

GREECE

Greece is primarily a transit and destination country for human trafficking.¹ Victims are transported into Greece to be exploited on the mainland and surrounding islands, or are transported through Greece along migration routes into Western Europe.² Refugees coming into and transiting out of Greece could be particularly vulnerable to exploitation if they lack support, do not know the language or their rights, or are unaware of ways to access proper authorities. In 2022, A21 Greece (A21) observed trafficking victims in Greece originating primarily from African countries, as well as from Cuba, Nepal, Moldova, Romania, Bulgaria, and domestically within Greece. Since its inception in 2008, A21's Aftercare Program has provided direct services to survivors of 53 different nationalities.

Sex trafficking remains the primary form of exploitation observed by A21, with victims mainly recruited from Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and Africa. A21 observed victims were initially recruited in their home countries, primarily through false job offers and false romantic relationships, and then later exploited within Greece. Additionally, a large number of primarily African migrants sexually exploited in their home country and/or transit countries, and then identified as victims of trafficking upon their arrival in Greece. While forced labour exists, it often occurs in small, remote towns. Moreover, forced labour in Greece is significantly underreported due to a number of factors such as close-knit communities and a lack of awareness of human trafficking. Finally, a lack of resources and training for front-line professionals contribute to low rates of identified victims.³ Despite the underreporting of labour trafficking cases generally, in 2022, A21 observed increased reports to the national, A21-operated human trafficking hotline ('1109 Hotline') regarding cases of potential forced begging, especially those involving children or pregnant women.



RECRUITMENT MECHANISM

False job opportunities, use of false employment openings to recruit individuals, is one of the most common recruitment tactics used by traffickers.⁴ As Greece is a destination country receiving thousands of asylum seekers and refugees each year, this recruitment method has gone from the second-most used method to the primary recruitment method for survivors in A21's Aftercare Program in 2022. Moreover, the 1109 Hotline found false job opportunities to be the most prominent method of recruitment in 2022, accounting for 37.5% of reported cases with a known recruitment method.

GREECE RESPONDS TO THE UKRAINIAN REFUGEE CRISIS

Upon the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, the Greek government quickly responded to the refugee crisis by providing and coordinating accommodation, access to the national education and healthcare systems, employment opportunities as well as additional integration services. Ukrainian refugees' Temporary Protective Status in Greece granted them access to medical care and employment.⁵ Since March 2022, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that 20,955 displaced people from Ukraine arrived in Greece and applied for temporary protection.⁶

International humanitarian organisations immediately responded to the needs of Ukrainian refugees, such as the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) operating the Response on Ukrainian Arrivals (RUA) Helpline Project to support displaced Ukrainians. As refugees fall within a group vulnerable to trafficking, A21 provided training on human trafficking for the DRC's hotline operators, which included social workers, social scientists, and interpreters. Additionally, A21 created and distributed flyers about the dangers of human trafficking with contact information for the 1109 Hotline and the European emergency number. A21 distributed approximately 15,000 flyers to Ukrainians in Greece in collaboration with UNHCR. A21 also developed an informational session on safe employment, which in collaboration with a local partner, was presented to Ukrainian women and girls in Thessaloniki. In addition, the 1109 Hotline partnered with a tele-interpretation service with Ukrainian interpreters available 24/7. For the first time, A21 created and delivered four 'job vetting' trainings, that equipped 134 frontline professionals across 20 organisations supporting Ukrainian refugees, with guidance on educating refugees on recognising potentially exploitative employment.

A21 continued to work with refugees from several other countries throughout 2022 and observed a shift from protection to integration in both the Greek government and other humanitarian organisations' response to the Middle East refugee crisis. Due to

the restructuring of refugee and migrant-related programs and initiatives, the 1109 Hotline received more victim referrals and training requests from governmental entities in 2022 rather than from nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), which had accounted for the majority of referrals and requests in previous years.



A21'S RESPONSE

Since 2008, A21 has operated collaboratively with key government and nongovernment stakeholders to counter human trafficking. By raising awareness and facilitating prevention programs, A21 actively aims to reduce human trafficking. The 1109 Hotline is a critical component of A21's intervention program to assist in the identification of victims. Following the identification or referral of a victim, A21 provides a holistic, trauma-informed aftercare program focusing on restoration and reintegration alongside vital legal assistance.

PREVENTION & AWARENESS

Through prevention, education and awareness efforts, A21 educates the general public, students, and marginalised and vulnerable populations to identify risks and appropriately report potential human trafficking situations. In 2022, A21 distributed 16,820 prevention materials to the refugee population across Greece, a 113% increase from the previous year due to an increased arrival of refugees from Ukraine. Through social media content, A21 saw a potential reach of 327,835 people. The impact of A21's prevention efforts is clearly demonstrated through the testimonies of job seekers recognising indicators of human trafficking in suspicious job offers. For example, a concerned individual turned to A21 for advice about a job offer

their friend received to work in another country. After learning the indicators of trafficking through the 'Travel Safe' resource on the 1109 Hotline website, they encouraged their friend to decline the potentially dangerous job offer.

In 2022, A21 for the first time, implemented the Primary Prevention Program (PPP), an interactive, play-based program designed for children aged 6 to 12 years old, resulting in the facilitation of 77 sessions for 846 students. A21 also distributed educational materials designed for older students across secondary schools in Greece, reaching 1,509 students (25% more than in 2021). These materials include A21's Human Trafficking Awareness Program, Student Digital Safety Guide, and the Safe Relationship Guide. In collaboration with the Directorates of Education, A21 hosted three seminars for 87 primary and secondary school educators. The seminars focused on three topics: general human trafficking information, responding to human trafficking indicators of minors, and A21 educational resources to support educators. A21 also hosted its first webinar based on A21's Parent Guides for Kids and Teens, with 23 parents in attendance.

In 2022, A21's Walk For Freedom (WFF), A21's annual global awareness event coinciding with the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, was held in three Greek cities: Thessaloniki, Volos, and Patra, and in Nicosia, Cyprus. In total, 484 people participated, resulting in the distribution of 1,620 trafficking awareness flyers. Media responded positively, publishing 20 articles in online newspapers and conducting collectively ten television and radio interviews on the walks.



