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for  
others

Împreună  
pentru  
alții



**THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION (UK – ROMANIA)**

with FUNDAȚIA PRO PRIETENIA ARAD

## **ROMANIAN HUMAN TRAFFICKING MULTI-AGENCY DELEGATION TO LANCASHIRE**

**WEEK OF ACTION 14 – 21 OCTOBER 2016**

**A PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LANCASHIRE  
CONSTABULARY AND PRO PRIETENIA ARAD**

**For a Summary of the Project go  
straight to the inside back cover**

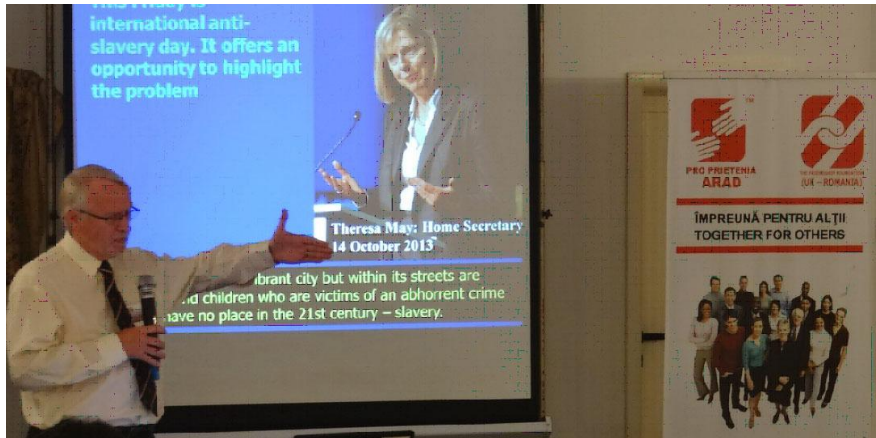


### **About The Friendship Foundation (UK – Romania)**

The Friendship Foundation (UK - Romania) is a small UK charity which gained official charity status in 2009 (reg. Charity no. 1130205). For nineteen years before this we had worked for the relief of poverty and hardship in Romania by providing material and financial aid, facilitating the exchange of expertise and knowledge from either country, as well as exchanges of young people with fewer opportunities in life.

Since 1995 we have worked hand-in-hand with Puiu Tarcea and his dedicated team in Romania. In 2001 the group gained official NGO status in Romania with the name of Fundația Pro Prietenia Arad.

We have been partners with Pro Prietenia Arad since its inception and since 2010 have focussed much of our combined attention on awareness and prevention of human trafficking. This has included the mounting of four successful international annual conferences in western Romania around the issue of human trafficking. Our joint support of victims of human trafficking has included several cases of Romanian repatriation from Western Europe, including from the United Kingdom.



*Brian Gregory of the Friendship Foundation (UK – Romania) addressing the third of our International Conferences in Arad in 2013*

With the enlargement of the Romanian community in the UK after 2007, and the increasingly large number of Romanians who have fallen victim to traffickers in this country during that time, The Friendship Foundation (UK - Romania) has responded by officially extending our Area of Operation to include Romanians (particularly but not exclusively) in the UK as well as in Romania itself. As a small registered charity we are accountable, flexible, unhindered by red-tape, quick to respond, with a proven networking capability which has always been well-suited to assisting groups and larger organisations in both countries in developing a mutual working relationship in the multi-national, multi-agency work against human trafficking.

We have been a participating member of the UK Human Trafficking Advisory Forum since 2013 and a member of the Greater Manchester Police Modern Slavery Response NGO Forum since it was set up in 2015. Our UK focus is in the North West and we have successfully worked with Lancashire Constabulary in this recent Week of Action. In June 2016 we arranged a successful programme for two officers from the Lancashire Force to visit their counterparts in Romania. In partnership with Pro

Prietenia Arad, we are happy to consider further requests from other agencies and NGOs to assist in similar ways.



*Brian Gregory with Romanian and British officers on a programme arranged by the charities earlier this year*

## **The Week of Action 14 – 21 October 2016**

For several weeks leading up to the Week of Action, The Friendship Foundation and Pro Prietenia Arad together with officers from Lancashire Constabulary had worked towards the visit of six officials working in Romania in the field of human trafficking. This was made possible by a maximum award from the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner for which the Charity is most grateful.



The Group, seen photographed at the Police Headquarters, was made up of (from left to right), Laurențiu Dincă, Regional Chief Commissioner of

the National Anti-Trafficking Agency, Timișoara; Chief Prosecutor Codrin Miron of the Directorate of Investigation into Organised Crime and Terrorism, Arad; Detective Inspector Mark Vaughton; Dr. Mihaela Tomița, Associate Professor of the University of the West, Timișoara, and Regional Head of the National Drug Agency; Detective Chief Inspector Sion Hall; Adina Schwartz, PhD Researcher at Timișoara and Palermo Universities and lawyer in the justice section of Pro Prietenia Arad Charity; Gabi Micu, Lecturer in Political Science and Social Administration at Bucharest University; and Florea (Puiu) Tarcea, President of the Pro Prietenia Arad Charity.

## **Constabulary hosts first modern slavery conference (18 October)**

Detective Chief Inspector Sion Hall, one of the force leads for modern slavery, said: "I'm really pleased that we were able to host the first event of its kind here in Lancashire with a full agenda about tackling modern day slavery.

The conference was aimed at frontline workers from different organisations across the county, to help them understand the topic, to recognise the signs and better understand the role they can play in tackling modern slavery. The one day conference was held at the Mercure Dunkenhalgh Hotel in Blackburn, to coincide with national Anti-Slavery Day on Tuesday 18 October. It was opened by the Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw.



