



Solwodi Hungary Association 2025 Annual Report

The activities of the SOLWODI HUNGARY Association in 2025 were as follows.

Our events

1.1. 8 February 2025 St. Bakhita Josefina Memorial Day

Prayer and solemn Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Budapest, District VIII), celebrated by Father János Lukács SJ.

1.2. On 30 July 2025, on the occasion of **the UN Day Against Human Trafficking,** Fr György Hiba SJ celebrated Holy Mass in the Christ the King Chapel (1085 Budapest, Reviczky utca 8.). Given the large number of seasonal workers in the summer, the Mass focused on those who have become victims of labour exploitation.

1.3. 17 October 2025 On the occasion of **the European Day Against Human Trafficking,** we held a meditation, followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Father János Lukács SJ in the Chapel of Christ the King (1085 Budapest, Reviczky utca 8).

2. Cooperation in the fight against human trafficking in Hungary

2.1. Small NGO round table

As in previous years, in 2025 we continued to work and collaborate with those who are active in the fight against human trafficking based on a Christian worldview. Participants in the mini NGO roundtable included the Névtelen Utak Foundation, the Lehetőség Családoknak 2005 Foundation, the Baptist Charity Service, the Salvation Army, the Romokból Élet Foundation, and, in 2025, the Ecumenical Aid Organisation, which operates the national helpline. During the meetings, we informed each other about our ongoing work and shared our best practices. At the end of 2025, at the initiative of the Salvation Army, the number of participants in the meeting was reduced to four organisations.

Date of the first meeting: **7 February 2025.** Location: Budapest Participants: SOLWODI, NUA, CSOA, SALVATION ARMY, BAPTIST CHARITY SERVICE

Third meeting: **20 October 2025** Venue: Baptist Charity Service Participants: CSOA, Salvation Army, SOLWODI HUNGARY, Baptist Charity Service

2.2. Participation in the Ministry of the Interior's National Coordination Mechanism NGO Roundtable

In 2025, we continued to work in close partnership with the Ministry of the Interior's Working Group on

Combating Human Trafficking .

We reviewed the draft sent to us as part of the second phase of developing *the new National Strategy for Combating Human Trafficking* by the deadline of 30 May 2025.

Then, on 26-27 June 2025, we participated in a two-day off-site working meeting of the BM Working Group on Combating Human Trafficking in Pilisszentkereszt, where we worked with state organisations (ÁSK, NNI, ORFK, National Institute of Criminology, etc.) and partner organisations to develop the final draft proposal to be submitted to the Government for approval.

We participated in the meeting of the National Coordination Mechanism NGO Roundtable of the Ministry of the Interior (15 October 2025), where we reviewed the country report of the Council of Europe's GRETA group in view of the upcoming consultation with personal participation.

We responded to all requests from the Ministry of the Interior for comments or input on written materials, returning them in accordance with the request. Similarly, at the request of the Ministry of the Interior, we developed a joint campaign plan for 2026, which we are mutually committed to implementing.

2.3. 13 November 2025: participation in the discussion of the GRETA country report in Budapest

The country report published by the Council of Europe's GRETA group was discussed in detail and in person by GRETA experts, representatives of the Ministry of the Interior and Hungarian public administration and justice organisations involved in the fight against human trafficking, as well as representatives of civil society organisations. During the day-long meeting, the Hungarian system was thoroughly reviewed.

3. Prayer network

Since its establishment, SOLWODI HUNGARY Association has been providing continuous prayer support for those affected by human trafficking (including victims, survivors, those working for them, and perpetrators) in accordance with its statutory objectives. The prayer support was compiled by one of our board members and sent out monthly by email to subscribers. In 2025, we felt that the prayer support needed to be revamped, so we have currently suspended sending out the monthly prayer intentions.

4. Educational and preventive activities

4.1.1. 31 January 2025 Discussion on human trafficking at Karolina School (Szeged) with 11th and 12th grade students and teachers. Forty-four students and three teachers participated in the discussion. Prior to our visit, the school had already discussed the issue of human trafficking with the students, so we built on this foundation to approach the topic and answer the questions the students had asked us before the discussion.

4.1.2. 6 February 2025 Discussion at the central office **of the Jesuit Refugee Service (Budapest)**, where we were welcomed by Father Szabolcs Sajgó SJ and Emese Kővágó. We presented SOLWODI's activities and gave a brief overview of where signs of human trafficking may appear in work with refugees, the detection of which can help identify victims and enable them to escape their situation.

