

BEST PRACTICES IN PROGRAMMING FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING AND COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION:

Integrating a Child Rights-Based Approach in CSO Programming - A best practice report by the 2021 Child10 Awarded Members.



A child rights-based approach is grounded in general human rights principles and standards as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and is integral to designing programs and policies that affect children. It echoes the needs and rights of children as awarded to them by virtue of being children and human beings. Essentially, adherence to a child rights-based approach ensures that no child is left behind and that the rights of all children are respected and upheld including special attention to individual characteristics that might make some children more vulnerable than others, such as, ethnicity, legal status, gender etc. are taken into account when designing and implementing interventions affecting them

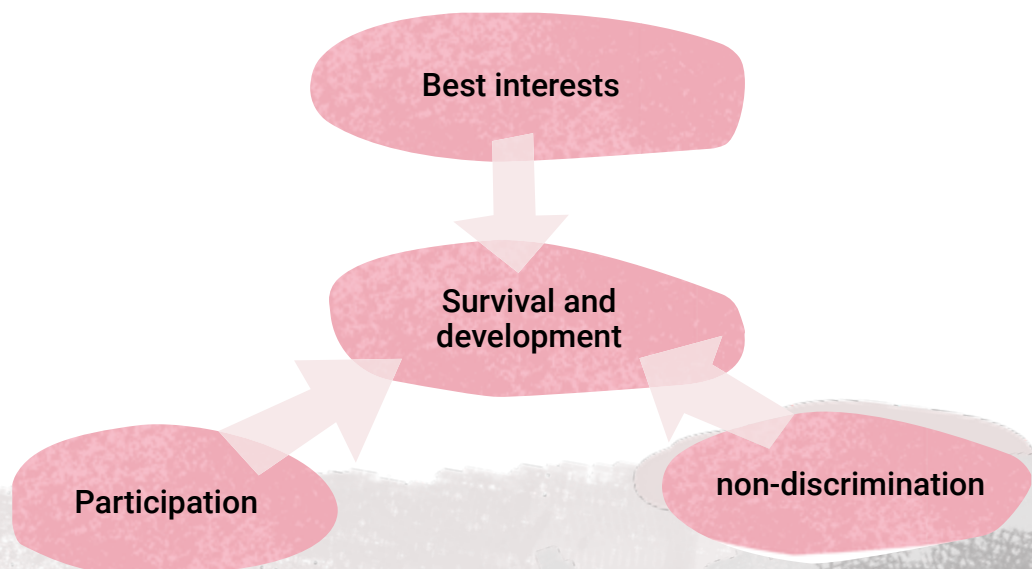
In this report, we have gathered best practice examples from the Child10 2021 Awarded Member Organizations working directly with child victims and children at risk of commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking throughout Europe. The organizations include – [ASTRA](#) (Serbia), [eLiberare](#) (Romania), [Iroko Onlus](#) (Italy and Nigeria), [Novahuset](#) (Sweden), [Footprint to Freedom](#) (Netherlands and East Africa), [lightup International](#) (Germany, Austria, Norway), [Ellencentret](#) (Sweden), [Novi Put](#) (Bosnia and Herzegovina), [Marta Centre](#) (Latvia) and [VATRA](#) (Albania). The examples are non-exhaustive and centre around best practices in direct services, outreach and identification of victims that we have discussed in our Child10 workshops during 2021.

We have grouped the examples under the four main principles of the CRC - although of course they are all interconnected and can also be categorized in other ways.

1. SURVIVAL AND DEVELOPMENT

All children have the right to survival and development - including protection against all forms of violence. Survival rights include the child's rights to life and the needs that are most basic to existence, development rights include the rights to education, play, leisure, cultural activities, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and protection rights that ensure that children are safeguarded against all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation, including specialized care for specific situations.

The State has the primary responsibility to ensure such survival and development - to the maximum extent possible. Children's right to survival, development and protection should be prioritised in resource allocations, policies, legislation and programming, in keeping with the best interests of children. All the best practice examples in this report are from organizations whose overall purpose is to protect and prevent sexual exploitation of children and youth and therefore relate, directly or indirectly, to the survival, protection and development of children. The examples below however focus primarily on direct assistance to victims.



a. Collaboration and coordination between various stakeholders and service providers in order to ensure that all child victims have full access to all their survival, development and protection rights.

