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THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION (UK – ROMANIA)

WITH FUNDAȚIA PRO PRIETENIA ARAD

JULY 2010

Following the Study Visit on Human Trafficking, made in June to Italy by Cristina Halgatina from the Pro Prietenia office in Arad, we focus this month on this inhumane crime.

Pro Prietenia, our partner in Romania, is being encouraged to develop support services for Romanian victims of human trafficking. We in the UK will want to offer financial help to Pro Prietenia to help towards the setting up of this specialized form of victim support. We will also wish to help coordinate the exchange of information between our country and Romania in this area, as well provide assistance in the training of volunteers.

Definition: Human trafficking - A criminal activity in which people are recruited, harboured, transported, bought, or kidnapped to serve an exploitative purpose, such as sexual slavery, forced labour, or child soldiery

Some Background Information: Domestic consumption and investment have fueled strong GDP growth (in Romania) in recent years, but have led to large current account imbalances. Romania's macroeconomic gains have only recently started to spur creation of a middle class and address Romania's widespread poverty. Corruption and red tape continue to handicap its business environment. [*The World Factbook*, U.S.C.I.A. 2009]

The end of communism has contributed to an increase in human trafficking, with the majority of victims being women forced into prostitution. Romania is a country of origin and country of transit for persons, primarily women and children, trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

From US Department of Labor - There are indications that Romanian teenage boys and girls are involved in the sex trade in the countries of Western Europe. Romania is a country of origin and transit for

internationally trafficked women and girls from Moldova, Ukraine, and other parts of the former Soviet Union . . .

There are an estimated 100,000 homeless children throughout Eastern Europe, including 2,000 in Romania. Child trafficking and child prostitution are problems in Romania and represent a large threat throughout Eastern Europe. Homeless or "street" children are frequent victims in Romania and are being forced into child prostitution.

Some of the above material is taken from: Patt, Prof. Martin, "Human Trafficking & Modern-day Slavery - Romania", <http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/Romania.htm>, [accessed July 2010]

A World Vision Meeting in Iasi, September 2007

One of those present at the meeting said: 'I am glad that we joined as representatives of our communities to prevent human trafficking. As teachers, parents and leaders of our communities, we are responsible for the safety and well being of our community and our children. It is up to us to take into account everything that we learned here and make sure these horrible things don't happen to the members of our communities,' said a community member. 'The secret is working together with the local authorities and creating a network of dedicated and responsible people.' –

Reuters AlertNet 2007



Cristina Halgatina – An important member of the team in Arad which is looking into the support of victims of Human Trafficking

PUIU and the Pro Team at Pro Prietenia Arad are currently developing a realistic response to the support of victims of human trafficking in the Arad region of western Romania.

Both the local and national authorities have a great deal of confidence in our partner charity but the strain on members of the team is considerable.

The Friendship Foundation (UK – Romania) wishes to help our partners in their efforts and your donations can support this important work. Thank you! *Brian Gregory - Chairman*

Charity no. 1130205

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