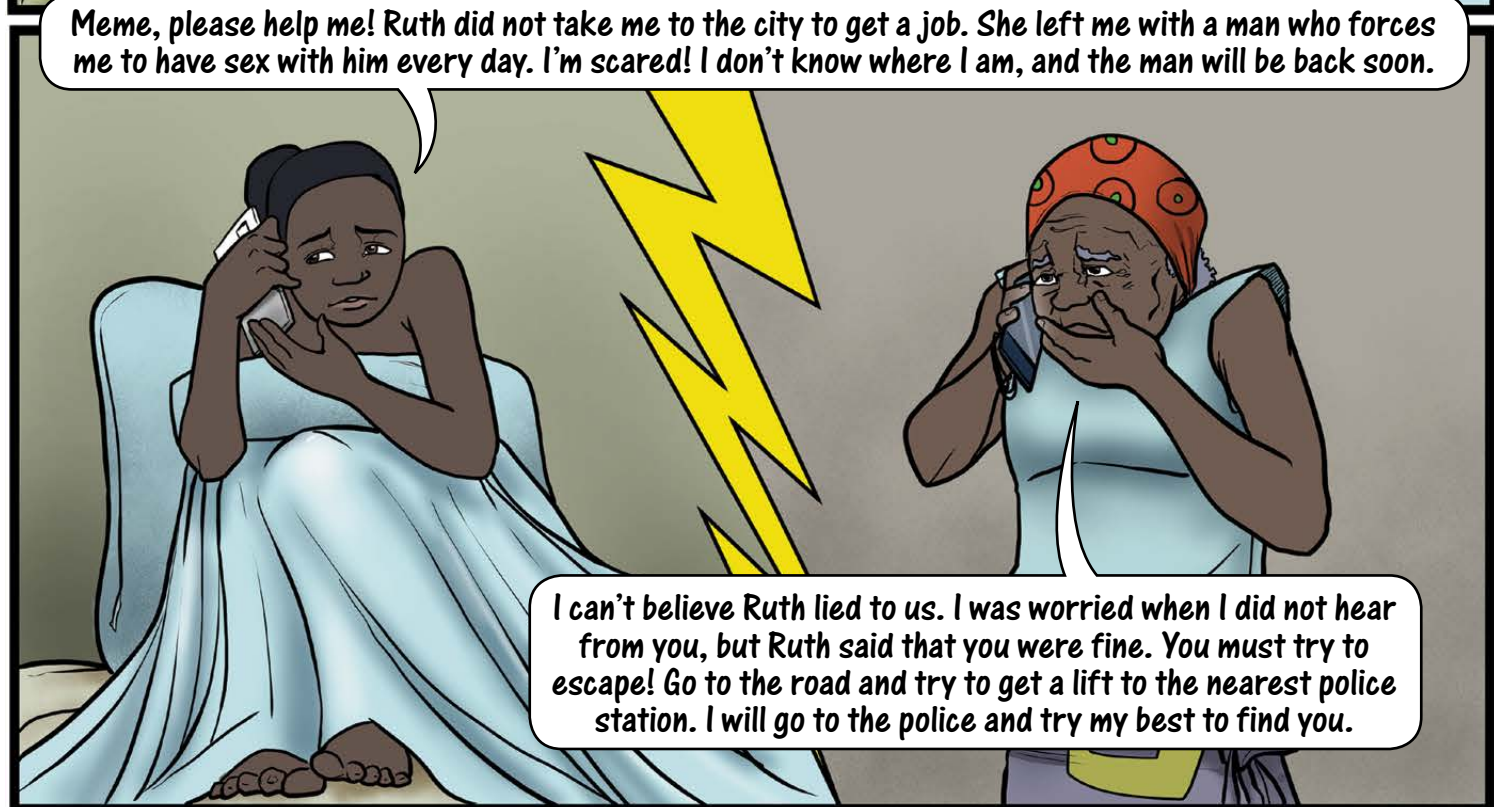
I am going out for a beer. Do not leave this room.



He forgot his phone! Here is my chance!



Meme, please help me! Ruth did not take me to the city to get a job. She left me with a man who forces me to have sex with him every day. I'm scared! I don't know where I am, and the man will be back soon.



