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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 [e-mail us](#) by 1 December 2018 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 !

### Final conference Rights at Work

Tackling Labour Exploitation in all economic sectors in Poland, Bulgaria & Romania



*How can labour rights infringements and exploitation be prevented and addressed in Poland, Bulgaria, Romania and the Netherlands? How should trade unions, migrant rights and anti-trafficking groups, and other relevant stakeholders work together to tackle exploitation and human trafficking? How can we make employers and the private sector more accountable?*

On 28 September 2018, La Strada International organised the concluding conference of the international project *Rights at Work – Tackling Labour Exploitation in all Economic Sectors in Poland, Bulgaria and Romania*. The conference was attended by around eighty participants from all relevant stakeholder-groups; trade unions, NGOs, embassies, labour inspections and academic researchers from Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, the Netherlands and Belgium. The conference was organised together with the Dutch organisation Fairwork and SOMO and the

partner organisations in the 3 focus countries; La Strada Poland, the Association for Legal Intervention (SIP), Animus Association and AIDRom, with financial support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The conference started with a presentation of preliminary findings and conclusions of the project, including remaining lack of awareness for labour exploitation and for the specific vulnerability of migrant workers; difficulties with interpretation and implementation of legislation, as well as insufficient labour inspection capacity and absence of a 'firewall' (labour rights versus migration control). Three panel debates followed, during which experts discussed the law and practise of severe forms of labour exploitation, complaint mechanisms, prosecution and liability of employers and the private sector and lastly cooperation of stakeholders to address cases of labour exploitation and support victims. A [full report](#) of the conference is available. The final report of the Rights at Work project will be published later this year.

### La Strada publishes working papers on compensation for victims of crime

This year three research assessments were conducted in the framework of La Strada International's project [Justice at Last](#), *European action for compensation for victims of crime*, which analysed compensation claims, assessed the gaps related to victims' needs, referral, and receipt and payment of claims. Two working papers have now been published a [Legal Assessment: compensation practises](#) and [Cooperation on access to compensation in cross border context](#). These working papers have been written by LSI board



member Liliana Sorrentino and former board member Irena Konečná, in close cooperation with LSI and all project consortium partners. The research comprised desk research, followed by an analysis of 60 collected country and case descriptions. Initial and preliminary findings were validated and elaborated during focus group discussions held on 7 June in Vienna, Austria. A total of 50 participants joined the discussions: NGOs, lawyers, prosecutors, and European decision makers.

The studied 60 cases related to mostly single victims and a few cases concerned more than one trafficked or exploited person. All 60+ victims in these cases pursued compensation for the harm suffered, via various avenues such as criminal and civil proceedings, labour redress mechanisms, state compensation schemes and alternative mechanisms. In 40 of their cases, the court decided to award compensation. However, only 11 of these cases actually resulted in compensation being paid to trafficked and/or exploited persons. In the remaining three-quarters of cases, victims did not receive any monetary compensation in spite of the court decision.

Next steps in the project include international and national trainings, seminars and focus group meetings for professionals on claiming compensation. Besides, a European information campaign is being set up, to promote compensation and to reach victims of crime and other groups. All project findings will feed into the establishment of interactive online resource centre. The project is coordinated by La Strada International and implemented in cooperation with partners in Bulgaria (Animus Association), Czech Republic (La Strada), Spain (SicarCAT and Esperanza), Germany (KOK), Austria (LEFO), The Netherlands (FairWork), Ireland (MRICI), Romania (Adpare), Macedonia (Open Gate/La Strada) and Serbia (ASTRA).

## La Strada International co-organises final conference SAFE! Project

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October the Safe! Expert Meeting 'A New Challenge for Europe: Early Identification, Protections and Safe Return of (Possible) Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings among Newly Arrived Migrants and Refugees!' took place in Sofia, Bulgaria.



