

KAVOD



KAVOD

A holistic approach
to helping victims of
sexual exploitation

2024 Annual Report



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But what has become of you? You are a people robbed and plundered. You are bound in holes in the ground; you have been put in dungeons. You have been plundered and abducted. Nobody helps you, nobody demands your release.

Isaiah 42:22



- 1 *Speaking bluntly*

Sabine Kallauch
Managing Director



At the end of 2006, through this word, God called me to work with people in prostitution.

What a word! Very brutal, very blunt, plain language! This passage from the Bible describes a group of people who have been brutally plundered and robbed of all their belongings. A group who can no longer call anything their own, who have lost everything. It's also somehow reminiscent of war and refugees. But there's more. You've been put in dungeons, you're tied up in holes in the ground. Again, a very brutal description. These people have lost everything and have been abducted and shackled, they are far from their homeland, far from everything familiar to them. The passage ends with a statement that sounds almost desperate and incredulous: **Nobody** helps, nobody demands your release.

How can that be? Where are the people? Why are they doing nothing?

I am convinced that God sees these people in the same way as those depicted in the passage. They have been

robbed and plundered. Robbed of their dignity, their **innocence**, their childhood, their naivety and their home. They have been made invisible before our eyes, hidden in holes in the ground and dungeons. Society and politics do not see them, or do not want to see them. These holes in the ground and dungeons are often disguised, hiding behind a shimmering red façade. These prisons are often invisible, and they are also inner prisons and constraints.

In any case, from that day on I have always known that I must answer the call, go to help and to demand their release.

This annual report is intended to take you right into the work we do in KAVOD, into the struggles and successes we experienced in 2024.



KAVOD is Hebrew and means dignity.

All people are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should treat one another in a spirit of solidarity.

Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

· 2 Our mission

In the world of prostitution, this spirit of solidarity is nowhere to be found. Any woman in that world has been degraded to the status of an object.

An object, which is supposed to serve the satisfaction of another person, who has of course paid money for that purpose. Neither is this solidarity promoted by the law. For example, in Austria, according to labour law, a person who works in prostitution is classified as a ‘newly self-employed person’ – as if that person herself had complete control over every aspect of her working life. This is in complete contradiction to what people in prostitution experience on a daily basis in many different ways. On the other hand, a person who has been forced into prostitution by a pimp has to live with the knowledge that their work is still categorised as completely legal.

And anyway: how could solidarity be found in an environment that is not only exploitative in its basic features, but

also all too often takes place in a criminal environment? Where pimps demand protection money from women who do not even work for them directly, and where the women are repeatedly assaulted by violent customers? Any person in prostitution not only feels the degradation of what they do but has also to put up with the contempt of society, despite all the supposed tolerance.

Giving these people back their dignity is our mission. For this reason, we do not call the people we work with ‘prostitutes’, but ‘people in prostitution’. We see them in the same way, as people, and do not define them by what they do. We don’t look down on these people level and they feel that. It is always our prayer that we can see each person as God sees them. It happens again and again



gegenmenschenhandel.at

lightup-movement.at



that when we meet a woman at the door of some brothel room that what leaps out at us is 'innocence'. We experience this as a phenomenon, in the midst of this darkness and depravity; we recognize the innocence in the eyes of the person we are talking to.

Our approach is a holistic one. Our first question should always be: **What do you want me to do for you?** If it's companionship over a coffee, then we'll have a coffee. If it's going with you to a doctor's appointment, then we'll go with you to the doctor. Whatever the person wants us to do, we do our best to do it.

First and foremost KAVOD offers psychological help free of charge, an offer which many of the brothel operators also approve of. Our main offer, in addition to this social support, is immediate exit assistance.

We have a telephone number that is 24/7 and are able to immediately help any person who calls in. In some cases this means that we involve the police, as they are best


suited to get a person out of a precarious situation, or we ourselves meet the person and give them a temporary space in our small shelter. Then we do whatever needs to be done so that they can be transferred to a long-term shelter in Austria or another European country.

KAVOD is also politically active. We have been an active member of the **Platform Against Exploitation and Human Trafficking** in Austria for 10 years. The preventive side of KAVOD is demonstrated through events, lectures and in cooperation with organisations such as **Lightup**.

KAVOD offers training on many trauma-related topics.

