ROMANIAN NGOS NETWORK AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

TOGETHER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING



ECLER AND ROTIP DISASSOCIATE FROM UNCAGED (THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA) AND **WORLD TEACH ROMANIA**

The European Center for Legal Education and Research (ECLER) is an NGO in Romania that advocates for better anti-trafficking public policies, offering, at the same time, the secretariat for the Romanian Network of NGOs against Trafficking in Persons (RoTIP).

On the 11th of February 2021, the ECLER and RoTIP publicly disassociated from UNCAGED and WORLD TEACH ROMANIA, after also informing the management of UNCAGED about this situation and its reasoning [see Fig.1 below].

Dear Kim,

As I have promised you, I am back with my very last message to you in order to clarify the situation here and inform you about our position at the NGOs network's level.

- 1. Today we have had a meeting and the decision was to completely and publicly disassociate from Uncaged and World Teach through a <u>disclaimer</u> that has been already published on our website. The main reason was the fact that the entire board of WorldTeach overlaps the board of a very nationalist and anti-European party that we all have never supported as it is not in accordance with the values of the NGOs from the network - all of them pro-EU. We have known that this party cannot have more than 1% in the elections and we hoped that Beni would come back to the fight against human trafficking after the election. Unfortunately, in December, he told us that he chooses the party, and he is not willing to go further with our anti-trafficking projects.
- 2. In March 2020, at the NGOs network, we applied for 2 projects (about 250.000 EUR each) that were funded in December. We have never asked for money, but Beni offered by himself to cofound (together with some other NGOs) part of the projects (attached are the documents signed by Beni - info underlined in yellow is proving that he assumed that amount of money). The grant cannot go to political parties or associates. So, in the Beni's case, there was a conflict of interests as he was the president of the party and the president of the NGO at the same time. In December he told us that he stays with the party, but Alexandra will become the president of WorldTeach in order to eliminate the conflict and contract the 2 projects. In January, 1 day before the deadline for sending info that he solved this conflict, Beni told us that he does not care about our projects and he cannot leave World Teach. In this situation we were almost to lose both projects, but the founder appreciate very much our hard work in the field of human trafficking and accepted to replace World Teach in a project, but we lost one project that was leaded by WorldTeach of 256,546 EUR as the leader of the project cannot be replaced.

Fig.1 Excerpt from official email to UNCAGED management

At that time, WORLD TEACH ROMANIA was a member of 2 project consortia (mentioned in the above email), that were participating with project proposals to a call for action round (projects with approx. 560.000 EUR budgets). As can be seen in Fig.2 and Fig.3 below, the management of WORLD TEACH ROMANIA officially signed and stamped their participation confirmation annex, clearly stipulating their co-funding amounts.

ROMANIAN NGOS NETWORK AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

ÎMPREUNĂ ÎMPOTRIVA TRAFICULUI DE PERSOANE



TOGETHER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

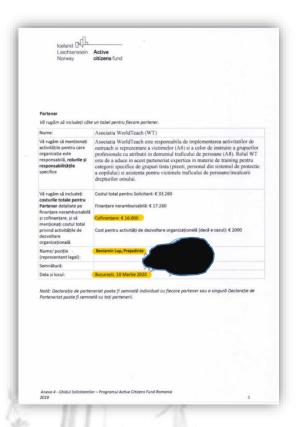


Fig. 2 Excerpt of official project proposal 1, with redacted signature and stamped (available on printed original)



Fig.3 Excerpt of official project proposal 2, with redacted signature and stamped (available on printed original)

ÎMPREUNĂ ÎMPOTRIVA TRAFICULUI DE PERSOANE



TOGETHER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

As WORLD TEACH ROMANIA has mentioned to the consortia members that its co-funding amounts would be made available with UNCAGED support, ECLER contacted the UNCAGED management (see Fig.4 below) to check the statements of their partner in Romania and get a confirmation, because once the funding contracts would have been signed the co-funding promise would become legally binding and a possible unavailability of WORLD TEACH ROMANIA to make good on its signed agreement would jeopardize the entire project for all members of the consortia.

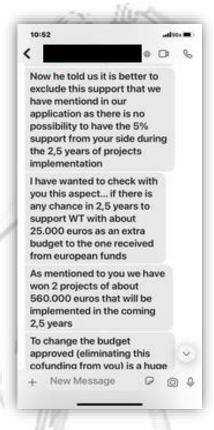


Fig.4 Excerpt of WhatsApp conversation with UNCAGED management, with redacted contacts (available on original form)

After the UNCAGED denial of support for the two projects, through WORLD TEACH ROMANIA's cofunding amounts, the first consortia did not contract the winning proposal (because WORLD TEACH ROMANIA was the lead member), and the second consortia was allowed by the funding bodies to change roster and eliminate WORLD TEACH ROMANIA then contracted the project.

Neither ECLER, nor RoTIP has ever received any funds from UNCAGED, even if there were fundraising calls made by UNCAGED in the USA in the name of these 2 entities (see Fig.5 below). UNCAGED used ECLER's name to collect funds in the USA and abroad without any permission to do so.



TOGETHER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

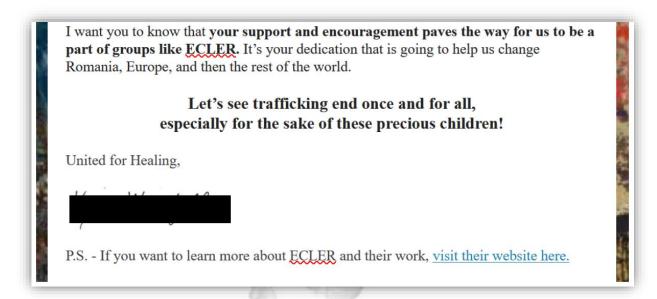


Fig.5 Excerpt from email sent out by UNCAGED for fund raising purposes, with redacted signature (available on original message)

preferred to promote its association with ECLER (even promoting this unilateral partnership with a link to our website) and not with its real partner in Romania – WORLD TEACH ROMANIA, we have discovered that WORLD TEACH ROMANIA <u>board</u> actually overlaps the board of ARN, a <u>nationalist and anti-European political party</u> very recently established. Coming to this point, ECLER has immediately informed RoTIP members and publicly dissociated from WORLD TEACH ROMANIA and UNCAGED.

