With this quarterly newsletter, La Strada International wishes to inform and update you on developments in the field of trafficking in human beings and the activities of La Strada International and the La Strada member organisations. We welcome your feedback and input. Please mail us by 1 December 2012 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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Director of La Strada Moldova appointed as director of National Centre for Combating trafficking

Ana Revenco (until mid-September the Executive Director of La Strada Moldova) has been appointed as the new Director of the Moldovan Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons- an agency under the Ministry of Interior that is responsible for the implementation of the country’s national human trafficking policy. Her appointment to this important and strategic position is a positive response to the achievements of La Strada Moldova and the personal merits of Ms Revenco in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in Moldova.

Ana Revenco was the founder and Director of La Strada Moldova since 2001; in this position Ana has contributed significantly to the development and consolidation of the organisation within the country and abroad. Ana Revenco has also been a member of the LSI board (2009-2011) and LSI General Assembly (2005 - 2009 and 2001-2012) and worked on the strategic developments of the network.

The new Executive Director of La Strada Moldova will be the former vice president Ms. Daniela Misail-Nichitin, who has also been involved with La Strada Moldova from the very beginning. La Strada International will certainly miss the valued contributions of Ana and wishes her good luck.
with shaping the national anti-trafficking policy in Moldova! At the same time, LSI welcomes Daniela as the new representative of Moldova in the LSI General Assembly.

**New Developments in Moldova**

In July this year, the Government of Moldova adopted a new National Plan to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for the period 2012-2013. It was developed by the Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings in broad consultation with civil society actors and international organisations. The new Plan is based on the monitoring results of the implementation of the previous Plan (2010-2011) and takes into account the conclusions and recommendations of all relevant international reports on Moldova (e.g. the US TIP report, the GRETA report, the recommendations of UPR and OSCE, etc.). La Strada Moldova participated in the development of the new Action Plan with specific input for its improvement in the areas of strategic goal setting, links to other policy areas and victim support.

The Moldovan National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and Médecins du Monde published “Guidelines on identification of victims and potential victims of trafficking in human beings”. Earlier this year the guidelines were officially approved by the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family and are now a tool of the national referral system (NRS) in Moldova. The aim of the guidelines is to strengthen the NRS, ensure access of trafficked persons to social assistance and protection services regardless of their willingness to cooperate with law enforcement, as well as to prevent human trafficking through the provision of social assistance to at-risk groups. The guidelines target governmental and non-governmental organisations that play an active role in the identification of trafficked persons in the framework of the NRS on the national and local level. They include recommendations on the main aspects of identification, referral and service provision. The guidelines were elaborated in line with the provisions of international, European and national standards and policies and with the participation of several stakeholders, including La Strada Moldova.

**La Strada Poland organises film festival on human trafficking**

To celebrate this year’s EU anti-trafficking day, La Strada Poland initiated the 18/18 International Film Festival on Human Trafficking “People are priceless” - an event, supporting the fight against human trafficking through films that raise social awareness for the issue.

During the festival, a selection of 18 documentaries and feature films touching upon the issue of trafficking in human beings in its various forms will be shown. The jury of the festival will select one film that examines the problem of human trafficking most comprehensively and award it the Grand Prix. The screenings will be accompanied by meetings with authors, panel discussions and information fairs.

The film festival is organised by the Polish Ministry of Interior and La Strada Poland, with the financial support of the European Commission. The festival is conducted under the patronage of the Polish Ombudsman and the mayor of Warsaw and Polish actors Anna Cieślak and Lesław Żurek.

**Better access to information for trafficked persons in the Netherlands**

At the end of August 2012, Comensha/La Strada Netherlands launched a leaflet and website for trafficked persons ‘fromhereon’ in five languages: Dutch, English, Hungarian, Polish and Bulgarian with the aim to inform trafficked persons about their rights as victims. The leaflet and website have been especially developed for trafficked persons who have had contact with the police and those who are considering to do so. Readers can find information about a range of issues that trafficked people face and useful tips, such as police contacts and Dutch legal provisions related to the reflection period, residence permit, financial and medical support, compensation, shelter and
return. The leaflets will be distributed to all police stations and counselling centres in the Netherlands so that trafficked persons can be informed about their rights at an early stage.

La Strada Poland celebrates 17 years of anti-trafficking work

On 15 September, La Strada Poland organised a special campaign to celebrate 17 years of anti-trafficking work, entitled “Wolnik” (“I AM FREE”). “Free from exploitation and abuse, free to follow my dreams, free to be who I am”. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness among young people about the dangers of human trafficking and to explain what they can do to protect themselves. The campaign also outlined the activities of La Strada Poland and the support it provides to trafficked persons and at-risk groups. In addition, the campaign also aimed to raise funds for the services of the organisation.

