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With this quarterly newsletter, La Strada International wants to inform and update about developments in the field of trafficking in human beings and the activities of La Strada International and the La Strada member organisations. We welcome reactions and contributions. Please [mail us](mailto:info@lastradainternational.org) by 1 March 2010 if you have news, information about your organisation, a new report or documentary or an outspoken opinion on (inter)national developments.

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## La Strada News !

### LSI NGO platform '20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, where do we stand?'

On 9 and 10 November this year, the 4<sup>th</sup> LSI NGO platform on trafficking in human beings took place in Berlin, Germany, entitled "20 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, where do we stand?"

The platform, attended by approximately 60 La Strada and other NGO representatives working on the issue of trafficking in human beings, started off with an illustrated introduction of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Together with the participants, Petra Bläss, former vice president of the German Bundestag and coordinator for the Balkan Stability Pact for Parliamentary Cooperation in South Eastern Europe, and Nivedita (Nita) Prasad, of the German hosting organisation Ban Ying, reflected on the developments since the fall of the wall. Changes in post-socialist countries, and Europe in general, were discussed against the backdrop of the protection of migrants' rights. The remainder of the two days was dedicated to specific standards for the work and services of NGOs. Plenary and workshop sessions dealt with standards relating to prevention, stereotyping (which images to use), shelter and safety rules, the establishment of NRMs (national referral mechanisms), external cooperation with partners, data collection and protection, transparency and democracy. The platform also provided room for more informal bi-lateral meetings between NGOs and for the presentation of new projects and ideas in a special, open space session. The results of the meeting will be used by La Strada International to further develop its internal standards. A standards booklet will be published in 2010. Furthermore, LSI will collect stories and dilemmas faced by NGOs working in the anti-trafficking field. Contributions are still welcome and can be sent to [info@lastradainternational.org](mailto:info@lastradainternational.org)

## Staff changes at La Strada International

After almost four years, Katrin McGauran (Germany/UK) has left La Strada International to work for the Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), a Dutch non-profit research and advisory organisation based in Amsterdam. At LSI Katrin McGauran was responsible for website and text editing, including this newsletter, as well as the financial administration. LSI wishes her good luck in her new job and thanks her for the invaluable contribution to the work of LSI. Part of her work will be taken over by Marie Kjaer Hoier, who is doing a Master's in 'Gender, sexuality and society' at the University of Amsterdam (UVA). Marie Hoier, who started at LSI as an intern, is employed for one day a week as from 1 December 2009. LSI is also happy to welcome Annette van Noort as a fundraiser. Annette has a background in communication, marketing and fundraising. Furthermore, as of January 2010, Wiesje Zikkenheiner will join the La Strada team, as a programme manager for the COMP.ACT programme. Wiesje holds an MA in International Humanitarian Assistance as well as in Law, with a specialisation in international law and human rights. From 2006 until 2008, Wiesje worked as Project Manager at UNODC, at the Regional Office for South Africa.



## LSI – annual report 2008 available

The [LSI annual report 2008](#) was recently published, and describes the trends identified in the anti-trafficking field and related political, social and economic issues encountered in the nine La Strada countries in the year 2008. The main bottlenecks identified in anti-trafficking work are also outlined. The report further highlights the actions taken by LSI and the member organisations in the field of lobby and advocacy, media and awareness raising work, prevention and direct support to trafficked persons. In 2008, a total of 1,600 workshops and lectures were given to a total of 39,981 participants. Further 1,098 new trafficked persons were registered that received direct social support, next to 461 old clients. Additionally over 3,000 trafficked persons were counselled through La Strada hotlines or by email in 2008, while almost 12,000 calls were received via the La Strada hotlines and over 800 requests were made by email or via the Internet. The annual report includes a summary on the main results and conclusions of the work of LSI in 2008.

Should you wish to receive a hard copy of the report, please contact [La Strada International](#)

## European NGO Observatory and reporting mechanism on human trafficking

La Strada International is a partner in E-Notes, the European NGO Observatory on Trafficking, Exploitation and Slavery, a one year EU-funded project run by the Italian NGO 'On the Road'. Other project partners are ACCEM in Spain and ALC/SPRS in France. Mike Dottridge, author of the Assessment Manual to measure responses to trafficking in human beings in the European Union, is assigned as consultant to provide advice and consultation to the team. The project aims at establishing a Europe-wide permanent monitoring (Observatory) and reporting mechanism by the NGO community in the 27 EU member states, on measures against trafficking, exploitation and slavery in Europe. This civil society mechanism should enhance and support public institutions' policy in the field of protection and assistance of trafficked persons. A mapping of the laws and measures in EU countries on protection of the rights of trafficked persons, and the actual implementation and impact of those measures, will be provided by NGOs in those countries. The final NGO assessment report on the anti-trafficking situation in the European Union member states is expected to be published in October 2010.

