

UNITED NATIONS  
VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND



FOR VICTIMS OF  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

# HEAR THEIR STORY

Help Us Change Their Lives



Managed by



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



# Victims and Survivors of Human Trafficking Need Your Help

At any given moment, women, men and children all over the world are being cruelly abused by criminals who regard human beings as commodities to be exploited or traded for profit. They deserve our help.

On 31 August 2010, the General Assembly launched the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The Global Plan of Action, which established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, called for a united front to stop this heinous crime and concerted action to help those harmed by it.

“ I encourage all countries and people to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Human Trafficking, which provides crucially important legal and financial aid to victims.

I urge all partners to come together through this Fund – the governments, international organizations, civil society groups, businesses and individuals who already support this cause, and those who I hope will join us. ”

Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General

By supporting the Trust Fund, governments, the private sector, NGOs, the media and concerned individuals can offer an effective means of assisting the victims and survivors of human trafficking, as well as preventing others from becoming victims. Our obligation is to help all those who suffer from injustice and violations of their rights.

I urge Member States, the international business community and private individuals to continue to contribute generously to the Trust Fund. The women, men and children whose stories are told in this document are a living testament to what the Trust Fund has achieved. Your donations will help the victims and survivors of human trafficking to recover from this crime, reclaim their dignity and build promising futures for themselves.

Every donation, no matter how small, can make a real difference in the lives of human trafficking victims and survivors. We welcome your support.

Yury Fedotov  
Executive Director  
UNODC

# Extend a Hand and Change a Life

In 2011, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking awarded multi-year grants of up to US \$25,000 per year for a maximum of three years to grassroots non-governmental organizations that directly assist victims and survivors of human trafficking in countries around the world.

Individuals who have been exploited by human traffickers have varying needs, and therefore require multiple types of assistance to help them recover and rebuild their lives. But a common need of all trafficked persons is to be recognized as a victim of a crime, and not as a criminal, even if they have been forced to commit crimes.

## Your support can provide assistance that victims need, such as:

- legal support and advice on their rights
- appropriate treatment for physical and mental abuse
- a safe place where they can recover
- vocational, life skills or literacy training for adults
- schooling and training in life skills for children
- compassionate support in a caring environment

Our grants have had a profound impact, supporting and strengthening grassroots organizations around the world that serve vulnerable or exploited individuals. We are pleased to share the stories of some of the many women, men and children who have gained a second chance at life thanks to the effective and compassionate work of our grantees. Their names have been changed to protect their identities, but their stories are true, and they highlight the diverse forms that human trafficking can take. They remind us that stories like these can happen anywhere in the world.

## DONATE. GET INVOLVED.

The Trust Fund's annual progress reports highlight the invaluable work of anti-trafficking organizations around the globe that have received support from the Small Grants Facility.

Available online: [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking-fund/annual-reports.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking-fund/annual-reports.html)



# Janet


## Hotline for Migrant Workers

Israel

Janet, age 26, was born in Sudan and raised in Niger. Her father died when she was 12, and her mother couldn't afford to pay for her education, so she stopped going to school. When Janet was 22, her mother died and her relatives forced her out of her home.

A friend introduced her to a man who promised to help her. Believing she had no other choice, Janet went with him to Chad. There, she was handed over to another man, who raped her. Then some other men smuggled her into Egypt and brought her to Sinai. With no family to pay a ransom for her release, Janet was held captive and raped repeatedly.

Eventually Janet escaped and made her way to Israel. With help from the Hotline for Migrant Workers, she was recognized as a trafficking victim. For a long time she was unable to talk about her experience, and she still fears for her life if she returns to Niger: "I have no one to protect me if I go back." Today Janet is a **caregiver** for elderly Israelis – **work that she loves**. The support she receives from the Hotline's lawyer **gives her hope**: "Each time I call her, I can breathe again." Now that Janet is recognized as a victim, she hopes that she will be able to stay in Israel.



The **Hotline for Migrant Workers** helps survivors of human trafficking in Israel gain legal recognition as victims and obtain the support services to which they are entitled. It also helps them secure work visas and residency permits so that they may remain in Israel should they desire.

# Lina

## Damnok Toek Poipet

Cambodia

Lina comes from a poor family in Cambodia. At the age of nine, her parents entrusted her to an acquaintance who said she could find Lina work in Thailand. The woman promised to send Lina's parents part of her wages to help support their family.

