

Romania – contextual human rights issues



The purpose of this summary is to provide a high-level overview of documented human rights issues in a particular country and how they could intersect with TV production. It aims to prompt further consideration and planning by production teams where appropriate. Not all issues will be relevant for all TV productions and, conversely, there may be aspects not yet covered that are relevant.

Human rights issue	Description of context	How this could intersect with TV production	Suggested mitigations	Resources
Systemic discrimination against LGBTI people	Same-sex marriage and partnership remained unrecognized. Romania continued to fail to comply with the 2018 European Court of Justice decision on the need to harmonize national legislation to guarantee freedom of movement and residence for same-sex couples. NGOs expressed strong objections to three anti-LGBTI legislative proposals claiming to “promote and protect” children’s rights. (Amnesty)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew and talent may experience or witness homophobia • Local LGBTI crew may be hiding their identities or living in fear • Local crew may exhibit homophobia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive security practices • Establish culture where everyone can raise concerns • Wellbeing and support resources 	Aide Memoire for Inclusive Personal Safety on Location Inclusive security risk management Toolkit: Getting the culture right
High rates of sexual and gender-based violence	The number of reported incidents of violence against women, including femicides, remained high.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Female crew may be at risk of gender-based violence • Local female crew may have experienced or be experiencing GBV outside the production 		
Discrimination - Roma	Romanian Roma continued to face widespread poverty, social exclusion and discrimination, including in education, health, housing and employment (Amnesty)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew may witness discrimination towards Roma • Local crew may be Roma • Local crew may exhibit discrimination towards Roma 		
Corruption	Government corruption in law enforcement and judiciary, including persistent, low-level official complicity in trafficking crimes (US TiP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care should be taken in reporting trafficking issues to the authorities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advance engagement with local NGOs or trade unions • Response plan in place 	Modern Slavery Map of NGOs

Sex trafficking	Sex trafficking of adults and children within and from Romania is an ongoing issue. Vulnerable groups include children in or aging out of government-run institutions, children whose parents travel abroad for work, members of the Roma community, women with little education and income, migrants, and asylum-seekers. (US TiP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew may encounter sex trafficked victims (e.g. within hotels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief crew in advance on potential issues and steps to take 	Toolkit: Responding to and remedying issues identified
Child labour	Child labour abuse continues to be underreported, with children as young as five exploited in child labour. Media reports continue to reference cases of seasonally employed children in the hospitality industry along the Black Sea coast (US TiP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be child labour in hotels used by the production 		ILO-IOE Child labour guidance tool for business
Forced labour	Romanian adults and children forced to work in agriculture, construction, hotels, manufacturing and domestic service, as well as forced begging and theft... Migrants from Africa, Europe and South and Southeast Asia are exploited in the construction, hotel and food-processing industries (US TiP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers of ancillary services (e.g. hospitality, cleaning, security) could be employing trafficked workers • Productions may also encounter such workers in hotels and venues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due diligence on suppliers of ancillary services • Direct engagement with and checks on ancillary workers during production • Due diligence on hotels in advance • Response plan should (potential) victims be encountered 	Production pack: protecting the most vulnerable workers Toolkit: Vetting suppliers appropriately Toolkit: Supporting ancillary workers directly Toolkit: Category Management Due Diligence HRDD Displaced Workers Guidance
Refugees and migrants	Refugees fleeing Ukraine are highly vulnerable to trafficking... Migrants from East Asia, who work in the construction and hospitality industries, are at a particular risk of trafficking due to the lack of access to information in their native language and deceptive practices by employers. (US TiP)			

Have further insights? Please share suggested issues, intersections with TV, mitigations and resources with amelia.knott@tvhumanrights.org.