## La Strada actions around anti-trafficking day



In connection with the European anti-trafficking day on 18 October, 2009, La Strada Moldova has joined forces with the state-owned postal service "Posta Moldovei" to produce a stamped envelope raising awareness on the issue of trafficking in human beings. The designs refer to the traffickers' global networks and the dangers they pose to people. One shows a tear-stained eye behind, while the other depicts people caught in a web. The images are accompanied by the text '18 October – European Anti-Trafficking Day'.

Ana Revenco, president of La Strada Moldova, is pleased with the collaborative work and joint effort. "The stamp and envelope", she stated at the launch, "is a unique project which has the potential to create more awareness for human trafficking". The special first edition, consisting of 50,000 copies, was presented on 18 October 2009 in the Moldovan capital, Chisinau.

On the occasion of the European Anti-Trafficking Day, La Strada Moldova has further addressed the Moldovan government with an open letter containing a number of recommendations to streamline the national anti-trafficking strategy; more information is available [here](#).



Other La Strada member organisations also organised special events and awareness-raising campaigns around the European anti-trafficking day. La Strada Netherlands (CoMensha) started an e-card campaign with the text, 'think about exploitation'. The E-cards can be downloaded from the [CoMensha](#) website.

### La Strada Belarus submits information for UN Human Rights Council Periodic Review

YWCA/La Strada Belarus will submit information on the Belarusian situation on trafficking in human beings for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) undertaken by the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). This review is one of the best advocacy tools that can be used by NGOs in order to critically assess and analyse the national situation and to push for recommendations to national governments and the UNHRC.

The UPR process has a 4-year cycle. For more information or an English copy of the review, please contact [La Strada Belarus](#).

### La Strada Bulgaria wins Bremen Peace award



La Strada Bulgaria (Animus Association) has been awarded the Bremen Peace Award of the Threshold Foundation in the category of "Exemplary Organisations" due to "their commitment in supporting women who became victims of trafficking and forced prostitution in Western European countries". At the ceremony, it was stated that "the workers of Animus are courageously, and unpretentiously, fighting for the rights of these victims and are persistently working towards a change in Bulgarian society, which is still strongly dominated by patriarchal relations and perceptions." The international Bremen Peace Prize is endowed with 15,000 EUR and has been awarded by the Threshold Foundation every two years since 2003. It is divided into three categories: Unknown Peace

Worker, Exemplary Organisation and Public Engagement. Alongside Animus Association, prizes were given to the Pulse foundation in Bulgaria, as well as to two individuals in Australia and South Africa, for their human rights work.

### International training for tourism and hotel business in Ukraine

Between 9 and 11 November 2009, La Strada Ukraine organised an international training "Ethical Code for the tourism and hotel business in Ukraine". The training focused on the prevention of sex tourism as one of the forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children. Experts from Germany, Russia, and Great Britain shared their experiences on the implementation of the Ethical Code in their respective countries. Representatives of several Ukrainian ministries, child rights' organisations, other NGOs, the tourist industry, as well as those of international airlines, participated in the training.



### La Strada Ukraine launches new hotline on child pornography

On 19 November 2009, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, [an Electronic Hotline on the Prevention of Child Pornography via Internet](#), created by La Strada Ukraine, came into operation. The hotline is a website through which internet users, anonymously if so desired, can pass on information about cases of child pornography on the internet. Twice a week, an expert from La Strada Ukraine will check the received information and take further action where needed. If requested, reporters of child pornography cases will get a reply or more information on the further work of the hotline experts. For more information contact [La Strada Ukraine](#).

## Polish-Ukrainian simulation trial on forced labour



In early December, La Strada Poland and La Strada Ukraine organised a seminar devoted to the project “Simulation of a court trial”. The project was financed by the Polish Ministry of Interior, while being implemented and organised by La Strada Poland. The 3-day seminar brought together more than 25 representatives of the law enforcement, the judiciary and NGOs from Poland and the western part of Ukraine. The first day was dedicated to the explanation of the legal framework and legal conditions, both in Poland and in Ukraine. On the second day, a trial was performed in a real court room, and led by two judges, one from Ukraine and one from Poland. During the third day, analyses of the court process and of the legal, procedural

and psychological aspects were made. For more information contact [La Strada Poland](#).

## Notification versus identification – new Czech criminal code

A new Czech criminal code, the notification duty, will be instigated on 1 January 2010. The new law implies that the police must be informed immediately if a person is identified as trafficked. This legislation does not respect the right to a reflection period and it is in discordance with the Council Directive on residence permit (2004/81/EC) and also with the Czech Ministry of Interior Programme of Prevention and Support to the Victims of Trafficking. Moreover, it is doubtful if the notification duty will be a potent tool in the combat against human trafficking: “When social workers are obliged to notify the police immediately when they hear of persons being trafficked, their clients will hesitate to ask for support. It is also against the principle of confidentiality”, says Irena Konecna, director of La Strada Czech Republic.