The importance of a collaborative approach to fight child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation cannot be stressed enough. When it comes to direct assistance, this is especially important as one actor seldom provides all the necessary assistance to a victim themselves. Most commonly there are numerous service providers both within the official, private and CSO sector and coordination and collaboration between these actors is essential in order to ensure the full realization of the rights of the child (victim).

Close collaboration among various stakeholders and agencies is also important to ensure that survivors are provided a coordinated response to not only reduce stress and anxiety for the children and support in their effective rehabilitation and care, but also to prevent re-victimization and continued reliving of trauma from having to describe their abuse and vulnerability to multiple service providers. A collaborative protection system with information sharing protocols is also important to reduce duplication of efforts in the field and possible wastage of valuable and often scarce resources. Active collaboration also facilitates early identification which can prevent childhoods being lost to abuse.

Many of the Child10 Awarded Members, including, VATRA, Novi Put, Ellencentret, Novahuset ASTRA, eLiberare and more have achieved this by working closely with the official sector, being part of the National Referral Mechanism and nurturing strong collaboration with all actors involved in the process. E.g., Novi Put has a good collaboration with the Ministry of Education which gives them much needed support to access schools and hold awareness raising lectures/workshops and to reach as many students as possible.

In another example, ASTRA was able to successfully get help to a 16-year-old girl who had been trafficked from Serbia to another European country by leveraging their contacts in the Center for the protection of human trafficking, Police, and Social Welfare System, the Embassy in the county of exploitation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others. Similarly, VATRA has also signed Memorandums of Understandings and

Agreements with Regional Police Directorates, Municipalities/ Child Protection Units, Regional Education Directorates/ Educational Offices, State Social Services and other NGOs to collaborate across state and non-state actors for outreach work through mobile units. Due to the comprehensive collaborative efforts across actors, mobile units run by civil society actors such as VATRA account of 60% of all identified victims of human trafficking in Albania.

The importance of good collaborations with authorities and the civil-society has also been felt by Ellencentret as they have received referrals of young people from other actors. Through these collaborations, they also gain visibility on prominent channels locally where, e.g., youth turn to for questions concerning health and sexuality as well as on the national center for children's rights and national helplines for children.

Iroko Onlus, which has activities in both Italy and Nigeria, has emphasized the importance of collaboration not only at the level of law enforcement and civil society but also between the countries of destination and the countries of origin so that adequate attention is paid to preventative action and the root causes of trafficking

b. Work with the child's support system, such as family members, wherever possible

Providing a comprehensive and effective protection and rehabilitation program for children is a daunting task and has multiple aspects that need to be considered. One such aspect is the support system around the child, most importantly, their immediate family. Certainly, in some cases, there is no family to work with or it is not in the best interest of the child to involve the family, however, where the family or certain members of it are available, it can make a significant difference to involve them in the rehabilitation of the child.

Since family members will be the most present in the child's life, training them to support the child in a way that accelerates the child's rehabilitation in society while providing much needed comfort and safety can greatly benefit the healing process for the child. It can also ensure that parents don't accidentally disrupt or negatively affect the progress of the child. Furthermore, working with the family can also be beneficial in terms of prevention and outreach as parents, when well-informed and trained to take adequate

action, can identify early signs of exploitation and safeguard their child from possible abuse and trafficking.

While working with parents can prove to be a positive influence in a child's life, it is necessary to always do this within a child rights-based approach. For example, Ellen-centret often works with parents, but only after assessing that it is in the best interest of the child. This way, they are able to ensure that a child feels heard and respected by those they come in contact with and that parents who spend a lot of time with the child are trained to provide constructive support to help with the overall rehabilitation and wellbeing of the child.

Novi Put also works with parents when it comes to prevention and outreach, especially those living in rural areas and holds special awareness raising and training events for them. With traffickers increasingly taking to online channels for recruiting and exploiting children, many parents are unaware of the dangers lurking at children in the online environment, it is therefore necessary to inform and empower them to take action to safeguard their children.

