

# IMPACT REPORT 2021



ROMILDAMOR

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## WELCOME

December 2020 marked the official launch of the ROMILDAMOR Capacity Building programme, we had signed our agreement with our NGO Partner Ella's and were ready to begin accepting client referrals and expanding our support to survivors of exploitation.

On the 23rd of December, I received a call from Ella's case manager requesting urgent support for a client who was facing risk of deportation back to Nigeria. Therefore, on Christmas Eve - December 24th, myself and her caseworker wrote and submitted an appeal on behalf of Ruby\* and her family, establishing grounds for her right to remain in the UK.

This was our first referral, and since then, we have spent the past 12 months advancing support services to women similar to Ruby, ensuring their legal protection and access to development opportunities.

This Impact Report, will highlight all the details of the work of ROMILDAMOR, our progress and most importantly the difference and 'impact' it has made in the lives of our clients; the brave incredible woman we serve. It will address the achievements of our Capacity Building, Community Awareness and Fashion Funding department - and explain how all three mainstreams compliment each other in the Anti - Trafficking mission

None of our achievements and developments would have been possible without the hard work and support of our Trustee & Advisory Board and most of all, our incredible volunteers, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that the work and mission of ROMILDAMOR has been delivered effectively and efficiently.

The COVID - 19 Pandemic had an impact not only on the way we work but on the well being of our clients and survivors of exploitation all around - you will see this reflected in the statistics we have shared.

As we progress into 2022, our aim is to focus on wellbeing and further legal protection and representation.

We at ROMILDAMOR are truly grateful for the opportunities we have to extend support to our brave clients. To everyone reading who has supported us in anyway, from the bottom of my heart I would like to say thank you and bless you.

Together with you in love,

Romilda x

## OUR MISSION

The mission of ROMILDAMOR is to support women and girls who have been victimized by socially unjust practices such as: Human Trafficking, Gender Based Violence & Child Marriage.

In order to fulfill this, we operate through three mainstreams:

- 1.Capacity Building;
- 2.Community Awareness; and
- 3.Fashion Funding

### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

We work to enable survivors to have access to career development, academic development, legal support and therapy support opportunities.

### **COMMUNITY AWARENESS**

Through our regular events, we educate and enlighten communities about these socially unjust practices, we hold annual screenings, panel discussions and webinars.

### **FASHION FUNDING**

The Maison ROMILDAMOR is our fashion hub where we design and sell womenswear pieces to raise funds for the survivors we work with and to also enable consumers to support the stand against human trafficking by wearing our garments.

The overall purpose of our organisation is to advance the Anti- Trafficking & GBV mission by supporting survivors and spreading awareness



# OUR MISSION

The issue of Human Trafficking does not end when a victim has been rescued. From that point, a whole new issue arises and that is *the future of the victim and how to break the cycle of dependency they have on their traffickers.*

Providing development opportunities to survivors of injustice is paramount in ensuring their protection, wellbeing and re-integration back into society.

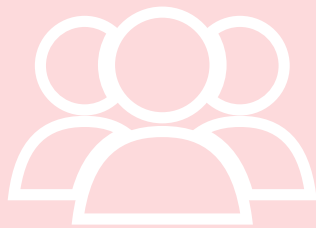
Through our Capacity Building programme, we are able to invest in each woman and enable them to achieve their life goals - through training, employment opportunities, therapy support and legal support.

We endeavour to break cycles of poverty, violence and disadvantage once and for all by reducing marginalisation and increasing opportunities for social inclusion.

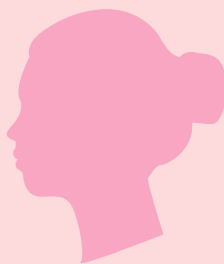
\*National statistics on VAWG taken from The World Bank (2019)  
\*Human Trafficking statistics source: ILO (2016)

# THE FACTS

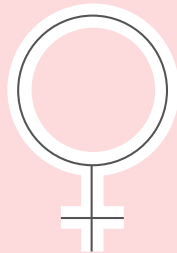
There is a growing need for our work, as the numbers of trafficking victims and women experiencing GBV is growing rapidly.



