



Her Equality Rights and Autonomy

HERA Briefing Note

HERA (Her Equality Rights and Autonomy) mobilises business and academic expertise, creativity, and resources to **prevent and redress the £115 billion/annum business of human trafficking and re-trafficking**. HERA helps women survivors of trafficking, conflict, and other forms of violence and young women vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation pursue their aspirations and ambitions for a better life.

Since 2005, HERA has trained over 900 women in entrepreneurship and/or mentoring in eight countries to prevent trafficking and re-trafficking. Since 2008, HERA has delivered an intensive three-week summer entrepreneurship training at **Imperial College** in London. Faculty, students, and companies volunteer time and expertise for this training. HERA also trains business volunteers to coach and mentor the women, who successfully defend a business or career plan by the end of the training. Throughout the year, HERA organises monthly evening and weekend seminars and events for the women, their mentors, and MBA students.

HERA teams, with leading universities, business professors, foundations and local NGOs, delivered entrepreneurship training and/or seminars for women survivors or at risk of trafficking in Belgrade (2005-6), Boston (2008), Cahul (2016-17), Kiev (2017-18), London (2008-18), Paris (2014-17), Seattle (2015), Tbilisi (2010), and Yerevan (2010, 2016-18). In 2018, HERA and Restore NYC, a major American counter trafficking charity, formed a partnership to organise entrepreneurship training and mentoring for women in NYC.

With significant in-kind and financial support from companies, universities, trusts, and international financial institutions and partner charities, HERA is remarkably cost effective. Our cutting edge, entrepreneurship training, career seminars and mentoring cost £1,070/woman. That amount includes materials, transport, food, childcare costs and some lodging for women to attend the summer programme.

Following the training and mentoring, 85% of UK women survivors report positive outcomes including: finding work, piloting a venture or self-employment, being admitted into higher education and training, and/or advancing their careers through apprenticeships and internships. Over 75% of mentoring relationships complete the year cycle and 33% continue for a second year or more.



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HERA also awards grants to women's ventures in five Eastern European countries to prevent trafficking. To date, HERA has awarded 254 grants at an average cost of £543 for women to purchase essential capital equipment for their ventures. Of 81% of the ventures funded through 2017 and evaluated, 94% are sustaining or growing their ventures and creating at least 463 new jobs.

HERA's operating costs are £74,000 per annum (2017). HERA is a leading model of social entrepreneurship for preventing trafficking and re-trafficking.