

Trafficking in Roma Children: Policing and Protecting Europe's most Vulnerable

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Research

- Appraisal of British- Romanian JIT (Operation Golf)
- Domestic & International responses to trafficking of Roma children
- Rehabilitation of child victims by both UK & Romanian authorities?
- EU and Roma

Romania

- Romania: one of main origin-transit countries for trafficking in minors
- *2008: 186 children victims of trafficking
 - 88% girls
 - 94% 14-17 year old age group
 - 50% recruited by friends or acquaintances

No ethnic breakdown of victims

**ANITP National Agency Against Trafficking Romania*

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Trafficking to UK

Operation Golf Street begging, pick-pocketing to trafficking

- 168 Roma children identified as trafficked to UK
 - Begging
 - Benefit fraud
- Links back to Tandarai, Romania
- 17 arrests
- Joint Intelligence Team (JIT) in EU

Tackling CT at source

- National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons
- National Authority for Children's Rights Protection
- NGOs
- Roma- Romanian relations (?)

Organised crime

- Tandarai: - hierarchical structure
- Corruption and local authorities
- Cultural factors as facilitators
- Neo-liberal framework of 'business'
- Resurgence of alien conspiracy theory
- Policing of closed & marginalised society

Some of the Trafficking Directives & Protocols

- 2000 United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,
- 2005 Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
- European Agency for Fundamental Human Rights

EU Policies in Relation to Roma

- Decade of Roma Inclusion
- Race Equality Directive
- European Social Fund & European Regional Development Fund

EU Goals:

Education

Health

Employment

Housing

Issues for consideration

- Criminality and the Roma
- Children as 'victims'
- Paradoxes of EU Policies
 - The perception of trafficked children
 - Education as a tool of rehabilitation & integration
 - Trafficking and marginalised groups
 - Roma as 'EU citizens'

Whose voices are not being heard?