Key speaker was UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms Maria Grazia Giammarinaro who in her last [thematic report](#) to the UN Human Rights Council, paid close attention to the issue of identification, referral and assistance to victims and potential victims of trafficking, especially in mixed migration flows. LSI's NGO platform earlier contributed to this report by sending in a content submission. The Expert meeting discussed the need for early identification of vulnerable migrants and adequate support, as well as the need for unconditional support. Concern was raised about Dublin returns of trafficked persons and the lack of adequate risk assessment or guarantees for safe returns or settlement.

The two year [SAFE! project](#), coordinated by the Dutch shelter organisation HVO Querido is implemented by an international consortium, including La Strada International and comprises training, exchange of expertise and strategies development. La Strada International together with its Dutch member organisation CoMensha, has been responsible for the conduction of a survey and assessment report on early identification and safe return, as well as the development of a social map, comprising over 100 support organisations in Europe. This social map will be soon published at [LSI website](#).



### 10th LSI NGO platform organised in Sofia, Bulgaria

On 3<sup>rd</sup> October, La Strada International organised the 10<sup>th</sup> NGO platform meeting in Sofia, Bulgaria hosted by LSI's member in Bulgaria, the Animus Association. Currently the LSI [NGO platform](#) comprises 29 members in 24 European countries. The meeting - *open for Platform members only* – included updates on ongoing projects and initiatives, discussions and exchange related to the

process of the new LSI Platform Structure, membership and focusses, planned research and advocacy actions, as well as initiatives taken to engage the private sector to address labour exploitation in their supply chains. On 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018, the NGO platform members also met with the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking, Mrs. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro to discuss her call for [submissions for a next special report](#) on innovative and transformative models of social inclusion for victims of trafficking. This report will be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2019.

## Trafficking along Migration Routes to Europe: Bridging the Gap between Migration, Asylum and Anti-Trafficking

In the framework of the [ICMPD](#) coordinated project [Trafficking along Migration Routes \(TRAM\)](#): Identification and Integration of Victims of Trafficking among Vulnerable Groups and Unaccompanied Children, a [Briefing Paper](#) has been launched around June this year. This two year project (2017-2018) ICMPD implements with an international consortium, in which La Strada International also partners. In November a final conference will be organised in Stockholm, hosted by CBSS, see overview upcoming events. Another [ICMPD study](#) recently published, shows how migrants' experiences in crisis situations can direct policy makers' priorities and future actions



## What's going on ?

### Resolution on establishment of Review Mechanism for reviewing implementation UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The ninth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime concluded with [agreement on a resolution](#) on the establishment of a mechanism for reviewing implementation of the Convention and its Protocols on human trafficking, migrant smuggling and firearms. According to UNODC, this review mechanism can further reinforce criminal justice responses and cooperation through the Convention, as well as help to identify assistance needs and channel development support."

The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has achieved near-universal ratification, with 189 States parties. The Protocols have achieved a similarly high level of acceptance, with 173 States parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, 146 to the Smuggling of Migrants Protocol; and 115 to the Firearms Protocol. There has been much discussion over the past years about a prospective review mechanism for the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). In fact, as stated by the Global Initiative against transnational crime in a [commentary](#), proposals for the structure of a prospective review mechanism began almost immediately after the convention was signed in 2000. No agreement could be reached.

LSI and GAATW have always supported the idea of a review mechanism for the UN Protocol and will closely monitor further developments. La Strada hopes that this new review mechanism will in Europe closely cooperate with GRETA, the monitoring body of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against trafficking.

### Election of new GRETA members

The terms of office of 7 of the 15 current members of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking (GRETA) will expire on 31 December 2018. The elections to fill the vacant seats will be held at the 23<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings on **9 November 2018**. All countries that have signed and ratified the convention, (except for the 8 countries who have members in GRETA whose term end in 2020), had the right to nominate candidates for GRETA membership. In total 24 [nominations](#) were received from 16 State Parties on the deadline of 9 September. Interestingly the majority of the countries (11 countries) nominated only one candidate this time.

