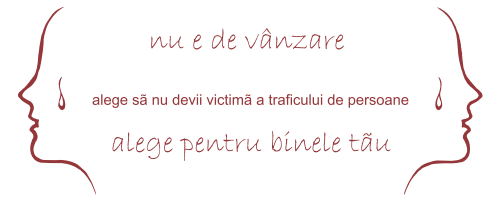


"Not for sale – Choose for your own sake"

"Not for sale – Choose for your own sake" (NFS) is a community outreach program initiated in 2006 by the Rațiu Center for Democracy (CRD). NFS focuses on the prevention of human trafficking and decreasing the risk of victimization by implementing projects and activities that raise awareness, educate and increase understanding for the multiple issues and circumstances surrounding the problem. The program strives to create efficient connections between communities, social services and public safety.



Throughout 2011, the NFS program implemented 4 projects:

- Pilot project "Footstep"
- National campaign "Open Your Eyes"
- Annual project "Community Resources against Human Trafficking"
- Regional project "Your hope, in your hands"

"Footstep" aims to empower survivors of human trafficking by using the existing social and economic resources in order to help them build an independent life and escape from trafficking situations. Three sexually exploited victims were offered support throughout 2011 by assisting them in their safe return home and helping them identify safe refuge. (January – December 2011)

"Open Your Eyes" campaign raises awareness for sexual exploitation through human trafficking. Started in March 2010, this European campaign was initiated by Nea Zoi (Athens; Greece) in collaboration with Rațiu Center for Democracy, "Love 146" (Bouremouth; UK), and the National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (Romania). In Romania the project was implemented between March and September 2011.



"Open Your Eyes" reached 23,000 beneficiaries 17,000 of which were between the ages of 14 and 20. Participants learned about the magnitude and causes of human trafficking and were exposed to different methods of how to lower the risk of victimization.



For the first time in Romania, the CRD, together with its partners, addressed the issue of human trafficking in informal public spaces such as shopping centers and coffee shops, by connecting the risk of becoming a victim to daily life decisions. In the counties of Călărași and Iași, CRD formed the first Romanian group of young activists against human trafficking and offered them

the appropriate training. These groups include girls from social service care centers.



“Community Resources against Human Trafficking” (CRHT) is an ongoing project started in 2010. The project aims to raise awareness in Cluj county by implementing a variety of consciousness-raising activities such as group discussions and providing education materials including topic related movies. To fulfill these objectives, CRHT partners with County schools, is active in the annual “Orășelul Copiilor” event, connects with international student groups and reaches out to penitentiary inmates. CRHT remains steadfast in the goal to bring people and resources together in the fight against human trafficking. In 2011, the total number of direct beneficiaries was 2000.



“Your hope, in your hands” (YH)2

From August to October 2011, the Ratiu Center for Democracy implemented a new anti-trafficking project "(YH)2 - “Your hope in your hands”. It empowered 200 young people (aged 14 to 19) from the six counties of the Romanian NW development region (Cluj, Sălaj, Maramureș, Bistrița-Năsăud, Bihor and Satu Mare) to take action against human trafficking.



200 young people reacted against this type of modern slavery by participating in written workshops and writing prevention messages to their peers. These workshops aimed to increase knowledge and develop the participants' creativity.

1500 people from 13 locations spanning 3 countries (Romania, Hungary, USA) protested simultaneously in public places to mark the European Day of Fighting against Trafficking. Having Romania as a reference point, the International Flash Mob raised awareness for basic human rights violations from all forms of human trafficking. Participants dressed in black and white, protested in silence displaying handmade signs with messages that spoke out against the violation of fundamental human rights. An even greater impact was felt when the crowd stood “frozen” for four minutes in support of the cause.

Sponsors: The main sponsor of “Not for sale – Choose for your own sake” program is the Rațiu Family Charitable Foundation, London. The program further benefits from individual donors, sponsors and partner organizations. During the gathering of Rațiu Friends and Family Weekend, 2011, a fundraising event was held at the Rațiu Family's property in the village of Petreștii de Jos.

Partners

Throughout the year, we mobilize as many public and private institutions as possible in order to maximize our message and spread our activities to reach as many students, citizens and victims as possible. We continually seek like-minded individuals and organizations to join us in this critical work.