Since 2020, KAVOD has had its own branch in Styria, where we now have a strong team of full-time and volunteer staff. In 2024 we expanded into the province of Burgenland.

Shortly after the Russian invasion, KAVOD also started working in Ukraine.

A close-up, high-resolution photograph of a person's face, focusing on the right eye and the bridge of the nose. The eye is light-colored and looking slightly to the left. The skin is fair and has a natural texture. Dark hair is visible on the left side of the frame.

2.1 Our target group

Our target group is people in prostitution, regardless of their origin, gender or orientation. We work with women, men and transsexuals. Unfortunately, apart from MEN VIA in Austria and one more centre in Hungary, we do not yet have many options for specialized help for men and transsexuals. We hope that we will be able to offer wider-ranging help for this group in the future.

There are certainly also minors involved in the world of prostitution, but they are often hidden away; KAVOD has only dealt with one minor so far.

-3 Our activities

3.1 Outreach work

I, Sabine, have been working with people in prostitution for over 20 years. From 2002 to 2004 I worked with drug-addicted prostitutes in Vienna. For ten years I was the director of the organisation Herzwirk, for people in prostitution, which I co-founded and built up. After that, I continued to work on the streets and with individuals who had dropped out, and in 2019 we founded the organisation KAVOD, holistic help for people affected by sexual exploitation.

Outreach work is just what it says: we go out and find people. In other words, we go to the places where our target group is. In Vienna, that's street prostitution and everything that goes with it: brothels, walk-ups, studios and nightclubs. We do the same throughout Styria and Burgenland. We hand out our business card with three telephone numbers where they can speak to a

German, English, Romanian or Hungarian-speaking member of staff. Sabine's number is a 24/7 number.

When we enter these houses, we first introduce ourselves to the operators and explain that we are a women's organisation and primarily offer psychological help. We ask if we can distribute condoms and then we go to the people who work in the establishment. We distribute our



Giving these people back their dignity is our mission.

detailed exit programme in Hungarian and Romanian. We usually only have short conversations but telephone numbers are often swapped, enabling us to contact the women again afterwards. Some accept invitations for a coffee outside the brothel, others contact us for help they require. We also offer help if the person has problems with their family in their country of origin. As we are well-networked throughout Europe, we can make enquiries with colleagues in that locality who always provide whatever assistance they can.



3.2 Counselling

As mentioned above, women come to us with a wide variety of needs. The full-time staff either visit the women where they live – which can sometimes be in the brothel – or they meet in a café. In Graz, once a week we have the use of Das Kircheneck in Herrengasse both as an office and as a meeting place, which is a tremendous help. Women often want company when they have to go to the doctor, and colleagues who speak the same language are a great help. Some women may have to pay fines for illegal prostitution and they need our help to arrange instalments. For some, it's just good to meet up and chat. To our great delight, women who want to get out also come forward. In Styria there have been eleven women in recent years, in Vienna only two. Interestingly, calls to our 24/7 number are generally made on Saturdays, Sundays, or late in the evening, at times when no normal office is open.



197

counseling
sessions took place



129

visits to brothels in Vienna,
Styria and Burgenland



2157

encounters with people
in prostitution

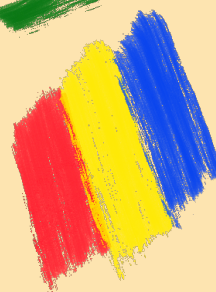
2217 km

were covered during
an 8-day mission in Styria



50,63 %

of people in prostitution
came from Romania



28,65 %

of people in prostitution
came from Hungary



< 4 %

of people in prostitution
came from Austria



3.3 Numbers

An emphasis on numbers is not really appropriate in an organization working with people. In the numbers assembled here, we are not trying to demonstrate how successful we have been, but to provide an insight into some of the things we did in 2024.

· 4 Training courses

In 2024, we had the idea of offering trauma training online. We held these sessions twice and invited colleagues from other Organizations in Austria and Germany. Feedback was positive, we are considering repeating these sessions in 2025.

In March, Lightup invited Sabine to speak about the system of prostitution. This training always ends with a constellation of a prostitute and her environment. This exercise goes into great depth and gives the participants a good insight into the life of a person in prostitution.

Two training sessions took place in April. The first was for a group of employees from the Salvation Army's Haus Erna in Vienna. It dealt with trauma, secondary trauma, practical steps out of trauma, and conducting conversations.