La Strada International considers that the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is an important binding human rights treaty to effectively fight trafficking in human beings and therefore monitored together with the members of LSI's NGO platform the elections. It was noticed that still the procedures at national level are not very transparent and it was difficult for NGOs in most countries to find out more about the selection process or the nominated candidates. In a [letter](#) for the Committee of the Parties, who will vote for the new GRETA members, LSI NGO platform has called for multidisciplinary Expert Group, which ensures inclusion of NGO representatives and reflects a gender and geographical balance and provided its support for seven candidates.

In 2019 the third GRETA monitoring round will start, which is expected to have a strong focus on access to justice for victims of trafficking. Earlier LSI called for more focus on access to remedies including compensation and back wages and safe reporting. LSI NGO platform member FIZ published a [list of Demands](#) on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention in Switzerland for the 2<sup>nd</sup> evaluation round. Moreover supported by 85 NGOs in Switzerland, FIZ published a [second alternative report](#) which highlights challenges, gaps and recommendations.

## European Commission re-opens EU Return Directive

The European Commission will reopen the [EU Return Directive](#) and likely propose measures similar to the 2017 [recommendations](#) to member states, which encourage longer and more detention among other highly worrisome measures. [PICUM](#), the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants, of which LSI is member, shared the first findings of the [evaluation report on three alternatives to detention pilot projects](#) of the European Alternatives to Detention Network in Bulgaria, Cyprus and Poland. The Platform aims to highlight these findings showing that alternatives to detention work and should be taken on by policymakers across the EU. Persons can get involved in the [NextGen Index](#), a scorecard which ranks states on their progress in ending child immigration detention. You can further join the [End Immigration Detention of Children](#)

## Advocating against criminalizing assistance to migrants

Within the [ECI campaign](#) against criminalisation, a [letter](#) signed by nearly 60 civil society organizations across Europe, including La Strada International, aimed to put more pressure on the Greek authorities and other governments against criminalisation of persons helping migrants and refugees to enter Europe. All can help to increase the visibility of the [#HelpIsNoCrime](#) campaign and put pressure on Greek authorities. See further also the European Citizens Initiative [#WelcomingEurope](#) of EU citizens who demand the end of intimidation and punishment of citizens and organisations providing needed assistance to refugees and migrants.

A recent [FRA note](#) draws attention to the recent trend of criminalising search and rescue operations (SAR) carried out by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other private entities. This includes seizing rescue vessels, as well as arrests for crew members, in some EU Member States. Most of such incidents concerned NGOs operating in the Central Mediterranean Sea. states that ‘legal actions against NGOs and volunteers involved in search and rescue at sea based on domestic criminal or administrative law must be implemented in accordance with the relevant international, Council of Europe and EU fundamental rights law and refugee law standards. This requires making the delicate distinctions between real smugglers and those enforcing the human rights imperative of saving lives at sea, either by acting out of humanitarian considerations and/or by following international obligations for rescue at sea’. In July 2018, in reaction to recent cases of arrest and prosecution of European citizens for rescuing and assisting migrants in need, the European Parliament has adopted a [resolution](#) to end such criminalization.

## UN AND EU Spotlight initiative on eliminating violence against women

The [Spotlight Initiative](#) is a global, multi-year initiative of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN), focused on eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG) across the globe. The Initiative is so named as it brings focused attention to this issue, moving it into the spotlight and placing it at the centre of efforts to achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. People can engage with the Spotlight Initiative by participating in a **reference group** for governance and monitoring at a national, regional or global level; applying to be an **implementing partner of the UN**; or **apply to receive Spotlight Initiative grants** from the UN Trust Fund to end violence against women and women’s funds or advocate to improve the **Initiative’s decision making** and programme design.



## Food products sector boosts sustainability in production chain

The parties in the Dutch food products sector will join forces to ensure responsible business conduct in the international production chain. In June 2018 they signed [the International Responsible Business Conduct Agreement for the Food Products Sector](#).

This agreement is intended to foster cooperation throughout the entire chain to minimise the risks of negative impacts such as human rights violations and damage to the environment, thereby working towards increased sustainability in the production chain. The IRBC Agreement for the Food Products Sector is the sixth IRBC agreement, coming after the agreements in the textile, banking and gold sectors enacted under the supervision of the Dutch Social Economic Council (SER). Agreements on insurance, pensions, floriculture, natural stone and metallurgy are in preparation.