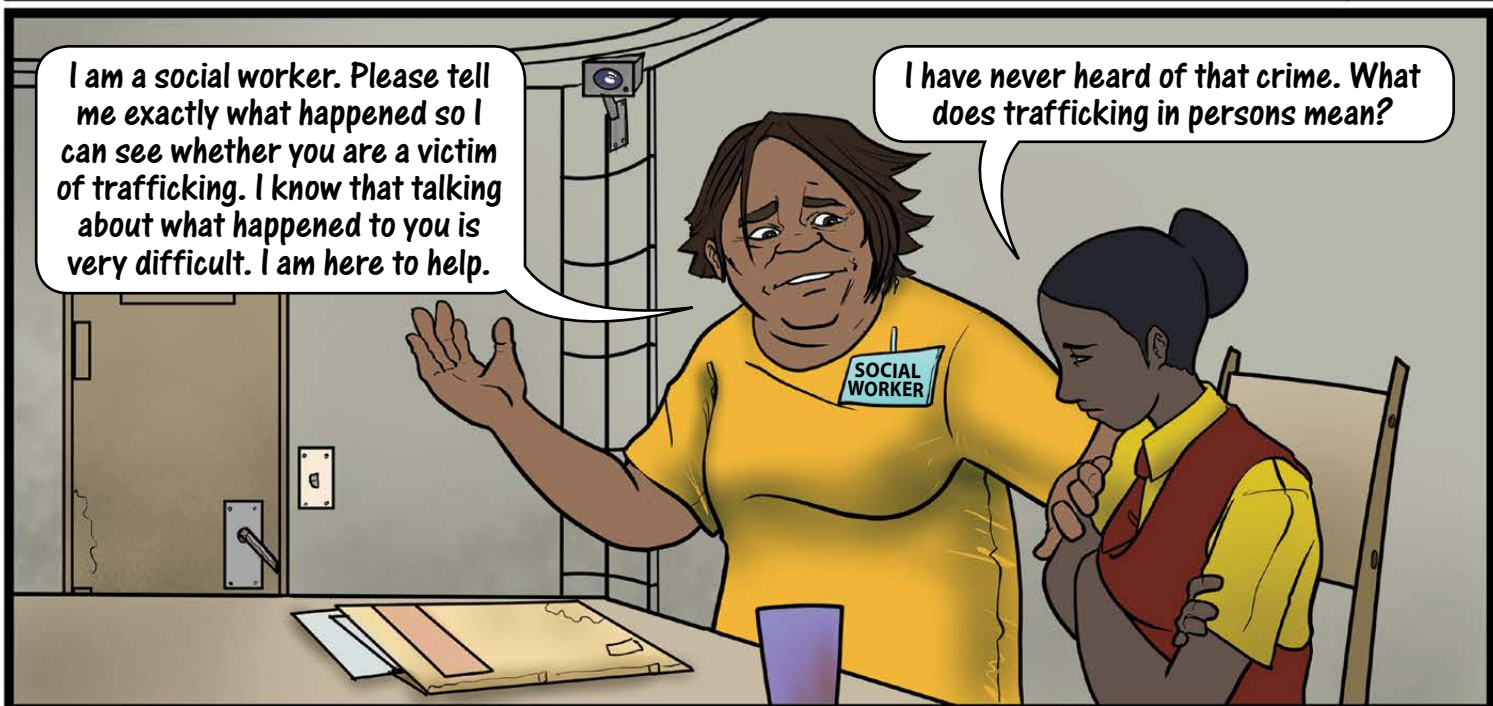
I can't believe Ruth lied to us. I was worried when I did not hear from you, but Ruth said that you were fine. You must try to escape! Go to the road and try to get a lift to the nearest police station. I will go to the police and try my best to find you.

Please help me! This woman I know took me from my home in the village, drove me to a farm, and forced me to stay with a man who had sex with me every day for six months. I kept telling him to stop, but he beat me.