COLLABORATIVE CAMPAIGNS REACHES DIVERSE GROUPS

Throughout 2022, A21 collaborated with local and national organisations to implement public awareness campaigns to reach diverse groups across the country. A new, month-long awareness campaign between A21 and Interbus, a Greek advertising company for airports and public transit, reached an estimated 1.5 million people with the 1109 Hotline number via trolleys in Athens. The advertisements, displayed on the outside of the trolleys, encouraged the public to report any suspected cases of human trafficking. A21 reached over 1.1 million people through social and mass media through a photography campaign in collaboration with Greek film director Konstantinos Mousoulis, award-winning photographer Akis Douslatzis, well-

known actresses Maria Korinthiou and Ifigenia Tzola, and athlete Errika Prezerakou. The celebrities presented three stories of sexual exploitation and human trafficking to promote the 1109 Hotline. In light of Giving Tuesday, TedxAthens invited A21 Greece to conduct a presentation on the mental health implications of human trafficking for the personnel of a large software company in Athens.



IDENTIFICATION & INTERVENTION

A21's identification and intervention efforts include operating the 1109 Hotline, a 24/7 nationally available human trafficking hotline, and providing frontline professional training for those most likely to encounter potential victims of trafficking through their daily work.

Through strong collaborations with public and private sector partners, A21 trained 980 individuals both in-person and virtually in 2022. These individuals comprised of frontline professionals, law students, and specialised volunteers in the medical, legal and psychology fields to international organisations focused on assisting vulnerable populations. The 'Identification of Potential Trafficking Victims' training was particularly successful, as A21 received additional training requests after previous trainees recommended it to colleagues and other organisations. A21 trained a wide range of individuals during the reporting year, including 214 service providers for refugees and asylum seekers, 73 public educators, and 37 students and alumni from the European Law Students' Association in victim identification. In addition, 205 state and local government professionals received targeted training for their specific districts.

With funding from the Active Citizens Fund (ACF) (Bodossaki), A21 trained an additional 128 professionals, including psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, and legal professionals. As a result of these training sessions, A21, IOM and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) co-hosted two pilot trainings on victim identification and the benefits of cooperation between organisations to combat human trafficking.

The A21-operated 1109 Hotline maintained steady cooperation with the anti-trafficking police units in Athens and Thessaloniki throughout 2022. As part of this trusted alliance, A21 and the anti-trafficking police co-trained 118 police officers from several police departments across the city over four sessions at a counter-trafficking



conference held at the Police Headquarters in Thessaloniki. Furthermore, A21 and a representative of the Hellenic Coast Guard attendee of the conference, co-trained 35 members of the Hellenic Coast Guard. Other law enforcement attendees of the conference likewise arranged for two additional co-training sessions with A21 in Northern Greece for 36 local police officers.

AWARENESS OF THE 1109 HOTLINE RESULTS IN INCREASED REPORTS

Throughout 2022, efforts to enhance public awareness of the 1109 Hotline, resulted in 1,690 contacts to the hotline, 80.5% of which related to human trafficking. The high rate of human trafficking related contacts suggests the success of these campaigns in accurately conveying the services provided by the 1109 Hotline. Reports to the 1109 Hotline were received from various sources including potential victims, law enforcement, and NGOs. However, community members comprised the highest number of callers (46%). These reports enabled the 1109 Hotline to report almost twice as many cases to the police in 2022 as in 2021, as well as successfully assist in the identification or referral of 67 victims of human trafficking, a 76% increase since 2021.

A21 screened and identified a total of 29 victims of trafficking in 2022, referring 26 to A21 aftercare services. Based on the information gathered by A21 through calls to the 1109 Hotline, referrals from the police, and screenings of potential victims of trafficking during anti-trafficking police-led operations, A21 observed two trends. Firstly, a significant number of forced begging victims identified by A21 and the police originated from the city of Pleven in Bulgaria. A second trend identified a particular method of control, involving traffickers assigning 'boyfriends' to victims of sex trafficking. During victim identification screening interviews, many victims disclosed a relationship with someone they met once in Greece, referring to that person as 'my husband' or 'my boyfriend', who ultimately were members of the trafficking ring. While similar to the loverboy recruitment method, using boyfriends as a means of control following recruitment and for the full duration of a victim's exploitation is a new phenomenon observed by A21 in 2022.

During victim identification efforts, the A21-operated 1109 Hotline may if warranted, provide intelligence to the anti-trafficking police departments about suspected trafficking cases. Once law enforcement recovers a victim, A21 at times continues with

meeting recently recovered survivors at the police station for support as they provide their testimony. Simultaneously, A21 will provide any immediate needs of the survivors, such as arranging medical examinations and urgent accommodation. A21 provided support to 15 survivors identified as a result of seven police-led operations as well as referrals to A21 by law enforcement. Detailed analysis, including victim demographics, recruitment tactics and other data insights can be found in the attached annual 1109 Hotline Report.



‘A21 is a valuable partner that is providing solutions to our problems.’

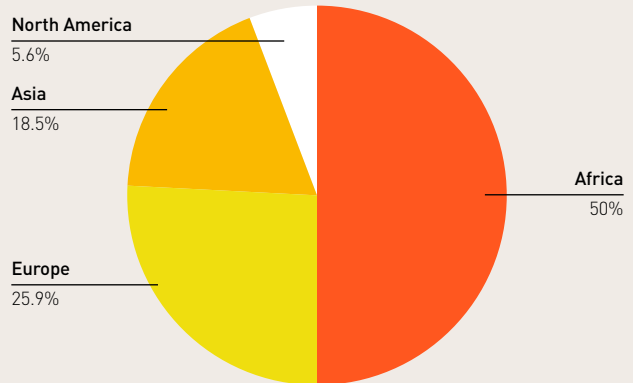
— Anti-Trafficking Police Officer, Thessaloniki

