FACTS & FIGURES

- Human Development Index: 52 of 189 (UNDP 2018)
- Gender Inequality Index Rank: 68 of 160 (UNDP 2018)
- Global Gender Gap Index: 63 of 149 (WEF 2018)
- Literacy Rate: Female: 98.21%, Male: 99.03%
- Has experienced sexual and/or physical intimate partner violence: 24% of women
- Physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in the last 12 months: 6% of women
- Lifetime non-partner sexual violence: 2% of women
- Gross national income per capita: USD 17,433

COUNTRY CONTEXT

Romania is located in Eastern Europe, bordering the Black Sea. It was previously a communist country and now ranks 59 of 167 countries on the Democracy Index.

Employment:
- At 7%, its unemployment rate is among the lowest in the EU.
- In Romania there is a relatively large gap (est. 20%) between the legal minimum wage and the estimated living wage.

Textile industry:
- The textile industry holds a significant share in the export economy of Romania, contributing to a positive balance of foreign trade. It is concentrated in four main regions: the northwest, northeast, centre, and Bucharest.
- The clothing sub-sector is the largest manufacturing employer in the country, and employs mostly women.
- According to the Romanian National Institute for Statistics, there were 47,702 men and 207,887 women working in the sub-sectors of the garment industry at the end of 2013.
- Most people employed in the garment sector are between 25-54 years of age and it is a sector where many migrants find opportunities for work.

Gender inequality:
- In 2013, Romanian women earned an average RON 176 (Romanian Leu) less than men, making women’s average gross monthly earnings a total of RON 2,070, against men’s RON 2,246, and a net average monthly earning of RON 1,509, compared to 1,640 RON for men.
- Men had higher net monthly earnings than women in most economic activities, the biggest differences being found in financial intermediation and insurance where the difference almost reached 40%, and manufacturing, where the difference was close to 30%.

Gender-based violence:
- Gender-based violence issues in Romania are primarily related to domestic violence and human trafficking.
- In 2017, the European Court of Human Rights expressed concerns regarding the response of Romania to domestic violence cases.
  - Official statistics suggest most Romanians think domestic violence is normal, with 60% of Romanians seeing it as justified, in certain circumstances.
  - Such attitudes, which were even more deeply entrenched during the period of communist rule, are slowly beginning to shift and the government has adopted new laws to combat such abuse.
- Only 50% of the Romania population say they trust the police. The European Institute for Gender Equality say that when people trust the justice institutions, disclosure of domestic violence incidences are higher.
  - They estimate that 30% of Romanians have experienced domestic violence, which is in line with Europe overall.
  - Additionally, 32% of women are estimated to have experienced sexual harassment.

Health:
- Romania has the highest maternal mortality rate in Europe, and many women in Romania become mothers before the age of 19, including over 600 girls under the age of 15 becoming pregnant in 2016.
Human rights and Roma population:
- Human rights issues in Romania include discrimination and concerns about the independence of the judicial system.
- The most discriminated social groups include: Roma people, people with physical or mental disabilities, those with HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ community, the homeless, orphans and drug addicts.
- In 2011, 33.6% of the Roma population was classified as poor. This is an absolute poverty rate 6.7 times higher than the national average. Roma people represent only 3.3% of the population of Romania, but 21.9% of the poor. Poverty rates are significantly higher among Roma children.
- Only 17% of the Roma attend a vocational school, a high school or higher levels of education.
- The 2013 report of the National Council for Combating Discrimination (NCCD) disclosed that the number of claims of discrimination has grown since 2010, from 478 claims to 858 in 2013.

LEGAL CONTEXT

National Legislation:
- The Constitution provides for protections for violence against women and girls.
- Additionally Law No.211/2004 protects victims from sexual violence, Law No.217/2003 covers domestic violence and intimate partner violence. The Romanian law on the prevention and fight against domestic violence was revised in 2012, expanding the definition of violence as well as the rights of victims.
- According to Government Ordinance 137/2000 republished in 2014 concerning preventing and sanctioning all discrimination forms, without any discrimination, each person who performs work must benefit from good working conditions, social protection, health and safety at work, with respect for their dignity and personal beliefs.
- Sexual harassment at work is a form of discrimination (Law 324/2006 Anti-discrimination Law, Article 2(5)) and is also defined in the Criminal Code, punishable by prison from 3 months to 2 years or fine.
- Romania’s maternity leave is established in the Labour Code.
- Law no. 272/ 2004 provides for the protection and promotion of children’s rights, amended in 2014, including the right to education.
- The working age is set at 16 according to the Labour Code. An individual as young as 15 may enter into a labour contract, provided there is explicit parental or legal guardian consent, and only for activities suited to the physical ability, skills, and knowledge of that person.

International Legislation:
- Romania has signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination for of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Romania signed the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women domestic violence. The Convention was ratified in Romania in May 2016.
- Because Romania has been a member of the European Union (EU) since 2007, the country’s labour legislation meets all EU laws and labour standards. The country has also ratified all International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions referred to in Fair Wear Foundation’s Code of Labour Practices except for Conventions 26 and 155.

SOURCES:
BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-40010890