

The background of the entire image is a dark red field filled with numerous yellow, five-pointed stars of varying sizes. Overlaid on this background are the dark silhouettes of several people, likely of diverse ages and ethnicities, standing in a circle and holding hands. The text is positioned in the lower half of the image, centered horizontally.

**Are you an
immigrant woman
in Italy...**

**and in need
of help?**

Have you been deceived with false job promises?

Have you been threatened by your deceiver?

Are you without papers? Are you exploited?

Are you forced to do illegal work?

Do they force you to prostitute yourself or to beg?

Do they force you to work in a nightclub or elsewhere?

Does someone take away the money you earn?

**Ask for information and help
at this free number:**

800.290.290

(24 hours day or night)

they will answer you in your own language

You will be able to receive **protection** in a secret and safe place and to participate in a **program of social integration** (they will help you to learn Italian, to find a job and a home).

You will be able to obtain a renewable **residence permit** that permits you to stay and to work in Italy.

In Italy prostitution is not a criminal offense.

But anyone who exploits prostitution and forces other people to prostitute themselves, to beg or to work, commits a crime.

If you want to be helped:

- **You are not obliged to denounce** your exploiters.
- Telling your story, you can **prove that you have been a victim** of violence and exploitation. If the exploiters are put on trial you may be called upon to testify.
- **You will be able to remain in Italy, participating in a program of social integration that will allow you to obtain a residence permit for humanitarian reasons**, that (at the end of the program) can be converted into an ordinary residence permit for work purposes.

Remember that you can also **choose to return to your home country** through "rimpatrio volontario assistito" Assisted Voluntary Repatriation. An organization will pay for your trip and seek to facilitate your return home.

In Italy you can work legally if

you obtain a **work visa** and apply for a **residence permit for work purposes**.

The **visa** for work done for hire will be issued by the Italian Embassy or Consulate of your home country exclusively **if an employer** (who may be Italian, or a foreigner with a residence permit) has been **authorized** to call you, **on the basis of the entry quotas** that are established each year.

Within 8 days of your entry you will have to go, together with your employer, to the "Sportello Unico" of the Prefecture for the signing of your **residence contract** and the issuing of your residence permit.

If you come to Italy as a **tourist**, you can look for work, but to actually work you must first return to your home country and then be called by your employer, following the procedure described above.

The call on the basis of the quotas usually takes place once a year: find out about it at the Provincial Labor Office (Direzione Provinciale del Lavoro)!

Also **as a tourist, within 8 days** of your arrival you have to go to **Police Headquarters (the "Questura")** to obtain your **tourist residence permit**.

If you fail to do so, you become "illegal" and can be expelled!

If your papers are not in order, for regularization you will have to return in any case to your home country!

Do not trust anyone who promises you can work legally outside of these regulations!

Expulsion or expulsion order

If you do not have a passport and a residence permit, you cannot live and work legally in Italy: you can be expelled and risk not being able to re-enter Italy legally for many years.

Even if you are "illegal" or "sans papiers", Italian law guarantees you certain rights:

- 1. the right to health**
- 2. the protection of pregnancy**
- 3. the protection of minors, if you are under 18**

1. The right to health

Even if you do not have a residence permit, you have a right to **urgent and essential health care**.

To obtain this care you have to present an STP (Straniero Temporaneamente Presente=Temporarily Present Foreigner) **application** at the local Health Service (ASL) in the place where you live or at a hospital office where they will give you a free STP card. Remember to ask what doctors' offices you can go to for examinations and care (free of charge or at very low cost).

The card has to be renewed every 6 months in any ASL and is valid all over the country.

If you are in need of urgent care, **you can go to a hospital emergency ward** even without an STP card.

In Italy you can work legally if you obtain a work visa and apply for a residence permit for work purposes.

If you have sexually-related health problems, go to the Advisory Bureau!

If you need an **ambulance**, call the free number **118**.

You have a right to a **free and anonymous test for HIV-AIDS**, for all infectious diseases, for hepatitis and sexually transmitted diseases.

2. The protection of pregnancy

If you are pregnant, you cannot be expelled until 6 months after the birth of your child.

You have a right to free health assistance during pregnancy and for 6 months after childbirth: for this you have to ask the Questura for a "health permit" and the ASL for a health service card.

If you want to interrupt your pregnancy (abortion), you may do so **within the first 90 days** and in a public hospital, legally and free of charge.

If you cannot or do not want to keep the child, you can leave it in the hospital without committing any crime and without giving your name. The child will be cared for and will be put up for adoption.

3. Protection if you are under 18

Are you under 18? You cannot be expelled because you are a minor!

If you are here **on your own**, call the **toll-free number 800.290.290**. Or call the **Police** at the free number **113** or the **Carabinieri** at the free number **112**, they will help you!

You always have a right to public education and to health care.

You can rejoin your family. You can also obtain a **residence permit** that, **at the age of 18**, you will be able to renew for study or work purposes.

Furthermore a person cannot be expelled:

a. if she risks suffering violence or being killed for political, religious, sexual or ethnic reasons if she returns to her home country;

b. if she lives with a spouse or a relative (parents, aunts or uncles, cousins, nephews or nieces) holding Italian citizenship.

These persons can obtain a residence permit if they apply for it at the Questura.

If they brought you to Italy with a job contract for **"artistic purposes"** and got you a residence permit with the wording: "all'art. 27, lett. n) del D. Lgs. 286/1998," then you are bound to your employer and **you cannot change the type of work you do or your employer either**. This residence permit cannot be converted to one for "purposes of ordinary work" and each time it expires, it may be renewed, for not more than 6 months.

They can make you work in a **nightclub**, even as a stripper, or they can ask you to prostitute yourself.

With this type of contract it is all the easier to coerce, threaten and blackmail you.

**You can ask for information and help
at this free number:**

800.290.290

(24 hours day or night)

they will answer you in your own language

Or you can call these numbers:



Regione Emilia-Romagna · Regione Veneto · Regione Marche · ARS ·
Caritas di Udine · With the collaboration of the On the Road Association