AFTERCARE

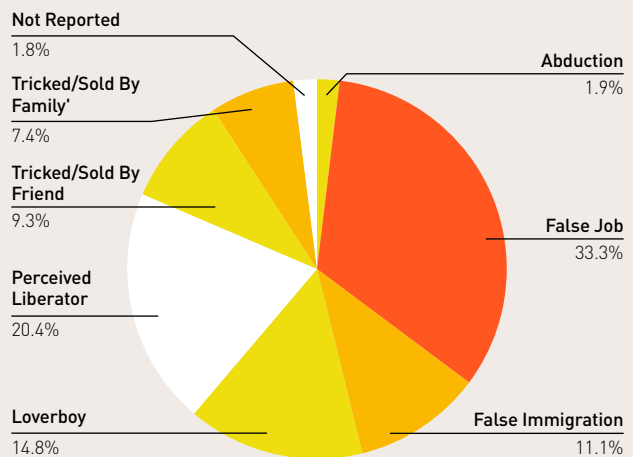
A21 provides comprehensive trauma-informed aftercare services for survivors of trafficking, according to each individual’s needs, to assist them at each stage of their progression from crisis intervention to restoration and independence. In 2022, 54 survivors entered A21’s Aftercare Program, a 74% increase from 2021. Awareness events, the 1109 Hotline’s promotion, networking efforts, and collaborations contributed to increase the number of survivors referred to its Aftercare Program. In total, A21 assisted 84 survivors in its Aftercare Program in 2022, a 40% increase compared to 2021. Most survivors assisted in 2022 originated from Africa (50%), followed by Europe (25.9%), Asia (18.5%) and North America (5.6%). A21 assisted slightly more Greek survivors in 2022 (5.6%) than the previous year (3.2%).

In 2022, false job opportunities (33.3%), where traffickers advertise job listings to recruit vulnerable individuals searching for work or better wages, constituted the most common recruitment method of survivors entering the Aftercare Program. The second most common recruitment method was traffickers appearing as ‘liberators’ or ‘benefactors’ to victims of exploitation, harm, or hardship, only to then exploit them (20.4%).

ORIGIN OF SURVIVORS ASSISTED IN GREECE 2022



RECRUITMENT METHODS FOR SURVIVORS ENTERING THE GREECE AFTERCARE PROGRAM



FREEDOM CENTRE OFFERS HOLISTIC SUPPORT TO SURVIVORS

The A21 Aftercare Program utilises a community model of service provision that assists survivors in reintegrating safely and independently back into their community through accessing local services. A21’s Freedom Centre, a drop-in day centre that provides survivors of human trafficking a safe place to meet with their caseworker, build community with other survivors, and access A21 aftercare services, is central to this model. In 2022, 33 survivors attended the Freedom Centre, many of whom engaged in Greek language lessons, job searches, creative activities, and survivor celebrations. Survivors within A21’s Aftercare Program were also provided with medical and dental treatment, psychological consultations, legal assistance, individual sessions with their caseworker, and financial support. Engagement in Life Programs is a key focus for A21 Aftercare. Through these various group and individual

programs, staff observed many survivors benefitting from developing practical life skills, building self-esteem and confidence, strengthening relationships with other survivors, completing job readiness training and being equipped with strategies to manage the impact of trauma. In 2022, 46% (39) of all survivors completed a Life Program, with some completing multiple programs. One survivor shared with her caseworker *“I feel respected by you and empowered by the programs, I am always looking forward to our sessions”* and after completing one program another shared *“When you tell me new things, I share them with my friends so that they learn it, too.”*



ACCOMMODATION SUPPORT OFFERS SURVIVORS THE CHANCE TO BUILD THEIR FUTURE

In 2022, A21 provided 26 survivors with accommodation support services. Thirteen survivors received emergency accommodation, such as temporary hotel stays. Nine survivors stayed at the A21 Home, an emergency shelter that accommodates survivors in the initial months following their exit from trafficking. A21 also offers long-term accommodation support through rent assistance and A21 apartments. A21 apartments provide survivors with safe and stable independent accommodation for up to 12 months. Eight survivors lived in A21 apartments throughout the year and five survivors received rent assistance. The provision of long-term accommodation allows survivors the time to stabilise, attend the Freedom Centre, engage in Life Programs, and pursue education or employment opportunities without the financial stress of paying for housing. Many survivors use this time to learn budgeting skills and save for their next steps. In 2022, 14 survivors successfully transitioned out of an A21 accommodation and into independent living.

SURVIVORS SAFELY RETURNED HOME

Greece is both a destination country for human trafficking and a country where many victims of trafficking from neighbouring countries flee to find safety. In 2022, A21 welcomed survivors from 20 other nations. While some survivors choose to stay in Greece and seek asylum and residency, others make the choice to return to their home country. A21 Survivor Relocation Services (A21 SRS) provides safe transportation for survivors who require domestic

relocation and international repatriation. In 2022, A21 supported seven international repatriations from Greece to Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, France, and Germany; and one repatriation to Greece from Sweden. Additionally, four survivors were supported with domestic relocation services. Where possible, A21 seeks to connect survivors who have repatriated with a local partner organisation within their home community so they can receive ongoing aftercare support. If no local aftercare services are available at the survivor's final destination, A21 caseworkers will continue to provide remote services.



REMOTE AFTERCARE SERVICES SUPPORT SURVIVORS ACROSS GREECE

Although A21 prefers providing its services in-person at the Freedom Centre, A21 provides remote support to survivors living in various locations outside of Thessaloniki. Remote services have been provided to survivors in refugee camps awaiting asylum processing, survivors relocated for employment opportunities and survivors identified in Athens who choose to stay there. Remote support allows A21 to extend services to survivors living across the country, continue support for relocated survivors and those unable to travel to Thessaloniki the opportunity to meet online with aftercare staff. On occasion, A21 staff will travel to provide emergency in-person services to survivors receiving aftercare services remotely. When possible, A21 attempts to hold in-person meetings with survivors who have been assisted remotely. In 2022, A21 assisted 53% of survivors in-person and 46% remotely.

100% OF SURVIVORS WHO GRADUATE GREECE AFTERCARE RESTORED AT CASE CLOSURE

The Assessment of Survivor Outcomes (ASO)⁷ tool assesses the progress survivors of human trafficking make toward restoration in key areas of functioning, including safety, legal protection, mental wellbeing, economic empowerment and education, social support and physical wellbeing. Caseworkers complete the ASO at survivor intake, case closure, and 12-month follow-up. A21 has been using the ASO since 2019 on all survivors receiving assistance beyond crisis intervention. In 2022, 39 survivor cases were closed by A21 Greece, of which an initial ASO had been completed on 21 cases. Upon case closure, 14 of those 21 closed cases received an ASO score considered stable or highly stable with low vulnerability to re-victimisation, and

100% of graduated survivors were considered 'Restored' at the time of their graduation. Furthermore, follow up of survivors 12 months after case closure revealed that 87.5% were still considered 'Restored'.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE

SURVIVORS RECEIVING A21 LEGAL REPRESENTATION INCREASES BY 31%

A21's Legal Assistance Program provides survivors with legal representation for both criminal and civil proceedings, as well as other support in preparation for in-court proceedings. In 2022, 46 survivors, including minors, engaged in the Legal Assistance Program with 31% more survivors receiving legal representation in court proceedings than in 2021. Trials postponed from 2020 and early 2021 due to COVID-19 restrictions finally resumed in 2022, with many reaching resolution. In 2022, 10 defendants were convicted for a myriad of trafficking offences as well as offences against children, and sentenced to a total of 99 years of imprisonment and 48,500 euros in financial penalties.