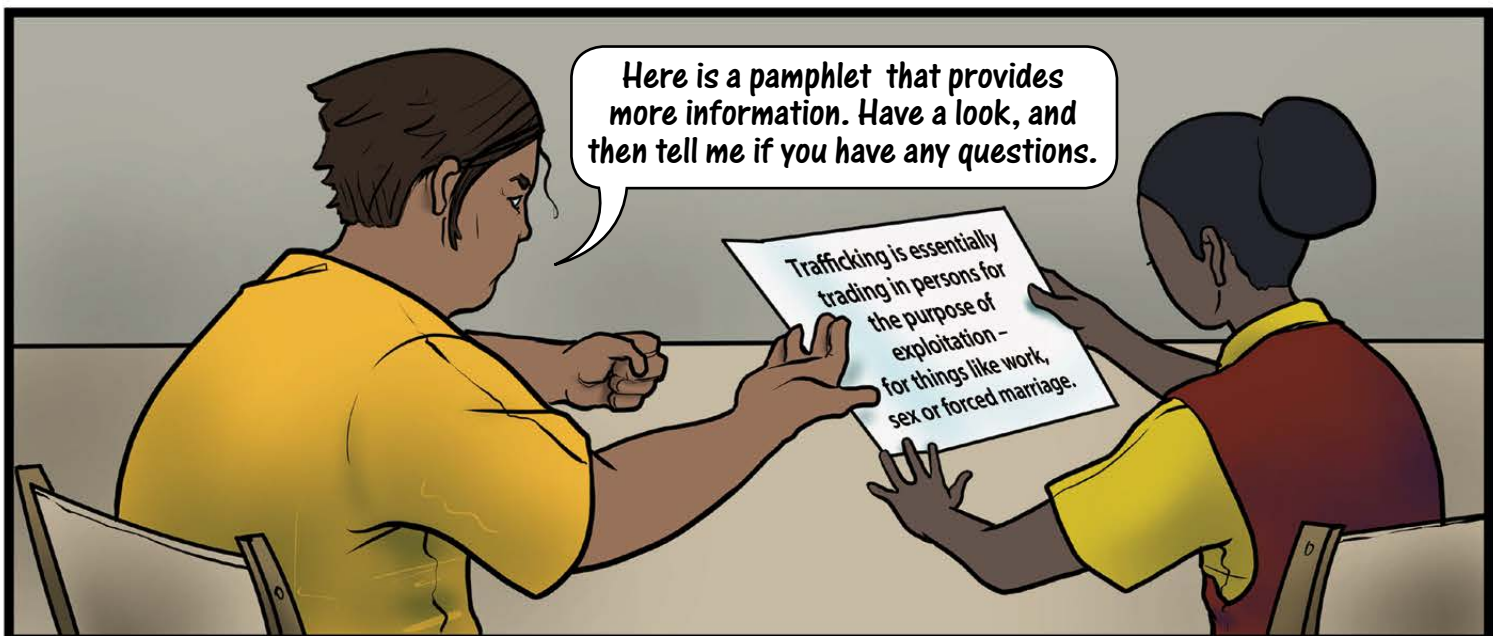


I am a social worker. Please tell me exactly what happened so I can see whether you are a victim of trafficking. I know that talking about what happened to you is very difficult. I am here to help.

I have never heard of that crime. What does trafficking in persons mean?



Here is a pamphlet that provides more information. Have a look, and then tell me if you have any questions.




WHAT IS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS?


A person commits the crime of trafficking in persons if he or she does a specified ACT, using certain MEANS, for the purpose of EXPLOITATION.

ACT	MEANS (required only for adult victims)	EXPLOITATION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recruits• Transports• Delivers• Transfers• Harbours• Sells• Exchanges• Leases• Receives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Threat• Use of force or other forms of coercion• Abduction• Fraud• Deception• Kidnapping• Abuse of power or abuse of position of vulnerability• Giving or receiving of payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person who has control over another person	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prostitution or sexual exploitation• Forced labour or services, prohibited child labour or economic exploitation• Slavery• Debt bondage• Forced marriage• Involuntary servitude• Criminal exploitation• Removal of organs or body parts• Impregnation of a female against her will for the purpose of selling the child


- Victims of trafficking can be women, men or children.
- Trafficking can involve movement across borders or within a single country.
- When a child is the victim, the crime takes place if the ACT and the EXPLOITATION are there. The MEANS do not matter because a child can never consent to exploitation.




Wow! That is a lot of information, but I think I understand.




Martha, I believe that you are a victim of trafficking as well as rape. Ruth and Peter have committed the crime of trafficking in persons because Ruth took you to Peter's home for sexual purposes, and Peter confined you at his home and used you for sex.



Because you are under 18, it would still be trafficking even if there was no force or trickery. So even if Ruth had not lied to you - and even if Peter had not controlled you with beatings and threats - it would still be the crime of trafficking. And it would still be a crime even if you cooperated - a child can never consent to being trafficked!



I really miss my meme. When can I go home?