## La Strada Moldova publishes 5<sup>th</sup> La Strada Express

La Strada Moldova recently published the fifth issue of the “La Strada Express” which is dedicated to the issue of accreditation of social service providers and regulation of activities in the social sphere. In this edition, special emphasis is put on identifying the relation between accreditation and the licensing of certain types of activity, as well as on standardisation and assessment of services, next to training and capacity building of staff. Reference is made to relevant EU documents and literature related to accreditation of products and services. The authors hope that the publication will contribute to the building of effective mechanisms of accreditation. For more information, contact [La Strada Moldova](#).

## What's going on ?

### NGOs discuss human trafficking approach with new members of EU parliament



On 6 October 2009, during the Civil Society Fair at the European Parliament (EP), the working group on human trafficking of the HRDN (Human Rights and Democracy Network) organised a round table entitled “A Human Rights Approach to Trafficking: EU Perspectives”, with the support of UK Green Member of Parliament, Caroline Lucas. The civil society fair was organised for new Members of the European Parliament to get acquainted with NGOs working on a wide range of EU policies, from climate change to human rights. La Strada International is one of the members of the working group on human trafficking of the HRDN, next to Amnesty International, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, CCME, Plan and ECPAT. At the round table, Ms Bärbel Uhl, president of the EU Expert Group and Advisory Council member of La Strada

International, introduced the role of the European Union in the fight against trafficking in human beings, and the need for a holistic human rights approach. MEP Ms Edit Bauer, who reported in 2007 on human trafficking in the European Parliament, stressed the need for more decisiveness and effectiveness from the EP on the issue of human trafficking. On behalf of the HRDN working group on trafficking, Torsten Moritz of CCME identified the key issues for anti-trafficking NGOs, which are: identification, the need for unconditional support and assistance for trafficked persons, data collection, the establishment of independent National Rapporteurs, and compensation. He further stressed the need to put human rights at the centre of anti-trafficking policy development, rather than concerns for crime and immigration control.

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## Feasibility and assessment study on European hotline on human trafficking

In November last year, La Strada International was contracted by the European Commission to conduct a feasibility and assessment study on a European hotline for victims of trafficking in human beings. (Tender No JLS//2008/D2/004). The aim of this study was to map the existing helplines that partly or exclusively deal with trafficked persons in all EU member states and the assistance services for trafficked persons linked to these helplines, as well as to assess the need for and the feasibility of the establishment of a European-wide 116-helpline for trafficked persons. The study was carried out by the German Sozialwissenschaftliches FrauenForschungsInstitut Freiburg (SoFFI F) in cooperation with Mike Dottridge and Marjan Wijers, two qualified consultants/experts with extensive experience in the field of trafficking in human beings. La Strada International acted as main applicant and played a coordinating and facilitating role and helped to identify interview partners and NGOs to conduct interviews and fill in questionnaires. In October, the final report was presented to the Commission. The research in particular identified that the situations in the 27 countries regarding hotlines on trafficking in human beings are quite diverse and difficult to compare. It was further acknowledged that limited data is available, and that in general only a small percentage of the callers are actually trafficked persons. The research concludes that there is presently no clear need identified for an EU hotline. Establishing an EU hotline would only be feasible once certain conditions are in place, which is currently not the case. The study provides recommendations for further steps, in particular, calls for further data collection and a guarantee of basic conditions, such as confidentiality of calls, professional and qualified operators, a solid referral system and multilingual services, as well as sustainable funding, political will by governments and other relevant stakeholders, and finally, sustainable, effective marketing of the number. Furthermore, the report recommends the development of common minimum standards, a national infrastructure and referral system to be in place in every member state, and closer EU cooperation and coordination among the potential 116 helpline operators. For more information, please contact [Suzanne Hoff](#).

## EU policy update: Swedish Presidency and trafficking

The Swedish Presidency gave much attention to the issue of trafficking in human beings during the second half of this year. Around EU Anti-Trafficking Day, on 19 and 20 October 2009, the [Ministerial Conference Towards Global EU Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings](#) "A Comprehensive Multidisciplinary Approach towards Trafficking in Human Beings: Active cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination" was organised. The conference emphasised the external dimension of trafficking in human beings. Unfortunately, NGOs or other civil society stakeholders were not invited to speak.



## NGO statement and background paper submitted for European anti human trafficking Day

La Strada International and GAATW submitted a background paper for the conference and, together with other NGOs, delivered [a statement for the anti-human trafficking day](#). Both the background paper and the statement, in particular, stressed that cooperation with third countries must be focused on preventing trafficking in human beings and fighting root causes. Until now, discussions on cooperation schemes have merely focused on law enforcement and on controlling undocumented migration by implementing initiatives aiming at strengthening the EU external borders and improving and/or increasing mechanisms such as the exchange and collection of data, the creation of joint investigation teams with third countries and capacity building for border officials and police members. The signatories believe that any partnership between the EU and third countries on the issue of trafficking in human beings, in the context of co-operation and association agreements (including donor co-ordination and development aid) must integrate the norms, standards and principles of the International Human Rights system, in order to protect and promote the Human Rights of trafficked persons, or of those vulnerable to trafficking practices. In the statement NGOs also called again for the implementation of existing legislation and policy measures that have been agreed upon, such as the establishment of National Referral Mechanisms, National Rapporteurs, the adoption of a victim centred approach and the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against trafficking.