## What's new ?

### EU Agency for Fundamental Rights reports on severe labour exploitation in EU

Severe labour exploitation is widespread across the European Union. While workplace inspections can help counter this phenomenon, they need to be strengthened to do so effectively. Based on interviews and focus group discussions with almost 240 exploited workers active in diverse economic sectors, a new [report](#) of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency provides important evidence on how unscrupulous employers manipulate and undermine inspections, and on what can be done to counteract such efforts. According to the FRA report workplace inspections are often lacking or ineffective, enabling unscrupulous employers to exploit their workers. Tightening up inspections to combat abuse and empower workers to report abuse are some ways FRA suggests to help end severe labour exploitation. For more information also see the related [factsheet](#).

### KOK Publication on severe labour exploitation and trafficking of women

Janina Mitwali

SEVERE  
LABOUR EXPLOITATION  
AND TRAFFICKING  
IN HUMAN BEINGS  
FOR THE PURPOSE  
OF LABOUR EXPLOITATION  
IN THE CASE OF WOMEN –  
AN INVISIBLE  
PHENOMENON?

Translated excerpt from the study „Menschenhandel zum Zweck der Arbeitsausbeutung und schwere Arbeitsausbeutung von Frauen – ein nicht-gesehenes Phänomen?“ published in 2016.

edited by **KOK** German NGO network against trafficking in human beings

In 2016, KOK, the German NGO network and coordination office against trafficking in human beings – which is members of LSI's NGO platform, published a study in German on severe labour exploitation and trafficking of women for labour exploitation. An [English translated excerpt](#) of this study is now available.

It analyses severe labour exploitation and trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation of women in Germany. The excerpt provides a good overview of the present state of discussion on the topic of labour exploitation of women in Germany and sums up recommendations. In March 2017, "Brot für die Welt" and KOK organized an expert discussion to present the study and discuss its findings. On 25-26<sup>th</sup> of October KOK will organise an international Symposium „[Trafficking in human beings and exploitation in Germany – taking stock two years after implementation of the EU Directive](#)“.

### New Reports of UN Rapporteurs on Migration and Gender

Around June, several new reports have been published by UN Special Rapporteurs working on issues closely related to trafficking in human beings. The [report](#) of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights

of migrants relates to obstacles for migrants accessing justice and calls among others for clear 'firewalls' between immigration enforcement and public services, to ensure all migrants can access justice without fear of being reported, detained and deported. The Rapporteur further recommends that labour inspections focus on employers who exploit migrant workers, rather than on the workers.

A second [report](#) of the SR slavery on the gender dimensions of contemporary forms of slavery focusses on the impact of slavery and servitude on marginalized migrant women workers in the global domestic economy. The report delves more deeply into five specific sectors of work: agriculture, garment, electronics manufacturing, accommodation and food, and domestic and care work. In her report, the UN Special Rapporteur concludes that policies are needed that tackle discrimination, while also helping to balance the legitimate concerns of both employers and workers in order to effectively prevent human rights violations including servitude in the domestic sector. Most recommendations concern broadly combating gender stereotyping and gender violence, but also in the context of migration and in highly feminised formal and informal sectors of the economy. According to the Rapporteur 'a sustainable domestic work economy should ensure access to justice, effective enforcement and remedies in the case of exploitation and abuse, while also addressing issues of prejudice against migrants through advocacy'. La Strada International together with GAATW-IS and PICUM sent in a [contribution](#) to the report earlier this year.

### **Dutch Rapporteur reports on estimating size of hidden trafficked persons**

The Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence Against Children, Mr. Herman Bolhaar, recently published (an English summary) [report](#) on victims of human trafficking in the Netherlands. It contains an estimate produced by experts in estimating the size of hidden populations. The report contains data concerning identified victims, who have been registered by the Dutch Coordination Centre for Human Trafficking (CoMensha)/La Strada Netherlands. The figures on identified victims have been compared with the estimated figures to determine the number of victims who, according to the estimate, remain unidentified and thereby invisible. Concerns are raised about victims of domestic trafficking for sexual exploitation, especially minor victims, which seem more hidden than other trafficking victims: only one out of nine of these minor victims is identified.