4.1.3. 12 February 2025 Comprehensive presentation and discussion on the issue of human trafficking at the Bartimeus training programme of the Sapientia College of Theology. The discussion took place within the framework of the Human Dignity Strategy.

4.1.3. 27 March 2025 Discussion at the Szent Norbert School Centre (Gödöllő). At the school's request, SOLWODI members held two consecutive lessons per class, discussing the existence and problems of human trafficking with the students. Three classes from each of the school's 9th and 11th grades and their teachers took part in the event (the number of participants exceeded 200).

4.1.4. 28 May 2025 Discussion at the Szent Norbert School Centre (Gödöllő). At the request of the school, SOLWODI members held two consecutive lessons with three 10th grade classes, discussing

the existence and problems of human trafficking (the number of participants reached 100).

4.1.5. 28 May 2025 At the request of the Parents' Association of the Szent Norbert School Centre, a discussion was held on the nature of human trafficking and how it endangers children and students. What parents and families can do to recognise the signs of human trafficking and how they can take action against it. More than 30 parents actively participated in the discussion, which lasted more than two hours, with their questions and comments.

4.1.6. 16 October 2025 Online roundtable discussion on issues related to human trafficking affecting students and educational institutions on the occasion of the European Day Against Human Trafficking. The online discussion was attended by the heads of Patrona Hungariae Grammar School (Budapest) and Eszterházy Miklós Technical College (Dombóvár) responsible for this topic, alongside a representative of SOLWODI HUNGARY. During the discussion, the participants talked about the situations that most frequently occur or may occur in an educational institution, which may indicate that students are at risk of human trafficking or have already found themselves in situations that require action on the part of the school. One of the conclusions was that new technologies have a widespread influence on young people's activities and thinking and have a major impact on their behaviour and decision-making. Students are exposed to dangers through invisible channels, which teaching staff and educators need to anticipate in their daily teaching and activities.

4.1.7. 22 October 2025 Lecture at Patrona Hungariae Grammar School, Budapest

Lecture and discussion on the issue of human trafficking and ways to combat it (audience of 40+ people). The event was attended by 11th and 12th grade students and their teachers. The discussion was followed by Holy Mass and an informal conversation with the school's teachers over lunch.

4.1.8. Throughout 2025, we were in constant contact with the Eszterházy Miklós Vocational School and Technical College (Dombóvár).

The students participating in the Walk Her Home Club graduated in May 2025. We sent them bracelets made of small precious stones representing a decade of the rosary as a graduation gift, with the clear intention that they would also use the bracelets for prayer.

Through the school principal, we obtained useful information about the activities of the Walk Her Home Club several times during the year and received recommendations for our work in other educational institutions.

5. International activities

5.1. Participation in the activities of RENATE (Religious in Europe Networking Against Trafficking and Exploitation)

The members of the Association participate in the work of RENATE at various levels. Of particular note is the membership/representation in the RENATE Core Group, which involves participation in the management and decision-making of RENATE.

In addition, we participate in the following groups:

Council of Europe Task Group – suspended its activities in mid-2025

Law Task Group

House of Prayer

Awareness Raising Group

5.2. On 11 November 2025, Anna Hagenbuch, a senior staff member of ATLAS FREE, an international organisation fighting human trafficking, **visited** us. Anna is one of the founders of the Walk Her Home Club and visited us in December 2022. During the meeting, we presented the activities of SOLWODI HUNGARY, highlighting the success of WHHC at the educational institution in Dombóvár.

Anna presented the activities of ATLAS FREE to us and suggested that we become members of the global organisation, as membership offers benefits such as continuous knowledge transfer and

international assistance in bringing victims home or providing local assistance. ATLAS FREE membership allows us to apply for grants and receive support (including financial support) for successful projects.

6. Identifying victims, helping survivors

6.1. Throughout 2025, the SOLWODI Association did everything in its power to ensure that anyone in need of help could receive it and receive appropriate care and support to leave prostitution or relationship violence and rehabilitate themselves.

The helpline is no longer available as there was insufficient capacity to maintain the telephone service. Requests for assistance are received via the form on the website www.solwodi.hu and sent to the association's email address.

The benefit of the online request for help was that we forwarded requests that were only related to livelihood issues to the Hungarian Catholic Charity, who took over the cases quickly and in a targeted manner in all cases.

