**Sophia (17 years\*)
forced prostitution – Rescue July 2021 – Care at Preda completed
*\*Age at time of rescue***

Sophia is 17 years old and a victim of sexual violence and human trafficking. She was rescued from the hands of a trafficker in a hotel. Sophia was one of two children, but her mother died when she was three, and her father remarried. When her father had children with his new wife, Sophia felt unwanted and unloved, so she was sent to live with her grandmother.

Despite everything, she continued going to school and was a good student, though she missed the love and protection of a father or mother. Eventually, she dropped out of school, seeing no hope for a better future. When her grandmother passed away, Sophia was devastated. Her uncle, like her father, was unwilling to take her in, so she moved in with friends.

The teenagers began drinking, gambling, and engaging in risky behavior. Sophia helped out at the market to earn money so she could move in with her boyfriend. One day, her friends introduced her to a trafficker who manipulated her into prostitution, even though she was only 16 years old at the time. She was convinced that there was nothing wrong with being in prostitution as a minor.

One day, the trafficker invited her to a sex party at a hotel. She went there with a few other children, and when the party organizer offered money for the girls' services and the trafficker accepted, it turned out to be a police sting operation.

During the rescue, the trafficker was arrested, and Sophia and the other children were saved and brought to the PREDA girls' shelter. At the shelter, Sophia can study, attend emotional release therapy, heal, and prepare for a new, independent, and empowered life. She is doing this with the support of Space Lama e.V. and the PREDA Foundation

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