In Bangkok, Lina stood for long hours outside nightclubs in the red-light district selling flowers and candy to tourists. Her trafficker took her earnings, and beat her when sales were low. After two years, her trafficker convinced Lina's parents to also allow her eight-year-old sister, Sopheak, to work in Bangkok. Unwilling to let her sister suffer the same abuse, Lina determined they must escape. She asked a nightclub worker for help – luckily he agreed.

After spending several months in a Thai children's centre, the girls were returned to Cambodia. The Damnok Toek Poipet Reception Centre for trafficked and abused children gave Lina and Sopheak **a safe place to live, three meals a day, individual counseling** and **schooling**. It also located their family. Today, both girls are happy and safe, and they have **goals that are truly within their grasp**: Lina, now 12, intends to be a teacher, and Sopheak, age nine, wants to be a nurse.



The **Damnok Toek Reception Centre** in Poipet, Cambodia, provides vital services, including food and shelter, counseling, medical care and education, to child victims of trafficking and children at high risk of being trafficked. The Centre aims to prevent children from being re-trafficked, and whenever possible, it helps reintegrate trafficked children into their families.

# Rizal

## Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking

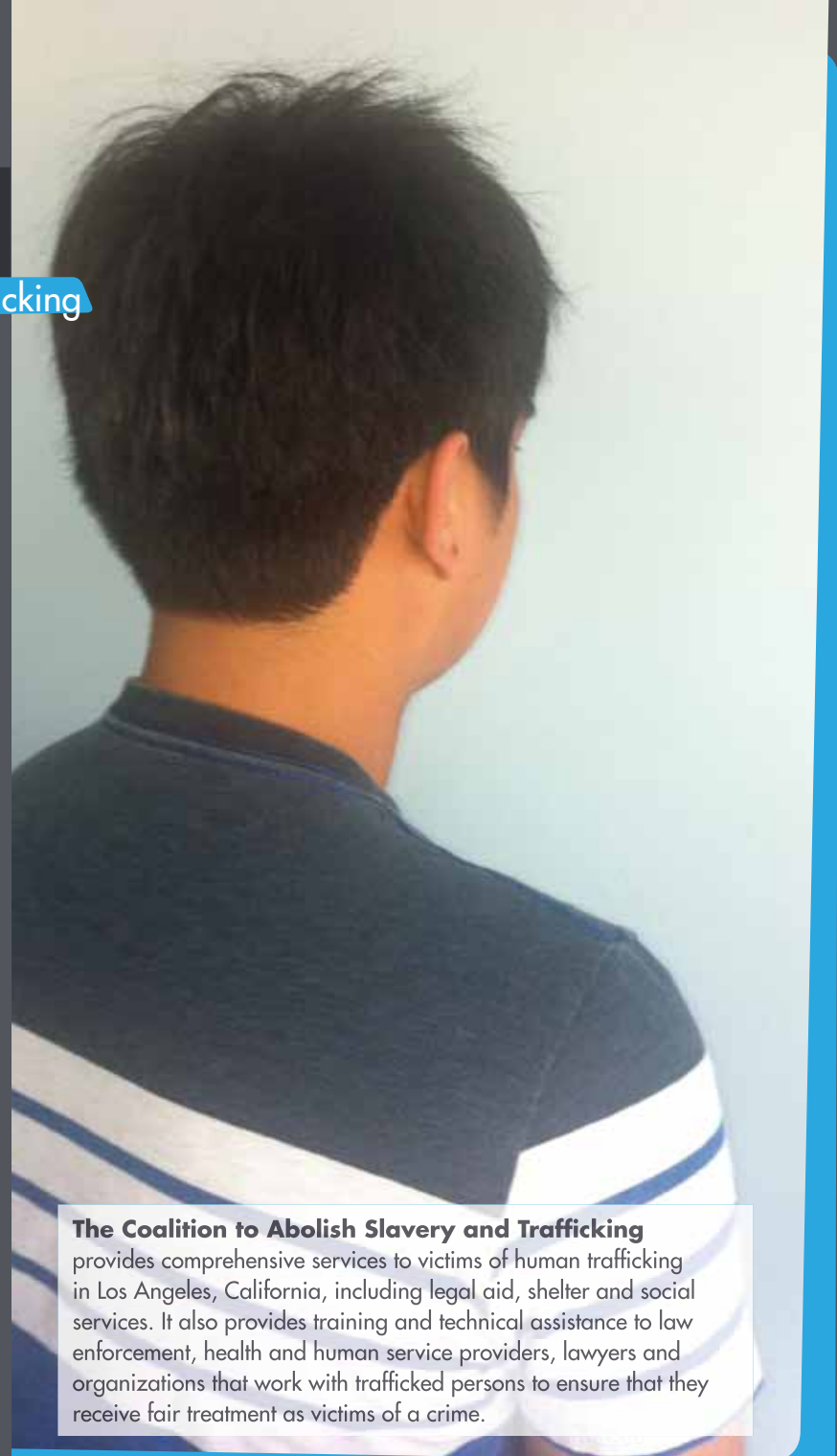
United States

After finishing secondary school in the Philippines, Rizal wanted to go to university, but his family was very poor and he needed to work. He found a job at a hotel, but after a few years he was laid off. He was desperate to help his family, so when he learned about an employment agency offering good jobs in the United States, he took a loan to pay the agency fee, confident he would quickly earn the money back.

In the United States, Rizal was promised a job in a restaurant, but instead he was made to clean hotel rooms. He worked very long hours and was paid almost nothing. He wanted to quit, but his supervisor threatened him with arrest and deportation.

When a coworker ran away and sent word from Los Angeles, Rizal and his other coworkers decided to escape and follow him. Once there, the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST) helped them **seek justice** against the hotel and agency. Today Rizal's trafficker is in prison.

CAST also secured permanent U.S. residency for Rizal, now 28. Today he is **studying** business management and he wants to start his own company: **"I will be a manager who treats employees fairly and with respect."**



### **The Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking**

provides comprehensive services to victims of human trafficking in Los Angeles, California, including legal aid, shelter and social services. It also provides training and technical assistance to law enforcement, health and human service providers, lawyers and organizations that work with trafficked persons to ensure that they receive fair treatment as victims of a crime.

