



# **Upholding Rights: Early Legal Intervention THE EZINE!**

Ezine #4

Welcome to the latest and final EZINE for the Early Legal Intervention project. Here you can follow the project's progress, check out our activities so far and find out what to expect in the coming months.

Make sure to check our website for more updates!  
[www.earlylegalintervention.eu](http://www.earlylegalintervention.eu)

# What is the Early Legal Intervention Project?



**Upholding Rights! Early Legal Intervention for Victims of Trafficking** aims to establish best practice in securing the protection of victims of trafficking (VoT) through early legal intervention, thus enhancing their social recovery and their role as witnesses. The project builds on the existing international consensus that the fight against trafficking must include a rights-based approach to protection of the victims. The EU has strengthened this position by adopting priorities and objectives that clearly outline the legal rights of VoT, and support the prompt collaboration between the State and civil society in upholding these rights. The ELI Partners are: Immigrant Council of Ireland (Lead Partner), LSA Glasgow, AIRE London, BGRF Bulgaria, KSPSC Lithuania and Centre for Women War Victims, Croatia.

An essential component in securing the human rights and dignity of VoT is the provision of understandable correct information on the legal and administrative options available. The concept of Early Legal Intervention (ELI) incorporates the provision of confidential advocacy at the first encounter between victims and authorities, risk assessment of immediate protection needs, decision on the best/most appropriate route for protection by State, ensuring recovery and reflection (R&R) prior to interviews, assessing criminalisation risks e.g. immigration offences, alternative protection route in case the exploitation is not part of a human trafficking crime, in the full legal term.

## Who are we?



**The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI)** is an organisation where migrant and Irish people work together to provide information, support and legal advice to immigrants and their families. The ICI is very active in lobbying for legislative and policy reforms and has contributed to some very significant reforms, as well as to attitudinal change and improved understanding of issues facing migrants in Ireland.



**Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation** works since its inception in 1998 on research, awareness raising, education, monitoring and proposing legislation and policy in the field of gender equality and protection of women against violence in all its forms – domestic violence, trafficking in women, sexual harassment at the workplace, etc.



**Legal Services Agency (LSA)** is Scotland's largest law centre tackling the unmet legal needs of those in disadvantage. It does so through the provision of legal advice, representation in courts/tribunals, research, publications, seminars and education. LSA undertakes work in protecting the rights of refugee and migrant women and children, preventing homelessness, defended eviction and mortgage repossession, mental health, dementia and social welfare law.



**AIRE Centre, England** is a UK-based charity whose mission is to promote awareness of European law rights and assist marginalised individuals and those in vulnerable circumstances to assert those rights. Our work involves providing advice to individuals and legal advisers with regards to EU free movement law and the application of the European Convention of Human Rights. We also provide training to legal advisers and key stakeholders so as to increase awareness of using European Law to assist marginalised individuals.



**Klaipeda Social and Psychological Services Centre, Lithuania's** vision is to have women, children, and families socially and psychologically safe in a spiritually harmonious society. We work in cooperation with National and international NGO's, along with the Department of Social Support at Klaipeda Municipality.



**Centre for Women War Victims, Croatia** (CWWV) is a non-governmental, feminist organization, founded in 1992 with the aim of supporting women in opposing war violence against women. As one of the oldest women's organizations in Croatia, the work was always devoted to sensitizing the public and promoting women's rights through direct aid to women, sharing knowledge and experience, networking with women's organizations and lobbying to influence state institutions and legislation in favour of women.

## What have we accomplished recently?

### ELI Toolkit Training Sessions, Dublin

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2015, the ICI hosted an ELI Toolkit Training Session in Dublin. The training was combined with the second national advisory committee meeting and took place in the afternoon following the committee meeting. The ELI toolkit training was aimed towards frontline police, members of the Legal Aid Board and Department of Justice. Catherine Cosgrave, Legal Services Manager, presented on the ELI Pilot



Project followed by a discussion with all present at the session. The ELI Training Toolkit itself was presented by Katie Mannion, solicitor at the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

Pictured above from left to right: Patricia Stapleton of Doras Luimni, Detective Inspector Paul Molloy, and Katie Mannion of Immigrant Council of Ireland.