We were honoured that Adina Schwartz of our partner charity, Pro Prietenia Arad – shown here in conversation with PCC Clive Grunshaw

before the conference began – had been invited to speak at the Conference, giving a European view from the perspective of Romania, a largely source country for human trafficking. The Romanian presence was enhanced by the attendance of Police Quaestor Ioan Dascalu, Charge d'affairs at the Romanian Embassy in London and Fr Ciprian Badin of the Romanian Orthodox Church in Preston.

## **Meetings with Police and Crown Prosecution Service**

Various meetings with the Police took place, including a meeting over a sandwich lunch with Detective Chief Superintendent Sue Clarke, Head of Crime at Lancashire Constabulary.

Also, a useful meeting was also held with one of the Prosecutors of the North West Group of the Crown Prosecution Service.

Those members of the Delegation with an involvement with law enforcement and combatting of human trafficking spent a morning with the operations team in Burnley whilst the academics visited regional universities with an interest in modern slavery and human trafficking.

## **University of Lancaster**

This meeting, on the Lancaster campus, proved timely in progressing the Enactus project whereby a team of undergraduates at the University, whom we had connected up with Pro Prietenia a year ago, is working towards setting up a social enterprise project to provide work in Romania for female victims of human trafficking. The project was set up through the offices of Pro Prietenia Arad to be operated by the Romanian victim support charity, Generație Tânără România (GTR).

Members of the Enactus team have already visited the centre at Calcea which is in the Arad/Timișoara region of Western Romania. The officers from Lancashire Constabulary had also visited the victim centre as part of the programme we provided for them in June.

## **University of Manchester and the University of Central Lancashire, (UCLan) Preston**

The meetings at the Universities of Manchester and Central Lancashire proved to be very useful in terms of future collaboration with the University of the West, Timișoara. During the Week of Action, The

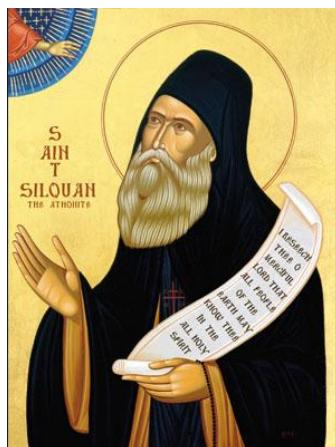
Friendship Foundation (UK – Romania) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of the West, Timișoara and is now committed to offering assistance in developing relations in areas of research and exchanges of staff and students between Timisoara and the Universities in our region.



*Mihaela, Adina and Gabi at the University of Manchester*

## **The Romanian Orthodox Church of the 'Protective Veil of the Mother of God and St Silouan the Athonite' in Preston**

The Romanian Orthodox Church in Preston plays an important role in the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of Romanians living in the North West. We are grateful to Fr Ciprian Badin for his support of the work against modern slavery and human trafficking. Fr Ciprian recognises the extent of the problem and is committed to increasing awareness amongst his parishioners as well as among other Romanian Orthodox churches in the UK. By the way, we were all delighted with the full Romanian lunch served to the group



before their return journey to the airport.

**The visit was widely reported in Romania and the following translation provides a convenient SUMMARY of the project.**

## **DELEGATION FROM ARAD INVOLVED IN INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**

Pro Friendship Foundation Arad recently participated in an event against human trafficking in the UK. The activity, organised by **Lancaster Constabulary** in partnership with the Preston-based charity **The Friendship Foundation (UK - Romania)**, and supported by **Pro Friendship Foundation Arad**, took place between 14 and 21 October, taking in the European Anti-Trafficking Day of 18 October.

The delegation was made up of multidisciplinary specialists from Romania: Chief Prosecutor of DIICOT (Directorate of Investigation into Organised Crime and Terrorism) for Arad County Codrin Miron; Regional Chief Commissioner of ANITP (National Anti-Human Trafficking Agency) Timișoara, Laurențiu Dincă; President of Pro Friendship Foundation Arad, Florea Romeo Tarcea; Adina Schwartz, director of the justice section of Pro Friendship Foundation Arad; and Associate Professor of the University of the West, Timișoara, Dr. Mihaela Tomița.

The week included a Conference on Modern Slavery with one of the presentations being given by Adina Schwartz, together with a series of working activities aimed at preventing human trafficking, meetings with justice and law enforcement officials and exchanges of experience and know-how between representatives of the two countries.

Members of the Delegation also visited the University of Manchester, the University of Central Lancashire in Preston and Lancaster University. These meetings were aimed at developing international collaboration and multidisciplinary research into human trafficking as well as other crimes in the wider sphere of organized criminality.

At the same time, it was possible for delegates representing the University of the West, Timișoara to promote the University's academic specialism : 'Integrated Protection and Assistance of Victims of Human Trafficking' -

the only postgraduate course in Romania in this field, and attracting the support of the Romanian National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons.

"Working meetings between a Romanian and English prosecutor and police were of particular interest given that, in the North of England, there is a disproportionately large number of Romanians involved in trafficking within organized criminal groups" says Adina Schwartz of the Pro Friendship Foundation Arad's justice section.

The goal now is to continue to explore these new opportunities for collaboration between stakeholders involved in preventing and combating human trafficking and caring for its victims.

*A liberal translation by Brian Gregory, The Friendship Foundation (UK - Romania), of an article appearing in several Romanian media services.*

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## **THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION (UK-Romania)**

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Please Note: In partnership with Pro Prietenia Arad, The Friendship Foundation (UK – Romania) is happy to consider specific requests for assistance in establishing relations between organisations in UK and RO working in the field of modern slavery and human trafficking