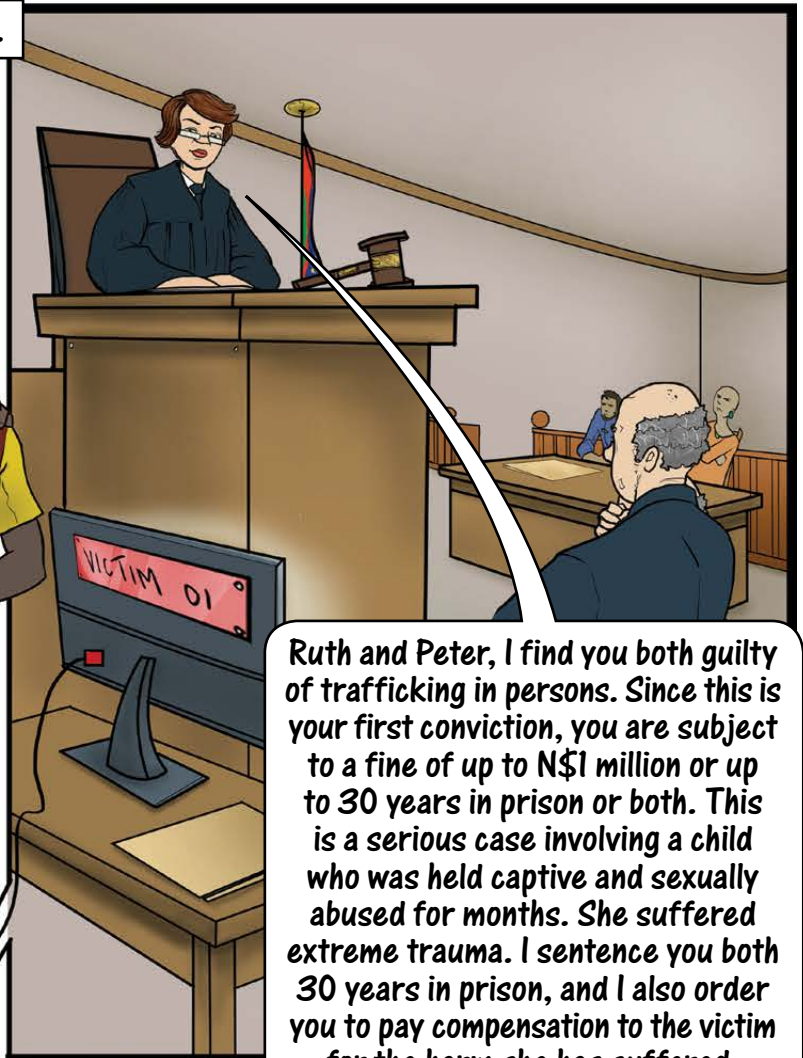
We will investigate to see it is safe for you to go back home. If it is safe, your mother can come and get you. If she cannot afford the trip, we can arrange for an adult to take you home at government expense. We will take you to a safe place in the meantime. We can also arrange counselling and medical care.



Thank you for all of your help!

SIX MONTHS LATER - THE DAY OF THE TRIAL ...

Our family friend Ruth said she would help me earn money so I could help my mother and father. But she left me with a strange man and disappeared. That man raped me repeatedly. I was so scared! I have trouble sleeping now, and I cry a lot. My father had a stroke after he heard what happened to me, and now he is paralysed. My mother lost her job because she must take care of my father and me.



Ruth and Peter, I find you both guilty of trafficking in persons. Since this is your first conviction, you are subject to a fine of up to N\$1 million or up to 30 years in prison or both. This is a serious case involving a child who was held captive and sexually abused for months. She suffered extreme trauma. I sentence you both 30 years in prison, and I also order you to pay compensation to the victim for the harm she has suffered.



THE DAY AFTER THE TRIAL ...



You were so brave to testify in court! Many people do not know what trafficking in persons means. Namibia has good laws, but it takes time for people to learn about them. Your case is an example that may help others.

WHAT IS TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS?

Both adults and children can be victims of trafficking. If the victim is a CHILD (under the age of 18), NO MEANS are required – just one of the listed ACTS for the purpose of EXPLOITATION.

WHO CAN HELP PROTECT AND ASSIST VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING?

- ANYONE who has information about the trafficking of a person must make a report to a police officer or a government social worker.
- POLICE OFFICERS and SOCIAL WORKERS who receive a report that a person has been trafficked must take certain actions:
 - POLICE OFFICERS must make a report to a social worker, provide the victim with any immediate assistance needed, and take the victim to a safe place if necessary.
 - SOCIAL WORKERS must make an assessment to see if the case really involves trafficking, so the victim can get access to appropriate services. In the case of a child, they will arrange an investigation to see what kinds of protective services the child needs. For example, if the child's parents were involved in the trafficking, the child may be put into the care of a relative or a foster parent.

WHAT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE TO VICTIMS?

- Adult or child victims may be provided with services such as housing, counselling, information about their legal rights, medical care and psychological support.
- A child victim of trafficking will be placed in temporary safe care and assisted to get back home safely once it is clear that the child will be safe at home.

YOU CAN GET A MORE DETAILED BOOKLET ABOUT NAMIBIAN LAW ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FROM THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE CENTRE.

If you have a comment or question about this comic, contact the Legal Assistance Centre:
SMS: 081 600 0098 • Email: comic@lac.org.na • Fax: 061 234 953 • Post: P.O. Box 604 Windhoek, Namibia

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Text: DIANNE HUBBARD and SAMANTHA WYNNE

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