Labour trafficking survivors exploited on a poultry farm in Southern Greece eight years ago received justice when the court finally convicted their exploiter, a local businessman. This labour trafficking conviction is particularly significant as Greece historically has focused on sex and not labour trafficking.

In a separate case, A21 successfully provided legal representation for a female survivor who had been domestically abused, trafficked and sexually exploited by her husband. The court convicted the defendant of human trafficking, drug trafficking, domestic violence, threat, bodily harm, domestic sexual assault and exposure of a minor to risk; he was sentenced to 25 years of incarceration with a financial penalty of 31,500 euros.

In a mixed jury court in Northern Greece, A21 represented a survivor of sex trafficking who had sustained significant psychological and emotional trauma, as well as physical injuries from being trafficked. As a result of the prosecutor and judges' extensive knowl-

edge of the protective legislative framework for the victims' rights in the context of the criminal procedure, the defendant was found unanimously guilty and sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment with no reduction in sentence based on mitigating circumstances.

A21 SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDS MINOR SURVIVOR OF PERJURY CHARGE

Three minor survivors also received justice in three separate cases. In the first case, the court convicted one defendant of human trafficking. In the second case, the defendant was found guilty of child pimping and a child sexual abuse image (CSAM) offence (a.k.a. 'child pornography'). In the third case, the court found five defendants guilty of child abduction, child pimping, and a CSAM offence. Throughout the court hearings, A21 provided the survivors with a victims' attorney who advocated for their rights throughout the trials. In addition to representing survivors as a victim's attorney in a criminal prosecution, A21 also provides defence attorneys to defend survivors in A21's Legal Assistance Program being prosecuted for offences committed during the trafficking incident. In one such unprecedented case, one of the minor victims had also been charged with perjury. A21's attorney successfully defended the minor victim to acquittal by arguing the application of the non-punishment principle for victims of human trafficking, as set forth in the national criminal code and in compliance with the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and other EU and International directives and standards. Finally, the occurrence of the perpetrators' criminal convictions permit the victims to pursue restitution and other monetary claims in civil courts with continued legal representation on those matters from A21.

While the harm and trauma endured by the trafficking survivors in these cases can not be quantified by these sentences, the increase in sentences from prior years demonstrate the Greek courts' growing and deeper understanding of the complex crime of human trafficking, including victims' rights and the intertwining of other crimes with trafficking.

MEMBERS OF TRANSNATIONAL TRAFFICKING RING ARRESTED

In 2022, A21 participated in a joint operation with the Athens anti-trafficking police, Europol, the Moldovan police, and another counter-trafficking NGO, after the anti-trafficking police discovered information about a potential sex trafficking victim of Moldovan origin. Following an investigation revealing a transnational trafficking ring with multiple potential victims, authorities raided six brothels and arrested nine members of a trafficking ring. The trafficking ring, operational since late 2019, recruited vulnerable, economically poor Moldovan women with the promise of relocation to Greece at no cost and a legitimate job. However, upon arrival at the airport, they were brought to an apartment where they were

supervised by leading members of the ring. Under the pretext of repaying an exorbitant debt for their relocation to Greece and a high monthly rent, the traffickers forced the women to participate in commercial sex in at least six brothels, while withholding a large part of the income. Once identified and recovered from the brothels, two survivors were connected with A21 staff, who provided crisis care, through addressing their immediate needs, as well as supporting them as they testified at the police station. A21 continued to support the survivors with additional aftercare services including relocation, accommodation, medical care, and psychosocial support.

ENDNOTES

¹ European Commission. *Greece*. Migration and Home Affairs. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/eu-countries/greece_en

² Ibid.

³ Moskoff, H. (2022). Reply From Greece to the Questionnaire for the Evaluation of the Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Parties. In Council of Europe. Council of Europe. <https://rm.coe.int/reply-from-greece-to-the-questionnaire-for-the-evaluation-of-the-imple/1680a59b5a>

⁴ International Labour Organization, Walk Free, & International Organization for Migration. (2022). Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage. In www.walkfree.org. International Labour Organization, Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration.

⁵ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (2022). *For Ukrainians - UNHCR Greece*. UNHCR Greece. <https://help.unhcr.org/greece/about-help-in-greece/for-ukrainians/>

⁶ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). (2023). *Operational Data Portal: Ukraine Refugee Situation* [Dataset]. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine>

⁷ International Justice Mission. (2018). Assessment of Survivor Outcomes Guidance Manual. <https://www.ijm.org/documents/studies/ASO-Guidance-Manual.pdf>

GREECE ANNUAL HOTLINE REPORT 2022

ABOUT THE 1109 HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

The '1109' Human Trafficking Hotline (1109 Hotline) is the only hotline in Greece dedicated to both responding to reports of and supporting victims of human trafficking. Operated nationally by the nongovernmental organisation (NGO) A21, trained call specialists are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide advice, assistance, and access to victim support services, as well as receive reports about potential human trafficking. The 1109 Hotline utilises a tele-interpreting service that enables Greek and English-speaking operators to handle calls in over 230 languages. These specially trained professionals work closely with national institutions to ensure fast and effective responses to each case.

'A21 is an NGO, but we call them partners. They provide solutions to our problems.'

—Police Officer, Anti-Trafficking Division

OVERVIEW OF DATA¹

In 2022, the 1109 Hotline received 1,690 contacts via phone, email, text, and the dedicated website (1109.gr), 419 of which related to new unique cases. 1109 Hotline data indicates a shift in preferred communication methods; hotline users reported 28.16% of new unique cases online in 2022, a 46.6% increase since 2021.