# Elira

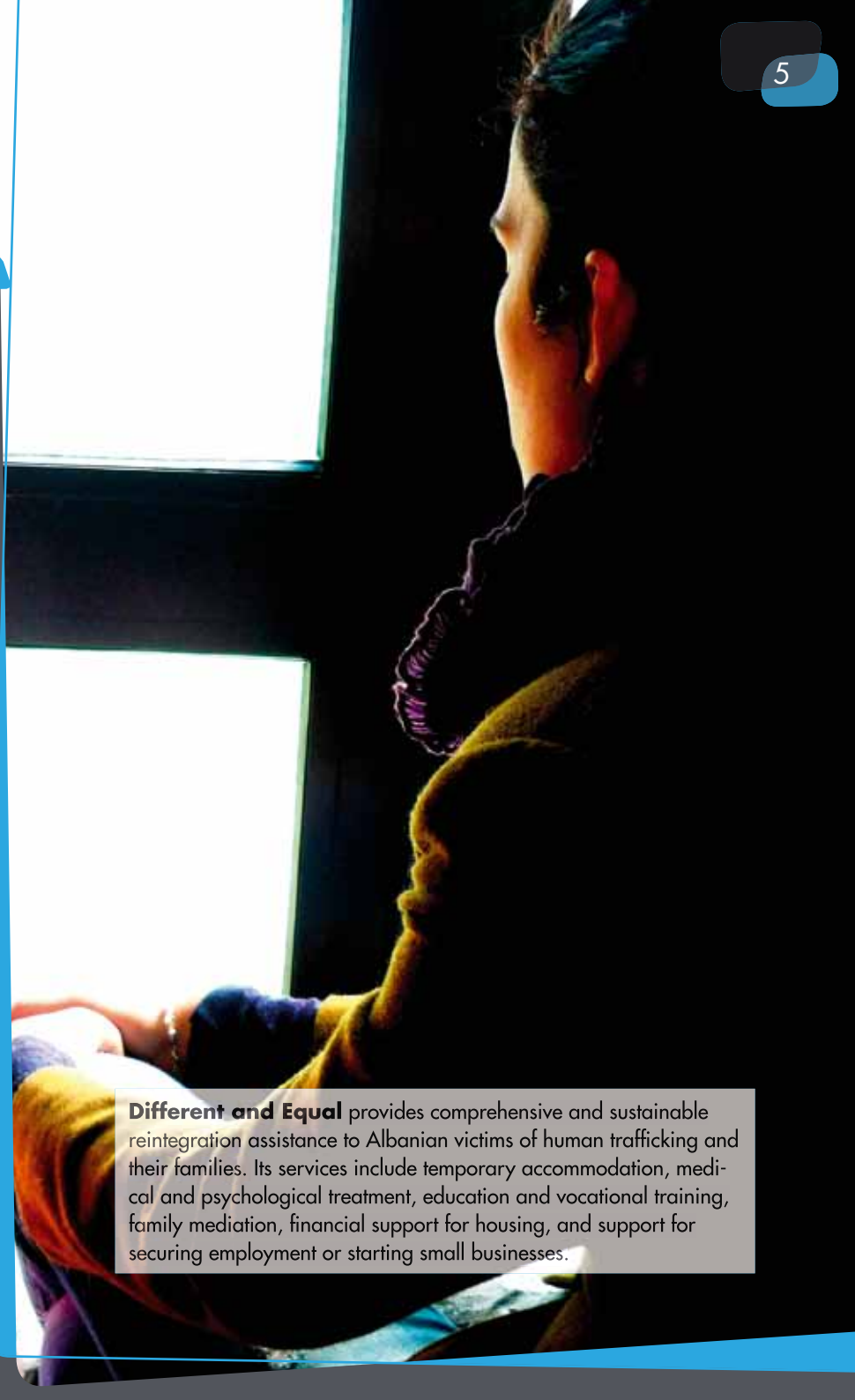
## Different and Equal

Albania

“I don’t remember good things,” says 19-year-old Elira when asked about her childhood in Albania. She often went hungry because her family was so poor. Her parents were abusive toward her, especially her mother.

“Around age 14, my whole life crashed.” Elira recalls. After her parents divorced, she moved to Kosovo with her mother in search of a better life. “I worked as a waitress and the other part of the day as a dancer. My mother and her friend introduced me to different men with whom I had sexual relations. In those times, I didn’t think the way I think today,” Elira says. “Only now do I understand that I was a victim of exploitation.”

Eventually Elira returned to Albania. She wanted to work in Greece, but lacking documentation, she was detained at the border. She told the police her story and was sent to Albania’s national reception centre for trafficking victims. There, she was referred to Different and Equal, which provided her with **counseling and skills training that helped her find work** as a tailor. **Today her life is back on track.** “Now I can handle problems better,” Elira says. “I’m working and I’m feeling very good.”

A woman is shown in profile, looking out a window. Her hands are resting on a surface, possibly a table or desk. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights from the window and deep shadows elsewhere. The woman has dark hair and is wearing a dark top. The background is dark, making the light from the window stand out.

