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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 [mail us](#) by 1 June 2013 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 !

Results of the first three years of COMP.ACT

COMP.ACT, the European Action for Compensation for Trafficked Person, has worked from December 2009 to December 2012, to bring about systematic and practical changes to ensure that trafficked persons receive compensation for their suffering and unpaid labour. The findings and results are published in [COMP.ACT report](#).

LSI Partners in 13 countries have conducted research on the existing possibilities for compensation, and the identification of obstacles in systems and procedures that prevent those trafficked from accessing compensation. The partners have formed national coalitions in support of compensation, and presented recommendations to ensure access to justice for trafficked persons. Several partners have engaged with lawyers to support their clients in compensation claims and have worked with law firms to inform the legal community on the right to compensation. COMP.ACT partners have supported over 50 trafficked persons in claiming compensation, with the highest amount granted being € 54,000.

Internationally, the COMP.ACT awareness raising campaign contributed to the inclusion of the issue of compensation in the anti-trafficking agenda of intergovernmental organisations.



The COMP.ACT project has made a start in building a multi-faceted and holistic strategy to achieve improvements that would lead to more trafficked persons receiving compensation. By forming or strengthening

national and international coalitions, undertaking research, trainings, developing tools for practitioners (such as the [Poster on seeking compensation](#) and the [Guidance on representing](#)

[trafficked persons in compensation claims](#)) and sharing good practices, COMP.ACT has contributed to raising awareness about the importance of the issue of compensation for trafficked persons and exposing the structural and practical obstacles to access justice. A ‘broad coalition of the willing’ has been established on both national and international levels. To ensure continued awareness-raising amongst a broader public, a [Compensation Promotion Video](#) was produced with the cooperation of international organisations.

In order to make compensation a reality for all trafficked persons, the next step is to expand this coalition to all stakeholders working in the anti-trafficking field and to anchor compensation into all policies, measures and legislation. COMP.ACT has formulated a range of recommendations for further action; addressing stakeholders at the different levels to transpose the right to compensation on paper, to the actual receipt of compensation by trafficking persons in practice. The funding for the first three years of COMP.ACT by King Baudouin Foundation and the European Commission ended in December 2012. All partners are very committed though to continue to work on the issue of compensation for trafficked persons and also new parties have indicated their interest in cooperation with COMP.ACT. Unfortunately, applications for funding with funds and the European Commission have not been rewarded yet, but the project coordination is determined to secure funding in order to implement the recommendations of the first three years.

The different tools developed by COMP.ACT together with the final report including the finding and results, are available in one comprehensive toolkit. The Toolkit, the separate products and the promotion video are available at www.compactproject.org or www.lastradainternational.org. A hard copy of the Toolkit can be ordered at info@lastradainternational.org.

LSI starts a new international project: NGOs & CO

In May 2013 a new La Strada International project, called **NGOs & Co - NGO-Business engagement in addressing human trafficking** will start. The project, funded by the European Commission ISEC programme, aims to critically address the issue of (employers and consumers) demand and supply for products and services, in order to reduce (vulnerability for) exploitation and human trafficking. With the project LSI hopes to strengthen the cooperation between grass root organisations and the business sector in effectively preventing and addressing human trafficking. The project aims to increase the knowledge and capacity of grass root anti-trafficking NGOs for establishing effective means of cooperation with the business sector on THB prevention and/or demand reduction; foster engagement with the business sector in preventing and addressing human trafficking by awareness-raising and building partnerships and to improve consumer awareness on human trafficking and its links to everyday products and services.

Businesses have a huge responsibility and role to play and need to address both their supply (vendors, supply chain) and demand (workforce). LSI believes that the business sector should look towards anti-trafficking NGOs for expertise in addressing human trafficking. So far partnerships on addressing human trafficking between NGOs and businesses in Europe have not been mapped or analysed structurally and there is a need for identifying and promoting best practices and strengthening awareness and capacity with both NGOs and the business sector for ensuring effective partnerships.

