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Iroko Onlus rewarded for their work against trafficking

Child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children is on the rise in Europe. The outbreak of Covid-19 this past year, has only exacerbated the situation for these children and made many more vulnerable to abuse. Today Child10 is announcing the prominent 2021 Child10 Awarded Member organizations who are working across Europe and will now join forces to end human trafficking and sexual exploitation of girls in Europe. The organization Iroko Onlus is one of these ten organizations selected from over 90 nominations from 27 countries across the globe.

The systematic and implicit abuse of girls is something happening on a daily basis in all societal contexts all over the world. Today, Child10 is announcing their ten 2021 Awarded Members and the Italian organization Iroko Onlus is one of the awardees praised for their efforts to eradicate all forms of exploitation and trafficking of girls in Italy and Nigeria.

The [Global Report](#) on Trafficking from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) shows that every third victim of human trafficking are children, foremost girls and 95% of the victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation are girls and women. For 2021, Iroko Onlus will become a part of an action force of ten organizations from various parts of Europe, working under the Child10 chosen theme “Girls’ rights have no price” to enhance the protection system for girls trafficked in Europe.

Iroko Onlus is an international NGO with headquarters in Italy and offices also in Nigeria and the UK. They have, for more than 20 years, provided services and support to victims and survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution and pornography with a specific focus on trafficking of women for sexual exploitation from Nigeria. Their work falls broadly into three categories: direct service provision where they provide help for victims, advocacy to shift the responsibility from victim to buyer and prevention by raising awareness.

“Iroko Onlus successfully combines support services and preventative action for victims of human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Italy and Nigeria. They have a deep understanding of the overall situation of victims in origin, transit and destination countries which they effectively utilize in both their operations and advocacy. Iroko Onlus’ expertise in the field and their commitment to the cause has made them one of the most important voices for systemic change to end trafficking and exploitation of girls in Italy as well as the rest of Europe”, says Jacob Flärdh, Secretary General, Child10.

“The recognition by Child10 will ensure that we will be able to expand the impact of our work, to reach more survivors in Italy and also to reach more vulnerable women and girls in Nigeria. We very much look forward to collaborating with Child10 to expand our work and to ensure that our advocacy has the kind of impact that we hope to achieve. It is an honour to receive this award. Thank you very much”, says Esohe Aghatise, founder and executive director of Associazione Iroko.

Besides being part of the action force, Iroko Onlus will receive 100'000 SEK from Child10's Main Partner, Her Majesty the Queen Silvia of Sweden's Foundation “Care About the Children” to implement in their work against exploitation and trafficking of human beings. They will also receive a support program with both organizational and individual support to strengthen, develop and create sustainability in the organization.

The announcement of Iroko Onlus and the other 9 chosen organizations was broadcast on the [Facebook-page of Child10](#) and on [child10.org](#) today, the 24th of February 12:00 - 1:15 pm CET, during a digital launch with special appearances from Her Majesty the Queen Silvia of Sweden and Swedish Foreign Minister, Ann Linde..

These are the ten Awarded Members of 2021:

Iroko Onlus, Italy

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ASTRA, Serbia

ASTRA is a grassroots organization dedicated to eradicating all forms of exploitation and trafficking in human beings. They were the first actor to raise the issue of human trafficking in Serbia. ASTRA has a holistic approach to the problem of human trafficking, they deal with all forms of exploitation, and assist all categories of survivors including women, children, and men. For more than 20 years, ASTRA has worked with providing direct support and assistance, education and raising awareness, advocacy, research, and networking.

eLiberare, Romania

eLiberare is a Romanian organization focused on preventing human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Their goal is to equip people to prevent human trafficking in their own communities. Their priorities are five-fold: prevention education to decrease risk of trafficking, capacity building through specialized training sessions, external assistance by helping to restore and reintegrate victims in society, strategic advocacy

to ensure better legislation and awareness events where vulnerable are informed about the phenomenon.

Ellencentret, Sweden

Ellencentret is part of the non-profit foundation 1000 Möjligheter, based in Stockholm, Sweden. For more than ten years they have been working with young people subjected to prostitution and trafficking, targeting young people up to the age of 25. They provide help, advice and therapy through their national chat helpline and in their help and trauma-centre in Stockholm. They also offer legal advice through collaboration with lawyers and educate professionals on the subject of young people in sexual exploitation.

Footprint to Freedom, Olanda

Footprint to Freedom è un'organizzazione guidata da sopravvissute e ispirata da una sopravvissuta alla tratta, Malaika Oringo. Lotta per l'inclusione e l'impegno delle sopravvissute, per le quali è uno spazio per far sentire la propria voce e lottare per rompere il ciclo della tratta impedendo la vittimizzazione e la rivittimizzazione delle sopravvissute valorizzandole.

lightup International

lightup is an international youth movement, consisting of three independent national organizations - based in Germany, Austria and Norway. Their vision is a world where every person lives free from human trafficking and exploitation - because people are priceless. They are youth-led, human rights-based youth organizations, existing to address the structural causes of human trafficking rooted in global injustice.

MARTA Centre, Latvia

MARTA Centre is a civil society organization in Latvia that works to achieve equality between women and men, girls and boys on a daily basis. MARTA Centre provides support to women and children that have been victims of domestic violence and human trafficking by providing social services, psychological and legal assistance. The association also pursues violence and sexual exploitation prevention by working with youth and men to bring about the necessary structural changes.

Novahuset, Sweden

Novahuset is an organization working against sexual violence with support, prevention and outreach. They meet all types of sexual violence and an essential part of their operations is aimed towards online-related sexual violence. Their work with support and outreach is executed both in person and online, and the preventative work is mainly taking place in schools and aims to reach children, caregivers and professionals.

Novi Put, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Association "Novi put" was established in 2010 by women with longstanding anti-trafficking experience. Their main objectives are prevention and combating human trafficking, gender-based violence and child abuse. The Association is a member of the core Regional Monitoring Team for anti-trafficking and participates in

drafting and reviewing relevant State Action Plans and Strategies aimed for prevention of human trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Vatra, Albania

Vatra Psycho-Social Center's activities date back to 1999, aiming at preventing trafficking in human beings, domestic and gender-based violence and social-economic empowerment of victims of these phenomena through information, education, advocacy, and social residential and community services in Albania. Their main activities are focused on preventing through awareness, reintegration services for victims, access to justice support for victims, capacity building for state and non-state employees and advocacy to governmental institutions.

About Child10

Child10's vision is a world free from child trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children. We believe that change is achieved by a holistic child rights-based approach. Together with grassroots organizations and other actors in the field we develop and advocate for powerful and durable solutions to ensure that the rights of every child are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

For more information about Child10, visit Child10.org

About H.M. Queen Silvia Foundation – Care about the children

HM Queen Silvia's Foundation – Care About the Children, works for a world in which every child's most fundamental needs are fulfilled. Our objectives depart from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and seek to provide every child with access to education and healthcare as well as ensure their safety and happiness. In short, to let children be children! The foundation cooperates with established organizations on well-defined projects and in doing so supports the most vulnerable children in Sweden and around the world.

For more information about Queen Silvia's foundation, visit Drottningilviasstiftelse.se