



RENATE

# SHELTERS AND SAFE HOUSES

BOOKLET 2025

An overview of the RENATE  
Network's active shelters  
and safe houses across  
Europe.

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# DIFFERENT AND EQUAL

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## ALBANIA

Different and Equal (D&E) is an Albanian non-governmental organization (NGO) dedicated to combating human trafficking and providing support to survivors.

Since its founding in 2004, the organization has worked to reintegrate trafficking survivors back into society, offering various services such as safe housing, psychological counseling, legal assistance, and vocational training. Their mission focuses on empowering survivors, protecting human rights, and raising awareness about human trafficking in Albania and beyond.

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## Reintegration program for victims of trafficking:

D&E applies a three-phase reintegration model for the program beneficiaries:

1. **Initial crisis intervention:** 3–6 months;
2. **Stabilization and transition:** 7–12 months;
3. **Social inclusion and reintegration:** 13–36 months.

A full package of reintegration assistance is provided to every victim of trafficking that is referred in the program.



## The impact on beneficiaries:

D&E provides a comprehensive range of reintegration services to at least 200 beneficiaries annually, of which at least 80% are young girls and women.

These services have significantly reduced trauma, stabilized emotional states, and improved the mental and psychological well-being of the beneficiaries. Other notable outcomes include increased education levels, enhanced life skills, and empowerment in both social and economic aspects, such as starting and managing small businesses.



## After-school care alternatives for children of mothers who are victims of trafficking and violence:

D&E has established five after-school care programs for children of mothers who are victims of trafficking and violence. Due to the mismatch between these mothers' work schedules and the official hours of public daycare centers and schools, their children were at risk of neglect. To address this, five alternative care placements were created, providing extended care beyond the official hours of public and private kindergartens and schools, operating on weekdays and Saturdays.

**"The Grandmother's House / The Other House"** is a community service that provides a safe and peaceful environment for children of trafficking and domestic violence victims. Operating from Monday to Saturday, it ensures proper care in the afternoons, beyond the official hours of daycare centers, kindergartens, and public schools. Children attending this service have demonstrated significant and sustained improvements in emotional and psychological well-being, learning processes, and academic performance.



## D&E Social Cause Club in Tirana and Dajc, Shkoder:



D&E has opened two Social Cause Clubs, designed as informal community spaces for victims of trafficking and domestic violence, along with their children. These clubs provide a safe environment to socialize, participate in activities, and access support services.

They also serve as resource centres, offering information on available assistance and functioning as fundraising hubs.

A small area within the club is dedicated to temporary care and entertainment of children of mothers who attend activities like trainings and/or other peer support activities.

## Social business: New York Tirana Bagels:

The aim of this social business is to generate income for services while creating job opportunities for Albanian victims of trafficking.

D&E beneficiaries who have completed a professional cooking course are given the opportunity to work at the enterprise, gaining valuable on-the-job training while earning an income.





## DAR HOSEA

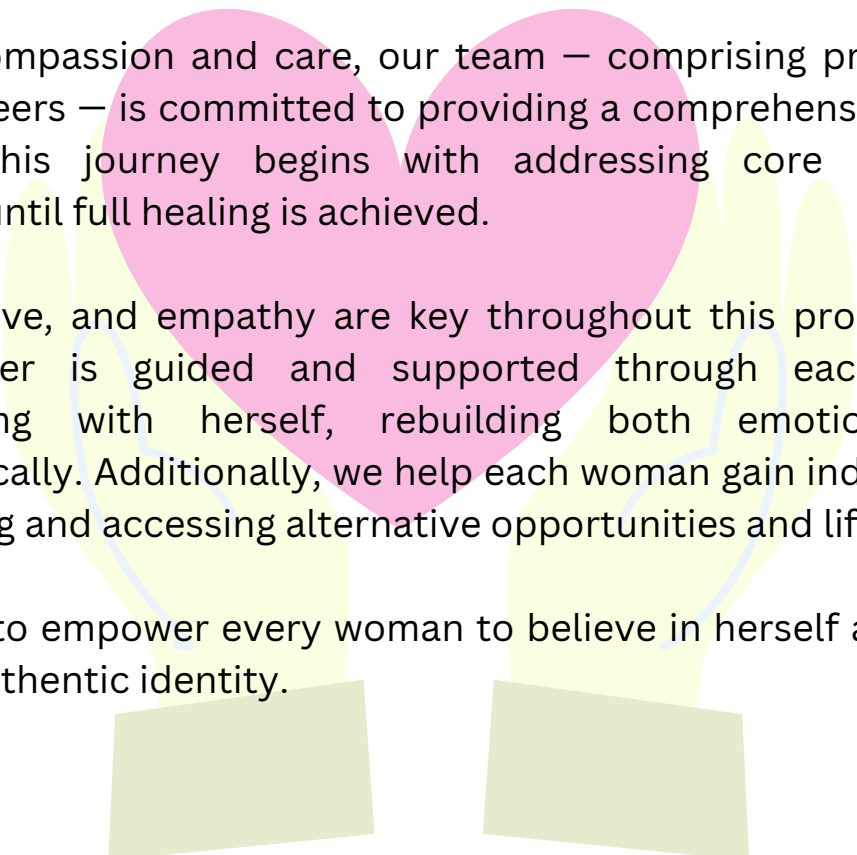
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### MALTA

