

SOLWODI Hungary Association's report for the year 2021

SOLWODI Hungary's specific activities are the following:

- Advocacy and Networking inside the Hungarian Catholic Church (as community),
- Identification of victims of human trafficking and referral of identified victims to the Hungarian National System in cooperation with *institutions of the Hungarian Catholic church* and other NGO's. We also work in cooperation with the Hungarian police to protect and assist of victims and survivors of human trafficking.

Our General Activities:

- We organise and conduct awareness-raising and prevention programmes to people in pastoral care who might encounter victims or potential victims and survivors of human trafficking during their activity.
- We organise conferences for church helpers (faith educators, pastoral care workers, pastors, members of religious congregations, etc.) to help them with identification and referral of victims of human trafficking.
- We do networking and cooperate with other national and foreign organisations.
- We provide (occasionally) concrete assistance to victims or survivors of human trafficking on case-by-case basis up to the limit of resources of SOLWODI Hungary.
- We have a Prayer Network. Within our Prayer Network we have in-person weekly prayer meetings. During Covid we used online facilities to continue with our prayers. The representatives of other organisations (our partner organisations) also pray with us during this meeting. Every month we have a special prayer intention (prayer request) which is sent to our members and volunteers by emails. In our prayers we carry all those who are affected by human trafficking.

1. Spiritual and pastoral programmes; Prayer Days; Prayers in defence of human dignity for survivors, victims and all other vulnerable people

- *On Monday, 8 February 2021*, at 18:00: The Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Pest hosted the sixth annual Mass for victims and survivors of human trafficking. As it was in time of Covid, the mass was broadcasted online. This way large number of people were able to join our service.
- *During 2021*, as in the year before, a monthly prayer card was sent out to those who joined our Prayer Network. In addition to our prayer intention (prayer card), we also offered practical ideas how to help victims or survivors of human trafficking. Our Prayer Network was joined by members of religious communities and by individuals too.
- Within our Prayer Network we have had in-person weekly prayer meetings. During Covid we used online facilities to continue with our prayers. In our prayers we carried those (specific individuals and situations) who were affected by human trafficking.

2. Conferences and events

- *On Saturday 16 October 2021*, we organised a conference at the Jesuit's Dialogue House in Budapest. The speakers were:
 - o Ms. Nóra Jakubovich Dr, Head of the Anti-Trafficking and Horizontal Affairs Department of the Ministry of the Interior who gave a presentation on the current situation in the fight against human trafficking;

- Ms. Ágnes De Coll, Anti-Trafficking Programme Manager of the Baptist Aid Service, on the current situation of human trafficking in Hungary who talked mostly about labour exploitation of vulnerable people;
- Colonel (pol) László Kovács, shared his personal experiences on communities living in extreme poverty;
- After the presentation the audience could listen to a pre-recorded testimony of a survivor about her experiences. The conference ended with a Q&A session where both attendees and participants, who joined online, were able to ask questions to the speakers.

3. Participation in professional training and conferences

- *17 April 2021*: Online Symposium “Delicate Relationships - Sex Education and Child Abuse” (“Heikle Beziehungen - Sexualpädagogik und Kindesmissbrauch”)
- *27-28 September 2021*: Participation in the XI Media Conference at the MTA (Hungarian Academy of Science, Budapest)
- *From 19 to 22 October 2021* we participated in the October conference against human trafficking in the City of Ulm, Germany, organised by the Ulmer Bündnis and Donaubüro with the participation of the Danube countries, online. The title of the conference was: “*Exit Strategies from Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in the Danube Region*”

4. Cooperation with other organisations

- Anonymous Ways Foundation

Since 2017, when SOLWODI was founded, we have been working with the Anonymous Ways Foundation (AWF). SOLWODI was able to provide appropriate assistance to several victims. As part of AWF’s rehabilitation programme at the beginning of 2020, SOLWODI was invited to hold weekly session to women who joined AWF’s rehabilitation program. These sessions did continue up to the first half of 2021. In the summer of 2021, due to an unexpected death at the Foundation, our session were interrupted but we hope they could resume in the future.

- Salvation Army

Just before Christmas 2021, we joined the Salvation Army's RÁHÁB street campaign. The aim of this mission was to collect and distribute „Christmas gift” parcels among people who were affected by human trafficking. The parcels were donated by members of male and female religious congregations and lay people.

- National Coordination Mechanism/NGO Round Table

As a result of our Human Trafficking Conference on 16 October 2021, we were invited to join the National Coordination Mechanism and the NGO Round Table hosted by the Ministry of Interior of Hungary. As member of the NCM and NGO Round Table SOLWODI will get all relevant information on the fight against human trafficking in Hungary and in the EU.

5. Concrete assistance

During 2021 our face-to-face meetings and all other outreach programs were severely hit by the Covid pandemic. To minimise the damage we navigated our programs to the online space or postponed the activities.

- *During 2021* SOLWODI had several telephone enquiries. We provided regular pastoral care mostly.

- SOLWODI provided financial support for one person to continue therapy.

Budapest, 2021.12.30.

- SOLWODI was able to find solutions to legal issues through our network for a mother of one, living in difficult circumstances. In addition to this we provided pastoral care too.
- For a woman, suffering from PTSD, we were able to provide therapeutic opportunities through our connections.
- SOLWODI provided regular pastoral support to two girls, both under age of 15.
- For a survivor of forced prostitution, we organised a material fundraiser with our volunteers. This helped her to start a new and independent life away from exploitation.
- *At the beginning of June 2021*, SOLWODI helped the distribution of 500 kg of donated flour. It was distributed between two communities: 400 kg of flour was sent to Roma families living in extreme poverty in Miskolc (a city in North-East Hungary) and 100 kg of flour was sent to a homeless shelter in Budapest.

Our supporters

SOLWODI is able to operate thanks to the generosity of our supporters.

We are grateful to:

- the Major Superiors Office (of Hungary),
- the Conference of the (Female) Major Superiors,
- the Congregatio Jesu (CJ),
- the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Holy Cross (SCSC),
- the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (SJC),
- the Sisters of Divine Salvation (SDS),
- the Society of the Helpers of the Holy Souls (SA),
- the Minor Sisters of St. Francis (TORG),
- the Society of Jesus (SJ),
- the Franciscan Brothers (OFM),
- our volunteers,
- the Anonymous Ways Foundation,
- the BRFK (HQ of Police of Budapest),
- the ORFK (HQ of National Police),
- the Salvation Army,
- SOLWODI Austria,
- as well as the prayers and financial and human support of individuals.

Budapest, 30.12.2021.

Budapest, 2021.12.30.