

INSPIRING FREEDOM SINCE 2013



PREVENTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING &  
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN ROMANIA

# OUR PRIORITIES



**Prevention  
Education**



**Capacity  
Building**



**Assistance**



**Advocacy &  
Public Policies**

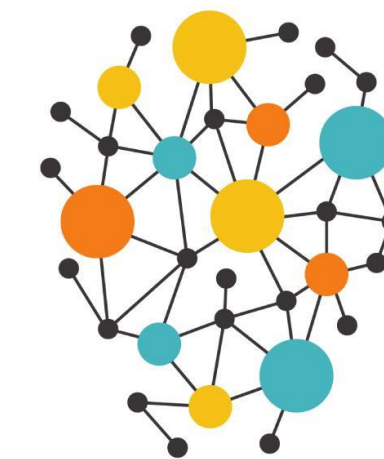


**Awareness  
Events**



# eLiberare

CHAIRS ProTECT PLATFORM  
ROMANIAN ORGANIZATION OF  
**23 CSOs**  
FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Professionals  
Tackling  
Exploitation of  
Children and  
Trafficking



# SITUATION IN ROMANIA:

## 1. THE CULTURE OF IMPUNITY



In terms of TIP cases we still see situations in the legal system in which:

- traffickers receive suspended sentences;
- cases of human trafficking do not result in a sentence because the statute of limitations runs out before a legal conclusion is passed;
- sentences do not even add up to the number of years that traffickers exploited their victims.

All these things make human trafficking a very profitable business, hence working against progress in this field, and against the defence of human rights at large.

We salute the recent legislative initiatives that were passed, allowing for a longer statute of limitations for trafficking cases. However, child sexual abuse material creation is still not included, due to its classification as a crime against public order and the state, as opposed to a crime of sexual violence against children.



# RECOMMENDATIONS:

## 1. THE CULTURE OF IMPUNITY



Establish judicial practices that do not default to suspended sentences or to cancelling sentences all together because of the statute of limitations running out.

Institute punishment that no longer makes human trafficking a low risk, high return business.

Classify child sexual abuse material creation as a crime of sexual violence against children



# SITUATION IN ROMANIA:

## 2. TIMELY DETECTION



We salute the passing of the new **National Referral and Identification Mechanism** that represents a huge leap forward in detecting and protecting victims of human trafficking in Romania.

*Further administrative policies and procedures have to be put in place in order to:*

- allow for **clear referral pathways for all state stakeholders** who now have clear proactive identification attributions;
- have a clear **procedure to ensure the social path to victim identification**: the steps through which specialized civil society actors can confer the statute of formal identification;
- implement a **24/7 hotline** to replace the helpline staffed with a live operator only from Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 16:00;
- confer specialized CSOs a **valid and equal seat at the table** when it comes to the taskforce working on the issue. The taskforce was instituted through a governmental decision (No. 1064 from 02.10.2021), but that only allows CSOs to be permanent guests, versus voting members.



# RECOMMENDATIONS:

## 2. TIMELY DETECTION



Develop and implement clear procedures that enable proactive and early identification, including a 24/7 helpline.



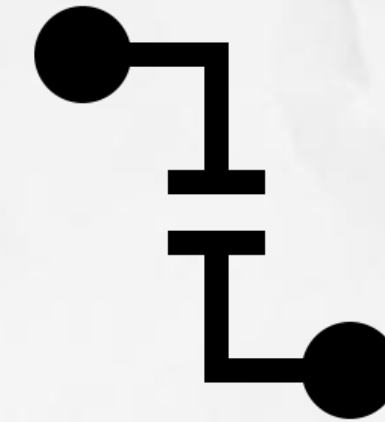
CSOs need to be treated as equal partners, enabled with the right mechanism to formally identify victims and with an equal seat at the decisional table.



# SITUATION IN ROMANIA:

## 3. VICTIMS' RIGHTS

anonymity, shelter, counselling



**We MUST identify more victims and we MUST ensure that the ones we have identified have the appropriate services available in order to not be re-trafficked, and in order to ensure that they have a true shot at reintegration.**

Assistance of victims is still **almost single handedly offered by civil society organizations.**

The needs of trafficking victims require specialized services and responses, hence including them among other types of social services beneficiaries may not respond to their specific needs.

Addressing the lack of access to long term counselling services, specialized shelters and individualized care is essential. Traffickers do not traffic populations, but individuals, hence thinking that a one-size fits all service will meet the needs of all beneficiaries can lead to a new traumatic episode and to re-trafficking.

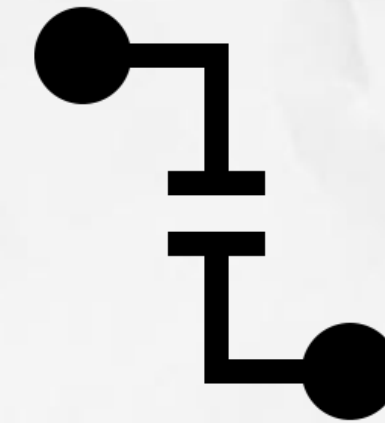




# RECOMMENDATIONS:

## 3. VICTIMS' RIGHTS

anonymity, shelter, counselling



Secure the rights of victims of trafficking to **non-punishment**



Ensure access to **specialized services** and appropriate, **individualized care and reintegration opportunities.**



Thank you!



[www.eliberare.com](http://www.eliberare.com)