

A person in a dark long-sleeved shirt and pants stands in a field, holding a large branch. In the foreground, there are several large logs. The background shows a line of trees. The entire image has a dark red tint.

ROSA

Annual Report
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2023

ROSA

Norway's national helpline and
competency centre against
human trafficking

INTRODUCTION

ROSA (stands for Re-establishment, Accommodation, Safety, and Assistance in Norwegian) was established in 2005 under the Crisis Centre Secretariat. Serving as Norway's national helpline and competency centre against human trafficking, ROSA facilitates crucial services, including safe housing, legal advice and health-care, among other critical interventions for those exposed to human trafficking. The helpline is a crucial point of contact for victims of human trafficking and those at risk of human trafficking, as well as for public authorities, NGOs, and the public, offering information, support, and referrals.

The organisation is central to Norway's strategy for fulfilling international obligations in combating human trafficking, such as the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the UN Palermo Protocol.

This document serves as a comprehensive summary of ROSA's 2023 annual report, written originally in Norwegian.

MILESTONES 2023

ASSISTANCE FACILITATED

ROSA supported eighty-five (sixty-three women and twenty-two men) adult victims of human trafficking and two accompanying children. Of these, sixty-four were new cases. Of the sixty-four cases, twenty-three received long-term assistance such as safe housing and prolonged follow-up.

NATIONAL HELPLINE

The national helpline (+47 22331 160) received 1,087 calls, with a 92 per cent response rate.

ASYLUM SEEKERS

ROSA supported nine asylum seekers in 2023. The asylum seekers were able to access offers for safe housing and other associated support services.

SUPPORT FOR INMATES IN PRISONS

In 2023, ROSA identified two victims of human trafficking in prison and continued to support two of its previous clients.

SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Safe Housing

ROSA coordinates safe housing for its clients across Norway, often through crisis centres. This ensures that they have a safe place to stay while they recover and rebuild their lives. Long-term housing solutions in Oslo include specialised shelters like Lauras Hus, Marita Women, and Safe House Filemon (for men).

Follow-up Services

ROSA facilitates a range of services for its clients, which include legal assistance, health-care, and various activities such as language courses, vocational training, and access to recreational facilities. ROSA also supports voluntary assisted returns, working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to help its clients safely return to their home countries if they so choose.

Vocational School and Work Experience

The Adora Project, funded by the 2023 grant scheme from the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, offers nail and make-up courses through Beauty og Helse Akademiet, and work placements for those exposed to human trafficking. In 2023, eight candidates completed the vocational school, but only one person received a work placement. Work placements are a pilot project for 2023, and greater efforts to promote these opportunities are needed in 2024.

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Criminal Justice

In Norway, many human trafficking cases have been prosecuted under less severe crimes, such as pimping or wage theft. This misclassification results in victims losing their critical rights and protections afforded under human trafficking statutes. ROSA advocates for increased resources and training for the police and legal system to ensure these cases are handled appropriately.

Victims' Rights

The requirements for proving coercion under Section 257 of the Penal Code in Norwegian law are stringent, complicating the prosecution of traffickers. ROSA underscores the need for legal reforms to lower the barriers to securing convictions and protecting victims' rights.

Compensation

Victims of human trafficking can apply for compensation through the government. However, long processing times and the lack of specific statistics on trafficking cases

continue to be significant barriers. ROSA calls for more efficient and transparent processes to ensure those affected by the crime receive timely and adequate compensation.

Mental Health

Access to adequate mental health services remains a critical challenge. Many who have been exposed to human trafficking require specialised mental health care, which is not always available through public services. ROSA has had to arrange private mental health care for its clients, emphasising the need for more robust public mental health support systems.

Protection Measures

Several individuals impacted by the crime are reluctant to seek long-term assistance due to inadequate protection measures and fear of retribution from traffickers. ROSA calls for stronger, more effective protective mechanisms to ensure victim safety and well-being.

Law Enforcement

The low number of trafficking convictions has been concerning. ROSA stresses the importance of dedicated resources for police trafficking units and enhanced training for prosecutors and judges to ensure justice for victims. In 2023, there were no convictions for human trafficking in Norway, underscoring the need for better enforcement and judicial processes.



**NATIONAL
24-HOUR HELPLINE
+47 22 33 11 60**

COLLABORATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Collaboration with the Criminal Justice System

ROSA developed a guide for identifying trafficking victims in prisons, which has received international recognition. This initiative underscores ROSA's commitment to reaching and supporting those impacted by human trafficking in all settings, including detention facilities.

Training and Awareness

ROSA conducted numerous training sessions and participated in various events to raise awareness and improve the identification of trafficking victims among professionals. These sessions targeted police, healthcare providers, social workers, and other stakeholders, demonstrating a proactive approach to education and prevention.

International Engagement

ROSA actively collaborates with international bodies, including the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, to share best practices and strengthen global efforts against human trafficking. These collaborations help ensure that ROSA's work is informed by the latest international standards and practices.

ROSA'S VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Strengthening Collaborations

ROSA aims to fortify its collaborations with national and international stakeholders to enhance the collective effort against human trafficking.

Raising Awareness

Increasing public and professional awareness about human trafficking remains a key priority. ROSA plans to continue its educational and outreach activities to ensure broader recognition and understanding of the issue.

Advocating for Legal and Policy Reforms

ROSA will continue to advocate for legal and policy changes to improve support and protection for trafficking victims. This includes advocating for reforms that lower the barriers to prosecuting traffickers and enhancing protection mechanisms for victims.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

ROSA extends heartfelt thanks to all partners and supporters whose contributions have been invaluable in 2023. The combined efforts of government bodies, NGOs, and individuals have significantly bolstered ROSA's ability to provide critical services to its vulnerable clients.

ROSA's work in 2023 highlights the ongoing need for comprehensive support systems for those impacted by human trafficking. Through collaboration, advocacy, and direct support, ROSA continues to play a crucial role in combating human trafficking in Norway and ensuring that those impacted receive the help they need to rebuild their lives.



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