There are approximately **40.3 million** victims of Human Trafficking across the globe.\*



**75%** of Trafficking victims are women & girls.



**1 in 3** women globally experience Gender Based Violence\*



## OUR CAPACITY BUILDING MODEL

1

A survivor of Human Trafficking and/or GBV is referred to ROMILDAMOR by our NGO Partners.

Our NGO Partners are organisations that work directly to rescue and house victims of Human Trafficking & Gender Based Violence.

We receive referrals from these partners to provide survivors with post-trafficking support.

2

Depending on their needs, the client will be enrolled onto one or more of our support services;

- LEGAL SUPPORT
- THERAPY SUPPORT
- ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT

(Please refer to page 7 for detailed expansions on each support service).

3

The ROMILDAMOR Team will work with the client on an independent basis to facilitate support to them in their desired areas.

We have a team of in house therapists to provide regular counselling sessions to each client and support their well being journey.

Our interpreters assist us in ensuring we communicate effectively with each client and can understand provide all their requests.

## THE 4 PILLARS - Capacity Building

### Legal Support

Survivors of Human Trafficking and GBV have very limited access to legal advice and support. It is therefore a priority for ROMILDAMOR to ensure that the survivors who join the Capacity Building Programme are given the opportunity to access Pro Bono Legal Advice services.

These services operate through our partnerships with Pro Bono Organisations and specialist Lawyers who provide survivors with representation on cases in Immigration, Civil, Housing, Family and Employment law.

### Therapy Support

The mental health and wellbeing of survivors is so crucial.

Depression, anxiety, PTSD, self-harm and attempted suicide are common mental health issues that victims face.

This is why ROMILDAMOR deems it highly essential to put together therapy and counselling support.

We will be working with experts who will continually provide therapy sessions to all survivors on our Capacity Building Programme.

### Career Development

ROMILDAMOR works with Corporate organisations, Financial services, Professional services Firms and Small Businesses to build a partnership programme that can create rewarding career opportunities for survivors.

Provision of employment and volunteer opportunities will enable survivors to build a career and secure a legitimate income.

This helps to break the cycle of financial instability, enabling our clients to reintegrate back into society.

### Academic Development

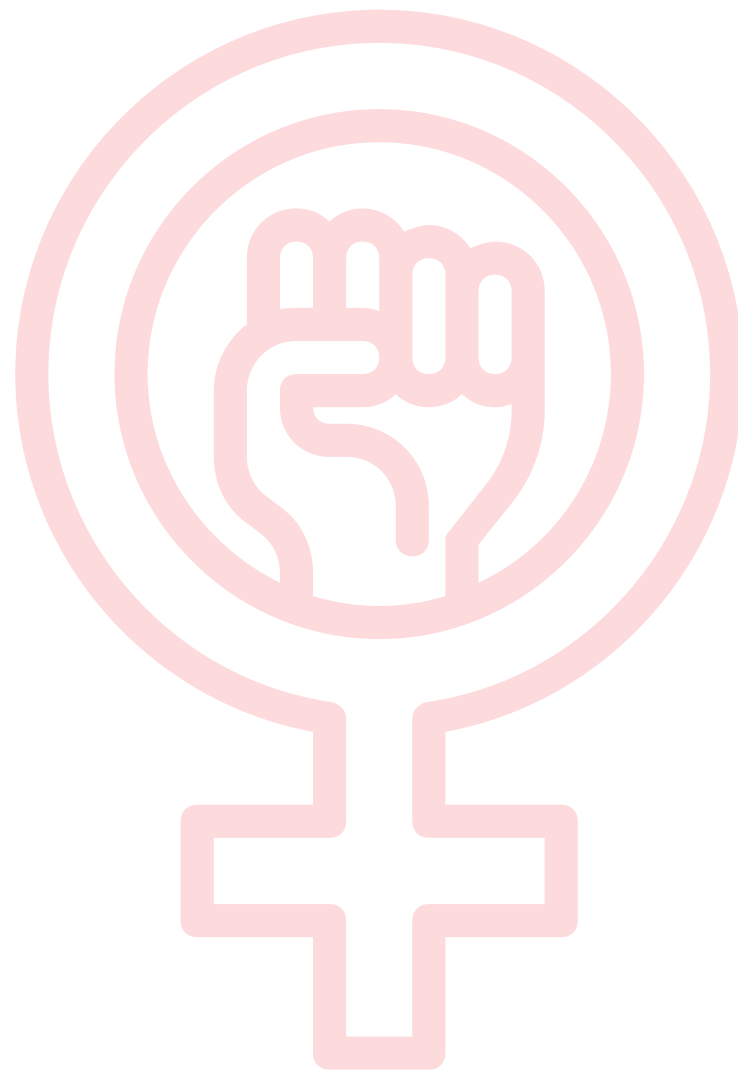
ROMILDAMOR works in partnership with CityLit and Headstart Tutoring to provide free ESOL courses to our clients and English language practice sessions also.

