



Awareness Campaign Against Trafficking: Human Trafficking in the Romani Community in Albania

Urgent Need for Documentation, Prevention, and Effective Intervention

Background

Human trafficking remains a deeply troubling issue with far-reaching social, economic, psychological, and legal consequences. Despite ongoing efforts to implement policies for prevention, victim protection, and reintegration, trafficking continues to be a widespread and pressing problem in Albania. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the vulnerability of marginalized groups, increasing the risks of trafficking.

According to the 2023 U.S. State Department report, Albania does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant strides. Efforts to combat trafficking have increased compared to the previous reporting period, even amidst the challenges posed by the pandemic. Nevertheless, Albania remains categorized as a Tier 2 country.

Albania serves as a source country for the trafficking of men, women, and children to other European nations, including the UK. Domestic trafficking is also becoming a growing concern. While scientific data on the exact number of Albanian trafficking victims is scarce, estimates indicate the numbers may reach thousands. This lack of data presents a significant obstacle to effective intervention and underscores the need for evidence-based strategies to combat trafficking.

Overview: The Romani Community and Human Trafficking

The Roma are among the most marginalized communities in Albania, facing severe social, political, and economic disadvantages. Pervasive discrimination, high illiteracy rates, limited access to education, poor health outcomes, and economic hardship collectively heighten their vulnerability to trafficking.

The European Commission's report highlights that members of the Romani and Egyptian communities in Albania, particularly children, are especially vulnerable to trafficking. Studies reveal that many cases managed by anti-trafficking organizations involve victims from the Roma community. These victims are subjected to various forms of exploitation, including:

- **Sexual exploitation** (primarily female victims)
- **Forced labor**
- **Child trafficking**
- **Organ trafficking**
- **Early marriages**
- **Online exploitation**

Child victims, particularly boys, are often coerced into forced begging or criminal activities like theft and drug distribution. The economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has further worsened this situation, making children in street situations particularly susceptible to exploitation.

Additionally, undocumented migration has facilitated trafficking, disproportionately affecting Roma women and children. International organizations have raised alarm over the high rates of child trafficking from Albania, with Roma and Egyptian communities bearing the brunt of this issue.

Call to Action

Through this booklet, we have compiled essential concepts, areas requiring urgent intervention, and strategies for implementation. The goal is to address and ultimately eradicate human trafficking, with a special focus on protecting and supporting the Roma community in Albania. Together, these efforts aim to create a safer and more equitable future for those most at risk.

☞ ***Freedom Is Inviolable: A Commitment to Combatting Trafficking in the Roma Community***

No one can own anyone else! Considered the modern-day slavery, human trafficking is a serious issue worldwide, including in our country! IRCA has drafted a detailed work plan to prevent trafficking in the Roma community, one of the most at-risk groups!

☞ ***United Against Trafficking: The Power of Collaboration to Protect Lives***

The tourist season is accompanied by an increase in cases of human trafficking! If you're wondering how you can prevent this phenomenon, we invite you to report cases! You can make a difference!

☞ **Let's challenge harmful practices!**

Trafficking in the Roma community has specific characteristics that need to be considered and addressed! Due to low incomes, the child-selling is becoming increasingly alarming!

☞ **The importance of addressing human trafficking through a culturally sensitive approach**

Lack of education often accompanies low income in the Roma community, leading to their social exclusion, which directly impacts stigmatization and increases mental health issues within this group. All these elements are considered factors that increase the vulnerability of the Roma community to becoming potential victims of trafficking!



**NO ONE
CAN OWN
ANYONE!**



**LET'S CHALLENGE
HARMFUL PRACTICES!**



☞ Early Marriages - A Form of Human Trafficking

Early marriages have high rates in the Roma community! In fact, they are forms of human trafficking! It is important to challenge myths related to tradition and culture and raise awareness about the dangers of early marriages!

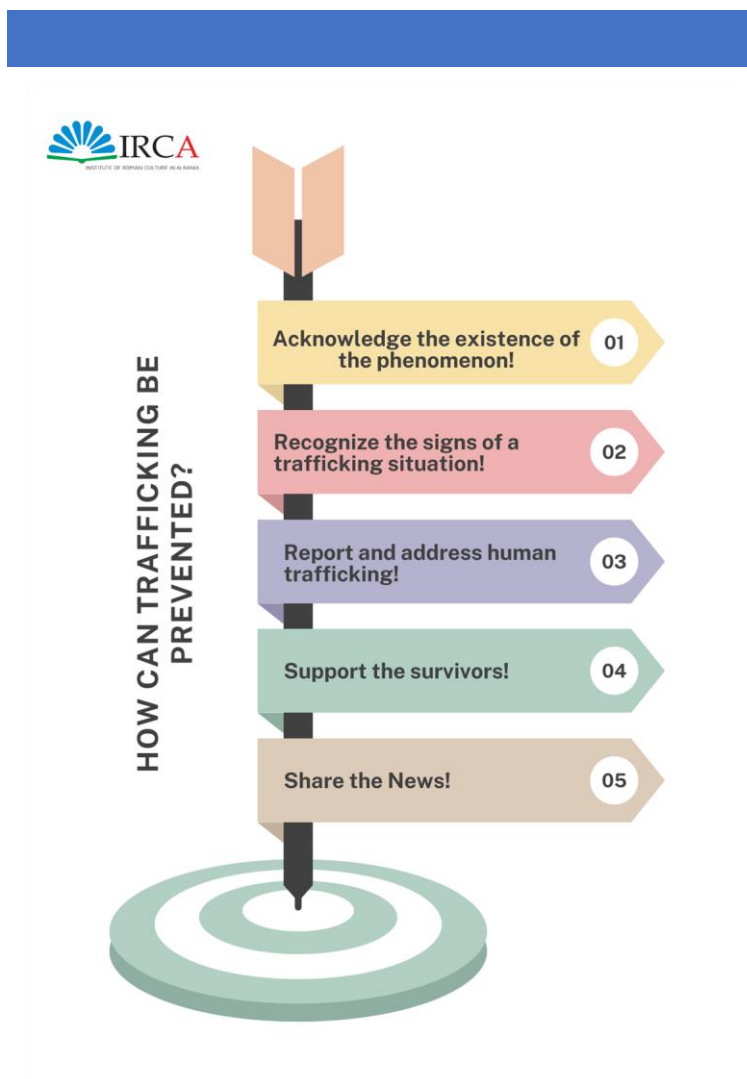


EARLY MARRIAGES - A FORM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING



👉 How Can Trafficking Be Prevented?

Introducing steps that can help reduce human trafficking. This process starts with acknowledging that the phenomenon exists, continuing with addressing, reporting, supporting survivors, and sharing the news with others around!



👉 Get to Know the Different Forms of Human Trafficking

Trafficking aims to exploit human beings for profit! There are many forms of trafficking. Recognizing them helps us identify and report all suspected cases, as well as prevent any activities related to trafficking.



Protecting Childhood!

Trafficking steals childhood from children! Children of the Roma community are among the most at risk! Let's protect our children from the danger of trafficking! Together, we can create a safer future for every child!



 **PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM TRAFFICKING!**

Keep in touch with doctors!

Guide them towards education!

Spend quality time with children!

Communicate regularly with teachers!

Discuss with psychologists!

Take care of them through difficulties!

Share experiences!

Let's allow children to enjoy their childhood!

Even one person can make a difference!

** Join IRCA's cause to prevent trafficking!*

📱 Support! 📄 Inform!

🗨️ Share the news! ❤️ Donate!



**I am only one,
But still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
But still I can do something;
And because I cannot do everything,
I will not refuse to do the something
that I can do!**



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