A decade ago, the realities of the harms of the lives of women and girls trapped in prostitution in Malta were unheard of, they were obscured and not spoken about. Rather than receiving support, including appropriate and adequate exit programmes due to multiple traumas endured in a life of prostitution, women and girls exploited and coerced in prostitution, were ostracised by the rest of society causing further spiralling, abuse, and trauma.

At Dar Hosea, our mission is to assist every woman who reaches out to us - whether directly at the drop-in centre or outside our premises - to support her in regaining her self-worth which would have been fragmented by a life in prostitution and accompanied by trauma as a result of repeated violence, abuse and destructive patterns.

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A stylized illustration of two hands, one light green and one light yellow, holding a large pink heart. The hands are positioned as if they are gently cupping the heart. The heart is a solid pink color. The hands have simple, rounded fingers and are wearing light green and light yellow sleeves.

Through compassion and care, our team — comprising professionals and volunteers — is committed to providing a comprehensive support process. This journey begins with addressing core needs and continues until full healing is achieved.

Respect, love, and empathy are key throughout this process. Every service user is guided and supported through each step of reconnecting with herself, rebuilding both emotionally and psychologically. Additionally, we help each woman gain independence by exploring and accessing alternative opportunities and life choices.

Our aim is to empower every woman to believe in herself and reclaim her true, authentic identity.

## Regular trainings of experts:

Since the services offered at Dar Hosea often involve supporting women experiencing multiple traumas, which often result in different problematic situations requiring particular needs, specific training is regularly provided by experts and professionals.

A brief overview of the broad training provided include specific themes such as: Empathy, Resilience, Addiction, Trauma, Mental Health Issues, Gender-Sensitive Approach, and Trauma-Informed Care.

To be effective, such training is continuously carried out on a regular basis amongst all team members.



## Daily Runnings at Dar Hosea:



As with any other family environment, the drop-in centre at Dar Hosea also requires similar daily settings and organizing plans for a beneficial functioning environment.



Such duties are mainly carried out by the volunteers, who are responsible for attending to every daily need. Whether it is in the form of preparing fresh, delicious daily meals, including healthy breakfasts and homely lunches, or offering other tasty refreshments throughout the day, or marking any special occasion for each service user, as is traditionally done in any other ordinary family home.



The volunteers at Dar Hosea go the extra mile in ensuring that every single occasion is remembered together.

They recognize how each celebration symbolizes unity, provides a sense of belonging, and helps in the process of reconnection for every service user who feels valued and appreciated by a supportive and caring system.

# Assisting the journey through creative therapeutic processes:

In supporting 176 service users and 32 children who have passed through the doors at Dar Hosea, volunteers are also trained and engaged in providing assistance during the healing process of each service user through various therapeutic manual tasks.

Such activities have been found to be deeply beneficial and effective in restoring positive moods, personal values, and encouraging beliefs such as self-esteem and self-efficacy. These tasks include designing and decorating various artwork through the making and creation of candles, cards, paintings, or jewelry.

More collaborative tasks assisted by the volunteers include teaching the service users how to prepare and cook homely and healthy meals, as well as explaining the benefits of such meals. The process of all these distinct yet similar therapeutic approaches helps not only in increasing positive attitudes towards daily commitments and successful achievements among the service users, boosting positivity and the sense of care, which leads to the concept of self-care, but also helps in discovering creative hidden talents among the service users. Such realizations often lead to the pursuit of related educational courses, eventually leading to more meaningful and purposeful opportunities in life.





# FLOS CARMELI HOUSE

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## ROMANIA

The Carmelite Missionary Sisters opened Flos Carmeli House in 2018. Since then, we have helped over 120 people overcome their struggles. In line with our charism, we have been supporting women, children, families, and young people who were victims of exploitation, at risk of exclusion, or already excluded from society.

Currently, the economic crisis is having its consequences: many people have migrated abroad in search of a better future, only to accept illegal work, being poorly paid and exploited. Some of the migrants return to their home country, while others are fortunate to find a good job abroad or have to adapt to much lower standards of living and working conditions than those in other European countries.



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Our mission recognizes the material and human needs of the Romanian people, particularly the vulnerable and marginalized groups. Bucharest exemplifies the complexity of these issues. Our house seeks to address the lack of support for women in vulnerable conditions.