Our clients also have the opportunity to enroll onto additional courses of their interest. We encourage this in conjunction with our Career Development opportunities as they both work so well hand in hand.

Knowledge is power and it provides a gateway of establishment and advancement for these women & girls.

## GROWTH OUTPUTS

IN 12 MONTHS, WE HAVE ACHIEVED THE FOLLOWING:



**20**

Survivors of Human Trafficking supported through our Capacity Building programme.

**7**

Women receiving Legal support & representation through ROMILDAMOR.

**10**

Clients enrolled in our Therapy Support programme.

**7**

Survivors enrolled in ESOL courses through our Academic Development partner; CITY LIT.

**8**

Clients receiving Career Development guidance and support through our team; sourcing job & volunteer opportunities.

**221**

1-to-1 support calls provided to clients on areas of development opportunities, wellbeing and mental health.



## HIGHLIGHTS **Legal Support**

### WINNING HOUSING CASE!

The ROMILDAMOR Legal team successfully challenged the local city council in a legal housing dispute on behalf of our client - a survivor of domestic servitude.

The council initially refused to provide housing based on the fact that our client was a university student and was receiving access to public recourse. This created a difficult stance for our client as she had no alternative means of accommodation.

She was diagnosed as disabled due to blindness in one eye, has a diagnosis of psychosis, and is a vulnerable person after fleeing trafficking, sexual exploitation and domestic abuse.

The council completely disregarded these factors and their denial of support was a method used to avoid responsibility.

With the support of the Hackney Law Clinic, the council eventually accepted the duty of care owed to our client and worked to find suitable housing for our client, in a safe and well-adjusted area.

We are very pleased that this matter has been settled and in the words of our client's caseworker:

*"She is absolutely loving her new place, thank you ROMILDAMOR!"*



## HIGHLIGHTS **Therapy Support**

### **WE HIRED OUR FIRST IN - HOUSE THERAPIST!**

When we set up the Therapy Support department, our aim was to ensure that clients have 'regular' (and where required; long term) access to therapy counselling.

A majority of the women who were referred to ROMILDAMOR in 2021, have received some form of free counselling - however it was usually only 5 sessions which didn't give them the opportunity to connect with their therapist.

Our team decided to look into ways we could counter this and provide the option for our clients to receive long term therapy counselling.

Through the incredible financial support of our sponsor; The Pure Good Foundation and the diligent work of our Therapy Support Ambassador; Arjin Aktas - we were able to source and recruit our first in - house therapist.

Dr. Jennie Geddes is an experienced psychologist with over 20 years experience working with survivors of exploitation and specifically within the non profit sector.

Dr. Geddes has made a great impact in the work of ROMILDAMOR and we really look forward to the additional support she will be providing to all our clients; present and future.



## HIGHLIGHTS **Career Development**

### **JOB SECURED FOR SURVIVOR!**

Our client Wendy\* was exploited through labour trafficking here in the United Kingdom. She eventually managed to find support and shelter through our NGO Partner; ELLA's.