The second took place in Romania with the organization Asociata Free, which works with women in prostitution and runs a women's shelter. The topics were the system of prostitution, training for street work, dysfunctional families, traumatised children, conducting conversations, blessing prayer, and steps out of trauma.

In October at a retreat for women leaders in Ukraine, Sabine held training sessions on trauma, secondary trauma, dysfunctional families, and blessing prayer.

· 5 *Ukraine*





In 2024, we were in Ukraine three times, in February, May and November. There we also work holistically. Andreas preaches, Sabine gives talks on trauma, and we provide humanitarian aid. This year, with the support of the organisation 'Help That Arrives', we were able to finance two children's camps and a retreat for women leaders from Kyiv.

· 6 Continuing training

We have known from the very start that our work in this environment demands professionalism. The demands of our clients are very high and can require both immediate or longer-term solutions.

We are constantly confronted with sensitive issues; our clients are highly traumatised and this also has an effect on our staff.

Care for volunteers, the people who carry out so much of what we do, is part of this professionalism. This care takes various forms: mandatory training courses, or when necessary encouragement to seek support through therapy. After every assignment we reflect on it in open, transparent dialogue that makes it possible to talk through whatever was difficult.

Full-time employees, too, regularly undergo supervision, as well as taking part in continuing training and education programmes. In the last few years, Sabine has qualified as a life and social counsellor, and completed a trauma pedagogy/trauma counselling course. Additionally she qualified this year as a coach in logotherapy. In 2024 two full-time employees began training as trauma counsellors and trauma educators.

No KAVOD co-workers should end up in burnout and this professional approach is one means to prevent that.

7 Networking



europeanfreedomnetwork.org

renate-europe.net



ggmh.de

Networking is an essential part of our work. Through exchange of best practices and resources, it makes possible the continuing improvement of the help we offer our clients. It also makes it easier to keep in touch with clients, as often the women are transferred to different countries.

Some organisations with whom we are networked:

EFN

We have been members of the EFN network since 2011. EFN is a Christian community committed to combating human trafficking and commercial exploitation in Europe. It works together with strategic interest groups to provide redress for victims.

Renate Network

KAVOD has been a member of the Renate Network since 2023. It was founded by members of religious orders and represents different congregations working against human trafficking in Europe.

Gemeinsam gegen Menschenhandel

In 2024, KAVOD became a member of Gemeinsam gegen Menschenhandel ('Together Against Human Trafficking'). In their mission statement they say:

We campaign in Germany for an end to human trafficking, especially in sexual exploitation, and for the interests of those affected by human trafficking and prostitution.

This organisation does indispensable work, especially in their direct contact with victims. Networking with them enables us to place women in German shelters. It also allows us greater flexibility in responding to individual needs. For example, in 2024 it was possible to relocate a woman who was psychologically and mentally unable to learn German back to Hungary, her country of origin.

- 8 Co-workers: Volunteers and staff

Here are the voices of some of our co-workers. They explain: 'Why I work with KAVOD.'

My name is Emma and I am part of Kavod. My motivation for working with Kavod is to give a voice to those whose voices have been silenced, to stand up for the rights of these women whose rights and dignity have been stolen. And to give them hope where they see no way out by showing them the love of Jesus.



Emma

At the KAVOD information evening in Graz, God opened my heart to people in need who need Him and who do not yet know Him. I want to be His light in the darkness and bring it where no one else goes. I want to show women that they are valuable and loved and not forgotten. I want to fight for their freedom in prayer. They are God's precious treasures and the enemy is holding them captive. That is not okay. Someone has to stand up for them and demand their freedom. And I love Jesus with all my heart and I believe He wants me to be involved with Kavod and minister to women in His name.



Daniela

God has simply placed these women in my heart. I have anger in me, knowing what they have to endure and bear every day. I feel God's closeness and love when I see them during the missions. My voluntary work is incredibly fulfilling. These women are the treasures in the darkness for me.



Evi



Semida

My name is Semida and I am with Kavod because I love these women who are so precious in the eyes of Jesus and I want with all my heart for each of them to know Jesus, the divine love, the truth that liberates ... and to know that we are there for them.



Dani

In 2022, when I was in the church, I had an impression: Dani, you should get involved in 2 things, the first is Kavod and the second, you can choose for yourself. Then Sabine asked me and in the end I went along, although I had no exact idea and was a bit afraid of what was to come. Now I am happy and grateful to be part of it, it is so blessed and wonderful to be travelling with you! Thank you so much!