In another example, through their scholarship program for young children unable to attend school due to financial reasons, Iroko Onlus has learnt that, in many cases, it is equally important to support the wider family of the vulnerable child as it is to support the child themselves. This is because families who are struggling with poverty and need money for subsistence are sometimes forced to remove their children from school to support with earning money, even if the school expenses are provided for. Therefore, Iroko Onlus now offers a comprehensive program covering both the child and the family and emphasizes that the family element is key. Through this two pronged support to both children and their families, Iroko Onlus has managed to save many girls in Nigeria from being trafficked.

c. Proactive identification of child victims

Recent European studies show an alarming increase in trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in Europe with perpetrators constantly finding new ways of exploiting children amplifying the cross-sectoral nature of human trafficking. Given the rising threat, the need for proactive identification is more urgent than ever.

Many of Child10's Awarded Members have experience working with law enforcement in identification and have seen the obstacles to proactive and effective identification first hand. While some of the obstacles are more institutional and logistical, there continue to be serious obstacles in the attitude of both the society and law enforcement.

One such example by Marta Centre includes treating trafficking and sexual exploitation of children as prostitution through free will. This, in turn, leads to cases of minors being investigated under the prostitution law with penalties for traffickers being light and victims not being recognized as victims of human trafficking and therefore not receiving help and support despite collaborating with police.

In Germany, given the legal nature of prostitution, a different kind of barrier to identification of child victims emerges. lightup has experienced that even though prostitution of minors is illegal, the general attitude towards exploitation of minors who are close to the age of majority is one of seeing it as voluntary prostitution, esp. when there is no pimp involved; it is therefore not adequately problematized. Novi Put has also faced attitudinal challenges in Bosnia and Herzegovina where the low awareness and stigma around sexual exploitation pose serious challenges to identification.

On the other hand, in Serbia, all potential child victims are liable to receive support and assistance without law enforcement giving them an official victim status as assistance to victims is based on the social welfare system and it is not dependent on the police investigation and judicial procedures. However, proactive identification still remains a challenge causing the burden of self-identification to be put on children.

According to Ellencentret, a crucial first step in identification is for the authorities and schools to have knowledge about sexual exploitation of children and youth as well as the extent of it across different platform and to recognize that it is a form of violence that needs to be widely understood, prevented and asked about in order to improve identification.

Given the vast amount of sexual abuse material readily available online, multiple Awarded Members, including lightup International, Novi Put, Novahuset, ASTRA and Ellencentret stressed the importance of educating children and youth about the risks of and techniques used by perpetrators for online and offline exploitation. In fact, Novahuset and lightup have observed that perpetrators who are exploiting children online are often actually children themselves which makes it all the more important to help and educate children about the harmful effects of the abuse material they are seeing online, both on porn websites as well as social media. In this regard, lightup stressed the need to involve children and youth as experts of their own lives in order to reach out to young people effectively to identify minor victims of trafficking and help strengthen the overall protection system as well as prevent the demand for exploitation through their knowledge and actions.



The need to train multiple stakeholders and equip them to conduct early proactive identification was also highlighted by several organisations, including eLiberare, Footprint to Freedom, Marta Centre, VATRA and ASTRA. Victims, and especially child victims, often cannot identify themselves and hence, training of frontline workers to spot the signs and indicators to support human trafficking identification is necessary to prevent and address it. ASTRA also emphasized the need to direct increased efforts towards reintegration of children and addressing root causes of trafficking.

Through first-hand experiences of their survivor members, Footprint to Freedom has observed that part of the problem relates to the society's preconceived notions about what a perfect victim looks like. They asserted that at all times when providing services, doing outreach or simply working with victims or at-risk youth and children in any capacity, it is important to understand that there is no such thing as a perfect victim and that the perception of what a victim of trafficking and sexual exploitation looks like is often an obstacle to identification.

In Ellencentret's experience, this is especially concerning when it comes to teenage victims who are often forgotten and overlooked causing more teenagers to be at risk.



2. BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

All actions concerning children shall take into consideration the best interest of the individual child or group of children as the primary consideration. The interest of others (parents, community, state) should not be an overriding concern. This principle is about prioritising the best interests of children as a primary consideration in programme decision-making and resource allocation. It is also about doing “no harm” and ensuring that the negative effects of any policy or program on a child or group of children are minimised and that the positive effects are maximised.

a. Have child friendly policies in designing and implementing interventions and building trust

Working with children is not the same as working with adults, their needs differ greatly to those of adults and even before support can be provided, developing trust and comfort with a child is extremely important for any support activities to be effective.