**Different and Equal** provides comprehensive and sustainable reintegration assistance to Albanian victims of human trafficking and their families. Its services include temporary accommodation, medical and psychological treatment, education and vocational training, family mediation, financial support for housing, and support for securing employment or starting small businesses.



# Gloria

## Hors la Rue

### France

One of nine children born to a Roma family, 14-year-old Gloria spent her early childhood in Romania in and out of child protective services. When she was 12, her parents took her out of institutional care and moved the family to France. Her parents forced Gloria to steal mobile phones and beg on the streets of Paris. Gloria understood that stealing was wrong, but if she refused, her mother would beat her.

The Paris police picked Gloria up, and to protect her safety, placed her in an emergency shelter. The organization Hors la Rue was asked to help Gloria because of its experience working with Roma children. At Hors la Rue's day centre, Gloria found **a safe and welcoming environment** where she could communicate with staff in her native language. Although she missed her family, Gloria decided that she did not want to return to her parents. Hors la Rue found her a foster home in the French provinces, far from her parents' negative influence. Today she is in **vocational school and studying French**. She is **making excellent progress**, and soon will transfer into regular classes.



**Hors la Rue** provides specialized and individualized care and support to child victims of trafficking and at-risk migrant children in and around Paris. Its educational activities and counseling support children's well-being, and it secures appropriate state-run services to meet their needs. Hors la Rue also works with the French authorities to better identify children who have been trafficked.