Last year, Wendy was referred to ROMILDAMOR for Career Development opportunities. She was specifically seeking a support in finding a job in a restaurant, catering facility.

Our Career Development Ambassador; Megan Sutcliffe put together a concise plan for Wendy and we got to work to find her the best job opportunities.

Due to the fact that Wendy had previously experienced Forced Labour exploitation, it was very important that the opportunity we sourced was with an employer that carried

values that aligned with that of ROMILDAMOR. We wanted to ensure that Wendy was in no-way at risk of any harm and rather would work in an environment where she was protected, safe and blossoming.

Romilda (founder) reached out to the Luminary Bakery, an incredible charity bakery that specifically works to provide opportunities for women who have been exploited and faced GBV.

The team at Luminary have been incredibly supportive and we have been able to provide Wendy with a job at the bakery.

Starting mid-January 2022, Wendy will be working as a part-time kitchen staff. She is beyond thrilled about this opportunity.

\*name changed for client protection.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Luminary Bakery team!

This job will really make a huge difference in Wendy's financial stability and overall progression.



## HIGHLIGHTS **Academic Development**

### **PARTNERSHIP WITH CITY LIT!**

A majority of the women who are referred to ROMILDAMOR, have been trafficked from outside the UK and as a result of this, usually English is not their first language.

As part of their development journey, a lot of women have aspirations to work on their English language skills.

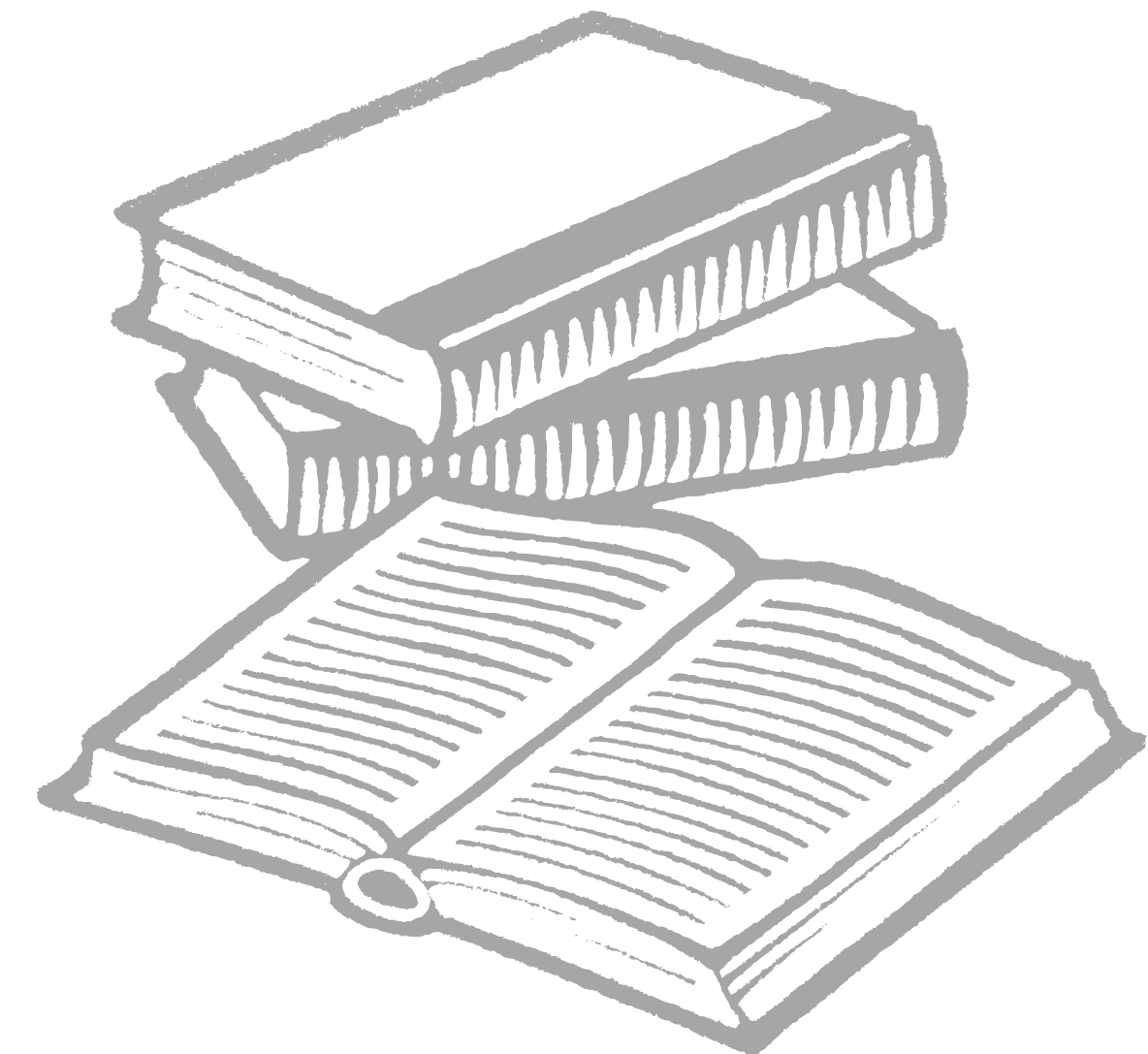
In order to provide these opportunities, we partnered with City Lit college and their Head of Development - Ian Wollington officiated the provision of free ESOL courses to all clients on our Capacity Building Programme.