This project will directly impact a group of women and indirectly benefit their families, who were unable to provide economic or emotional support. We provide spiritual guidance and social services for women and children victims of domestic violence and human trafficking, offering access to resources for personal and professional success. Our sheltered housing offers accommodation, food, and counseling for 1 to 12 months, depending on individual needs and the type of abuse experienced.

The specific principles underlying our social services are the protection and promotion of the rights of the beneficiaries in terms of equal opportunities and treatment, equal participation, self-determination, autonomy, and personal dignity, ensuring protection against abuse and exploitation, encouraging the individual initiatives of the beneficiaries, and their active involvement in solving difficult situations.

The project is carried out in several stages and has the following specific objectives:

- Welcoming women who have gone through experiences of social exclusion, domestic violence, labor exploitation, and sexual exploitation.
- Providing the appropriate resources for the women to feel the emotional support and respect of the community.
- Encouraging a positive social identity, autonomy, and responsibility of women by accompanying them as they develop personal skills for a balanced life and providing access to psychological counseling.



- Accompanying women in creating an individualized plan for their life, professional development and work placement.
- Support in the development of skills and resources that will facilitate the search for a job and getting into the labor market.
- Our organization is actively involved in the community and helps in the development of an informal support network together with other non-governmental organizations and public institutions to make sure that the beneficiaries have access to quality services.
- The Carmelite Missionary Association will coordinate aid and support actions with other public and private social networks.

#### Assisted Groups:

These are young-adult women in vulnerable socio-economic situations, who are psychologically and socially autonomous and can maintain personal hygiene, cleanliness, and order in their living space. We provide emotional support and cover basic needs (food, clothing, hygiene supplies). We build supportive, friendly relationships to help them recover, boost self-esteem, and explore opportunities for a better quality of life. We assist them in finding a job, renting housing, accessing healthcare, securing children's education, obtaining identity documents, and navigating legal matters like criminal and divorce proceedings or restraining orders.



## Activities and Funding:



Through our activities, we aim to help women regain their dignity and encourage them through dialogue to identify areas for improvement in their lives. Our work positively impacts the community by supporting women in difficult stages of life and fostering a culture of respect for women's dignity.



Many of these women lack the emotional and psychological stability to live normal lives, especially those who have experienced abandonment or family dysfunction. In other cases, we've worked with women left alone and without economic resources. In such situations, we help them build a support network and find a new career path.

At the end of their stay in the shelter, the beneficiary must be able to live independently, free from abuse, and have acquired new skills to handle potentially violent situations. One struggle we face is lacking the resources to effectively present and promote our cause, often leading to a lack of attention and awareness from donor organizations. We rely on funding from various sources, including individual donors, foundations, and corporations.

As a small NGO, it's nearly impossible to run expensive marketing and social media campaigns that larger organizations can afford, as these campaigns reduce the funds and time available for our projects, meaning we'd spend more time fundraising than implementing.



# CARITAS BAKHITA HOUSE

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## UK

Caritas Bakhita House is a safe house in London, established by the Diocese of Westminster in June 2015. Since then, it has accommodated nearly 200 women from 50 countries, aged 15 to 70 years old. Operating outside the government system and privately funded, it allows tailored support for each woman.

Support workers assist with legal, physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and educational needs, helping them move forward in their lives. Using a trauma-informed approach, activities like drama, music therapy, art, yoga, gardening, and reflexology promote emotional healing and relaxation. Volunteers also take women to parks or museums, offer English and Math classes, and assist with appointments.