# Trang

## La Strada

### Czech Republic

In 2008, agents offering jobs in the Czech Republic visited 28-year-old Trang's village in Vietnam. Anyone who could pay a travel and administration fee was assured of earning the money back within a year. Trang's extended family took out a loan so he could go, borrowing against three houses and a farm.

In the Czech Republic, Trang went to work in an electronics factory. Two months later the global economy crashed. Trang and thousands of other foreigner workers in the Czech Republic lost their jobs.

At a recruitment event at a Vietnamese market in Prague, Trang signed on with a company offering jobs felling trees in state-owned forests. It was backbreaking work. The first month Trang received wages, but after that, he and his coworkers were paid nothing. Despite threats, Trang left. Back in Prague he was referred to La Strada. Together with other NGOs, La Strada filed a criminal complaint against the company on behalf of Trang and 120 other exploited workers. The case is still in the courts. Trang hopes to **receive compensation for his labour so he can return home and pay off his family's debt.**

**La Strada Czech Republic** is a member organization of La Strada International, an anti-human trafficking association with offices in eight European countries. In the Czech Republic, La Strada provides legal support and social assistance to trafficked and exploited individuals. It also campaigns to raise public awareness to prevent human trafficking and ensure that its victims receive help.

# Anjali

## Shakti Samuha

Nepal

Anjali is one of nine children born to a poor farming family in Nepal. When she was 11 years old, a family friend offered to educate her in exchange for working in her home. Little did Anjali know that the price of her schooling would be domestic servitude. She worked long hours caring for the entire house.

After two years, Anjali ran away and returned home. When an Indian circus master came to her village, he persuaded Anjali and several other children to join his circus troupe. Anjali signed a ten-year contract and soon found herself far from home in India, where she was forced to perform grueling, dangerous work for no pay and very little food. Six years later, a British charity helped her escape the circus and return to Nepal.

Shakti Samuha, a Nepalese NGO that helps trafficking survivors rebuild their lives, invited Anjali to learn about human trafficking and to **help other survivors**. “At first I was blind, I didn’t know about myself, my rights, my society,” Anjali recalls. “Now I’m **providing counseling support** to women survivors of trafficking.” Today Anjali is 26 years old, and she has plans for her future: “to provide counseling services and **work against human trafficking** in my country.”



**Shakti Samuha** provides Nepalese survivors of human trafficking with the necessary care and support needed to reintegrate into society and live independent, healthy lives. It offers comprehensive services – shelter, legal support, education, training and family support – and tailors them to the specific needs of the women, men and children it serves.

# Grace

## African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development

### Nigeria

Grace grew up in a family of nine children in Edo State. After Grace finished secondary school, her uncle took her to Lagos, promising she could continue her education. Instead, her uncle and aunt put Grace to work in their beer parlour and made her wear revealing clothes. Customers often offered her money for sex, and Grace's aunt threatened to send her back to her village if she refused to accept. Her aunt collected the money, which she said was for Grace's education. "I slept with hundreds of men," Grace recalls, "and never got a dime from my aunty."

One day Grace heard a radio show about human trafficking. A staff member from the African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development encouraged anyone who needed help to contact the Centre. Grace realized she finally might have a way to escape her situation.

The Centre gave Grace **shelter, counseling** and a medical examination. It also sponsored her **training** as a seamstress, then gave her a sewing machine and **helped her open a shop**. Today, Grace has **a bright future**. Her dream is to save enough money to buy more sewing machines and hire additional workers to help meet the growing demand for her clothes.

The **African Centre for Advocacy and Human Development** helps victims and survivors of human trafficking in Nigeria to receive essential services to help them recover. It also provides them with vocational training and helps them start small businesses so that they can become financially self-sufficient.



