

## ROMANIA REGRESSES IN THE FIELD OF THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Yesterday, October 25, 2021, a [Decision](#) was published in the Official Gazette, adopted by the Government on October 2, 2021, regarding the amendments and completion of the Government Decision no. 861/2018 for the approval of the National Strategy against trafficking in human beings for the period 2018-2022 and of the National Action Plan 2018-2020 for the implementation of the National Strategy against trafficking in human beings for the period 2018-2022.

On 26 August 2021, the Network of NGOs Against Trafficking in Human Beings (RoTIP) and its partners, [asked the Romanian Government NOT to adopt the above-mentioned Governmental Decision](#), which had also received a negative opinion from the Economic and Social Council, as these changes lead to **a major setback in the fight against human trafficking** at a time when all international fora monitoring this field consider that the Romanian Government "does not meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in human beings." Romania is the EU state that offers the larger number of victims internationally and over 50% of the victims identified at intra-community level, with **a number of minors that has increased 10 times in just 2 years**, according to the [EU Report 2020](#).

In this context, the Romanian Government, although it had undertaken in the Government Program measures to improve the fight against human trafficking, we note with great disappointment that, in practice, the measures adopted are rather favorable to traffickers, greatly diminishing the state's responsibility to prevent this phenomenon. The government had the obligation, through ANITP, to adopt the second National Action Plan 2021-2022, but it should not have modified the National Strategy which included strong measures to monitor and evaluate the phenomenon. We mention that the prevention measures represent the essential element in the fight against human trafficking, measures that have been drastically modified through this new normative act.

The request sent by RoTIP to the Government on August 26, in which we explain the risks of eliminating the institutional monitoring and evaluation procedure, can be consulted here [RO]: <http://www.ecler.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Comunicat%20GUVERN%20RoTIP.pdf>