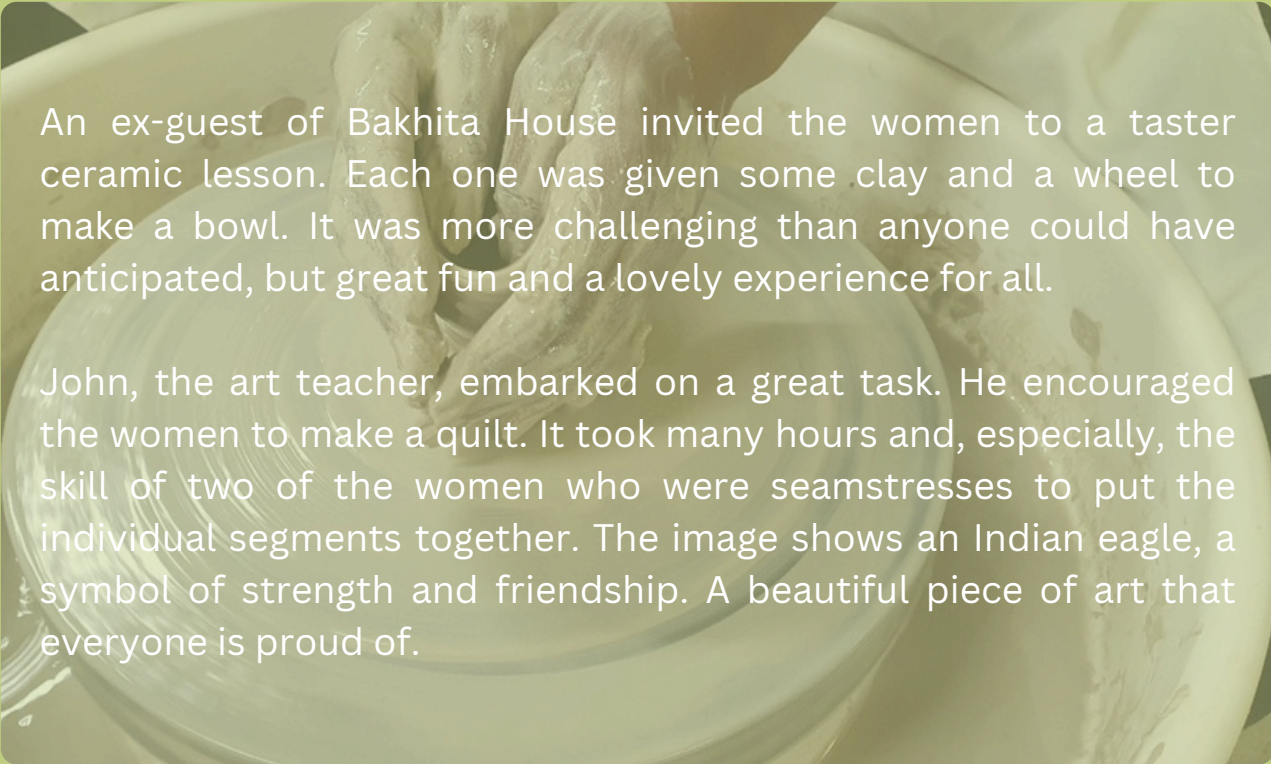
Caritas Bakhita House works together with a network of agencies, including the police. The women are well supported throughout the brutality of giving evidence, and their bravery has led to a number of traffickers being convicted and receiving custodial sentences.

Bakhita House currently accommodates 12 guests (full capacity) from 12 different countries and four continents, aged between 18 and 70 years, plus three babies from newborn to 7 months. Coming together from a variety of backgrounds and experiences can sometimes be quite challenging. Sitting around the dinner table every night and sharing food from different countries is a great way to learn from each other and to understand and appreciate cultural differences.

## Highlights from the past months:

A donor of Bakhita House invited the women to her home in the countryside. They were treated as guests at a beautiful old English house surrounded by extensive grounds with a huge vegetable and fruit garden, hens, bees, horses, and a swimming lake. The heartfelt welcome and generosity of the family was such a gift for the women and a day of joy.

## Highlights from the past months:



An ex-guest of Bakhita House invited the women to a taster ceramic lesson. Each one was given some clay and a wheel to make a bowl. It was more challenging than anyone could have anticipated, but great fun and a lovely experience for all.

John, the art teacher, embarked on a great task. He encouraged the women to make a quilt. It took many hours and, especially, the skill of two of the women who were seamstresses to put the individual segments together. The image shows an Indian eagle, a symbol of strength and friendship. A beautiful piece of art that everyone is proud of.





# The Needs of Bakhita House:



The greater needs of the organization are to secure funds for its day-to-day running costs, ensuring financial stability, and having dedicated staff and volunteers to assist with various activities.

The basic needs of the women at Caritas Bakhita House vary, and we support them through their individual journeys:



- Physiological needs (food, water, clothing, and rest).
- Safety and security (protection from harm, health, and financial security).
- Love and belonging (friendship, affection, and a sense of connection).
- Self-esteem (confidence, achievement, and respect for others).
- Cognitive needs (curiosity, knowledge, and understanding).
- Aesthetic needs (beauty in art and nature, balance).
- Self-actualization and spirituality (meaning, creativity, and reaching one's potential).



Overcoming trauma, healing, and growth are only possible when these basic needs are met. Trusting relationships and the combined effort of staff, volunteers, professional partners, and donors lay the foundation for a better future for each woman.



# COMMUNITY HOUSE DAMARIS

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## GREECE

Community House Damaris is a non-governmental organization with a mission to empower women and their children who have been sexually exploited and trafficked, providing them with the opportunity for recovery, restoration, and reintegration.

Damaris was founded in 2015 as a front-line solution to combating the high rates of young women and girls experiencing human trafficking and exploitation in Athens, Greece. Through a series of holistic and individually tailored programs, as well as the operation of two safe houses, Damaris meets the emotional, physical, and educational needs of women and their children escaping gender-based violence.

