

SPEAKING OUT for the protection of victims of trafficking for all purposes of exploitation

Aim

SPEAKING OUT seeks to influence regulations, public policies, and protocols against trafficking in persons in Spain, with the aim of guaranteeing the protection and access to rights of women and girls victim of trafficking for purposes of exploitation (such as trafficking for labour exploitation in domestic work, forced criminal activities, and forced marriages) that remain invisible and undetected. The project will analyse the existing legislation, carry out a study of cases, offer training to key agents in the public and private sectors, and undertake awareness-raising and advocacy actions with the ultimate goal of ensuring that the application of human rights standards for victims of trafficking for all purposes of exploitation are a reality in Spain.

#TambienEsTrata (#ThisIsTraffickingToo) is the slogan chosen to disseminate the project and its activities as it reflects the project's main objective.

Starting Point

In spite of the important progress made in the last years, the Spanish anti-trafficking legal framework is jeopardized by serious limitations, which restrict the access to rights of those who have been victims of trafficking for purposes of exploitation that remain less visible and undetected. Data regarding the identification of victims of trafficking for labour exploitation in domestic work, forced criminal activities, and forced marriages remains anecdotic in Spain. This situation highlights the invisibility of the phenomenon, and hinders the victims' access to rights and assistance. In this regards, the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action Against Trafficking (GRETA) has been urging the Spanish government to adopt a comprehensive anti-trafficking national action plan addressing trafficking for all purposes of exploitation¹.

Duration & Activities

The project, which will be carried out from July 2019 until June 2021, is articulated around four main axes:

1. Organization and Management, which will allow Proyecto Esperanza and SICAR cat to align their awareness raising and advocacy teams' strategies, capacities and tools, so that, by the end of the project, their capacity to advocate for a human rights approach in anti-trafficking public policies will have improved.

2. Public Policies Research and Monitoring, which will seek to ensure that trafficking for labour exploitation in domestic work, forced criminal activities, and forced marriages are taken into consideration by relevant actors, and key cross-sectoral agents.

3. Training and Capacity Building, which will focus on increasing and strengthening key actors' capacities to detect and refer victims of trafficking for other exploitation purposes to specialized services, so that they have greater access to rights.

4. Dissemination and Communication, which will aim at informing the public opinion, citizens, and the media about the need to understand trafficking in all its dimensions. This axe will also seek to make visible the lack of protection for victims of trafficking for other purposes of exploitation, and to advocate to the Spanish authorities about the importance of taking effective measures to safeguard the rights of victims of trafficking, regardless of the type of exploitation they have suffered.

Participating organisations

SPEAKING OUT is co-lead by Proyecto Esperanza (in Madrid) and SICAR. Cat (in Barcelona). Both projects are part of the Adoratrices Congregation. SICAR Cat and Proyecto Esperanza specialise in providing comprehensive support to trafficked women, and in developing a critical analysis of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons based on human rights and gender approaches as means to guaranteeing the access of trafficked persons to their rights, and to offer them a response adequate to their needs.

i GRETA Report concerning the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Spain (2018), and 9th General Report on GRETA's Activities (2019).