

FINAL REPORT 2019

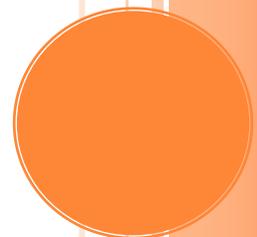
Association Invisible Children

The year 2019 can be summed up briefly as a year with a lot of work, but results have long been overdue. As we worked through 2019, one could think that everything is standing still. It's good to look back and say that quite a lot was done. It was year 2 of the association, and it was in many ways more productive than the first year.



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ACTIVITIES

Activities in the association in 2019 have been mostly limited to the project "If you speak up, I will join!". Under this project's auspices, several adults who had survived human trafficking when they were children and/or young people and organizations that could have contact with them have been contacted. A couple of other activities have been to give lectures for some professional groups working against human trafficking. This has been done very spontaneously and without a concrete offer of lectures with human trafficking as a theme.

PROJECTS

The main focus in 2019 was an international project, "If you speak up, I will join!", where the association Invisible Children got participant's role as one of the partners from Norway. Other countries participating in the project as the official partners are Latvia, Russia, and Sweden. The project lasts from August 2019 to July 2020.

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The practice that project trying to set focus on has already been done in the United States, but no one has taken the Eastern Region initiative before. The idea that those who have been trafficked should come together, support each other, give a stronger voice to those who have been trafficked, and convey that voice to the world to be heard can have a fundamental significance in work against trafficking - in preventive, revealing, follow-up work and in aftercare. Therefore, this project was started.

Founding for the project comes from CBSS – Council of the Baltic Sea States. The goal for CBSS is for everyone to feel safe and secure in the countries that belong to the Region. Well-being in local communities is something CBSS pays close attention to. In work against human trafficking, CBSS has two groups that work specifically with it: Expert Group on Children at Risk and the Task Force Against Trafficking in Human Beings. The project works for the values CBSS has in its work. By bringing together as many people as possible who have been trafficked as minors, the project makes those people visible and focuses on challenges they have experienced throughout their lives.

The project provides visibility to them not only in their respective countries but also between the countries. A co-operation between the countries, where those people could gather, exchange experiences and knowledge, could give a much broader understanding and a stronger voice. This kind of support network can also provide a much better quality of life for those who have survived human trafficking in childhood. In several countries, it is still a somewhat taboo topic to talk about, and those who have that kind of experience are often alone with their experiences and injuries, and late traumas they have to live with. Unity and support for each other can give meaning in life, better understand what happened, and tools to live a complete life in the future.

THE WAY FORWARD

In 2019, the association had very little focus on continuing the project "An eye in the dark" (a project from 2018). There is something to work on more in 2020, but only after the project "If you speak up, I will join!" is completed in July 2020. The final report for the latter will also be shared on the association's website. Here, the association can contribute together with other partners to create a more systematic plan for how victims of human trafficking in childhood should be involved in the work against human trafficking. The way forward is about building a stronger foundation for the project "An eye in the dark," documenting experiences and contributing to knowledge development.