## Action-Oriented Paper

Under the Swedish presidency, the European Union also adopted the Action-Oriented Paper on how to strengthen cooperation with countries outside the EU, referring to relations and cooperation with countries of origin for human trafficking and transit countries. The action-oriented paper provides the guidelines for strengthening the partnership with third countries, improving coordination in the EU through regular reviews of the measures taken and developing measures for crime prevention, victim protection and combating crime.

### Stockholm Programme

Lastly, the [Stockholm Programme](#) (the successor of the 'The Hague Programme' and the 'Tampere programme') which defines the framework for EU police and customs cooperation, rescue services, criminal and civil law cooperation, asylum, migration and visa policy for the period 2010–2014, also includes a chapter on human trafficking. The Programme was adopted by the European Heads of State and Governments at the Summit on 10 December 2009. One of the recommendations is the establishment of an EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ATC) who should contribute to the development of a consolidated European policy against human trafficking, aiming at further strengthening the commitment of and efforts made by the European Union and the member states to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. This includes building up and strengthening partnerships with third countries and with the mechanisms of the EU external dimension as an integral part of such a policy. The ATC should monitor progress made and regularly report to COSI. La Strada welcomes the fact that the chapter on human trafficking contains, alongside the inevitable criminal justice themes of intelligence gathering, strategic analyses and border controls, also the protection of rights. It recommends immunity from criminal prosecution, regularisation of stay for trafficked persons, development of compensation schemes, and assistance with reintegration into society in the country of origin. Out of concern for dissemination of sensitive data on private persons, La Strada criticises the intentions to standardise European police surveillance techniques and to create "tool-pools" of common data gathering systems to be operated at the EU level. La Strada is further concerned that in general the Programme refers to *citizens rights* and not to *human rights*. It seems that a clear distinction is made between European citizens and people living in Europe, which could further endanger the already vulnerable position of undocumented migrants in Europe.

### Update: Violence against women

#### New publication: Violence in the EU examined

Over a two-year period a research team, consisting of ten partner organisations from ten countries that accessed the European Union in 2004, has been conducting research on violence against women, children and youth, under the title 'Ways of implementing the EU directives on violence against women, children and youth: good practices and recommendations'. The research has been supported by the Daphne III programme and the findings have been published in the book "[Violence in the EU examined](#)". The issue of human trafficking is one of the topics researched, as well as related issues, such as physical, psychological, economic and sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, crimes in the name of honour, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography. For more information, click [here](#)



#### 16 Days of Activism against gender violence

The [16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence](#) campaign took place between 25 November, *International Day on the elimination of violence against women*, and 10 December, *International Human Rights Day*. These dates were chosen to link violence against women to human rights violations. The campaign attempts to raise awareness, strengthen the work of local groups, and provide a forum for the sharing and discussion of strategies. It demonstrates solidarity and creates tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate violence against women. Several La Strada offices joined the campaign by organising anti-trafficking activities at the national level.

#### UN International Day for the Elimination of violence against Women



On 25 November 2009, the *International Day on the Elimination of violence against women*, the special UN Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo, made a [press release](#) wherein she addressed the importance of the fact that violence against women has been recognised as a human rights concern. Furthermore, she stressed the importance of states continuing to eliminate and combat violence against women, and the importance of joining forces with other international human rights mechanisms. Similarly, the UN secretary Ban Ki-Moon, issued a statement saying that '*...though awareness have risen there is still much to do and be done regarding violence against women*' [sic].

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## Workshop on Trafficking for labour exploitation in Warsaw, Poland

From 2 to 4 December 2009, the 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on trafficking for labour exploitation 'Workplace Action for Trafficking and the Protection of Trafficked People' took place in Warsaw, Poland, with participation of trade unions and NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe. The first workshop, with participation of South Eastern European trade unions and NGOs had taken place on 13 to 15 October 2009 in Bucharest, Romania.

Both events were jointly organised by the International Trade Union Confederation/Pan-European Regional Council (ITUC-PERC) and Anti-Slavery International, in the framework of a two-year joint initiative against trafficking for labour exploitation in Europe, supported by the European Commission. For more information, see LSI newsletter 14, October 2009, or contact [Lucy Gregg](#).

La Strada Poland, which participated in the seminar in Warsaw, stresses the importance of the involvement of Polish trade unions in the issue of labour exploitation in relation with trafficking in human beings, as so far little cooperation exists between NGOs and labour unions on this issue.