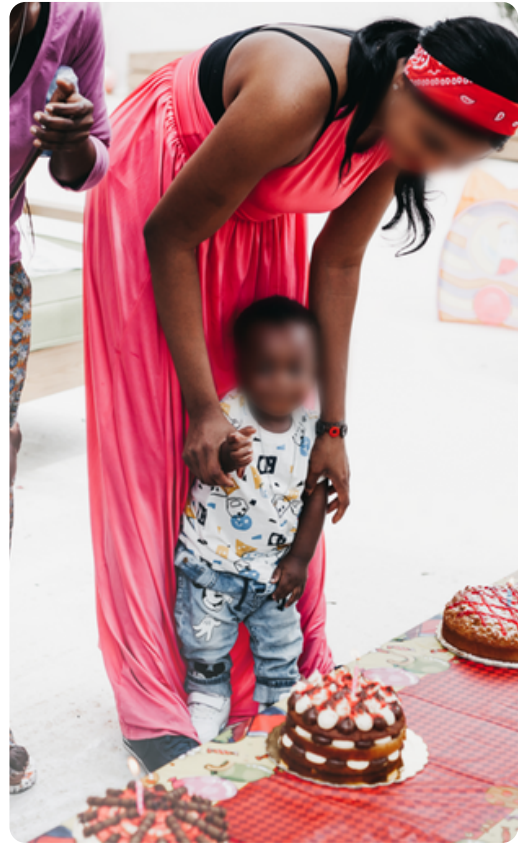
# The Creation of Damaris House:

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For the past three decades, Greece has served as an important gateway for refugees and migrants hoping to relocate to the European Union.

However, since 2015, Greece has received an unprecedented number of refugees and illegal immigrants as people flee armed conflicts and extreme poverty in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

As the number of people seeking to immigrate to the European Union has



increased, the risk of sexual exploitation against young women and girls has grown in tandem. Damaris was established to provide critical assistance to women who have fallen victim to these exploitative practices.

Despite the high rates of sexual exploitation experienced by girls and young women in Greece, Damaris is the only long-term shelter and recovery program for survivors of sex trafficking and their children in the country. Since 2016, it has provided critical assistance to 60 women, ages 18-35, from 23 different countries, and 33 children through its Hospitality and Recovery Day Program. Through its services, we have created a pathway towards stability, employment, and physical and mental well-being for both the women and their children.



## Programs designed for full rehabilitation and reintegration:

**Mental Health** – All program participants receive a psychiatric assessment and undergo regular counseling sessions as part of their mental health care.

**Addressing Poverty** – The program's courses prepare and train beneficiaries to enter the labor market, taking into account their interests and strengths, with the goal of vocational practice and financial independence.

**Social Services** – The Social Worker holds regular meetings with beneficiaries to help them access public services, obtain legal documents, and set goals for smooth social integration.

**Personal Development** – The Learning Center at Community House Damaris offers a holistic program focused on personal recovery, skill development, and social integration, helping beneficiaries reach their full potential and become productive members of society.

**Health** – Community House Damaris provides access to medical services for beneficiaries and their children. It also offers training in physical hygiene as part of the national Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, aiming to promote physical health.





# VATRA PSYCHO-SOCIAL CENTRE

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## ALBANIA

"Vatra Psycho-Social Center is an Albanian non-profit organization established in 1999. It provides services and expertise in preventing and protecting victims of trafficking, domestic violence, and gender-based violence.

Vatra's mission is to prevent human trafficking, domestic violence, and gender-based violence while promoting the socio-economic empowerment of victims through information, education, advocacy, and social residential and community services.

Currently, Vatra employs 29 professionals, including social workers, psychologists, lawyers, a teacher, a doctor/nurse, as well as administrative and financial management staff.



In 2001, with the support of Save the Children, "Vatra" expanded its activities by establishing the first Shelter in Albania, which continues to provide accommodation, rehabilitation, and reintegration services for Albanian and foreign victims of human trafficking, their children, and victims of gender-based violence.

Since its founding, Vatra has assisted 2,659 victims of human trafficking (2,617 women and girls, and 62 men and boys), 2,190 victims of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and gender-based violence (1,929 women and girls, and 261 men and boys), and 761 children of victims of all forms of violence and trafficking. They also support children of beneficiaries. The support offered to the beneficiaries, as well as their children, aims at physical, emotional, psychological rehabilitation and reintegration into social life, along with economic empowerment.

Cooperation with national and international partners is key to the success of Vatra's work. Vatra is a member of national agreements and a partner of the Albanian Government in the development and implementation of National Strategies and Action Plans (since 2001 and ongoing).



# Three Phase Reintegration Model:



Vatra Center applies a three-phase reintegration model:

- **Initial crisis intervention:** 0 – 6 months.
- **Stabilization and transition:** 7 – 12 months.
- **Social inclusion and reintegration:** 13 – 36 months.



For cases entering the program, joint case management will be provided in close collaboration with the Coordinators against domestic violence in each municipality where the cases choose to live and reintegrate.

The multidisciplinary technical team, which includes case managers, psychologists, lawyers, doctors, teachers, and economic empowerment coordinators, will evaluate and assist each case individually.