It was supported by a number of famous Polish actors and musicians; several media and others. Seven night clubs in Warsaw organised an “I AM FREE” party on 15 September 2012 to support La Strada Poland.

Also on 15 September 2012, the LSI network celebrated its 17th anniversary, as the first La Strada project was launched on 15 September 1995 with the cooperation of the Dutch Foundation against Trafficking in Women (STV, now CoMensha), La Strada Poland and La Strada Czech Republic.

La Strada Belarus in National Council on Gender Policy

Irina Alkhovka (pictured), the International Coordinator of La Strada Belarus, and Board member of LSI, has been appointed as a member of the National Council on Gender Policy, under the Council of Ministers of Belarus. This is an inter-ministerial body responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Country’s gender policy. The decisions of the Gender Council are only of recommendation character, but membership provides good opportunities for influence and bringing critical issues to the attention of the government. Irina Alkhovka is the third NGO representative in the Council and the only one appointed in recent years. Her immediate focus in the Council will be the development and adoption of the National Gender Equality Concept - a strategic document that outlines the national framework for gender mainstreaming for the years until 2020.

Hotline on domestic violence in Belarus launched

On 13 August, Gender Perspectives/La Strada Belarus launched their national toll-free hotline for survivors of domestic violence. The hotline works for 12 hours every day and provides psychological, legal and social counselling to victims. Its number is 8-801-100-8-801 and can currently only be accessed from Belarus. The hotline was established with the support of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women and the UNFPA office in Belarus. For the first month of its operation, the hotline received 228 calls, mostly from women aged 21-45 requesting psychological and legal support. Five percent of the phone calls were from men, mostly elderly, suffering from domestic violence by their closest family members. “The legal counselling is of significant demand among survivors, which required us to increase the number of counselling hours, from the current 1,5 days a week up to 2-3 days”, says Anastasiya Foleichyk, La Strada Belarus’ hotline manager. “The hotline serves as an entry-point for survivors to the national response mechanism for domestic violence. Apart from delivering immediate and direct support to those affected by domestic violence, the hotline serves as a source of unique data about victims’ and aggressors’ profile, the types of experienced violence and assistance requested. Moreover, the opinion of the victims received at the hotline can be used for monitoring, assessment and adjustment of national strategies”, she added.
Freedom to Walk: One month before take off

As reported in the previous newsletter, La Strada International is a beneficiary of Freedom to Walk, a campaign in Thailand to raise awareness about human trafficking and funds for five organisations across the globe that work towards its eradication. On 3 November 2012, a group of volunteers from around the world will depart on a 16-day, 500-kilometre walk from Bangkok to Myanmar. With a little over one month to go before the walk commences, the preparations and the fundraising activities are now in full-swing. On 20 September, the initiators of this campaign, Ali Weiner and Tanny Chientong (pictured) organised a fundraising dinner where approximately 55 people took part to show their support for Freedom to Walk and the five beneficiaries.

So far 20 walkers, aged between 20 and 63 from nine countries, have registered for the Walk with inquiries and interest still continuing. The initiative is receiving a good deal of media attention with coverage by The Bangkok Post, Coconuts Bangkok, BK Magazine, AsiaLife Magazine and others. Freedom to Walk is soliciting walkers, sponsors, donors, and individuals who are willing to provide and publicise educational material about human trafficking for the benefit of the participants. If you are interested in getting involved in any capacity, visit www.freedomtowalk.org or contact Ali Weiner at walk@dreamprojectfoundation.org for more information.

Termination of LSI membership of La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 12 June 2012 the General Assembly of the International La Strada Association (LSI) decided to terminate the LSI membership of La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina as of that date. This decision was based on an evaluation of two years, which included two separate evaluation visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The first one in February 2010, and the second – in January 2012. Based on the report of the last visit, the LSI Assembly concluded that no sufficient improvement had been made by the organisation over the last years to continue membership. La Strada International regrets that this decision had to be made. Over the past years, LSI has tried to support the organisation as much as possible, and numerous efforts have been made to improve cooperation with the organisation. La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina is expected to continue its activities and to remain in contact as a partner anti-trafficking NGO. In practice, the decision of the General Assembly indicates that La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina is no longer a member of the International La Strada Association and can therefore no longer act on behalf of the network, nor represent the network. On behalf of the LSI Board and General Assembly, La Strada Bosnia and Herzegovina has been asked to cease using the name “La Strada” for the organisation and anti-trafficking work.

What’s going on?