All of our Awarded Members have stressed on building trust and a good reputation both with other stakeholders in the protection process as well as the target group. If you are not viewed as a trusted member, it may be difficult to leverage a strong working relationship with others in the field and valuable collaboration opportunities may be missed resulting in reduced impact of your work.

Similarly, if you do not gain the trust of children and youth that your programs are directed towards, they will be reluctant to approach you thereby, making it more difficult for you to provide them with preventive information or the help and support that child victims need. By not living up to your word or commitment to a child you can also dissuade them from seeking help, thus doing more harm than good.

Building trust and reputation is a challenging task, however, it has become further complicated as more and more exploitation and trafficking is happening online where the identity of the child is often unknown, making it more difficult to maintain contact. Ellen-centret pointed to the importance of trust for their outreach work and how it has helped them since they are a well-known actor in the field known by the target group.

To circumvent the complexity of building trust online, some of our Awarded Members have used a combination approach where children are provided support online, but offline channels are used to reach children and youth with information about the online support resources through sources known to them. Novahuset has taken a slightly different approach and reach children through social media platforms such as Snapchat where children can ask questions related to sex, their bodies, sexual violence, porn etc, and can also reach out to a trained professional through private chat to ask for help.

lightup uses an interactive, participatory approach along with integration of [creative elements in workshops](#), such as using [poetry slam](#), youtube movies, quizzes etc. to connect with the target group. Moreover, the use of cooperative projects to discuss complicated topics through artistic communication has also proved to be successful, e.g., One example from lightup Germany is the cooperation project ["RESPECT! Every person is valuable"](#) in which lightup provided necessary thematic information on the subject of human trafficking and exploitation. These were then discussed with children and young people and implemented in dance together with two dance educators. lightup Norway has also developed a [board game](#) with questions concerning human trafficking, sexual exploitation, forced labour and the UN sustainable development goals, that can be used as a creative supplement to youth lectures and workshops in schools, youth clubs and universities.

VATRA has developed multidisciplinary teams to support the children in their programs. This is to ensure that services to children are provided by multidisciplinary experts who have expertise and experience of working with children in various circumstances.

It is beneficial if children meet the same trusted individuals for support services on every occasion instead of a new person each time. E.g., Novahuset is piloting a new tool called Chat Buddy which ensures that beneficiaries are connected with the same counsellor for every time for online sessions to build trust and increase their comfort level.

Marta Centre have used online gamification to engage children through a [game of choices](#) where children are presented with certain questions related to human trafficking and they have to make their own choices; the game is then followed by a discussion to reflect on the consequences of those choices. Other [games focusing on identifying real and photoshopped content online](#) have also been used along with discussions about what and who can be trusted online.

b. Consider age and maturity of children in programs

A critical aspect of designing and implementing support programs for children is that the right interventions meet the right children. Children's developmental ability differs at different ages so not all children can be offered the same support services. This is especially relevant when it comes to inclusion of human trafficking material in the educational curriculum. Two of our Awarded Members, eLiberare and Novahuset, have developed comprehensive educational programs for school children; both programs are designed with special attention to the age of maturity and the needs of the children involved. eLiberare's program runs in partnership with the Romanian Ministry of Education and has reached 700,000 children and 5000 teachers across all counties in Romania. Novahuset, too, works in collaboration with the regional municipality to not only offer an age appropriate curriculum to children but also provides training to professionals and other adults who work directly with children and young people.

lightup Germany is currently also working on developing a comprehensive workshop for youth between the ages of 14 and 24. To address the needs of different age groups, among other measures, different versions (levels) of the modules are being developed. The target group was included in program development through a survey and pilot workshops are also planned to gather concrete feedback from the target group once the program is ready to be rolled out. Moreover, a project advisory board comprising of experts who work with the target group will also be set up for close consultation.

c. Consider consequences of cutting support to children once they turn 18

Just as the needs of children differ according to age and maturity, so does that of adults and just because a child turns 18, does not mean that their needs drastically change. In Iroko Onlus' experience services provided to children through the official sector are often discontinued when they reach 18, which can be detrimental to the progress made. Iroko Onlus believes that continued support should be provided to children who come into the system of specialized state support until they become independent and not be discontinued on their attainment of adulthood (18 years).