## Mama Cash organises meetings on sex workers' rights

From 9 to 12 November, the women's fund Mama Cash, hosted a series of meetings in order to create awareness about sex workers rights under the slogan "[Rights, not rescue](#)". The purpose of the meetings was to raise awareness about the state of sex worker rights organising internationally and to raise support for one of the world's most underfunded human rights movements. The meetings are being hosted by Mama Cash, and organised in cooperation with the Open Society Institute (OSI), the International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe (ICRSE) and the Network of



Sex Workers Projects (NSWP). In particular, different European laws and legislation on sex work were discussed and how regulation influences the work and lives of sex workers. For instance, how will a mandatory registration system change the situation for sex workers in the Netherlands? The meeting was attended by sex workers from all over the world, along with activists, foundations and donors. For twenty-five years, Mama Cash has supported sex worker rights organisations from all over the world, convinced that if they seek maximum freedom for everyone, they should work for the freedom of those who are most stigmatised and denied their rights. This certainly applies to sex workers.

On 30 November and 1 December, Mama Cash organised an international meeting on funding and women's rights organisations entitled 'Strategies for Resource Mobilization for Women's Organizing and Women's Rights: a Stakeholders Meeting'. The conference took place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and was organised together with AWID and the Dutch donor agency HIVOS. Participants discussed recent research on the financing of women's rights and the impact of the economic crisis on women and women's rights organisations.

## Fair Play, Fair Games Campaign

In Poland, two building workers' trade unions Solidarnosc, OPZZ Budowlani and the BWI launched the 'Campaign for Decent Work' at EURO 2012 building sites in Poland. After a successful campaign in South Africa before the World Cup 2010, unions want to raise public awareness on EURO 2012 in Poland and Ukraine. In Poland, 4,400 workers are currently working on 95 building sites in connection with Euro 2012. They are building highways, railroad tracks, airport terminals and six huge stadia. The new National Stadium in Warsaw mobilises 1,300 workers. The number of workers is expected to increase to 2,500 very soon. There is no collective agreement for the Polish building sector. There is only a minimum wage of 310 EUR per month, while the average pay in Poland in October 2009 was 806 EUR. Trade unionists cannot visit building sites, if they have no representation in the company. A worker can only join if there is a trade union in the company. Poland's State Work Inspection has one official who checks health and safety on each stadium building site. There are, however, no checks on working times or payrolls. BWI Assistant General Secretary Marion Hellmann said: "In 2010 the unions will carry out a media campaign and meet with UEFA president Mr. Platini. They will also prepare for a collective bargaining agreement for the workers at the National Stadium in Warsaw." The Friedrich Ebert Foundation supports the campaign.

## UN Rapporteur on Slavery calls for better protection rights of domestic workers

"Domestic workers, who are overworked, underpaid and subject to abuse – whether physical, emotional or sexual in nature – are effectively being treated as slaves. This form of slavery takes place in households all across the world," said the [UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery](#), Ms Gulnara Shahinian, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, International



Day for the Abolition of Slavery. Domestic workers are especially vulnerable to this form of forced labour because of the unprotected nature of their work and the highly personalised relationship between the worker and their employer.

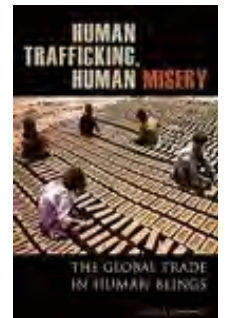
“For many, seeking employment away from home, sometimes across borders, is the only means to escape poverty. Policies linking workers’ immigration status to individual employers, excessive recruitment fees, language barriers, and confiscation of passports, expose migrant domestic workers to more human rights abuses.” The Special Rapporteur urged states to sign and ratify international instruments related to the rights of migrant workers and the fight against child labour. In 2010 the Special Rapporteur will submit a report on domestic work to the Human Rights Council.

La Strada International welcomes the Special Rapporteurs attention for the position of migrant domestic workers and her recognition of the influence restrictive migration policies have on the human rights of migrant workers. LSI hopes that the Special Rapporteur will be involved in the development of [the ILO Convention on Domestic Work](#) and that she will stress the need for a strong instrument that protects the rights of all domestic workers, whether documented or not.

## What's new ?

### Human Trafficking, Human Misery: The Global Trade in Human Beings

The publication ‘[Human Trafficking, Human Misery: The Global Trade in Human Beings](#)’ by Alexis A. Aronowitz takes a global perspective in examining the ‘nefarious underworld’ of human trafficking, revealing the nature and extent of the harm caused by this practice. Thereby the author draws from her own field experiences in various parts of the world. Taking a victims-oriented approach, the book examines the criminals and criminal organizations that exploit persons. Moreover, it focuses on the different groups of trafficked persons as well as the various forms of and markets for trafficking, such as exploitation in agriculture, construction, fishing, manufacturing, and the domestic and food service industries, many of which have been overlooked due to an emphasis on trafficking in the sex industry.



