

Belgrade, Serbia  
1<sup>st</sup> August 2022

## To whom it may concern

Dear Madam/Sir

NGO ASTRA – Anti Trafficking Action have had the pleasure of cooperating with NGO Center for girls-Nis for over a two decade. Center for girls has been an active member of ASTRA Network (later named Anti Trafficking Network – AT Network) since 2002 and implemented many important activities in the area of prevention and education on the problem of the human trafficking.

NGO Center for girls significantly contributed to strenght of the Network with their vast experience in combating violence against women, but also with very active approach and personal commitment.

Center for girls has addressed the issue of violence on women and trafficking in women in an appropriate way and managed to fulfil stated objectives to good extend. Center for girls approaches work responsibly, with a great sense of understanding the problem of violence but also behaviour patterns of young people they have been working with. They have also consistently demonstrated an ability to rise to any challenge that they have faced with great aptitude to ask questions and seek answers. Their actions have a considerable impact and are well administrated.

NGO Center for girls works successfully, profesionally and with lot of enthusiasm on countering the problem. We recognise NGO Center for girls as a reliable and skilled partner. They are organization with considerable capacities, well established team and self critical perception. We believe that Center for girls should be supported and empowered to stay independent and to objectively and critically observe the situation as an important and professional organization who can contribute much to eradication of different forms of violence and general changes of our society.

On behalf of Astra – Anti Trafficking Action

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To Whom It May Concern

Belgrade, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION FOR CENTER FOR GIRLS NIŠ

Center for girls was established in 1998, becoming a unique feminist organization in the City of Nis. Throughout decades of work, they have tackled the issues of violence against girls, prevention of human trafficking and women's health and sexuality.

Organisation Center for girls has been providing service of SOS hotline and meeting place for girls and women experiencing any form of violence, establishing itself as a reliable and safe space. They have been actively working on promotion of feminism and female solidarity by organising Artfemine regional festival, as well as feminist art colony. Center for girls has managed to familiarize and alert the wider public about pressing issues women are facing through feminist-activist theatre and street actions.

They have initiated cooperation with key stakeholders and institutions, enabling a comprehensive approach to identified issues. A special segment of Center for girls' work is dedicated to women's health that is promoted by the annual marking of Women's Health Month.

Undoubtedly the most significant part of the Center for girls' work are workshops organized for high school and faculty female students on different topics including gender-based violence, sexuality and reproductive health. By establishing cooperation with schools and enabling knowledge transfer to peer educators, they were able to directly work with girls at the most fragile age, equipping them with skills and information. Moreover, by sustaining continuity in workshops they are communicating with each new generation. Next to the feminist principles, Center for girls also applies Children Safeguarding Policy in their work.

Trag foundation has been cooperating with Center for girls since 2015 through Program "Issues Affecting Women", supported by the OAK Foundation, by providing support to organizational development and efforts to improve the position of women and create regional initiatives and spaces for knowledge production and dissemination.

Based on our long-term cooperation, we find Center for girls highly competent for conducting self-defence workshops with young women and girls. Having in mind previous work of the organization, we are confident that this type of workshop is recognized as beneficial through previous direct work with girls and young women, and it will be carried out successfully.

Best regards,

Natalija Simović

Grantmaking Program Director



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