A noticeable number of contacts to the 1109 Hotline (80.5%) were human trafficking related. A number of callers advised that they were made aware of the 1109 Hotline's services through various public service announcements (PSA) as well as news stories resulting from reports to the 1109 Hotline. In 2022, the 1109 Hotline advertised its service through a month-long PSA broadcasted on national television networks, advertising the hotline number across public transportation in Athens, and promoting the hotline at in-person or online training and networking events. Moreover, a social media campaign inspired and executed by well-known and award-winning artists, namely director Konstantinos Mousoulis and photographer Akis Douslatzis, featuring well-known athlete Errika Prezerakou and popular actresses Maria Korinthiou and Ifigenia Tzola, resulted in increased awareness.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The 1109 Hotline received **1,690 CONTACTS**
- **80.5%** of contacts were specifically related to **HUMAN TRAFFICKING**
- The majority of potential victims reported to the 1109 Hotline were **FEMALE (68.9%)**
- The 1109 Hotline received reports of **309 POTENTIAL VICTIMS** of trafficking from **35 DIFFERENT NATIONS**
- The 1109 Hotline received **118 ONLINE REPORTS**, a **42.2% INCREASE** since 2021
- The 1109 Hotline identified and/or assisted **67 VICTIMS** of human trafficking, **54** of whom entered the A21 Aftercare Program
- **45.9%** of all contacts were from the **GENERAL PUBLIC**
- **MINOR VICTIMS** accounted for **22.7%** of reports to the 1109 Hotline
- The 1109 Hotline submitted **DOUBLE** the number of **POLICE REPORTS** compared to 2021

¹'Contacts' to the 1109 Hotline comprise of all incoming enquiries to the 1109 Hotline through any means, including but not limited to phone calls, emails, SMS and online web submissions. These enquiries include all reports on potential human trafficking, various crimes both related and unrelated to human trafficking, and queries about human trafficking generally, as well as requests for various types of assistance related to human trafficking, such as safety planning or job vetting.

²'Reports' only include contacts to the 1109 Hotline relating to a potential human trafficking situation.

The statistics below are exclusively drawn from substantive contacts made to the 1109 Hotline from January - December 2022 concerning human trafficking matters. This report is not a reflection of all substantive calls to the 1109 Hotline which may include calls related to other high-risk crimes, labour exploitation and other nontrafficking issues.

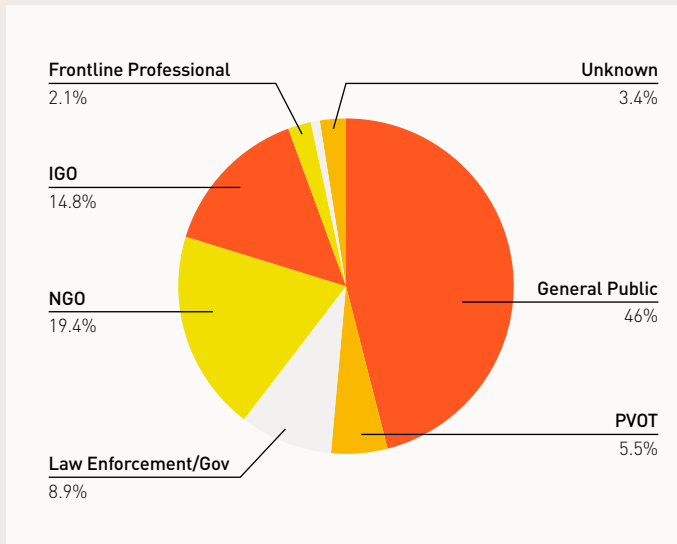
Disaggregated data has been collected on each individual case based on descriptive factors including gender, age, type of trafficking, methods of control and recruitment methods. The data contained herein is based on the cases where the information was available. In the majority of cases, the call specialists were unable to glean full or specific details about the case. Therefore the data below is based on cases where the specified information was made available.

CALLER DEMOGRAPHICS

Potential victims, concerned friends or family members, NGOs, law enforcement, community members and other sources report suspected human trafficking to the 1109 Hotline. Despite a notable decline in contacts from the general public in 2021, likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, contacts from this demographic have since increased by 32.3%, accounting for 45.9% of all contacts in 2022. The number of potential victims contacting the hotline quadrupled from the previous reporting year from 3 to 13.

NGOs or Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs), particularly the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), cumulatively accounted for 34.2% of contacts to the 1109 Hotline. These contacts by NGOs and IGOs resulted in referrals of 45 potential victims, mostly migrants and refugees needing support, to the 1109 Hotline for assistance. A21 Greece's continued collaboration with Greek law enforcement resulted in referrals of 15 victims of human trafficking to the 1109 Hotline. In several cases, the 1109 Hotline also collaborated with the immigration police to assist individuals who had been held captive by smugglers. In two separate instances, the 1109 Hotline received reports that resulted in the extraction of 11 victims being held against their will by smugglers. One case involved seven victims, while the other involved four.

In 2022, A21 Greece submitted 87 reports relating to potential trafficking situations to the police, almost doubling the number of reports submitted the previous year. Of the cases reported to the police, 53% related to forced begging incidents and 30% related to suspected sex trafficking. As a result of reports sent by the 1109 Hotline, Greek police recovered two victims of forced begging. These two cases then drew media attention, leading to increased reports to the 1109 Hotline about incidences of begging.