### Guide to Ethics and Human Rights in Counter-Trafficking

In 2008, the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking published the ‘[Guide to Ethics and Human Rights in Counter-Trafficking, Ethical Standards for Counter-Trafficking Research and Programming](#).’ The guide addresses the need for a broader and more updated set of guiding principles for counter-trafficking research and programming that addresses communities and trafficked persons still in the harm environment. It suggests a set of seven guiding principles and practical tools for mandatory use by all UNIAP-supported researchers and programmers, interfacing with victims of trafficking and others associated in some way with human trafficking.

### IOM: Working to Prevent and Address Violence against Women Migrant Workers

IOM recently published a report ‘Working to Prevent and Address Violence Against Women Migrant Workers’ on the risks and dangers for migrant women. The report states that although migrant women can benefit economically and socio-culturally from migration, they are also vulnerable to various risks due to their mobility as migrants and their gender. The report states that women on the move are at greater risk of experiencing “human rights violations such as discrimination, exploitation and abuse compared to their male counterparts”.

IOM further states that the publication “presents the approach IOM takes towards the protection and empowerment of women migrant workers. By displaying key IOM activities in that area, the report seeks to better inform policy makers, practitioners and the public about the vulnerability of these women and about good practices for the protection of their human rights throughout the labour migration cycle”. The publication can be downloaded for free from [here](#) or purchased in hard copy for \$10.



### OSCE special representative's fourth annual report

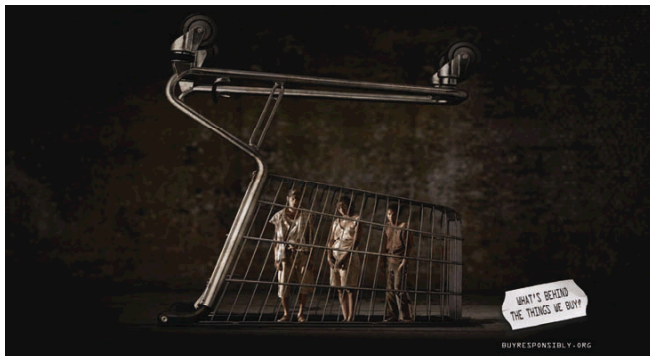
The office of the OSCE Special Representative, Ms Eva Biaudet published the fourth annual report called: [An agenda for change: implementing the platform for action against human trafficking](#). Her report provides an overview of the activities, achievements and challenges of the Special Representative’s entire 3-year term in office. It concentrates upon three



main areas of work: (i) raising the public and political profile of combating trafficking in human beings; (ii) raising the visibility of OSCE action on trafficking in human beings; and (iii) joining efforts to tackle trafficking in human beings: co-ordination and cooperation. The latter section looks both at cooperation within the OSCE's structures and institutions, and at co-operation with other international organizations and key stakeholders in the OSCE region. The report concludes with an examination of, and reflections on, the achievements in terms of combating human trafficking in the OSCE region over the period 2007-2009, as well as the challenges which remain both for the participating States and for the Office of the Special Representative.



### IOM: New campaign What's behind the things we buy?



In a bid to ensure that in the clamour for cheap goods, business does not end up profiting from the labour of trafficked and exploited migrants, IOM has teamed up with the international advertising firm Saatchi & Saatchi, in Geneva, to make the consumer question the true story behind this week's super tomato offer at the local supermarket, or the very cheap pair of jeans for sale at the boutique down the road.

By urging consumers to ["Buy Responsibly"](#), the campaign is encouraging consumers, particularly in developed countries, to play a greater and more pro-active role in ending the demand for exploited migrant labour. This demand is fuelled

by the consumer's appetite for cheap goods and business' demand for greater profit margins.

### UNODC Analysis report on Trafficking in Persons in Europe

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recently released a report ["Trafficking in Person: Analysis on Europe"](#). This report is based on information collected by UNODC in the framework of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT), published in the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons in February 2009. The European analysis shows that trafficking in persons is an undetected crime in Europe. It reports a high degree of internal trafficking, both domestically within European countries and regionally within the European Union (predominantly from South-eastern to Western Europe). However, it does indicate the progress that has been made to improve the collection of data on human trafficking within the European Union. The report covers the period from 2003-2008 and deals with the national responses to Human Trafficking, Human Trafficking flows and trafficking patterns, in a European context.



### International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol

The [International Framework for Action](#) is a technical assistance tool that supports United Nations member states in the effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (United Nations Trafficking Protocol), supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC).

The [International Framework for Action](#) consists of a narrative section and a set of tables. The narrative describes key challenges in the implementation of the United Nations Trafficking Protocol and proposes general measures that can be taken in order to more effectively address these challenges. The set of tables details these measures further, through five pillars containing practical actions to support the implementation of the United Nations Trafficking Protocol.