When support to children is discontinued once they turn 18, they are at a heightened risk of being re-victimized and re-trafficked and several such cases have come to Iroko Onlus's attention, therefore, they ensure that no child in their programs finds themselves without support abruptly at turning 18.

d. Employ non-formal channels where reaching children through formal channels is not possible

Children can in general be difficult to reach and some children - often those most vulnerable - can be particularly difficult to get to.

Since many of our Awarded Members have worked in the field for many years, they have realized that there is more than one way to approach this problem, and often informal channels can be just as effective in speeding up processes and supporting children even where adequate provisions for protection do not exist.

A good example from Marta Centre is the use of informal youth groups to educate peers about the dangers of trafficking and violence. Seeing a lack of mandatory trafficking education in schools and a severe lack of safe spaces for young people to discuss their challenges, Marta Centre has introduced a program for young boys and girls once a

month where they can gather to discuss their experiences and educate peers about the dangers of trafficking and violence in the presence of a trained moderator. The program features discussions about healthy relationships and involves youth leaders, esp. from vulnerable areas. The youth leaders are recruited once or twice a year by doing outreach to youth centers and education facilities. Interested candidates are invited to submit an application and undergo a selection process, followed by a training to sensitize them to violence and trafficking issues. The youth leaders then reach out within their own social circles and recruit young people for their groups themselves. More information about the project can be found [here](#).

Another example of informal channels used by several of our Awarded Members is engaging in direct outreach to child victims and children at particular risk on the streets and also other places where exploitation might occur, such as festivals, dance shows, youth camps, airports and sports clubs or migration centres etc.

Several of the group members have also experienced that informal connections with various stakeholders as well as piggybacking on less controversial topics can sometimes make it easier to access the target group and provide much needed information to them.



3. NON-DISCRIMINATION

All children are entitled to the same rights without discrimination of any kind. The CRC focuses on eliminating discrimination of individual children, groups of children as well as children overall. In programming, the rights of all children should be upheld but action and resources need to be targeted at the most marginalised girls, boys and non-binary children – those whose rights are not currently being fulfilled, those who suffer most from exploitation, discrimination, abuse, neglect.

By focusing on those whose rights are not yet realised, the fulfilment of rights for ALL children is furthered. Examples of the most marginalised children might include girls who do not attend school, children affected by HIV/AIDS whose legal rights are denied, children working in exploitative or harmful conditions, child soldiers, children in remote areas without access to basic services, etc. Upholding this principle means identifying the most marginalised children and prioritising resources and action towards them.

a. Gender sensitive approach

Most victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation are women and girls and most perpetrators are men. It is therefore vital that the specific needs of women and girls are mainstreamed in direct assistance programs. In addition, it is also important to bear in mind that there are victims and perpetrators with other genders and gender identities as well and therefore the gender dimension should always be taken into account in all policies and programs directed towards human trafficking in general.

Iroko Onlus has for example always ensured that male and females have had separate shelters where they can feel safe. Ellencentret also has a strong focus on the gender dimension of trafficking and sexual exploitation and ensures that their programs take into account the gender dimension of the target group which includes both girls, boys and non-binary children, and are always gender sensitive in their communication and actions.

When meeting with support staff, beneficiaries should be able to choose whether they prefer to speak to a male or female counsellor. E.g., Novahuset always gives beneficiaries the opportunity to choose that. This not only gives them a feeling of being in control but also allows them to be more open and comfortable in conversation.



b. Give special attention to groups of children with increased vulnerability - for example children belonging to minorities, child migrants, children with disabilities etc.

To ensure that the rights of all children are protected at all times, special attention often needs to be given to factors that might increase the vulnerability of certain groups.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the majority of the victims identified are Roma children. However, the actual number of Roma children exploited is significantly higher than official figures as their exploitation is often justified, by both law enforcement and social workers, as traditional cultural practice and customs which are often used as an excuse to not undertake effective measures to identify and assist victims and prosecute perpetrators. This is one example of ethnicity resulting in increased marginalization of a minority group and making them more vulnerable to violence and trafficking.