During 2025, we were contacted for help on several occasions from German-speaking countries, either by one of SOLWODI's member organisations in Germany or by us requesting help from a German SOLWODI member organisation. On each occasion, they were very helpful and professional in providing whatever assistance they could.

Unfortunately, sending aid from abroad to Hungary is very difficult because many of the organisations that facilitate travel between countries have suspended their activities in this area.

6.2. In 2025, we participated several times in the Salvation Army's street outreach, which means that 2-3 times a month, a member of SOLWODI provides help and support to street prostitutes in the tolerance zone and beyond.

6.3. In December 2025, the Salvation Army's street mission did not request us to collect Christmas gift packages, so we gave cash allowances and gift vouchers to the victims and survivors we continuously accompany.

6.4. Throughout 2025, there were victims and survivors whom SOLWODI continued to support after they left the rehabilitation system and started a new life on their own. The support included financial assistance as well as personal and spiritual support.

The activities provided to those we assisted were as follows:

- organising housing and providing financial support
- clothing donations for survivors and their children
- purchase of travel passes
- payment of social security contributions
- spiritual and lifestyle counselling in dealing with and managing acute situations
- assistance (organisation) with medical care/participation in detoxification treatment
- spiritual care
- ongoing support for people in difficult life situations (life coaching)
- regular contact and visits
- support for family members
- organising legal assistance

6.5. Our previous organic cooperation **with the Anonymus Way Foundation** continued in 2025. We are personally and actively involved in the rehabilitation process through the cooking school programme, and one of our staff members regularly gives lessons as a part-time lecturer as part of the recovery programme.

7. Media appearances

7.1. In 2025, **Erzsébet Emese Balázs** conducted a lengthy **interview** for <https://ujvarosonline.hu>. The interview introduced the concept of human trafficking, illustrated how it exists in our everyday lives through experiences gained during our work, and familiarised readers with the life and activities of the SOLWODI HUNGARY Association.

The article is available at: https://ujvarosonline.hu/tarsadalom/solwodi-hungary-kiszolgaltatott-nok-melto-eleteert-interju?fbclid=IwY2xjawP5LO5leHRuA2FlbQIxBicmlkETB2S1JXbE42Y1RLeKhwdHhSc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQOMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHhBuDIzmcUiwOOU3IAp3IgcJLtkc7mHSQXjCKsBzo9x4APaIZp8UnIwclMJ_aem_JZwpcsGS_uxe5FYLL3zCZQ

7.2. In 2025, **our cooperation with the Bíz Rá Magad portal** was renewed. The portal brings together organisations and businesses that are considered credible from a Catholic worldview perspective and makes their services available to the general public. The BMR portal provides an opportunity to present and promote SOLWODI HUNGARY's programmes and activities.

BMR itself presents areas in which the organisations listed on the portal offer assistance. In connection with this, we were asked to write an article about human trafficking and the activities of SOLWODI HUNGARY, a request we were happy to comply with.

The article is available at: <https://bizdramagad.hu/cikkek/emberi-meltosagahoz-mindenkinek-joga-van/>

8. Other support and awareness-raising activities

8.1. In 2025, a MA student in sociology at Pázmány Péter Catholic University asked for our help with his thesis. The topic of the thesis was "the social perception of prostitution", for which he needed the opinions and experiences of experts and helpers, which we were happy and willing to share with him.

9. Applications

9.1. On 3 March 2025, we submitted an application to the European Commission's "Call for Expression of Interest of Membership in the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings".

We received a negative response on 25 July 2025.

9.2. We intended to apply for the second round of the BBA tender, which had been announced earlier and was promised for April 2025, but the tender was suspended on the announced date, so we did not submit an application.

9.3. Our application submitted in the summer of 2025 to the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management and the National Cooperation Fund was successful. The grant was for 10% of the income accounted for as donations in 2024, typically for material expenses and equipment purchases. SOLWODI HUNGARY won 521,726 forints.

9.4. We submitted an application for the Bethlen Gábor Fund Management's call for proposals for the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, which was accepted by the BGA and deemed valid (i.e. worthy of consideration). In addition to material expenses and equipment purchases, we also requested support for the writing and publication of a publication that would summarise the knowledge and experience gained in the "Walk Her Home Clubs" and school information sessions in a way that could be passed on and used by secondary schools.

The application was rejected due to a lack of funds.