The framework has been 10 years on the way and is based on the internationally recognised themes of prevention, protection and prosecution. The hope is that the framework can assist states in identifying gaps and holes in trafficking policies, thereby creating a better, more focused, effort in the anti-trafficking work.

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## Paper on identification and referral mechanisms

UNHCR released [The Identification and Referral of Trafficked Persons to Procedures for Determining International Protection Needs](#) in the [Legal and Protection Policy Research Series](#), in October 2009. The paper aims at identifying the current gaps in protection mechanisms for trafficked persons, particularly trafficked children, as well as ways to address these lacunae. The study provides background research and information on three connected issues:

- the protection challenges that arise out of existing state mechanisms for identifying trafficked persons;
- the establishment of a national referral system that guarantees assessment of the needs for international protection of persons identified as trafficked (including their entitlement to protection against refoulement under international refugee and/or human rights law);
- procedures adopted to address the special protection needs of trafficked children.

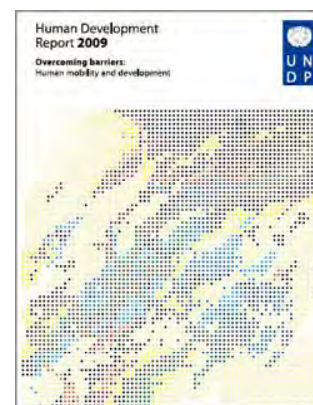
## Amnesty on the EU and Human Rights

The new Amnesty International report [“The EU and Human Rights: Making the Impact on People Count”](#) highlights the cause of individuals that are directly affected by the human rights consequences of the EU’s policies. It focuses on six key areas of human rights, with particular emphasis on the individual rights holder, to underline the need for the EU to take action to defend, protect and promote the human rights of individuals, both within its own borders and internationally.

Amnesty concludes that the EU has a wealth of significant human rights instruments at its disposal, including decisive efforts in mainstreaming human rights. It signals the right language and is signatory to international human rights law. Yet, at crucial moments the EU fails to act coherently and loses the overview of all its instruments. This jeopardises its credibility, and unnecessarily limits its human rights impact. The EU does not have an unproductive human rights record. But it cannot afford to continue with an inconsistent human rights system, when it could instead utilize its instruments, competence and influence to increase protection for human rights at home and abroad. What is also needed, is a framework that turns the many disconnected actions of the EU into a set of instruments that broadens, rather than constricts, the EU’s impact. This framework must also create standards by which the EU can hold itself accountable. Four initial steps can be taken immediately. These are to develop a comprehensive human rights policy that enables the EU to utilize non human rights instruments where applicable, to accede to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and make the Charter of Fundamental Rights legally binding, to develop an internal human rights mechanism, and to integrate the activities of EU agencies into a human rights impact perspective”.

## UNDP Human Development report 2009

Under the title [“Overcoming barriers: Human mobility & development”](#), a newly released UNDP report seeks to, as many other recent reports, challenge the stereotypes and stigmas associated with the word ‘Migrant’. The report is divided into five chapters that deal with (1) Freedom and movement, (2) People in motion, (3) How movers fare, (4) Impacts at origin and destination, and finally, (5) Policies to enhance human development outcomes. The report challenges common held misconceptions. For instance, it illustrates how most migration is national and not border crossing. It also shows that the largest percentage of cross national migration is not from developing to developed countries and it argues that migration has a positive economic influence, both on the home country and for the migrant, and the communities in the country of departure. With the aim to break down the barriers and misconceptions, the report puts forward six ‘pillars’:



- Opening existing entry channels for more workers, especially those with low skills;
- Ensuring basic human rights for migrants, e.g. basic services such as education health care and voting rights
- Lowering the transaction costs of migration;
- Finding collaborative solutions that benefit both destination communities and migrants;
- Easing internal migration;
- Adding migration as a component for origin countries’ development strategies.

For more information on the report, click [here](#).

## What's on your mind ?

### *History of case*

Six months ago approximately 700 migrant workers from Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia and Macedonia were recruited by a Dutch-Azeri joint venture "SerbAz"<sup>1</sup> to work in construction sites in Azerbaijan. Some of them worked in the capital Baku on the construction of an expo centre near the airport, a shopping centre near the Central Bank, and Buta Palace; others were taken to the town of Mingachevir to work on the "Olympic" centre<sup>2</sup>.

Despite the contracts signed in their home countries labour contracts were not finalized between the migrant workers and the employers.<sup>3</sup> The migrants travelled with tourist visas and the employers did not secure individual work permits allowing them to work legally in Azerbaijan. The employers revoked their passports and never returned them. The age of the migrants varies between 20-30 years; but there are people in their 60s as well.