### **CoMensha publishes survivor stories**

In September 2018, CoMensha, the Dutch Coordination Centre for Human Trafficking published the report [Facing Forward, Nine stories about being a survivor of human trafficking in a post-trafficking shelter in the Netherlands](#). This report comprises stories of 6 women and 3 men, who all have been in a trafficking situation. In the stories, they reflect on how they experience the care and shelter support organized for them. The main message of the report is that shelter and care for trafficked persons should focus both on addressing their trauma, but also on their future, enabling them to better cope with problems from the past and related ongoing challenges.

### **New report UK Anti-Trafficking Monitoring group launched**

In September the UK Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (ATMG, an umbrella organisation of 13 NGOs) presented its new report entitled "[Before the harm is done : Examining the UK's response to the prevention of trafficking](#)" with a launch event in the UK Parliament. The researchers aimed to assess the extent to which prevention action contributes to the UK's implementation of the 2005 Council of Europe Trafficking Convention and the EU Trafficking Directive requirements.

The research found positive examples of localised good practice, however overall concludes that the UK 'continues to lack an overall strategy to prevent trafficking in adults and children, which leads to an inconsistent and fragmented approach to the prevention of trafficking. According to

the ATMG this means that prevention is often seen through the prism and policies of immigration and crime, hindering effective preventative action; 'the result of this approach and the wider policies of austerity, a hostile immigration environment and the threats posed by Brexit, is that the vulnerability of adults and children to exploitation is not reduced and the UK risks contravening its positive obligation to prevent trafficking in human beings'.

### **Impact UK Modern Slavery ACT and France 'Duty of Vigilance' law reviewed**

In 2015 the UK adopted the Modern Slavery Act, which included a requirement for companies to report on measures taken to tackle modern slavery in their supply chains. This August the UK Home Office announced to [review](#) the Modern Slavery Act to focus on its operation, effectiveness & potential improvements. Other organisations already initiated research to evaluate the impact of the Act. A recent [publication](#) by Ergon Associates, reviewing 150 businesses' modern slavery statements finds that only 54% have produced a subsequent statement, of those who have produced an updated statement, 42% made no changes or only minimal changes. Another UK report '[Who Made Our Uniforms?](#)' found that many companies supplying uniforms to the public sector do not report on measures to tackle slavery in supply chains. The report looked at thirty companies that were awarded significantly-sized contracts between 2013 and 2016 and examined publicly available information regarding their human rights and ethical standards and their suppliers. The report also includes several recommendations for the UK Government to ensure its contractors are more transparent. The report does not allege that any of the companies have labour and/or other human rights abuses in their supply chains.

This month, the UK based NGO Flex raised concern that public authorities are not required to report on measures taken, which 'undermines the steps they're asking companies to take'. FLEX's new briefing '[Public procurement to prevent human trafficking and forced labour](#)' sets out steps to ensure the UK Government's own supply chain is exploitation free. In recognition of the need for action in this area, the governments of the UK – as well as the governments of the USA, Canada, New Zealand and Australia - published [a set of principles](#) for Governments to adopt in order to tackle modern slavery in global supply chains.

Also in France, the 'Duty of Vigilance law' which entered in force in 2017 marked an important opportunity to accelerate and expand implementation by companies of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Also here [research](#) has been conducted to analyse the human rights reporting of the 20 largest companies in France, aiming to determine whether and to what extent the Duty of Vigilance law incentivizes French companies to improve their human rights reporting.

In Finland, where there is no legislation yet for Companies to conduct due diligence, Companies, civil society & trade unions have [called](#) for mandatory human rights due diligence legislation.