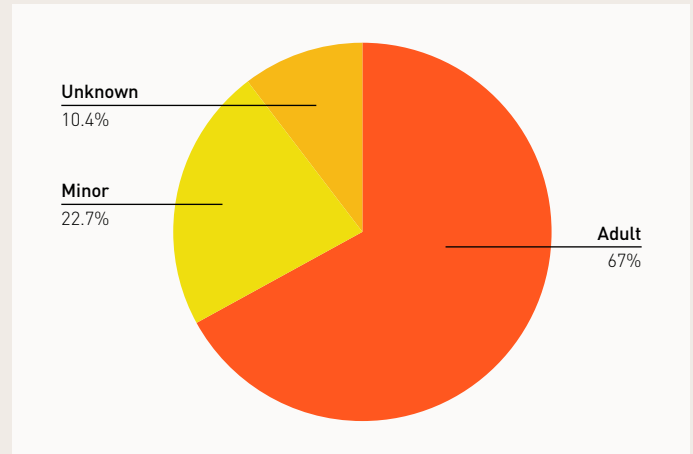


VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

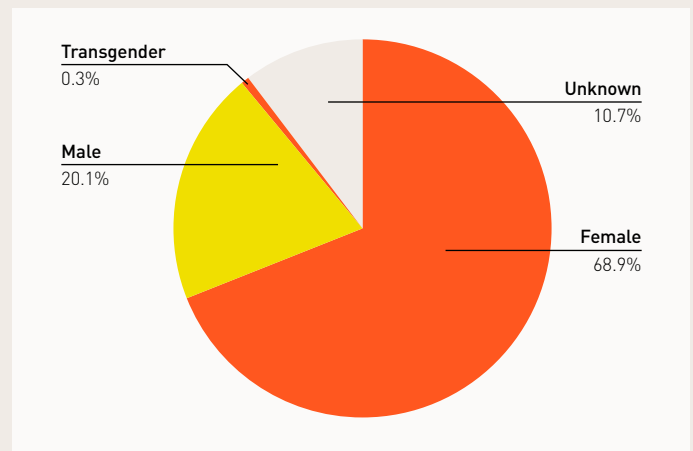
In 2022, the 1109 Hotline received reports relating to 309 potential victims of trafficking. After investigating further, the 1109 Hotline successfully identified and/or assisted 67 confirmed victims of trafficking. Fifty-four of these survivors entered A21's Aftercare Program, representing a 74% increase in survivors entering A21's Aftercare Program since 2021 from the 1109 Hotline.

AGE AND GENDER

While adults still constituted the majority (67%) of potential victims reported to the 1109 Hotline, reports involving minor victims remained relatively high at 22.7%, consistent with the previous year. Notably, the predominant form of exploitation of minors regardless of gender, was forced begging, which accounted for over 70% of cases involving minors. While any individual can be exploited through forced begging, the 1109 Hotline has observed that often vulnerable children are targeted. Moreover, in such cases involving children, the 1109 Hotline has observed parents facilitating the trafficking.



The majority of potential victims reported to the 1109 Hotline were female (68.9%), trafficked predominantly for sexual exploitation, followed by forced begging. The primary form of exploitation reported for male potential victims, regardless of age, was forced begging, followed by forced labour.



VICTIM NATIONALITY

The 1109 Hotline identified and/or assisted potential victims from 35 different nations in 2022, including Greece, Bulgaria and Romania. This represents a 29.6% increase in distinct nationalities engaged with by the 1109 Hotline compared to the 27 nationalities identified the previous year. Greek remained the most reported nationality of potential victims (11.3%), with the majority being Greek Roma, especially in cases of forced begging. The 1109 Hotline has also received

reports of Bulgarian Roma and Romanian Roma potential victims being exploited in forced begging rings. For example, a community member reported encountering such a situation involving 20 potential victims living in an apartment in Athens under appalling conditions. These individuals were coerced into begging on the streets for extended periods, even in harsh weather conditions. The majority of Romanian victims reported experiencing similar circumstances.

Callers reported potential victims from Nepal to the 1109 Hotline for the first time, all of whom had been exploited as domestic workers abroad before entering Greece. In addition, 22.7% of reported potential victims originated from countries of African origin.

Notably, the 1109 Hotline received reports that Cuban and Colombian victims had been trafficked in Athens’ sex industry, where traditionally the sex workers hailed from Eastern European countries.

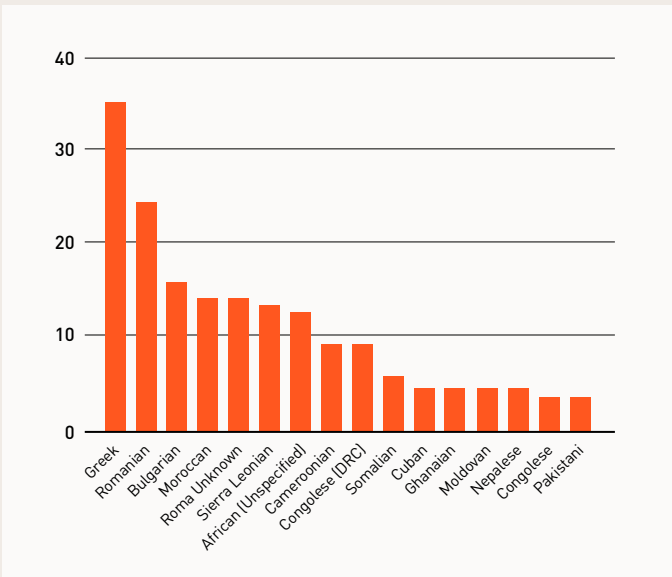
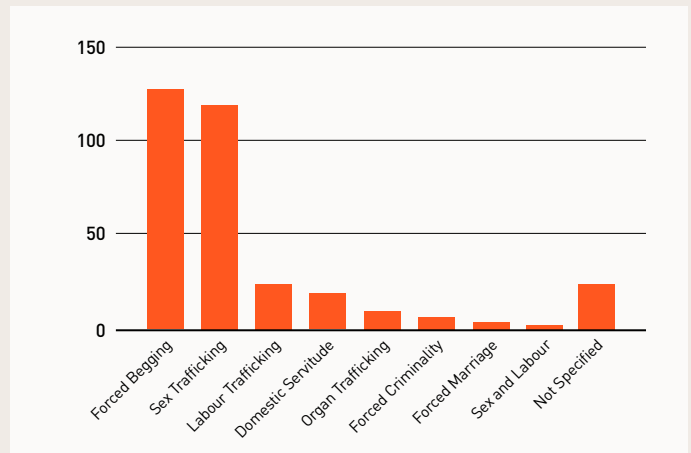