We currently have 7 clients enrolled in ESOL classes and have been thoroughly enjoying this new learning experience.

This is very exciting, as it is a great step in the right direction to enable our clients to achieve their career development goals and integrate into society in a comfortable and confident manner.

*"ESOL classes have been good and I like the teacher. It has helped me with speaking and listening and has built my confidence when speaking with people."*

Sarah\* : Academic Development Client -





# COMMUNITY AWARENESS

## *Updates*





# IWD 2021

## *Anti - Trafficking in the United Kingdom*

On the 8th of March 2021, we held our annual International Women's Day screening event (via Zoom) with Dame Sara Thornton (UK's Anti-Slavery Commissioner), Marcia Langdon (Partner, Kingsley Napely) and Minke van Til (Co-Director of ELLA's).

The theme of the evening was Anti-Trafficking in the UK, focusing on the impact that Brexit and COVID-19 have had on the mission to eradicate modern slavery day.

It was particularly interesting to hear from Dame Sara Thornton and her role in enforcing this mission as a representative of the UK Government.

Additionally, the contributions of Marcia Longdon as co-chair of the ABA's Human Trafficking Association and Minke van Til (Ella's) were incredibly insightful.



# Anti – Slavery Summer Event

## *Forced Labour Trafficking in Supply Chains*

Our summer events are always a great opportunity to gather and screen an insightful documentary and have enlightening conversations about development issues with our audiences.

Due to the pandemic, we were limited to holding our events virtually, so this event on the 12th of August 2021 was special as it was our first in person event since the COVID - 19 outbreak.

We were joined by Katharine Bryant from The Walk Free Foundation and discussed the role that supply chains can play in forced labour trafficking. It was a great opportunity to discuss how consumers can be more aware about their purchasing decisions and how to be more conscious and sustainable. It was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to be in a room filled with individuals eager to discuss these key issues and how they can be a part of advancing the Anti-Slavery mission.





## TESTIMONIALS **Partners**

- *"ROMILDAMOR have been instrumental in connecting some of our service users with vital legal support, others with English language classes and even some with job opportunities.*

*We are so grateful and appreciative of the work of Romildamor in diligently providing the best support.*

*These connections and opportunities are essential for the women we work with who are recovering from sexual exploitation and trafficking.*

*At Ella's we see firsthand the incredible difference it makes in the lives of the women.*

*Thank you as always!"*

**Emily Clarke - Founder & Co - director of ELLA's**

- *"We were very pleased with the progress the learners made (Academic Development clients at ROMILDAMOR) – each progressing in their own way, developing the English they already had and increasing their confidence.*