Another example of increased vulnerability as highlighted by our Awarded Members is that of legal status. In her own experience of being trafficked to Europe from East Africa, Malaika Oringo, founder and CEO of Footprint to Freedom, faced numerous obstacles as a minor in getting support in a foreign country and the lack of cultural awareness of law enforcement and service providers, both in identifying victims but also in supporting them.

Footprint to Freedom now works actively with migrant children in the Netherlands; many remain undocumented and live in challenging and dangerous conditions which makes them an easy target for traffickers. During the last decade, thousands of migrant children have disappeared from European refugee camps. According to Footprint to Freedom, in the Netherlands alone, over 25000 migrant children have gone missing from refugee camps in the last 10 years which highlights the increased vulnerability of this group and points to the need for a protection approach for migrant children.

4. PARTICIPATION

Children have the right to express their views in all matters that affect them and their opinions must be given due weight in keeping with their maturity and evolving capacities. Children (up to 18 years) are seen as active participants in decision-making and rights realization, rather than passive beneficiaries of assistance. Children can participate in decision-making that affects their lives in their families, at school, in their communities, and even at programming level (sectoral plans, programme initiatives etc).

The nature of their participation will depend on their age and evolving capacities and it is important to ensure wide representation of the children affected by the action at hand - as a child's perspective will, as with adults, depend on their individual situation.

In programs directed towards child victims of trafficking and exploitation it is therefore natural to consult survivors and children belonging to groups that are most at risk. Including child representatives in program design, implementation and review as well as supporting and consulting children in regards to organizational issues and advocacy initiatives are all different forms of child participation.

a. Meaningful participation and involvement of children and youth

The concept of child participation conjures up very different ideas and perspectives to different audiences and it is inarguably the most challenging aspect of having a child rights based approach. In simple terms, child participation means giving children a voice in the program or policy process that will affect them. However, in practice, achieving meaningful participation requires a lot more than a mere seat at the table.

To ensure meaningful participation, it is important that the child has an equal voice in the process and that they have the prerequisite information required to contribute to the discussion; this requires that the child is provided with the relevant age appropriate

information and given the space to express their views freely and voluntarily. It further requires that the discussion is held in a child-friendly and enabling environment with equality of opportunity for all children and finally, that it is in an environment where staff are trained to handle such situations, the safety of children is ensured and there is adequate follow-up and evaluation.

Even if all the above are considered, there is still the question of how and when to involve children in the process, both Ellencentret and Marta Centre believe that programs for children must be designed with a child rights perspective from the beginning. This means that children contribute to all aspects of the program throughout its various phases and are not merely brought in once everything is finalized to fulfill a requirement or simply to look good on paper. Involving children from an early stage throughout the program is the best way to have child participation as it is much less efficient to adapt programs developed for adults to children afterwards.

lightup International, which is a youth-led organisation present in three countries, also highlighted that their programs are developed “by the youth for the youth”, ensuring full participation of their target group in their work.

ASTRA makes sure that the organizers of their activities for children ask the children for feedback and report on how they respond to the activities which is then used in the development of future activities

b. Integrate a survivor perspective and amplify survivor voices in both direct service programs and outreach activities

Survivor participation in program, policy and legislation discussions is of the utmost importance. When human trafficking legislation is passed without due diligence and without the strategic sounding board of those who have been impacted by it, it causes harm to survivors instead of protecting them.

For example, when minority survivors of human trafficking are underrepresented in anti-trafficking efforts, the resulting interventions miss out on opportunities to benefit from survivor experiences and their valuable insights resulting in continued or even heightened vulnerability of minority groups to trafficking.

Moreover, survivor participation is integral to crafting effective policies and practices as survivors have first-hand knowledge of how human traffickers operate and which strategies to trap and enslave their victims.