### **Call for International Legally Binding Instrument on Business & Human Rights**

During the week of 15-19 October 2018, more than 94 States and 400 civil society organizations were present for [negotiations](#) of the first-ever draft binding treaty to regulate — in international human rights law — the activities of transnational corporations and other business enterprises (TNCs-OBEs). Earlier scholars and experts in the fields of public international law, human rights law, business and human rights, and international economic law have closely followed and analysed the work of the Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (OEIGWG). With an [open letter](#) they have raised awareness for remaining gaps in ensuring that businesses respect human rights and effective remedies are available to victims of business-related human rights abuses. In particular they are concerned about the fact that there is still no legally binding international framework to facilitate mutual cooperation

and international assistance among states to hold businesses accountable for human rights abuses. The International Organisation of Employers (IOE) the largest private -sector network in the world, representing different types of businesses across social and labour policy fora such as the ILO, the UN and its various agencies, and the G7/G20 also published a [report](#) on the instruments. IOE has 153 member organisations from 143 countries which represent more than 50 million companies, which directly employ hundreds of millions of workers.

### **The fashion industry considered major contributor to modern slavery**

According to a new report by the *Walk Free Foundation*, the fashion industry is the second-largest sector, after technology, to support modern slavery practices. Over \$125 billion of fashion garments created via some form of modern slavery are imported annually to G20 countries, which also account for 80 percent of world trade. In 2016 alone, over 40 million people across the globe were living in modern slavery, with women making up over 70% of that statistic. Modern slavery conditions could include forced labor, debt bondage, human trafficking and more. Read more in the article on the website of [Esence \(Jul 26, 2018\)](#). Download the report [Global Slavery Index 2018](#).



In addition, new research findings published by [Clean Clothes Campaign](#) on 24 September 2018 allege that many workers making H&M's clothes live below the poverty wage, forcing many employees to work overtime - despite H&M's commitment to ensuring workers in its supply chain are paid a living wage. The Research findings are published in ["H&M: fair living wages were promised, poverty wages are the reality"](#) and reveal that that many workers making H&M's clothes live below the poverty line -- despite H&M's promise of a living wage by 2018, and despite the brand's recent deceptive claims of progress. Interviewed workers in Bulgaria mentioned not even to receive 10 per cent of what would be required for workers and their families to have decent lives. They include the fact that one of the world's largest retailers, reporting USD 2.6 billion profits, has workers in the supply chain who are forced to work excessive hours for sheer survival. Business & Human Rights Resource Centre invited H&M to respond to the launch of campaign in May 2018. More information including their response is available [here](#).

## **What's new on the web ?**

### **Dutch Trade Union raises concern about exploitation in transport sector**

The Dutch trade union FNV (in fact its related Foundation VNB) has conducted research over the last several months about the working conditions of truck drivers in Europe, responsible for European transports of different European car manufacturers. Many of them are from Central or Eastern Europe or 3<sup>rd</sup> country nationals in particular Filipino nationals, who have been recruited and 'signed for employment' in Poland but mainly work in Northern and Western Europe. The Dutch trade union researchers have identified that many of these drivers work under very bad labour conditions with excessive overtime, being forced to violated driving and resting time rules on a structural basis. Moreover drivers are forced to live in their trucks for months, are deceived; not informed about the actual working conditions, received much lower pay than initially promised and are victims of debt bondage or at least had to invest large sums in the recruitment process. In addition they are verbally

intimidated, violated and discriminated and forced to sign papers, making it financially impossible to withdraw. Moreover they often have no social security or any medical insurance. Based on this research a small booklet has been published, but also a [video news report](#) with interviews with truck drivers, which has gained quite some attention already from the media. The Trade Union calls upon European actors to take measures to stop these exploitative situations. As a result of the outreach work and research, the first presumed cases of human trafficking have been referred for support. It is expected that more victims will be identified in different European countries.

### Thomson Reuters Foundation launched stop Slavery Hub

Thomson Reuters launched the [Stop Slavery Hub](#) – a news and information resource on human trafficking offering in-depth investigations, highlighting events, documenting the latest research and policy announcements, and showcasing contributions from survivors and experts in the field. Earlier in June of this year, Thomson Reuters Foundation published a nine-part series of stories – ‘[Chasing Shadows](#)’ - exploring the links between human trafficking and modern technology.