# Marta

## Defence for Children International

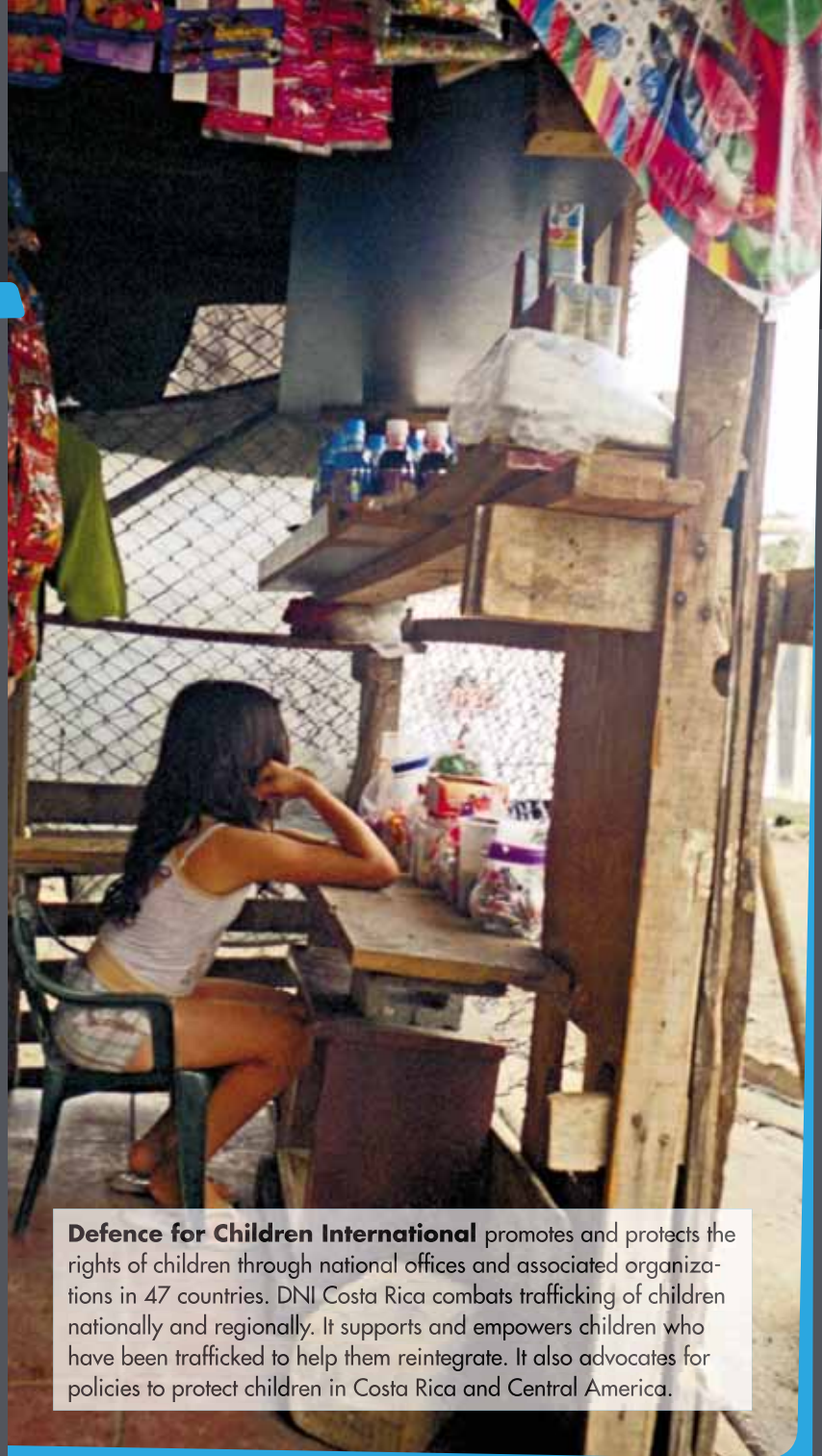
Costa Rica

Marta grew up in one of the most economically and socially deprived communities of Putarenas, a city on Costa Rica's Pacific coast. She and her younger sister never knew their father, and their alcoholic mother was violent toward the girls.

At age 13, Marta took a job as a household servant. If she earned some money, she and her sister could leave home and live somewhere safe.

Although Marta worked long hours, she was never paid for her domestic work. So when a friend introduced her to a woman who offered her a well-paid job helping foreign visitors in the capital, San José, Marta agreed. She thought she would be carrying luggage for tourists, but instead she was forced to have sex with foreign men.

Eventually someone reported Marta's situation to the police, who took her to a government-run shelter, where she received medical care, psychological counseling and legal aid. With assistance from Defence for Children International (DNI), which works with the shelter, Marta receives **counseling**, is back in **school** and in **vocational training**. These **empowering activities** will help her to reintegrate into her community. Today Marta feels safe and she can see the possibility of a **better future** for herself and her sister.



**Defence for Children International** promotes and protects the rights of children through national offices and associated organizations in 47 countries. DNI Costa Rica combats trafficking of children nationally and regionally. It supports and empowers children who have been trafficked to help them reintegrate. It also advocates for policies to protect children in Costa Rica and Central America.