*They all improved their listening skills, their speaking range and finding the right words for the situation. Each learner rose to the challenge including when the language was more difficult than they were used to.*

*It was an honour to have them as City Lit students."*

**Ian Wollington - Head of Universal Skills at CITY LIT**

## TESTIMONIALS **Clients**

- *"I have had 2 lawyers during this time and none of them were like Romilda. She was very professional and speeded up the process. Romilda and Arjin always consoled me, they calmed me down whenever I cried about my children. As long as they were with me I was always strong. Romilda and Arjin helped me a lot during the court-process. If they weren't there, I don't know how I would get through it.*

*Romilda and Arjin have always been a source of hope to me. Romilda is a very good lawyer and Arjin is a very nice person and a trustworthy translator who does her job very well.*

*I couldn't survive if it wasn't for Romilda and Arjin because they did everything they could for me to reunite with my children, I am so grateful to them. They gave me hope. They supported me in the best way every time. I will never forget this favor.*

*They are people who do their jobs in the best way. I'm forever grateful to both of them."*

Our client Mary\* was referred to us in the Spring of 2021, she was seeking urgent legal representation in locating her children and obtaining custody, all as a result of exploitation. Our team have been working diligently on Mary's case and we are so proud of the progress she has made. We asked Mary to share a few words and she expressed it in this handwritten note in her local language; Turkish. Our translator and support worker; Arjin - translated the note. It is safe to say, we are more than moved by her words and grateful to have been able to provide support and representation for her.

Bu süreçte iki tane avukatım oldu ve hiçbir Romilda gibi değildi Romilda çok profesyonel ve mahkemeyi hızlandırdı. Romilda ve Arjin beni hep teselli ettiler ben ne zaman ağlasam çocuklarımı özlesem onlar beni sakinleştirdi. Onlar yanımda olduğu sürece ben hep güçlü oldum. Romilda ve Arjin mahkeme sürecinde bana çok yardımcı oldular onlar olmasaydı eğer bu zorlu süreci nasıl geçirirdim bilmiyordum. @Romilda ve Arjin bana hep umut oldular Romilda çok iyi kaliteli bir avukat Arjin ise çok iyi biri ve işini en iyi en güvendi şekilde yapan tercüman. Romilda ve Arjin olmasaydı eğer hayatta kalamazdım çünkü onlar benim çocuklarımı kavuşmam için ellerinden gelenin en iyisini yaptılar onlara minnettarım. Bana umut oldular Her seferinde beni en iyi şekilde desteklediler bu iyiliklerini asla unutmayacağım.

## FUNDERS, CORPORATE SPONSORS & Acknowledgments

ROMILDAMOR is so appreciative of all the support we have received from our key funders; Pure Good Foundation, Tokio Marine Kiln Group Limited, CMS & UCL.

The funds provided have made a massive impact in the lives of our clients and our overall mission.

We are equally thankful to all private donors who provided donations and/or purchased a ROMILDAMOR Freedom Scarf to support our work.

If you would like to get in touch with someone about donating, contact us at [corporate@romildamor.com](mailto:corporate@romildamor.com)



**Thank you!**



# PARTNERS & Acknowledgments

*Thank you to our incredible partners!*



In December 2020, we partnered with ELLA's an incredible organisation that provides rehabilitation and support to victims of human trafficking and gender based violence. This partnership enables us to advance support to survivors by stepping in at their post-trafficking stage. We provide them with the opportunities on our Capacity Building programme.



In order to ensure provision of Legal representation to our clients, we partnered with A4ID, an NGO that works closely with a wide range of law firms. A4ID has provided us with a lot of legal support, through the help of law firms such as Winston & Strawn, Clifford Chance & White & Case LLP.



The ESOL Classes we provide to our clients have been made possible through the support and partnership of CITYLIT College. They have been an incredible asset to our Academic Development department and created bespoke classes for the women on our programme. Enrolling them in weekly English lessons has provided a huge boost to their confidence and is playing a major part in supporting their re-integration back into society. Thank you CityLit!



# ROMILDAMOR

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