EU Anti-Trafficking Day Conference

To mark the 6th EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October, the Cyprus EU Presidency and the European Commission will organise a high level conference in Brussels. The conference ‘Working together towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings: The Way Forward’ will focus on the recently adopted EU Strategy on Trafficking in Human Beings. The meeting aims to serve as a forum for the exchange of views on shaping future actions to strengthen cooperation, victim protection and assistance, prevention and prosecution in the field of trafficking in human beings. A special lunchtime side event will be organised for an informal discussion on the possible establishment of an EU Platform for civil society organisations and service providers. La Strada International and several of our partners will be attending the conference and will participate in the brainstorming session at the EU civil society Platform.
EP endorses amendments to include undocumented victims of crime in Directive

On 12 September 2012, the European Parliament endorsed the proposal for the Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime. Victims of crimes committed abroad may face serious problems due to differences between cultures, languages and laws. The agreed text, adopted by 611 votes to 9, with 13 abstentions, aims to ensure that whatever the crime - mugging, robbery, assault, rape, harassment, hate crime, terrorist attack, or human trafficking - and wherever it is committed in the EU - all victims enjoy the same basic rights in criminal proceedings, and are to be treated with respect and dignity with access to victim-support services, justice and compensation.

Furthermore, the mandate requires that all states provide access to the services deemed necessary by the individual assessment of necessary care for the victims of crime (ranging from psychological support to legal advice) even throughout the criminal proceedings. It is made clear that the victims are to be made explicitly aware of their rights in a suitable language, and they are to be actively included in the proceedings. La Strada International is very pleased that the Parliament amended the proposal of the Commission by specifically mentioning the rights of undocumented victims, for which LSI lobbied for in its recommendations for amendments and in its joint statement with PICUM last year. The text of the Directive is not finalised yet, as the Council still has to approve. Once the new rules are adopted, EU countries will have three years to transpose them into their national laws.

More transparency on the fundamental rights of Frontex

In 2009, the Charter of Fundamental Rights became legally binding on Frontex- the EU agency that coordinates the operational cooperation between Member States in the field of border security. Since then, a number of civil society organisations have questioned whether Frontex is doing enough to comply with the Charter, for example, the criticism by the European Court of Human Rights toward Fontex’s deployment of EU border guards to Greece where migrant detainees were kept in detention centres under inhumane conditions.

In October 2011, the European Parliament and the Council adopted a Regulation, setting out additional specific fundamental rights obligations for Frontex. In March 2012, the European Ombudsman inquired with Frontex regarding its fulfilment of these obligations, including the obligation to draw up a fundamental rights strategy, as well as codes of conduct applicable to its operations.

In response, Frontex submitted its opinion in May 2012. It explained that, since 2010, it has developed a fundamental rights strategy, as well as a binding code of conduct for those participating in its activities. Frontex also listed other measures it is currently taking to ensure full respect for fundamental rights. One of those measures is the establishment of a Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights (CF). The aim of the provision was to bring together a wide variety of stakeholders including members of civil society in order to establish a knowledge and expertise resource body to support and provide information to the Agency relevant to the aim of developing and promoting the full respect of fundamental rights in all the Agency’s activities. PICUM, of which LSI is member, is one of the seven NGOs selected to participate in a collaborative forum to exchange views and hold discussions with other forum members, as well as the Frontex Executive Director and Management Board representatives. The European Ombudsman is continuing his inquiry and has invited organisations active in the area of the protection of fundamental rights to make observations on Frontex's opinion.

A call for closer monitoring of Frontex activities comes from the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, which unanimously adopted on 19 July 2012 the opinion drafted by Nichi Vendola, Governor of the Puglia Region, Italy, on the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility. Among other points, the Committee “stresses the need to respect human rights, particularly the principle of non-refoulement, at every stage in border control, and the related obligation for the EU institutions - in particular the European Parliament - to closely monitor Frontex's activities”. It also “urges the institutions, together with the Member States, to make the sea search and rescue system more effective, in particular by improving coordination and setting common criteria for identifying the most appropriate safe location for rescued migrants to disembark”.

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EU presents HR package and appoints Special Representative for Human Rights

The European Union has taken some important steps for EU human rights policy to provide a real opportunity to strengthen the EU’s engagement on human rights and democracy. On 25 June the Foreign Affairs Council adopted the human rights package, including the EU Strategic Framework on Human Rights and Democracy and the EU Human Rights Action Plan. The Brussels-based Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN - of which La Strada International is member) considers the package a powerful pledge by the 27 EU Member States, the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission to advance the protection and promotion of human rights together and to move respect for human rights to the centre of EU foreign policy. In a statement the HRDN calls upon the EU to stop the habit of dealing with human rights behind closed doors and for the adoption of this new EU human rights package to represent a transition to a more transparent and accountable EU human rights policy.