The services provided to victims of trafficking and GBV cases include a comprehensive, long-term package of support, which encompasses medical assistance when needed, psycho-social support, counseling, and legal assistance.

Additionally, the program offers help with registering for and attending schooling or professional training, access to social activities, employment counseling and support, housing assistance (including rent subsidies and long-term accommodation through social housing programs), and information on available community services. The children of victims also receive assistance and support, with ongoing monitoring and follow-up for all beneficiaries.

The shelter offers a wide range of services to support recovery, including secure accommodation, fulfillment of basic needs such as food, hygiene, and clothing, psychological counseling, medical assistance for both physical and mental health, legal support, and educational services. There are also activities designed to build life skills, as well as cultural and social activities both inside and outside the shelter.

The program provides counseling and mediation to help re-establish family connections, and economic empowerment through employment counseling, vocational training, and job placement support. Follow-up care continues after beneficiaries leave the shelter.

Social, cultural, and educational activities aim to enhance life skills, improve emotional well-being, and expand both theoretical and practical knowledge in various fields. One of the therapeutic activities within the shelter is gardening, which helps with emotional healing, fosters group cohesion, and offers a chance to care for plants, flowers, and vegetables.



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In addition to individual readings, beneficiaries participate in group sessions for "bibliotherapy," where they engage in creative activities, share their emotional experiences of the stories they've read, and convey the messages of those stories.

The social group organizes activities that involve beneficiaries in discussions on current social issues, promoting the development of their expressive, argumentative, and critical thinking skills. These activities also encourage communication and interaction among the beneficiaries.



Painting and art are used to express emotions and convey important messages in the fight against trafficking. Creative and recreational activities are integral to the rehabilitation and reintegration program, periodically conducted with victims of trafficking and violence.

Art therapy is a valuable tool during the psychological rehabilitation process, helping to release negative emotions and discover inner strengths. All materials needed for these activities are purchased from program funds. Various art projects encourage beneficiaries to be creative, relax, and feel useful, while also fostering their inclusion in decorative works. These artworks have been showcased in various fairs and exhibitions.

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# SOLWODI

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## ROMANIA

Solwodi-Romania, is a project that includes a shelter for 12 people, 3 transit apartments, and a Counseling Center located in Bucharest. It is commonly known as Solwodi-Association.

Founded by the Jesu Congregation in 2009, Solwodi-Association was established as a first-line solution to combat the high rates of young women and children who are victims of human trafficking, sexual abuse, and domestic violence in Romania.

Due to its geographical location, Romania remains vulnerable to human trafficking, with a high rate of such crimes. Since its founding, the Association has collaborated with local authorities and other NGOs working to address human trafficking and domestic violence.



## The Vision for SOLWODI:



The vision of Solwodi-Association is twofold: on one hand, to contribute to reducing cases of domestic violence and human trafficking in Romania, as the country continues to face both internal and external domestic violence. On the other hand, the Association aims to offer women and children in difficulty the time and support needed to fully recover and rebuild their lives, both economically and socially.

## The Administration of SOLWODI, Romania:

The Association is administered by a president, while the daily operations are managed by a dedicated team of 3 social workers, 2 psychologists, and a lawyer. This team is committed to addressing the needs of beneficiaries at all levels—psychologically, socially, and legally. Additionally, they provide care for the physical health of the beneficiaries and support their school enrollment.

## Aim for SOLWODI:

The aim of our Association is to empower every woman to believe in herself, restore her self-esteem and the esteem of her children, and help her find employment to support herself. Respect, love, and empathy are key values, fostering a positive environment both among the beneficiaries and within the staff, creating a harmonious atmosphere for all.



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In conclusion, the project of the Association consists of supporting each beneficiary in reconnecting her broken pieces and rebuilding herself, both emotionally and psychologically, as well as helping her gain independence by offering alternative opportunities and life choices.

Social workers have regular individual meetings with the beneficiaries. In these meetings, they work to facilitate their access to public services, obtain their legal documents, and set goals for their smooth social integration. Meanwhile, psychologists assist the beneficiaries with their psychological trauma and emotional recovery.

During 2023, Solwodi Association continued its long-term projects and, at the same time, strengthened its position as an advocate for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence by continuing to create support programs focused on the needs of vulnerable and at-risk women and children. With the Ukrainian crisis, Romania became an important gateway for refugees and migrants hoping to move to the European Union upon their request.





## Some highlights from 2023:

In 2023, 345 calls were received, seeking help and explaining their situations. 15 women and their 29 children were welcomed for long-term support on their path to full recovery. Additionally, 43 people were accompanied to the Counseling Center.

Solwodi-Romania Association also organizes recreational activities for its beneficiaries and their children.

## Challenges faced by SOLWODI:

Our constant challenge and need as a non-profit organization is securing resources to continue and expand the work we do. At Solwodi-Romania Association, we rely 100% on partnerships with supporters, including individuals.

