

## **Victims Voices: Elda**

## Elda received assistance through the NGO 'Different and Equal' in Albania



I am18 years old. I grew up in a small village in the northern part of the country. My childhood was very dif cult. My parents got divorced when I was only two years old. I stayed with my father, who married another woman. My father killed someone, and he stayed in jail for a very long time. My stepmother treated me very badly, and I decided to live at one of my relatives. One day, when he came home drunk he abused me sexually. I left the house and I asked for help. I met a woman who helped me, and took me into her home. After a while, she forced me to work as a sex

worker. I was in a hotel with a man, when the police suddenly came. I told them about what had happened to me. I was referred to D&E, where I had the possibility to take part in different courses and attend school. At the beginning, the most helpful thing was the counselling offered by the psychologist and the social workers in the shelter. I went to school and I learned how to read and write. I learned basic things that I missed before, and empowered me to go ahead and plan my future. I received training in tailoring, and now I have a job and share an apartment with other girls. I feel strong and ready to face challenges that lie ahead.