One month later, on 25 July 2012, the Greek foreign minister Stavros Lambrinidis (pictured) was appointed as the EU’s new special representative for human rights (EUSR). Mr. Lambrinidis is a former MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament. This newly created post is designed to give a ‘voice’ to the effectiveness and the visibility of the EU’s human rights policy. The new representative will act as the high-level face and voice of EU human rights policy internationally and will fill the gap between member states and the EEAS by acting as a focal point for internal guidance, strategic thinking and expertise. HRDN stresses that the creation of this new position should not however limit the obligations and responsibilities of all 27 EU member states and the EU High Representative in promoting human rights worldwide as well as in shaping and implementing the EU human rights policy.

Migration and Policy Centre

The Migration Policy Centre (MPC) was officially launched on 25 and 26 June 2012, in the presence of EU Commissioner of Home Affairs, Cecilia Malmström. The MPC of the European University Institute in Florence, Italy will conduct research projects on global migration to support, develop and monitor migration policies in Europe. One key project of the MPC is to build regional migration observatories to collect data and conduct research on the issue of migration.

No longer diplomatic immunity in employment disputes

Two important rulings, one from the European Court of Justice and the other from the European Court of Human Rights, have cleared the way for exploited employees of Embassies or governmental ministries to claim unpaid wages at European labour law tribunals. The two rulings confirm that there is no diplomatic immunity in employment disputes with Embassies if the employee does not perform sovereign functions/official tasks in the Embassy.

The first case concerned a driver employed at the Algerian Embassy in Germany. He claimed unpaid overtime and additionally filed an appeal against his subsequent dismissal. In its ruling, the ECJ confirmed that the foreign state could not claim immunity in labour law disputes if the employee performs tasks which do not fall within the exercise of official duties. The key legal issue pertained to the competent court of jurisdiction. In employment law disputes, the EC Council Regulation 44/2001 on jurisdiction and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters stipulates places of jurisdiction that generally favour the employee (as the weaker party). Generally, these places of jurisdiction cannot be altered contractually. In the present case, the Algerian driver was entitled to file his claim in Germany - because his former employer, the Embassy as Algerian representation, is based in Germany. The provision in his employment contract, namely that Algeria has jurisdictional competency over all disputes arising from this contract, was null and void. This ruling is binding for all Member States of the Union.
The claimant in the second case was an employee of the American Embassy in Vienna, Austria who appealed against her dismissal and claimed outstanding wages. A number of proceedings were initiated, of which the Embassy finally tried to evade by refusing the service of the summons. Without the summons being delivered to the Embassy, the proceedings did not pend in Court and thus the issue could not be ruled upon. The claimant filed proceedings against the refusal of the Embassy to accept the summons but the Austrian Supreme Court (OGH) approved the course of action of the Embassy, based on the diplomatic immunity of the Embassy. The European Court of Human Rights overturned this Supreme Court ruling and explicitly confirmed in its decision that the employer in disputes arising from service contracts with employees of diplomatic representations cannot invoke diplomatic immunity. This ruling is relevant for all Member States of the Council of Europe.

**Last advocacy possibilities for the voice of victims in UNTOC review mechanism**

At the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC), which will be held in Vienna, Austria from 15 to 19 October, a decision will be made about the review mechanism to the UNTOC. The Conference of the Parties is an intergovernmental forum for states to improve their capacity to combat transnational organised crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. For many years, the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW) together with LSI has been advocating for a victim-centred review mechanism so that states’ efforts for the implementation the obligations of the Palermo Protocol are monitored.

In 2008, at the UNTOC 4th Conference of the Parties, national governments acknowledged that without an effective monitoring mechanism it was difficult to measure progress made in implementing UNTOC. An intergovernmental working group was established to discuss possible mechanisms to review UNTOC’s implementation. At the 5th Conference of Parties to UNTOC, states commissioned the Working Group to draw up a Terms of Reference for a review mechanism to emphasise the principles of transparency, efficiency, non-intrusiveness, inclusiveness and impartiality.

As expected, the working group had to discuss several disagreements regarding the procedures and the processes of the review mechanism. The draft Terms of Reference foresee in a mechanism in which states evaluate each other, so no specific monitoring body is to be established. The TOR does not mandate transparency in the process through the publication of reports but leaves it to the discretion of each state.

In the opinion of LSI, there is still one important outstanding issue that needs to be resolved at the coming Conference of the Parties: the engagement of civil society and trafficked persons in the review mechanism as well as the input of experts into the process.

At the coming Conference of the Parties, GAATW and the member organisations will approach all delegations and will organise a side event to once again emphasise the importance of including civil society and the voices of trafficked persons in the review mechanism.

If you are attending the UNTOC Conference of Parties, please come and see GAATW and join them in their advocacy for a strong, transparent and inclusive review mechanism. For more information please contact GAATW.