We strive to find a sustainable medium- to long-term solution to finance the activities of Solwodi-Romania Association and alleviate the many sufferings of women and children victims of sexual abuse and domestic violence.



# DAR MERHBA BIK FOUNDATION

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## MALTA

The Good Shepherd Sisters-Dar Merhba Bik Foundation runs two main domestic violence shelters in Malta: the Emergency Shelter Dar Merhba Bik and the second-stage shelter Dar Santa Bakita.

Dar Merhba Bik opened in 1980 and became an NGO Foundation in 2007. While the Good Shepherd Sisters have supported women and children in Malta since 1858, the organization has adapted to meet the evolving needs of those seeking shelter and safety. The Sisters, with their Lay Partners, currently manage the shelters.

Dar Merhba Bik is the largest domestic violence shelter in Malta, providing refuge for up to 14 women and children from abusive households or environments.

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We aim to create a healing environment, providing a peaceful, airy space where our residents can find calm after their turbulent journeys.

Safety and security are crucial for a person's physical well-being and peace of mind after escaping an abuser. To ensure this, we've installed a "double-door garage" with a secure system, a therapeutic area for counseling and meetings, and common areas designed for optimal security.

Each of Dar Merhba Bik's 14 bedrooms has its own kitchenette and private bathroom, offering privacy, independence, and a safe environment for families to rebuild their lives as much as possible. Given the harsh realities some residents face, some cannot leave the premises for extended periods due to safety concerns. We're grateful to have space for an outdoor playground for children, an outdoor gym for older residents, and an olive grove with benches for those who prefer to enjoy nature safely.

Many of our residents have been victims of human trafficking, as research shows a link between domestic violence and trafficking.







We collaborate with professionals, including doctors, social workers, therapists, and others, to support our residents and their children. We also continue to offer support to women who have left Dar Merhba Bik and are now living in their homes, whenever they feel the need.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd have long supported individuals in need, including young women and adolescents facing family and social challenges. These individuals have been provided with residential accommodation and support in another building under their care.

Recognizing the evolving needs in Maltese society, this residence was renovated and transformed with a specific purpose. In 2019, Dar Santa Bakhita was inaugurated as a Second Stage Shelter, offering accommodation to three mothers and their children who had completed their program in a first-stage domestic violence shelter but still required assistance before fully leading independent lives.

The renovations were extensive, including the reconstruction of three bathrooms, new furniture, plumbing, electrical work, a fire alarm system, and all other necessary updates for the house to operate effectively for its new mission.

Dar Santa Bakhita now offers safe and well-equipped assisted flats for up to 12 months, with residents closely monitored by a residential social worker through weekly sessions, care plans, and case reviews.



The program is tailored to meet each individual's specific needs. A life-skills program is provided to help residents navigate the challenges of independent living once they transition from the semi-independent environment at the shelter.



The Good Shepherd Sisters-Dar Merhba Bik Foundation is governed by a Board of Directors, consisting of three sisters (one of whom serves as the Local Superior of the Community of Malta) and three lay people, including the Head of Services.



The Good Shepherd Charism unites us in our efforts to support and assist each person who comes to our shelter. We uphold Christian values of reconciliation, compassion, and healing. We believe healing comes through reconciliation with oneself, with God, and, when safe, with family. We strive to address the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs of each individual. We welcome all who come to us for help, regardless of nationality, religion, or background, ensuring they feel loved, respected, and valued in their dignity.



# AMARANTA FOUNDATION

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## SPAIN

The Amaranta Foundation Madrid Delegation (AFM), originally the HOPE Project of the Adorers' Sisters, was established in Madrid, Spain, in 1999. Its primary mission has always been to offer comprehensive support to women who have fallen victim to human trafficking. The foundation provides a range of services, including shelter, counselling, legal aid, and job training, to help these women rebuild their lives.

Detection and Identification: Amaranta Foundation Madrid (AFM) focuses on detecting and identifying potential victims of trafficking through a gender and human rights lens. They offer specialized care to women who are victims of trafficking, ensuring their rights are protected while providing support and assistance.





They collaborate with both public entities and civil society organizations to prevent and detect trafficking cases. They join forces with the State Security Forces (the police) in the formal process of detecting signs of trafficking and identification at borders, such as at Madrid Barajas Airport. They also operate a 24-hour hotline to receive reports of potential trafficking cases.

In 2023, 369 communications regarding possible trafficking cases were addressed, resulting in the identification of 170 women and 6 minors in their care as potential victims of trafficking.

### **Services Provided:**

The Amaranta Foundation offers essential services to empower victims of human trafficking. Between 1999 and 2022, the Hope Project assisted 1,927 people from 77 nationalities through its Residential Centres and Day Centre.