Katja

As with athletes, preparation and training are also needed for working with KAVOD, not just passion. This requires team-building, training, prayer, further education, books, posts, articles, sharing, reflection and also movies that address this environment. And then we go out...into a completely different, totally lonely, perverted, desolate world...and yet: I need God's grace just as much as every woman I visit. And I love THAT: it keeps me grateful and humble at the same time. Also, one of my life mottos is a quote from Bill Wilson: 'The call is where the need is!'



Raluca

Because I have had a pretty hard life as a woman in Romania and God brought me out of it. I empathise with women who are badly treated and I want to be ready if God wants to touch such a woman through me.

9 Financial review 2024

Income

121 750.00 €

I. General	80 500.00 €
II. Ukraine	40 500.00 €
III. Other income / membership fees	750.00 €

Expenses

123,000.00 €

I. Outreach work / street work	6,200.00 €
II. Ukraine	34 200.00 €
III. Personnel	63 350.00 €
IV. Administrative expenses and media	4,600.00 €
V. Staff / development	6 350.00 €
VI. Car expenses	7,800.00 €
VII. Membership fees and charges	500.00 €
VIII. Shortfall	-1 250.00 €

- 10 *Getting involved*

Donation
informations
on back cover



KAVOD is entirely dependent on donations. Despite shortages, we have always managed to pay the running costs – miraculously.

- We are grateful for individual donations and, above all, for regular donations. Since 2024, we have favoured donation status in Austria, i.e. donations are tax deductible. In Germany, the Jewels association manages our donations and issues donation receipts.
- You can get involved through practical help. We regularly need help with the preparation of the trips to Ukraine.
- You can also get involved in the Buddy system we have developed. Buddies are people who offer support in everyday matters to women who have left prostitution. This often means simply spending time with a person. When someone leaves prostitution, she has to leave her previous environment, including her circle of friends. A Buddy can help her replace these old friends with new ones. Of course, we offer these Buddies training and support.
- Administration is another area where we could use support. Website maintenance takes time and – above all – new ideas, which we would welcome!

**If you are interested in any of the above,
please contact us at kavod.office@gmail.com**

- 11 Closing words

**Sabine & Andreas
Kallauch**



What remains to be said in conclusion?

In February 2024, the shocking murder of three Chinese women took place in a studio in Vienna. It was reported sensationally and extensively in the media, and the perpetrator was arrested. But nothing really changed. A short time later, the same studio reopened for business.

The women we work with are confronted with so much callousness and brutality. So often their boundaries are crossed and they endure so much suffering. And then we come in with our exit programme. We can help and find solutions to many problems.

But so few accept this offer. We struggle to accept this. In June 2024, I submitted my diploma thesis for the course in Logotherapeutic Coaching. Its title was: 'When meaning is destroyed – the helper syndrome in prostitution.' In it, I wrote about how women sacrifice themselves and work for a 'higher purpose' in prostitution. This higher purpose is providing for their children, their families

or even their loverboy. This is what helps them endure everything they go through. They compartmentalise, bear the unbearable, focusing on the money they are earning for their families.

This is often very frustrating for us, the helpers. We make an effort, invest time and energy, work out ways to help a person exit, – and then that person backs out, often unexpectedly. It makes you question a lot of things.

What should we do? Certainly not give up! We will continue to go out and spend time with people, trying to show them hope and a new perspective.

Thank you for your interest.

Sabine & Andreas



more
PRECIOUS than
JEWELS



If your donations are intended for Ukraine
please add a **note**: Ukraine

In Germany all donations are
processed through the Jewel
association from whom donation
receipts can be obtained.

Account holder: Projekt Jewel e.V.

IBAN: DE70 2075 0000 0090 6790 85

BIC: NOLADE21HAM

NOTE: Kavod

Personal donations for us:

Account holder: KAVOD

IBAN: AT77 2022 7004 0001 0872

BIC: SSKOAT21XXX



Editors

Andreas and Sabine Kallauch,
David Steele

**Graphics
Photos**

Miriam Ilie
Andreas and Sabine Kallauch

Phone

E-Mail

Web

Instagram

0043/67689692202, Sabine
kavod.office@gmail.com
kavod-ministries.org/
kavod_ministries