**Irish High Court rules against compensation for labour exploitation**

The Irish High Court has overruled a decision of the Labour Court with respect to Muhammad Younis (pictured), who was awarded €92,000 for breaches of employment law. The High Court found that the Employment Permits Act 2003 prevents undocumented workers from seeking redress under labour law as the employment contract cannot be recognised. For many years, Muhammad Younis was subjected to labour exploitation. He was paid 55 cents per hour and worked extremely long
hours (up to 77 hours a week) with no days off. The employer failed to renew Muhammad’s work permit which rendered him undocumented.
The presiding Judge sent the judgment to the government in order to raise concern for the unforeseen consequences of the Employment Permits Act 2003. Specifically, the unintended deprivation to the benefits of employment legislation for undocumented migrant workers due to their illegal status in Ireland.

According to Ms Gráinne O’Toole of the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI), this judgment uncovered a fundamental problem with the Employment Permits Act. O’Toole says that: “the law as it is now interpreted gives a green light to exploitative employers. Other countries have protections in place where undocumented workers, who have had their employment rights violated can seek legal redress. The Government must act immediately to guarantee that undocumented workers are protected under employment law.” This could be done through the 2010 EU employers sanctions Directive, which does provide for compensation for unpaid wages to exploited undocumented workers. The solicitor of Mr Younis has already indicated that he will examine all avenues including a challenge to the Supreme Court and the European Court of Human Rights.

Again no proof for increase in human trafficking during EURO 2012
As predicted by many anti-trafficking NGOs, including La Strada International, the EURO 2012 Football Championship in Poland and Ukraine did not result in an increased level of human trafficking for sexual and other forms of exploitation, according to preliminary findings of a study exploring the link between trafficking and the sporting event released by the IOM Mission in Ukraine.

Since the World Cup in Germany in 2006, every time a major sports event is organised, the media, civil society activists and organisations warn about the possibility of large numbers of women being trafficked to or inside the country to meet a presumably high demand of football fans for sexual services. This hypothesis had also been included in the security strategy for EURO 2012, and law enforcement agencies had prepared contingency plans to deal with such scenarios. Much media attention was raised by the feminist group, FEMEM, which protested against the games as they thought it would increase (forced) prostitution. According to IOM, who is conducting a monitoring study of the patterns of sex work consumers during EURO 2012 and an analysis of law enforcement, case data as well as hotline responses show no evidence that human trafficking surged before or during the EURO 2012. The results are in line with earlier evaluation report findings during the football World Cup championships in Germany in 2006 and in South Africa in 2010. These evaluation outcomes also showed no increase of sexual exploitation during the tournaments. In addition, sex workers organisations indicated that there had been no increase in clients during the weeks in question.

“The fear of increased human trafficking for sexual exploitation comes up every time there is a large sporting event on the horizon, although our experience only reinforces earlier findings in other countries. We hope that studies like ours will eventually put an end to the myth, which results in scarce counter-trafficking resources being spent on one-off campaigns rather than long-term solutions and victim assistance,” concludes IOM Ukraine.

La Strada International wholeheartedly supports this statement. The fear of sex trafficking to meet heightened demand during the tournaments often leads to actions that can harm sex workers’ rights and often simplifies the complexity of trafficking in human beings. Moreover, the extreme focus on sex trafficking ignores the exploitative labour situations that can occur in, for example, the building
of the stadiums and accommodation related to the venues, but even more so in the production of the merchandise and sportswear. LSI hopes that in the preparations of the next big sports event, prevention and awareness campaigns will include more focus on these severe forms of human trafficking.

Cheap labour advertisements
A recent survey showed that only 10% of the Dutch population is aware that labour exploitation is taking place in the Netherlands today. To raise awareness about this form of human rights violation, FairWork, the Dutch organisation against modern slavery, is launching a new campaign, starting on 18 October to coincide with the EU Anti-Trafficking Day. Using free postcards, websites such as ‘Speurders’ and ‘Marktplaats’ (the Dutch equivalents of E-bay) and social media, the campaign attracts bargain hunters to the website www.Goedkopearbeidskracht.nu (www.cheaplabour.now). Visitors to this site are directed to the page of an (hypothetical) agency where cleaning services for 2.50 Euros per hour and painting services for 4 Euros are offered. After selecting a cheap labour, visitors to the site are faced with the warning that at such low salaries, modern slavery is lurking.

What’s new?