# Jacob

## The Cradle

Kenya

Lured by promises of schooling and a job as a houseboy, 13-year-old Jacob left his village in Kenya and accompanied some men to Nairobi. Once there, they told him the plans had changed. The men took Jacob to Mombasa and made him hunt for scrap metal to sell. If he didn't find enough, he was forced to beg in the streets and would go to sleep hungry. He had no way to contact his family or seek help.

After several months, Jacob ran away and fled to the nearby town of Malindi, but when he couldn't feed himself from begging, he started committing petty crimes. Soon he was arrested. The CRADLE, an organization that provides legal aid services to children, stepped in to help. It got a court to declare Jacob in need of care and protection, and criminal charges were dropped. The CRADLE provided Jacob with **counseling** and **reunited him with his family**.

Jacob, now 14, is happy to be home. He is studying hard so he can get into a national secondary school. About his future he says, **"I would like to be a teacher or a policeman who helps people when they are in trouble."**

**The CRADLE – the Children Foundation** provides direct support to trafficked children in Kenya, including temporary shelter, medical treatment, trauma counseling, legal aid and reintegration support. It also raises awareness of children's rights, and advocates for policies and laws to help protect children.

# Nadejda

Institute for Democracy

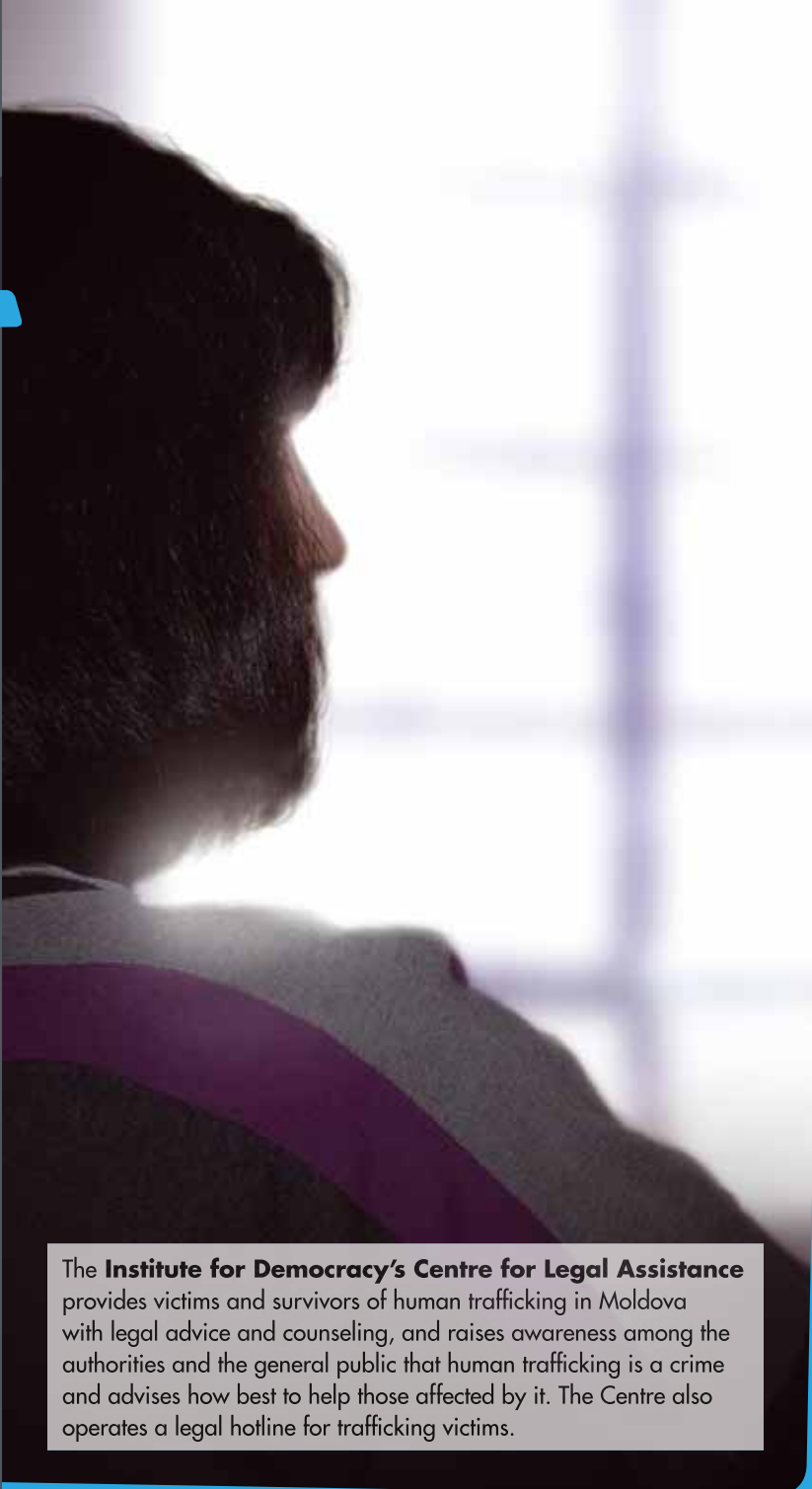
Republic of Moldova

After graduating from high school, 19-year-old Nadejda tried to find a permanent job, but she had no luck in her native Moldova, Europe's poorest country. She felt lucky when she got short-term work helping with the harvest.

When her friend Veronica offered her a job working in a shop in Turkey, Nadejda agreed to go. In Istanbul, Veronica took Nadejda's passport and began introducing her to men seeking wives. She assured Nadejda that marriage would lead to a better life. Nevertheless, Nadejda was frightened. "I realized that Veronica intended to sell me into sex slavery."

Nadejda managed to call her brother in Moldova, who asked the Institute for Democracy for help. The Institute's Centre for Legal Assistance advised him of Nadejda's legal rights and put them in touch with Turkish anti-trafficking organizations. Nadejda learned that she could go to the police if Veronica refused to return her passport. "Veronica was very scared; she did not expect me to be **prepared, informed and ready to contact the police** if necessary."

Nadejda **returned safely to her family** and today she wants to go to university. She is grateful for the Institute for Democracy's assistance: "**it was more than just help; I am sure it actually saved me.**"



The **Institute for Democracy's Centre for Legal Assistance** provides victims and survivors of human trafficking in Moldova with legal advice and counseling, and raises awareness among the authorities and the general public that human trafficking is a crime and advises how best to help those affected by it. The Centre also operates a legal hotline for trafficking victims.