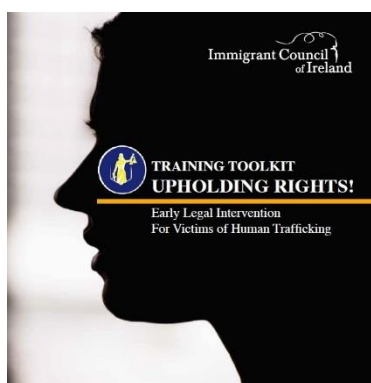
## Dissemination Seminar, Dublin



The Immigrant Council of Ireland held a dissemination seminar in the mansion house in Dublin on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September on the issue of Early Legal Intervention for victims of trafficking. Attendees included members of the Department of Justice and of the Irish police force as well as from the Health Service Executive. Legal practitioners from the legal aid board as well as solicitors and barristers also attended as well as academics and independent researchers.

NGOs such as Women’s Aid, Children’s Rights Alliance and other immigrant support organisations also attended. The ICI had the honour to have the Swedish rapporteur on Human Trafficking Ms Kajsa Wahlberg also attend and she spoke about early legal advice in the context of the assistance given to victims in Sweden after identification. The seminar also focused on the EU Victim’s Rights Directive which must be transposed by November 16<sup>th</sup> as well as the new Sexual Offences Bill due to be published in Ireland.

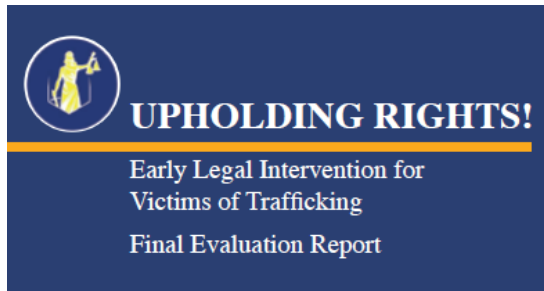
## Published the ELI Training Toolkit



The ELI Training Toolkit has been published and is intended to be used as a guidance for anyone planning to deliver a session of the half-day training course ‘Early Legal Intervention Project: Introduction to Human Trafficking’.

An online version is available on the website [www.earlylegalintervention.eu](http://www.earlylegalintervention.eu).

## Published the Final Independent External Evaluation Report



The Final Evaluation Report has been published for the public and gives a representation of the ELI project for each year. The year one evaluation details the overview of the legislative and policy framework in the five member states, national reports, best practice model of ELI, dissemination of research and best practice model, and the conceptual framework underpinning ELI pilot projects.

The year two evaluation details the piloting of the ELI project by three of the partners; case studies from Bulgaria, Croatia, and Ireland; stages of ELI development; national advisory committees; training toolkit development and project partner experience; and the dissemination of the project.

The final section of the Final Evaluation Report highlights the conclusions and recommendations that have arose from the ELI project.

An online version is available on the website [www.earlylegalintervention.eu](http://www.earlylegalintervention.eu).

## Recent Meetings & Events

### Upholding Rights! ELI International Conference, Dublin



On January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016 the Upholding Rights! ELI International Conference was held in Dublin, successfully hosting more than 120 attendees, including project partners, representatives of the Gardaí and Department of Justice, legal experts, embassy ambassadors, and members of anti-trafficking NGOs. Internationally recognized anti-trafficking advocates presented at the conference, including UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland OBE (pictured above- far left), and Human Rights Barrister and Trafficking in Persons Hero 2015, Parosha Chandran (pictured above- second to the right), Siobhan Mullally of the Council of Europe and UCC, former UN special Advisor Asohe Aghatise.

The Chair of Immigrant Council of Ireland, John Cunningham, stated in the opening of the conference, “As frontline agencies we have come together to achieve our common goal of ensuring that men, women and children trafficked into our communities for the purposes of sexual or labour exploitation are offered protection, support and hope.”

### **Final Partner Meeting, Dublin**



The Immigrant Council of Ireland hosted a partner meeting after the ELI international conference on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, 2016. Updates on trafficking issues in each partner country were discussed during the meeting. Training events and dissemination seminar updates from each of the partners were also presented.

Project management issues were brought to the attention of each partner member, which included financial updates and final reporting obligations (Aoife

McNamara, ICI), communications updates and partner obligations (Jerry O'Connor, ICI), and the timeline for the remainder of the project (Heilean Rosenstock-Armie, ICI).

The final discussion of the partner meeting focused on the planning session for the Brussels Briefing and Training Sessions that took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January.

## Brussels ELI Briefing and Training Session, Belgium



On the 26th of January the ICI hosted a briefing on early legal intervention in the European Parliament in Brussels. It was followed by a training session using the ELI toolkit. Partners attended as well as civil society organisations based in Brussels. Five members of parliament and other parliament staff also attended. It was a great success with positive feedback from attendees. It marked the final dissemination activity of the two year project

**Follow us on our website [www.earlylegalintervention.ie](http://www.earlylegalintervention.ie) for more updates on the project!**

**The Immigrant Council of Ireland**

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