6 steps towards respect for human rights in the supply chain
The Dutch development organisation ICCO and Social Accountability International (SAI) have developed a handbook that supports companies in implementing the UN Guiding Principles for Business & Human Rights. The Guidebook introduces 6 steps for constructing a supply chain management system aimed at the integration of respecting human rights. The 6 steps are as follows:
1. Embedding human rights via policy commitment
2. Assessing human rights impact
3. Integrating human rights in policies, procedures and responsibilities
4. Tracking human rights implementation
5. Communicating human rights impact
6. Remediating human rights impact

The handbook provides both practical policies, procedures and formats and a section on the most important human rights problems which regularly occur in supply chains. The handbook describes the context of these problems and provides possible solutions. The handbook is developed for big and small companies in each industry for the use by senior management, HR managers and the corporate social responsibility and purchasing departments. SAI and ICCO also provide trainings with practical tips in using the handbook and understanding the step by step implementation of the UN Guiding Principles. The Guidebook can be ordered at: ekoster@sa-intl.org.

Human Trafficking: Exploring International Nature, Concerns, and Complexities
The report Human Trafficking: Exploring the International Nature, Concerns, and Complexities, edited by John Winterdyk, Benjamin Perrin, and Philip Reichel examines techniques used to protect and support victims of trafficking as well as strategies for the prosecution of offenders. The topics that are being discussed, merely focus on the problems that occur in the daily practise of implementing anti-trafficking policies and measures. It examines how data on human trafficking should be collected and analysed, and how data collection can be improved through proper contextualisation; the importance of harmonisation and consistency in legal definitions and interpretations within and among regions; the need for an increased exchange of information and cooperation between the various actors involved in combating human trafficking, including investigators, law enforcement
and criminal justice professionals, and social workers; problems with victim identification, as well as erroneous assumptions of the scope of victimisation; and controversy over linking protection measures with cooperation with authorities.

**Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered**

Since the highly acclaimed 2005 publication of the first edition of Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered, the attention for human trafficking among researchers and policymakers in Europe has increased. This second edition, *New Perspectives on Migration, Sex Work, and Human Rights* updates recent developments in law, policy, and international agreements as well as providing new research. This book, edited by Kamala Kempadoo, Jyothi Sangera and Bandana Pattanaik (the Coordinator of GAATW), critically assesses and examines the existing international policies on human trafficking, while proposing alternatives for future research and possible intervention strategies. It looks more closely at narratives about sex trafficking and the growing interest amongst feminists, abolitionists, criminologists and legal experts, as well as new ways for developing research projects with migrant women around the world.

**Global HIV Commission: legalisation of prostitution to prevent HIV epidemic**

The Global Commission on HIV and the Law has published the report *Risks, Rights and Health*, which is the result of 18 months of extensive research, consultation, analysis and deliberation. Its sources included the testimony of more than 700 people most affected by HIV-related legal environments from 140 countries, in addition to expert submissions. The Commission findings are that that the legal environment—laws, enforcement and justice systems—has immense potential to improve the lives of HIV-positive people and to help turn the epidemic around. But nations have squandered the potential of the legal system. Worse, punitive laws, discriminatory and brutal policing, and the denial of access to justice for people with and at risk of acquiring HIV, are fuelling the epidemic. These legal practices create and punish vulnerability. The Commission refers to men having sex with men, drug users, and sex workers as vulnerable groups. The Commission calls upon states to make sure that laws are developed to protect vulnerable groups. In this respect, the Commission recommends that nations around the world take action to remove punitive laws against consensual sex work and to ensure that the enforcement of laws against human trafficking is carefully targeted to punish those who use force, dishonesty or coercion to lure people into commercial sex, or who abuse migrant sex workers through debt bondage, violence or deprivation of liberty. Laws against human trafficking must be used to prohibit sexual exploitation, but they must not be used against adults involved in consensual sex work.

**Building a Better World Cup**

The report, *Building a better world cup: Protecting Migrant Workers in Qatar Ahead of FIFA 2022* by Human Rights Watch documents pervasive employer exploitation and abuse of workers in Qatar’s construction industry, made possible by inadequate legal and regulatory frameworks which allow employers extensive control over workers, and prohibits migrant workers from exercising their rights to free association and collective bargaining. It also addresses the Qatar government’s failure to enforce those laws that are designed to protect worker rights. It examines why violations of workers’ rights go largely undetected, and looks at the barriers that workers face in reporting complaints or seeking redress. Based on interviews with 73 migrant construction workers in Qatar, industry employers, government officials, diplomats, and labour attaches from major labour-sending countries, journalists, academics, and worker advocates, as well as correspondence with both government officials and companies. Their stories, along with others collected in this report, help to illustrate the risk that the building boom poses ahead of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar and the risk of migrant rights violations unless preventive measures are taken by the government and private actors alike, in keeping with their human rights responsibilities.
Re-thinking Trafficking Prevention
Despite the millions of dollars of development funds that have been invested in human trafficking prevention programmes, human trafficking still persists and there are indications that the effectiveness of many prevention programmes is limited. Re-thinking Trafficking Prevention - A Guide to Applying Behaviour Theory was developed for COMMIT Taskforces, partner organisations and anti-human trafficking practitioners to help improve the planning and monitoring of human trafficking prevention interventions through the application of behaviour change theory.