LSI will cooperate with a broad group of NGOs, including the eight LSI members in Poland, Czech Republic, Bulgaria (which will be the piloting countries), Netherlands, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Macedonia and close LSI partners in Germany (KOK), Austria (LEFO), Estonia (Living for Tomorrow), France (ALC), Romania (Adpare), Spain (Proyecto Esperanza), Belgium (Pagasa), Italy (On the Road), Cyprus (KISA), Switzerland (FIZ) and Turkey (HRDF). Further LSI will work with End Human Trafficking Now, ILO, UNODC, IOM and ECPAT who support the project by joining the project’s advisory group and have agreed to share their expertise in this field.

Third court judgement for labour exploitation in Czech Republic

For the third time, a court in the Czech Republic has ruled a judgement on human trafficking for the purpose of “*other forms of labour exploitation*”. The perpetrators - three men and one woman, have received unconditional sentences of up to nine years of imprisonment. The judgement was confirmed by the High Court in Prague in March 2013.

A very important and ground-breaking aspect of this judgement is the clarification of the term “*abuse of situation of dire straits*” (this term could be compared to the “*situation of vulnerability*” according to the EU Trafficking directive). The perpetrators have misused the vulnerability of the

victims - one of the victims had her child taken away by the authorities on the grounds of social protection, another one was not able to pay child alimony (the non-payment of alimony may lead to imprisonment in the Czech Republic). Knowing their difficult situations, the perpetrators offered them travel to the United Kingdom and promised paid employment. However, when arriving in the UK, the victims were required to work 12-hour shifts in a bakery, pay for their accommodation, suffer in poor living conditions and give a significant part of their incomes to the perpetrators. In one case, the perpetrators also used violence. Finally, the victims escaped from their work place and asked for help at the embassy who assisted their return to the Czech Republic.

The regional court in the Czech Republic described this situation as trafficking in human beings for the purpose of other forms of exploitation. According to the court, the perpetrators intentionally chose people from socially weaker environments and exploited them. The court also explicitly stated that *poor living conditions that do not respect human dignity are contrary to fundamental human rights*. Although there were judgements that dealt with poor living conditions, this is the first time when a contradiction with fundamental human rights was stated by a court judgement.

New Czech Law adopted on victims of crime

A new *Law on Victims of crime* was recently adopted by the Parliament of the Czech Republic and will come into effect in August 2013. La Strada Czech Republic has taken part in the drafting process and followed the legislative process throughout all of its stages.

The new law improves the legal situation of victims of crime who suffer health, material or non-material injury as a consequence of a crime. The law broadens the set of rights granted to victims - an example worth mentioning is the right to be guided by a *confidant* that the victim will choose and who will guide him/her in the course of criminal proceedings. The right of victims to receive information will be broadened - the law explicitly lists information to be provided from the police, public prosecution, health institutions, etc.

The law has also increased *the financial aid* provided by the state for victims who have not received compensation from the perpetrator. In certain cases, victims may receive financial aid also when criminal proceedings have not resulted in a conviction.

Also, a new *system for support and help for victims of crime* has been created on the basis of this law. Organisations that would like to take part in this system and thus be eligible to receive public financing, must first register with the Czech Ministry of Justice as providers of legal information or rehabilitation programmes. Legal representation and counselling, however, is reserved only for attorneys.

La Strada Belarus launches new internet-campaign “Ask before you travel”

More and more Belarusians are willing to work abroad. According to the data of a recent public poll opinion, conducted for “Gender Perspectives”/La Strada Belarus Programme in 2012, around 3% of the population works abroad annually, and around 16% want to work abroad.

Unfortunately, Belarusian labour migrants abroad are confronted with numerous breaches of rights, acts of fraud and labour exploitation. These abuses could be prevented if Belarusian migrants obtain more information and details about employment procedures abroad, tips on how to act in crisis situations, where to turn to in emergency cases. Most important is that they receive this vital information before they leave. That is why potential migrants - those who are searching for employment or marriage abroad - are the main target group of the campaign “Ask before you travel!” Bright and attractive banners were elaborated around four common migration scenarios for Belarusians. La Strada Belarus’s initiative was supported by “Nominal Technologies”, one of the leading companies among Belarusian technical centres of marketing promotion on the internet. The campaign “Ask before you travel!” is customised for targeted requests of

those who are looking for information about employment abroad or plan to marry a foreigner.