For example, survivors can provide deep insight about traffickers, such as,

- **Recruitment strategies and methods**
- **Grooming practices**
- **Nature of the violence that traffickers subject their victims to**
- **Possible weaknesses in the trafficking systems and networks that law enforcement can tap into**
- **Strategies and tactics employed by traffickers to escape the law**

When survivor knowledge is not adequately utilized, the systemic issues and root causes contributing to trafficking may be missed and interventions may fail to reflect the reality of victims' lived experiences. Moreover, the quality and effectiveness of support programs cannot be evaluated without active involvement of survivors who can reflect on the various aspects of the program to help improve it and ensure that programs are effective and trauma-informed as well as culturally sensitive for relevant groups.

Integrating a survivor perspective in direct services and outreach is often time consuming, however it is one of the most important things if the program is to echo the needs of survivors and ensure an empowerment approach to reintegration.

In Footprint to Freedom's experience, there is a major deficit when it comes to survivor inclusion in policy making and interventions. There is a mismatch between the programs offered and the needs of survivors as their perspective is not included and insisted that a survivor narrative can be invaluable in policymaking to effectively address prosecution, prevention and protection of survivors. Footprint to Freedom stresses that we need to look at survivors not just as victims but also partners in response and identification of human trafficking among children. It is therefore integral to find innovative ways to give survivors a voice in issues that affect them, create safe spaces for them to engage and mainstream their voices in policy circles.

Other members of the Child10 Action Force for 2021 also echo a similar opinion. This is why eLiberare has launched a survivor-led magazine co-created with young girls living at a government shelter to empower them and give them a voice and platform to interact.

Novahuset, which is founded by a survivor, places great importance in listening to survivors, believing their stories and ensuring that programs are adaptable to the individual needs of each beneficiary and not a one size fits all policy. They also involve survivor voices and experiences in their outreach and preventative work to guide their programs, policies and interventions.

Seeing a lack of safe spaces for survivor engagement, Footprint to Freedom has introduced a “Friendship Bench” in schools where once a week, a survivor is present to provide a safe space for children to share what they are experiencing; both male and female survivors sit at the friendship bench to also incorporate a gender perspective. Since survivors often struggle to find safe spaces and others who can relate to their experience, it is important to create such spaces for them and to also provide access to other trusted survivors that young people can relate to. This not only supports their rehabilitation and healing process but also empowers them to take on this role for other younger survivors, creating a stronger voice and community of survivors.

Finally, the importance of mainstreaming survivor voices in policy circles and discussions that affect survivors of human trafficking, although immensely important, is equally challenging. Regardless, many of the Child10 Awarded Members have taken on this challenge. E.g, Vatra has, as a member of the National Coalition of Anti-Trafficking Shelters and in collaboration with the Office of the National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, contributed towards the establishment of an Advisory Board of Victims of Trafficking in Albania.

The board is composed of survivors of trafficking in persons and one of the members is a former beneficiary of VATRA. The advisory board serves as the voice of survivors and advocates for better and more dignified services as well as better protection by the Albanian state. Similarly, Footprint to Freedom uses their platform to advocate for survivor involvement in policy making at various local, national and regional levels.

CONCLUSION

The examples above can be summarized in the following points as a non-exhaustive checklist to consider to improve the integration of a child rights based approach in all activities related to ending trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and youth:

1. **Mapping stakeholders and contributing to enhanced collaboration and coordination between various stakeholders and service providers in order to ensure that all children have full access to all their survival, development and protection rights**
2. **Work with the child's support system, such as family members, wherever possible**
3. **Proactive identification of child victims**
4. **Have child friendly policies in designing and implementing interventions and building trust**
5. **Consider age and maturity of children in programs**
6. **Employ non-formal channels where reaching children through formal channels is not possible**
7. **Gender sensitive approach**
8. **Give special attention to groups of children with increased vulnerability - for example children belonging to minorities, child migrants, children with disabilities etc.**
9. **Meaningful participation and involvement of children and youth**
10. **Integrate a survivor perspective and amplify survivor voices in both direct service programs and outreach activities**

For more information about the specific examples or to contact or support the Child10 Awarded Members for 2021, please contact us through www.child10.org.

THANK YOU



ELLEN
CENTRET



Udruženje
"Novi put"



Association
"Novi put"



We would like to thank the Main Partner of Child10



HM DROTTNING SILVIAS STIFTELSE

CARE ABOUT THE CHILDREN