International Migration Outlook
The International Migration Outlook 2012 of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), analyses recent developments in migration movements and policies in OECD countries. It underlines the central role of employment in the process of migrant integration in the host society and the need for concrete integration policies with particular emphasis on education, language training, and actions that promote labour market integration. The report also emphasises the link between employment and migration, noting signs of increasing outflows from countries hit hard by the economic crisis. The need for increased labour mobility within Europe is also highlighted by the Employment Package published by the European Commission in April (see IP/12/380 and MEMO/12/256). The report contains some indications of a growing interest for mobility among EU citizens. As the report notes, Europe appears to be missing the necessary resources for the required upskilling particularly in the most promising and fastest growing sectors.

Regularisation as an instrument to reduce vulnerability
The EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has published a working paper Regularisations – an instrument to reduce vulnerability, social exclusion and exploitation of migrants in an irregular situation in employment. Over the past 25 years, EU Member States have implemented nearly 70 regularisation programmes involving more than six million migrants living in irregular situations in the EU. While the success of regularisation measures in terms of macro-level objectives (notably the reduction of irregular employment and the informal economy) can be disputed, this paper shows their potential to reduce and eradicate the vulnerability of regularised migrants to adverse working conditions, exploitation and coercion. In addition, regularisations have positive effects on the individual employment trajectories of regularised migrants in relation to income, participation in employment, occupational mobility and use of skills. It recommends systematically considering the potential positive effects of regularisation measures in terms of addressing the vulnerability of migrants in an irregular situation in policy debates and in the concrete design and implementation of regularisation measures. However, the report highlights that other measures need to be adopted to address the vulnerability of migrants in an irregular situation in a comprehensive fashion, including wider reforms of immigration and employment legislation, as well as various other measures.

Civil society organisations aim to have their voices heard by utilising international mechanisms, but due to bureaucracy this is often a difficult road. Therefore, the United Nations has developed a series of practical guides aimed to facilitate the engagement of civil society actors with the United Nations human rights programme. The latest issue of this series looks at civil society engagement in the Social Forum. The Social Forum is an annual meeting convened by the United Nations Human Rights Council. It serves as a unique space for open and interactive dialogue between civil society actors, representatives of United Nations Member States, and intergovernmental organizations. The 2012 Social Forum, an annual meeting by the UN Human Rights Council, will take place from 1 to 3 October 2012 in Geneva, Switzerland. It will focus on “People-centred development and globalization”. The new Guide is available online in all six UN languages: English, French, Arabic, Chinese, Russian and Spanish.
What’s new on the web?

Sexwork is work
The INDOORS Project produced the video Equal Rights to advocate for sex workers’ rights. This video was made with and for sex workers in order to make people aware that sex work is work and that sex workers should be entitled to the same rights as other workers. The video is available for free download in 17 languages. The European project INDOORS is a partnership of nine European organisations aiming to support and empower all sex workers.

UNODC campaign against organised crime
The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched a new campaign Transnational Organized Crime: Let’s put them out of business. The campaign focuses on four main aspects of organised crime: counterfeit goods, human trafficking, environmental crime and migrant smuggling. A specially developed website provides detailed information about the nature and forms of organised crime, how it affects society and what can be done to counteract it. The campaign has produced several fact sheets and videos in English, Russian, German, French, Chinese and Arabic.

ASTRA on labour exploitation
Astra, a long-term partner of La Strada International, is a local grass-root anti-trafficking organisation established in 2000 as the first actor to raise the issue of human trafficking in Serbia. The organisation has recently launched a new campaign focusing on labour exploitation in Serbia.

What’s happening where?