Residential resources form the core of the project, providing anonymous and confidential shelters that meet women's basic needs. These shelters offer a safe, dignified environment with specialized support in medical, psychological, educational, legal, and socio-occupational fields. These services are also available at the Day Centre. The tailored anti-trafficking support is vital for the victims' physical, psychological, and social recovery.

In 2022, 93% of women assisted were aged 18-35. The highest number of women came from Colombia (37), followed by Venezuela (20), Nigeria (15), and Paraguay (15).



AFM supports trafficking victims and, when applicable, their dependent children, in their recovery and integration into social and labor markets in Madrid. They take a human rights and intercultural approach, helping women overcome vulnerability and facilitating their entry into the workforce.

Each woman receives a personalized intervention plan based on her unique circumstances, including age, education, family situation, and life experiences, with goals designed to help her build a positive future.

In 2022, 56 women received care through residential resources, with 77% showing improvement within the first 10 days, and 35% achieving their educational objectives. The occupancy rate was 70% for the year. The social intervention service assisted 93 women in 2022, supporting them from identification to autonomy. Some shelters and social-employment programs are financed by public and governmental institutions. Additionally, 59% of the women in social intervention completed a training and employment program.



*Figure 3- Chatting In the garden of the house*



*Figure 2- Dancing lessons with the teacher*

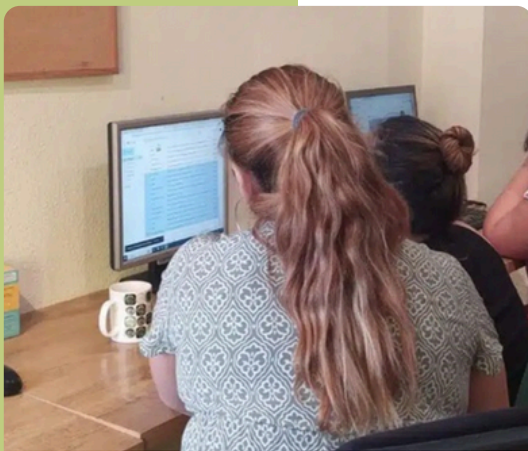


Figure 4- Learning computer



## Health Services:

The integral health service supports women's overall well-being. In 2022, 57 women received assistance in areas like orientation, social mediation, health promotion, and psychiatric care.

## Psychological Care:

Psychological support focused on emotional well-being through individual therapy and group sessions. 80% of women showed improvement in their psychological health. In 2022, 79 hours of group workshops were held on topics such as sexuality, rights, employment, STD prevention, and mindfulness.

## Legal Services:

The legal service offered specialized advice to 118 women, helping them exercise their rights and access justice. 65% gained legal status, 75% received identity accreditation, and 21% filed complaints.

In 2022, the "Women Leaders" school was launched to empower survivors of trafficking. Participants reflected on gender inequality, human rights, and their experiences related to power, leadership, and personal growth.

Women are equipped with the skills to find employment based on their education and aspirations. Several completed training and employment programs, with some now living independently with their children.





*Figure 7- The Project Hope team of professionals*

The foundation's approach centers on empowering victims and raising awareness about human trafficking. They collaborate closely with law enforcement and other organizations to identify potential victims and provide essential support. Additionally, they advocate for stronger laws and policies to combat trafficking and protect victims' rights.

The Amaranta Foundation Madrid (AFD) Delegation has achieved significant progress in its mission to assist victims of human trafficking. Some of their key accomplishments include:

- Providing shelter and support: Offering safe housing and vital services to women in need.
- Empowering victims: Helping women build the skills and confidence to rebuild their lives.
- Raising awareness: Educating the public about human trafficking and advocating for stronger laws and policies.

The Amaranta Foundation is dedicated to protecting the human rights of all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances. They believe every person deserves to live free from exploitation and violence. Through their work, they are making a meaningful impact in the fight against human trafficking, ensuring victims receive the support they need to recover and rebuild their lives.



RELIGIOUS IN EUROPE NETWORKING  
AGAINST TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

We extend our sincere gratitude to each of the RENATE shelters featured in this booklet. Your dedication and hard work provides essential support and safety for those in need.

To our readers, thank you for your interest. We encourage you to consider donating to these shelters, as your contributions play a vital role in sustaining their invaluable services. When donating, please reference "Shelters" to ensure your support directly benefits these organizations.

Together, we can strengthen efforts in the fight against human trafficking and support the survivors who seek refuge and recovery.

## How To Donate:



RENA TE Network (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation), 5211 JX Den Bosch, The Netherlands, Dutch Chamber of Commerce Nr. 17271216



**RENA TE Foundation Bank:**

ABN AMRO Bank, Den Bosch, The Netherlands,  
**Account No:** 587386703  
**IBAN:** NL31 ABNA 0587 3867 03  
**SWIFT (BIC):** ABNANL2A

*Donations for RENATE Shelters & Safe Houses are accepted  
with thanks.*