

Soroptimist International of Europe

European Federation consists of

- 57 countries
- 34.000 members
- 1.200 clubs

In Western, Eastern Europe and Africa

SIE is member of the European Women Lobby
and has accredited status with the
Council of Europe and OSCE

Human Trafficking in Europe is on the increase

- Every year more than 500,000 people are sold
- 80 percent of them are girls and women
- 70 percent of them are forced into sexual servitude



In 2009 more than 400 projects addressed the issue of violence against women through

Awareness, Advocacy and Action.

27 projects focused specifically on human trafficking

Major projects in Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Romania, Germany and Turkey

Using an integrated approach and the strength of international SI alliances

PREVENTION THROUGH AWARENESS RAISING



CREATING AWARENESS

- Romania: in collaboration with Danish Union showed films, held discussions and conducted essay competitions with high school students
 - Over 2,000 students participated
 - Students became very passionate and involved in spreading the message
 - A network of 15 organisations – NGOs and public bodies - was created which addresses the issue from Government to local level
 - Victims were reintegrated and spread personal messages

CREATING AWARENESS

Clubs in Denmark and Sweden held diverse seminars on trafficking addressing different audiences

- Including one with a psychotherapist working with abuse victims and with an author on the topic
- giving a tour of a trafficking exhibition, and holding an information session for 550 students.
- Students started to support victims

Awareness and Advocacy

- Sweden : received government funding to publish flyers and hold seminars on trafficking
- Turkey: created partnerships with Police and Ministry of Foreign Affairs to combat trafficking
- Denmark: organised multiple meetings in Parliament and successfully influenced an increase in time victims are permitted to stay in Denmark before repatriation

ADVOCACY

Many SIE clubs held demonstrations to create public awareness about trafficking, which was also covered broadly by the **media**



Odder club of Denmark demonstrates against trafficking.



ADVOCACY

- Members in Denmark mailed letters and lobbied in center of towns to get signatures on a declaration against trafficking
- The letters with 16,500 signatures were delivered to the Minister for Social Welfare



ACTION

- Germany: SIE club members visit victims of trafficking in the maternity ward of a local hospital
 - Victims have only temporary residence in Germany and Soroptimists visit and care/ lobby for them
- Swedish clubs receive government support to provide support for victims at court hearings

FUNDRAISING

- Raise funds for the work of civil society organisations who are established in fighting trafficking and caring for victims – PURPLE RIBBONS
- Denmark: has strong partnership with Reden International, NGO fighting trafficking in Denmark
 - Held sponsored run and sells ribbons donating proceeds to Reden International
- Sweden: Partnership with Marta Resource Center, rehabilitation center for victims in Latvia
 - Sell ribbons and hold flea markets to support the center

LESSONS LEARNT

- Create Partnerships with local and national governments and with other civil service organizations
- Use international networks of women to address the issue from both ends – supply and demand
- Create awareness about issues of trafficking in all parts of society– talk about sex slavery and address local and national situations
- Get the media involved
- Work with young women in and out of schools – use peer education
- Prevention work is a continuous exercise