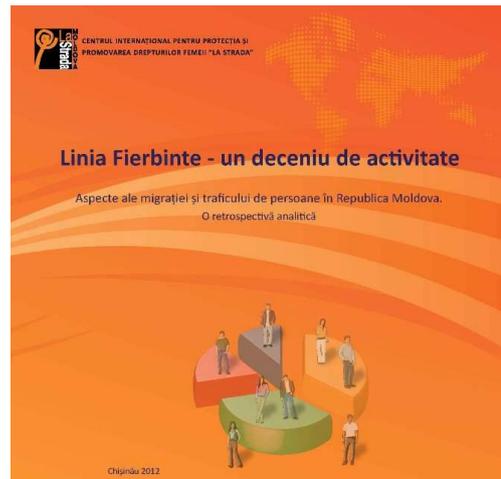


Ten years La Strada Moldova hotline

La Strada Moldova published a study report “Hotline - a decade of activity”. The publication represents a retrospective, analytical report on various aspects of migration and human trafficking. It covers the period from 1 September 2001 to 31 December 2011 and reflects the content of calls to the Hotline.

The publication reviews the profiles and main categories of the received hotline calls, the trends in the provision of Hotline services (2001-2011), the dynamics of migration and human trafficking from the perspective of a La Strada Moldova and the role and impact of information campaigns in promoting the Hotline services.

The report also contains conclusions and recommendations for the Moldovan Government and other national anti-trafficking actors. The [report](#) is available in Romanian.



Translation services for trafficked persons in the Netherlands

CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands, together with the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, has initiated the coordination of translation services for victims of human trafficking in The Netherlands. This means that service providers can request the reimbursement of costs that they make for hiring translators and interpreters in the provision of services to trafficked persons who are not accommodated in shelters.

This is a pilot project for one year, to determine the needs of service providers, and the Ministry will cover up to one hundred thousand Euro in translation costs. Costs made for translations in 2012 can also be reimbursed, if the request is submitted before 31 March 2013.

What's going on ?

25 years Global Fund for Women

The Global Fund for Women was founded in Palo Alto California by four women who were convinced that women's human rights and dignity were essential to the advancement of global agendas for social, economic, and political change. Frustrated by traditional philanthropy's lack of interest in funding women's groups and human rights, they forged a new path, founding an organisation that



would fund women-led organisations directly - something unheard of in the early 80's. Though the Global Fund has changed with the times, the philosophy of their founding members has remained: that women are the best agents of change in their communities and giving them the resources to do their work can change the world. Several projects that La Strada International has developed in the past years have received support from the Global Fund. Also many organisations we cooperate with, have been the beneficiaries of the Global Fund through the years. LSI congratulates the Global Fund with its anniversary of 25 years fighting for women's rights.

CSW on ending violence against women



The [57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) was held on 4-15 March 2013 in New York, USA. The priority theme, elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, was discussed at high level round tables and at several panel discussions

focussing on both the prevention of violence against women and girls and the multi-sectoral services and responses for women and girls who have experienced violence. A broad range of side events was organised outside of the formal programme. The issue of trafficking in women was also addressed both within and outside the formal programme, such as the side event organised by the Delegation of the European Union “Trafficking of women and girls - a form of violence against women: the EU's response” and by OHCHR “The Right to Effective Remedies for Trafficked Persons”.

Representing La Strada International, a team of Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia participated in the CSW to share experience and expertise in the field of human trafficking, to network and establish cooperation with different organisations worldwide. At the sessions, La Strada Macedonia highlighted the importance of tackling the issue of trafficking as a form of violence against women through addressing root causes and providing effective remedies for trafficked persons including compensation.