# What Is Human Trafficking?

A modern form of slavery, human trafficking ranks among the worst violations of human rights. Victims are usually misled, tricked or forced into a situation of exploitation and abuse from which it is difficult to escape.

## Who Are the Victims?

**Children** account for 27 percent of human trafficking victims worldwide, though in less developed regions, they may be the majority. Children are exploited for forced labour, petty crime and begging, child pornography and sex. Children who are forced to serve as soldiers are also considered victims of human trafficking.

**Women** make up 55-60 percent of the world's human trafficking victims. The vast majority are young women who have been forced into the sex trade. Women are also exploited for domestic servitude and forced labour.

**Men** are usually exploited for forced labour, often enduring harsh physical conditions and abuse. Male victims are frequently overlooked because of a common misperception that men cannot be trafficked.

All data come from the 2012 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons: [www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking\\_in\\_Persons\\_2012\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/glotip/Trafficking_in_Persons_2012_web.pdf)



# UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND



FOR VICTIMS OF  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

## **The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking**

helps victims and survivors of human trafficking reclaim their dignity and rebuild their lives. We support efforts around the world that ensure that women, men and children who have been exploited by human traffickers are identified, treated humanely as victims of a crime, and provided with the assistance, protection and support necessary for their physical, psychological and social recovery. The Trust Fund seeks to prevent human trafficking, and to reduce the vulnerability of victims to being re-victimized and re-trafficked.

The Trust Fund was established in 2010 when the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which urges governments, the private sector and concerned individuals to take coordinated, comprehensive and consistent steps to combat this appalling crime. By helping to protect and assist human trafficking victims, the Trust Fund upholds one of the central aims of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Launched by the Secretary-General in November 2010, the Trust Fund became operational in January 2011. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) acts as fund manager, and an international Board of Trustees made up of experts appointed by the Secretary-General provides strategic guidance.

Disclaimer: The photos on the cover and on pages 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 are unrelated to the stories in this brochure and serve an illustration purpose only.

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