### *Living and work conditions*

In Baku they lived in five rented houses, with up to 80-100 persons in a house without appropriate living conditions and observance of sanitary-hygienic norms. In Mingachevir the total of 150 migrant workers lived in similar conditions. They did not receive medical assistance and were forced to work even when they were sick. Initially they were provided three meals per day and later only two.

The migrants worked for 12 hours daily without safety rules, were guarded allegedly by police, threatened by the administration and were not allowed to get in touch with outsiders. The migrant workers also reported incidents of coercion, beatings, illegal detention in small premises within construction sites, and life threatening. According to the migrant workers, two migrants have died; one due to a heart attack.

When the workers contacted the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Azerbaijan, they were told that "SerbAz" no longer operated in Azerbaijan. Further they were informed that they would receive some part of their salary and would be escorted to the airport by policemen to return home.

Every day 10-30 workers received money and returned home. The entire operation was conducted under the

control of people in a police uniform. When the Azerbaijan Migration Centre (AMC) learned about it, and started to investigate the case, the employers decided to cover up the case and send all the workers home immediately.

### *Action taken*

The workers first contacted the NAHTAZ, Network against human trafficking in Azerbaijan, through the organization, which distributed booklets with labour migration to Azerbaijan. On October 22 the AMC met with three workers who provided this information. AMC then contacted the construction company and convinced the management to pay the workers, who received 50 USD each. AMC continued to negotiate with the employers to increase the payments up to 20%.

On October 23 the Consul of Bosnia in Turkey, Brane B. Pekenak, travelled to Baku. According to the Consul, the Ministry of Youth and Sports declared that one of the buildings where the migrants worked was constructed by the commission from the ministry and they worked in Azerbaijan legally. When the Consul was asked his opinion about workers not having valid visas he said that he could not help the migrants. On October 23 AMC had a meeting with the representatives of the IOM. After visiting the migrant workers' accommodation the IOM promised to raise the issue in the IOM Baku office. On October 28 a letter from the IOM stated their readiness to cover medical prescriptions issued to the migrant workers.

NAHTAZ organized several meetings with ILO Azerbaijan and Georgia, OSCE Baku office and the US Embassy in Azerbaijan. As for local government bodies, AMC sent information letters about the situation to the General Prosecutor of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Migration Service, and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Population, but none of these state agencies followed-up on the letters received, so far.

### *Action by OSCE ODIHR*

The OSCE ODIHR, based in Warsaw, Poland identified local NGOs in Serbia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Macedonia through local OSCE missions and provided contacts to AMC, which were the NGO "Astra" from Serbia; La Strada BiH and Vasa Prava (BiH); and Open

Gate/La Strada Macedonia. It then facilitated the first contact between AMC and these NGOs and provided guidance and advice on how to proceed with the case. The ODIHR advised AMC to help the workers in taking legal action against the employers and to stop the expedient return as these people might have been trafficked and therefore should have been identified as victims of trafficking by the authorities of Azerbaijan and assisted accordingly.

#### *Action by local NGOs in SEE*

La Strada from BiH was asked to meet the returnees at the airport of Sarajevo on October 26. Only seven returnees agreed to give evidence. La Strada assured them in providing legal and medical assistance, but none of the migrants accepted the support.

- 1 The president of the company is Milan Vuchenovich and the director in Azerbaijan - Milan's brother Bojidar Vuchenovich
- 2 The Kur "Olympic" center is being constructed on commission from the Ministry of Youth and Sports.
- 3 According to the migrant workers most of the Bosnians signed contracts with a certain employment agency administered by a relative of Milan and Bojidar Vuchenovich.

"Astra" met 21 returnees at the airport in Belgrade on October 27. The migrants mentioned the unjust living and working conditions in Azerbaijan.

NAHTAZ is currently in contact with the organisations mentioned above from Bosnia Herzegovina, Serbia and Macedonia and plans a visit to those organisations to conduct further interviews with the exploited persons and to start official complaint procedures with them. For more questions and comments please contact [nahtaz@gmail.com](mailto:nahtaz@gmail.com)

#### **Matanat Azizova**

*Co-chairman of NAHTAZ*

*Network Against Human Trafficking in Azerbaijan*

## What's happening where ?

- ⊙ **17 December 2009:** [International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers](#)
- ⊙ **18 December 2009:** [International Migrant Day](#)
- ⊙ **14 & 15 January 2010:** First steering committee meeting of COMPACT, LSI/ASI - London, UK
- ⊙ **1 & 2 February 2010:** Seminar on Labour Exploitation, Dutch SIOD and the Romanian National Agency on Trafficking in human beings (ANITP)
- ⊙ **February 2010:** LSI board meeting - Mostar, Bosnia Herzegovina
- ⊙ **February 2010:** Seminar on a human rights approach to trafficking Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland
- ⊙ **February 2010:** LSI standards meeting, Prague, Czech Republic
- ⊙ **8 March 2010:** International Women's day
- ⊙ **June 2010:** GAATW International Members Congress (IMC), Bangkok, Thailand



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