### Prevention and information video materials launched in Finland

The Finish NGO, Pro-tukipiste published short animated videos via YouTube related to human trafficking. Three animations related to [Recognize the indicators of human trafficking \(EN\)](#), [The power of community \(EN\)](#) and [The victim of human trafficking offence is entitled to help \(EN\)](#) are now available in English, Thai, Russian, French and Arabic – and in Finnish. All the animations and other materials are available at the [website](#) of the organisation.

The NGO Victim Support Finland launched a [new video campaign](#) on October 7, 2018, on Decent Workers Day.

## What's happening where ?

*Only a selection of upcoming events is provided*

**18 October – 22 November 2018** - Exhibition [Open Your Eyes](#) for Human Trafficking, developed by Comensha/La Strada Netherlands can be visited in Strasbourg, France

**25 -26 October 2018** - [International symposium](#) organised by KOK, Berlin Germany

**25-26 October 2018** - [Conference](#) organised by Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment on ‘European Labour Authority: priorities for a successful and efficient agency’. The Hague, Netherlands

**29 October 2018** - [Event](#) on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day on the topic of "Human trafficking and human rights - access to rights for victims of human trafficking", Vienna Austria.

**30 October 2018** - SDGs and Initiatives for Sustainable Global Value Chains - An [interactive exchange](#) on initiatives for responsible business conduct in the EU, Conference Brussels, Belgium

**9 November 2018** – [GRETA elections](#), Strasbourg France

**21-22 November 2018** - 2nd networking meeting specialised lawyers & NGOs organised by Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France.

**26-28 November 2018** [Seventh Annual \(UN\) Forum on Business and Human Rights](#) organised by UN OHCHR Geneva, Switzerland.

**27 November 2018** - TRAM [Transnational multi-stakeholder seminar](#) (final conference) Stockholm, Sweden, organised by ICMPD and CBSS.

**4 - 5 December 2018** – EU Civil Society Platform on THB, Brussels, Belgium organised by the EU Anti

trafficking coordinator office. *For members only.*

**6-9 December 2018** [GFMD Civil society days](#) – Marrakesh, Morocco

**10 December 2018** – [70th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights](#)

**10 – 11 December 2018**, Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, Marrakesh, Morocco

**10-14 December 2018** - 4<sup>th</sup> simulation-based [training](#) organised by the OSCE OSR in Vicenza, Italy.

## What's on your mind ?

### **The *Anti-Trafficking Review* calls for papers for a themed issue entitled 'Public Perceptions and Responses to Human Trafficking'.**

Despite the increasing volume of critical appraisals by NGOs, academics and activists, dominant anti-trafficking policy and media discourses continue to favour a series of simplistic binaries. These binaries (victim - criminal, legal - illegal, free - unfree, deserving victims - fallen women, and so on) overlook the complexity of political, cultural, economic and individual contexts in which human trafficking and exploitation occur. In addition, the re-emergence of the powerful rhetoric of 'trafficking as modern slavery' makes it difficult to distinguish between different forms of exploitation and abuse, and places heavy restraints on mobility and rights of people on the move. A next issue of the GAATW Anti Trafficking Review want to raise issues related to public awareness of human trafficking, what it entails and how it can be measured and addressed; what the impact is, of all awareness raising efforts and why so much effort has been put into raising public awareness of this crime, in comparison to other serious and more prevalent crimes? This issue of the *Anti-Trafficking Review* will aim to explore perceptions, knowledge (and ignorance) and responses of the general public vis-à-vis human trafficking and related exploitation. It will also discuss the diversity of anti-trafficking awareness-raising actions and their impact, and whether they can actually help reduce exploitation and human trafficking.

La Strada International's International Coordinator, Suzanne Hoff, has been asked to be guest editors for this issue, together with academic Kiril Sharapov. [Please send your contributions by 9 December 2018](#) and tell us what's on your mind?



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