4 October  PICUM workshop on the rights of undocumented women and pre-launch screening of UNDOCUMENTARY, Brussels, Belgium
5 October  Joining Forces against Human Trafficking, Vienna, Austria
11 October  COMP.ACT Special Focus Event to the 12th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on Access to Justice, making compensation a reality for trafficked persons, Vienna, Austria
11-12 October  12th High-level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, Vienna, Austria
15-19 October  Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Transnational Organised Crime Convention, Vienna, Austria
16-17 October  Annual conference of Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking, London, United Kingdom
18 October  Counter-Trafficking Day, Bern, Switzerland
18 October  6th EU Anti-Trafficking Day -Working together towards the eradication of trafficking in human beings: The Way Forward, Brussels, Belgium
19 October  Migration, Domestic Workers and Human Rights: gender equality and the limits of rights, Cork, Ireland
23-26 October  International symposium on human trafficking, Arad, Romania
25 October  International best practices against human trafficking, Porto, Portugal
25-26 October  PILnet’s annual European Pro Bono Forum: Access to Justice, Madrid, Spain
12-14 November  ENPATES final conference, Rome, Italy
21 November  International Conference on Human Trafficking, Cardiff, Wales
4-5 December  Council of Europe conference: Making prevention work; addressing the root causes of human trafficking, Sofia, Bulgaria
7 December  PICUM workshop Fair Working Conditions, Brussels, Belgium
14 December  Alliance Expert Coordination Team (AECT) meeting of the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Vienna, Austria
Suzanne Hoff is the International Coordinator of La Strada International.

How to find the perfect funding?

For several years my colleagues and I have been discussing the issue of financial sustainability. For La Strada International, our members and other partner NGOs in the field, the harsh reality is that although trafficking in human beings is recognised as a serious violation of human rights and is high on the international agenda, it is very difficult to find sufficient financial support. We struggle each year to have our core activities funded and to be able to initiate new projects. We are already happy if our annual budgets are somehow covered during the year, if we manage to keep all our staff and can close the year without debts. This is not financial sustainability, this is hard life.

Is it the crisis that now affects us? But then it has never been easy. Or is it rather something more deeply rooted - are current funding opportunities for NGOs, like us, not fitting with our needs?

In the 10 years that I have been working for La Strada, I have seen many new NGOs pop up and been able to develop. However I have also seen NGOs disappear, in August the Dutch NGO De Rode Draad, the organisation advocating for the rights of sex workers, had to close down and went bankrupt. In 2010 the same happened to the Dutch NGO Aim for human rights - both good partners of La Strada. They were unable to find sufficient funds, and there are many more organisations in the Netherlands and Europe who currently face such a situation.

At La Strada International meetings, in particular the capacity building seminars we organised on financial sustainability for our members, and at external events, like our European NGO platform, we have been brainstorming on how to obtain adequate funds. We acknowledged that it is time to become more financially independent; that we need to diversify funds and build reserves and that we have to invest even more in marketing and fundraising. If needed, even at the expense of staff for content work. Fundraising requires experience, sufficient time and an enormous amount of patience, in particular when talking about European Commission funds. The application procedures are time consuming and difficult, eight months might pass before you hear the outcome of the call. Moreover, it takes several applications to get a grant approved.

From 2009 until 2011 LSI managed to receive a Daphne Operating Grant that supported our annual core costs for almost 50 percent. This felt like a recognition for our work and we felt relief. But now four years after we received the first grant, we are far less positive as the grant has sometimes been more of a burden than support. Although funding was to be used from 1 January, approvals were at the earliest received in May, then discussions on the budget started, and in all these three years, contracts were signed only in July or August, while we had to wait till September to receive the first transfer. This left us with only 3-4 months to spend the grant and perform all the activities that were planned for a full year. We simply could not prefinance all activities, neither could recruit the needed staff as budgeted, without knowing when the money would arrive.

As a result, each year we were forced to pay back part of the grant. This year our application was not accepted as new rules required us to have formalised partners in at least 10 EU countries, which we do not, regardless of our extensive NGO network in Europe. I do not know if we should be sad, or rather happy; it has saved us a lot of frustration this year.

Definitely, European funding programmes can and should be improved. If not possible to simplify application procedures, or speed up the process and change the procedures of decision making, then at least the European Commission should be realistic in the planning and approval of its own financial programmes. But more fundamentally, the criteria of the calls for project grants, like ISEC and Daphne, should allow more freedom to design projects based on the needs of organisations.
working in the field, instead of the current situation where the call clearly limits focuses. This often results in duplication and overlap of activities of NGOs and other stakeholders in the field.

In that respect there is so much money available for meetings and conferences, but hardly any for the core work of NGOs, e.g. for core costs, or social support programmes, including shelters. We have sometimes been fantasising, what if we would stop going to all the anti-trafficking conferences and events that are being organised. We would save so much time and - if all would do the same - lots of money that could then be used for grass roots work that respects the rights of trafficked persons and offer them the assistance and support they need.

But not only the European Commission, also governments, and private foundations should consider supporting NGOs and their core work. Unfortunately many foundations left the anti-trafficking field, due to other regional priorities and focuses, while governments have made cuts in their financial support programmes. So we should look for alternatives. Are there possible other donors out there, we might not know yet? Private companies or someone else interested to support us? You are welcome and don’t hesitate to call. Or are there NGOs who recognise these stories and want to take up the issue with us. Just e-mail me at sh@lastradainternational.org

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