Chart: Top 16 Nationalities of Potential Victims reported to the 1109 Hotline

EXPLOITATION TYPE

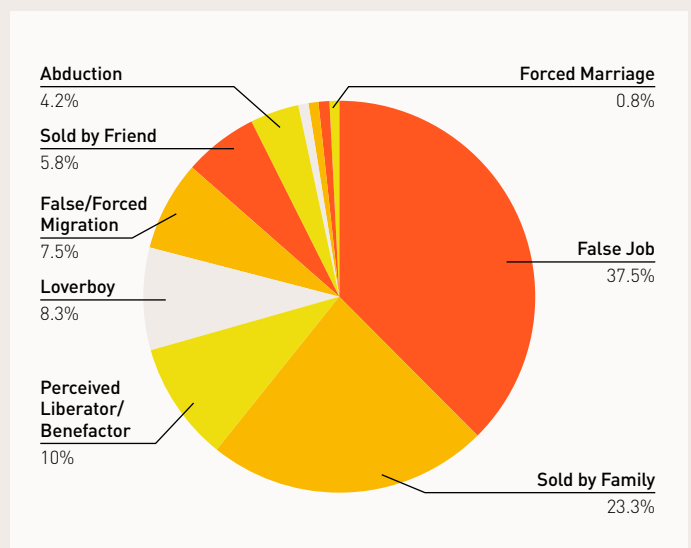
For the first time since the 1109 Hotline’s inception, sex trafficking was not the primary form of exploitation reported. Forced begging exceeded the number of reported cases of sex trafficking by 9.5%. Greece’s large cities suffer from forced begging, especially during the holiday season. However many people can also be seen begging in the summer. These individuals are usually very poorly dressed and often have babies or small children accompanying them, seemingly to arouse emotions of pity. Older children may be left on their own to beg in a different location than their ‘guardian’. Growing up under this abuse, these children may not attempt to break free or aspire for a better future. In the forced begging cases reported to A21 Greece, the victims had not received any education and lacked access to fundamental necessities.

Among the trafficking cases reported to the 1109 Hotline, domestic servitude remains the fourth most reported form of trafficking. Reports of domestic servitude have all been related to the refugee and migrant population, and in most cases, the trafficking occurred before they entered Greece.



RECRUITMENT METHODS

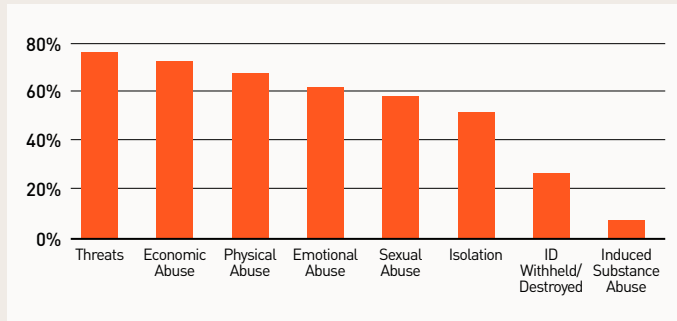
Human trafficking recruitment methods involve deception, coercion or force to lure victims and keep them in exploitative circumstances. For example, a trafficker may use a false job opportunity to recruit a potential victim with deceptive terms of an agreement to travel to another city. Upon arrival, the trafficker then traps the victim in debt bondage. In the complex, more drawn-out ‘loverboy’ scheme, a trafficker grooms and manipulates a victim into a false romantic relationship, with the ultimate goal of sexually trafficking the victim. In many cases reported to the 1109 Hotline, the actual recruitment methods are unknown. However, in reports with identified methods, the most prominent tactic used to recruit individuals was through a false job opportunity, often in a foreign country. Being sold by a family member, where family members sell or commercially exploit victims, emerged as the second most prevalent method accounting for 23.3% of cases of known recruitment methods. In many cases, the 1109 Hotline observed another prominent recruitment method involving a ‘perceived liberator/benefactor.’ Recruitment through a ‘perceived liberator/benefactor’ occurs when a perpetrator promises to liberate someone from exploitation, harm or hardship, only to then exploit them.



The above chart reflects the known recruitment methods in cases reported to the 1109 Hotline

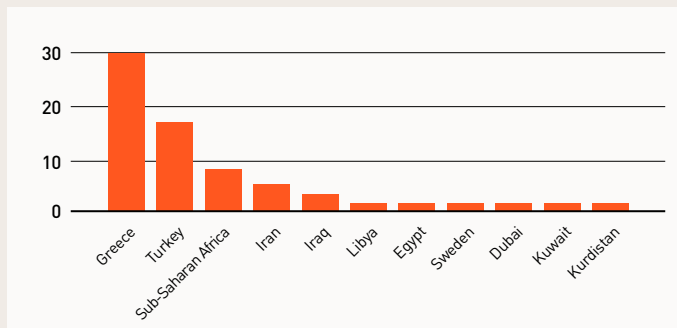
METHODS OF CONTROL

Reports to the 1109 Hotline revealed psychological abuse as the most common primary method of control used by traffickers. However, traffickers rarely use just one method of control; rather, they use a combination of tactics to coerce and manipulate victims. Other reported tactics utilised by traffickers to control their victims include sexual, physical and emotional abuse; economic abuse²; isolation³; threats⁴; and withholding of personal identification documents.

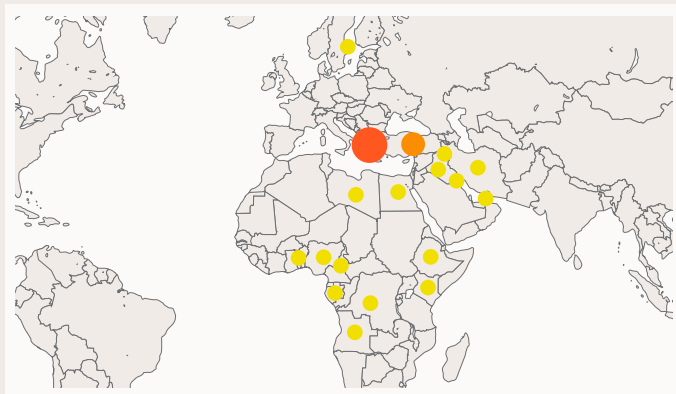


RECRUITMENT AND EXPLOITATION LOCATION

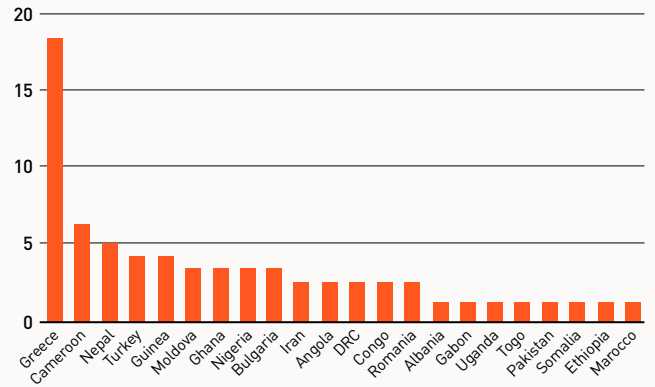
Notably, of the 67 confirmed victims of trafficking reported to the 1109 Hotline in 2022, only 42.9% were exploited in Greece, while in the majority of cases (57.1%), exploitation occurred abroad. A typical pattern amongst migrant and refugee victims showed their exploitation occurring either in their country of origin or along their journey towards Europe. For example, 25.7% of migrant/refugee victims were exploited in Turkey, a neighbouring country, before arriving in Greece. Similarly, only 26.9% of all confirmed cases involved recruitment in Greece, while the recruitment of the remaining 73.1% occurred in other countries, as seen in the following graph.



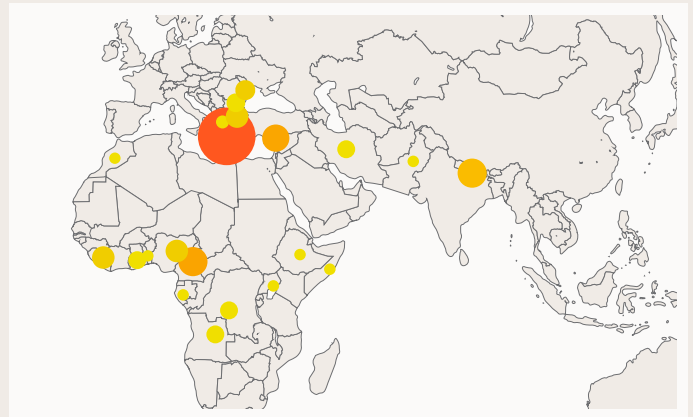
Exploitation Location of Confirmed Cases



Map of Recruitment Location (confirmed cases)



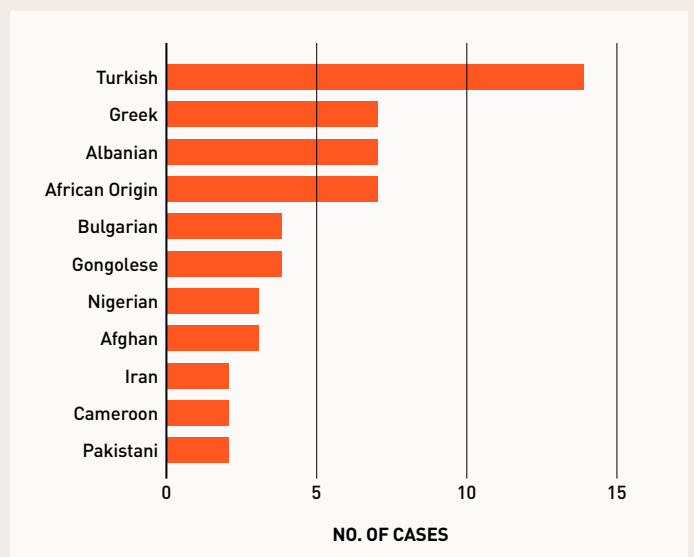
Recruitment Location of Confirmed Cases



Map of Recruitment Location (confirmed cases)

PERPETRATOR DEMOGRAPHICS

'Perpetrator Demographics' are compiled from reports to the 1109 Hotline by trafficking victims. Females accounted for 15.8% of reported perpetrators, while the majority (84.2%) were male. The chart below displays the reported countries of origin most frequently associated with perpetrators, with Turkey being the most common, comprising 21.5% of known cases.





PERSISTENT REPORTING LEADS TO THE SAFE RECOVERY OF A CHILD FORCED TO BEG

In response to multiple reports about a young child begging, the 1109 Hotline responded by filing police reports and closely monitoring the situation. In response to the reports from the 1109 Hotline, the anti-trafficking police conducted a multi-day investigation and arrested a woman perpetrator. The police investigation revealed that the woman, with the written consent from the child's foreign mother, travelled with the minor to the city centre every day for weeks. They sat outside commercial shops and begged for more than 12 hours each day, neglecting the child's well-being and appearance to elicit sympathy from passersby and maximise financial gain. Additionally, for over a year, the perpetrator had been transporting and exploiting the young girl at regular intervals throughout the country, for months at a time, disregarding her education, health and overall welfare. After the perpetrator's arrest, A21 accompanied the child to a clinic for completion of the necessary medical examinations for safe placement into a children's home.

NEW YEAR'S INTERVENTION

Shortly after midnight on January 1st, 2022, the 1109 Hotline received a call from a brothel client. The caller, who had become acquainted with a young Latin American woman working in a brothel in Athens, believed she was there against her will. The caller initially hesitated to provide details, afraid both for his life and also for the wellbeing of the potential victim. However, after the hotline call specialist encouraged the caller and explained that the information was vital to the potential victim's escape, he agreed to provide more details about the case. He disclosed valuable information, giving a full description of the potential victim, her name and social media accounts, as well as her home address and a description of the brothel where she worked. After confirming the information, the call specialist submitted a report to the anti-trafficking police in Athens. The police later informed the 1109 Hotline they had been closely investigating the case, and along with additional intelligence from a local police department, conducted a raid and recovered three female victims and one male victim, all of Latin American origin. All four survivors were offered assistance and support from A21. Law enforcement arrested the perpetrators, a Bulgarian man and a Cuban woman, and charged them with a human trafficking offence.



ENDNOTES

¹ To ensure data integrity, the data presented is extracted from reports submitted to the 1109 Hotline consisting of those identified as victims and likely potential victims of trafficking. This report takes a conservative approach in presenting hotline data and analysis, omitting reports of potential victims of human trafficking which were unable to be minimally substantiated.

² Economic abuse includes situations of debt bondage or where traffickers limit the victim's finances either in whole or in part.

³ Isolation may include physical isolation or deprivation of liberty, denying access to medical support, surveillance or control of the victim in public, and isolating the victim by moving them frequently from place to place.

⁴ Threats include threats of harm to the victim, their family or other individuals; to the victim's reputation; or to report them to the police, immigration authorities or other government authorities.

As a service situated to support those in exploitative situations, the 1109 Hotline is at the forefront of understanding emerging human trafficking trends in Greece. Each year the 1109 Hotline commits to expanding its networks and partners across Greece to ensure that an accurate scope of trafficking is reflected in the data collected. The 1109 Hotline welcomes new partners interested in counter-human trafficking efforts in Greece. Partnerships are vital not only to provide services to identified trafficking survivors and communities requesting training but also to increase awareness about the services provided by the 1109 Hotline across Greece.



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The observations contained in this report are limited to information communicated to the 1109 Hotline during the reporting period. Nothing arising from the data should be interpreted as showing the full extent or prevalence of human trafficking in Greece.