In the final [agreed conclusions](#), the Commission on the Status of Women recognises that despite progress made, significant gaps and challenges still exist, such as insufficient gender-sensitive policies and inadequate implementation of legal and policy frameworks. The Commission recommends action to strengthen implementation of legal and policy frameworks and accountability and to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors.

On the issue of trafficking in women the commission recommended to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation, by consolidating existing mechanisms and developing new initiatives consistent with the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children and by implementing the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

“Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors that contribute to trafficking in women and girls. Prevent, combat and eliminate trafficking in women and girls by criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons, in particular for the purpose of sexual and economic exploitation, as well as by strengthening existing civil and criminal legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and by bringing to justice and punishing the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials, by protecting the rights of trafficked persons and preventing re-victimization. Take appropriate measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked. Provide identified victims of trafficking appropriate protection and care, such as rehabilitation and reintegration in society, witness protection, job training, legal assistance, confidential health care, and repatriation with the informed consent of the trafficked person, regardless of their participation in any legal proceeding. Accelerate public awareness, education and training to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation.”

Launch of the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings

In the [EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings](#) that was launched last year, the European Commission presented its intention to establish an [EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings](#). The platform will serve as a forum to exchange expertise and ideas. Bringing together civil society organisations from EU member states working at European, national and local levels, the Platform will facilitate the creation of partnerships and synergies in this field. Participation of civil society organisations from third countries is foreseen for future meetings.



La Strada International, together with many other NGO's have, in the [Civil society commentary on the EU strategy](#), welcomed the intention of the Commission to facilitate NGO cooperation.

The logic of a civil society platform of service providers working on victim protection and assistance in member states and selected third countries is rooted in the need for (better) cooperation among such actors. Given the existing issue-driven cooperation between them on the one hand and the huge diversity of actors on the other hand, it is recommended not to aim at one umbrella structure, but to give support to the activities of NGOs and the networking among different civil society actors and between different sectors (including unions and migrant rights organisations). Above all, the platform should be fully independent.

Civil society organisations from EU member states working on trafficking in human beings are

invited to express an interest to participate in the first meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform on Trafficking in Human Beings which will take place on 31 May 2013 in Brussels. To apply, please read the [call for interest](#) and send the completed form before 3 April 2013, 5 p.m. to HOME-ANTITRAFFICKING@ec.europa.eu.

EU fighting organised crime

A new 1.5 million euro project to fight against organised crime and human trafficking in Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Moldova and Turkey has been launched by the European Union in February 2013. This pilot project intends to support countries to be better equipped to deal with human trafficking, for example through sharing data on trafficking and providing training for law enforcement agencies on how to deal with the issue more effectively. The project also promotes regional cooperation on this issue through sharing information and best practice between countries and regions. The project is one of the actions in the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016, adopted by the European Commission. It complements the work of the Commission also in relation to the collection of statistical data on trafficking in human beings, on which it will publish a report this spring. It also links to the work on the Action Oriented Paper on strengthening the EU external dimension on action against trafficking in human beings, the statement said.

The project launched in early 2013 is a first pilot phase. By mid-2014 a second phase is expected to consolidate its results and broaden the scope by addressing not only law enforcement, but also assistance and protection of victims. More countries are also expected to join the project in the second phase, according to the statement.

La Strada International welcomes the initiative to support neighbouring countries to effectively fight trafficking in human beings, but is cautious about the sharing of data, especially when it involves the data of trafficked persons. We hope that trainings and cooperation between states also involve better understanding of the protection of the rights of trafficked persons and includes cross border access to justice.

Victory for MCRI campaign: Ireland to criminalise Forced Labour



The Irish Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence recently [announced](#) an amendment to the law that will criminalise forced labour. A definition of *forced labour* will be inserted into Irish law to ensure victims of forced labour will receive greater protection and employers who commit this criminal act can be prosecuted. Forced labour is on the increase in Ireland. With this amendment, victims will have greater legal protection and access to practical support.

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI), in cooperation with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and civil society organisations, has been campaigning for this amendment for the last two years. In this campaign, the people that MRCI has supported in their struggle for justice have become known activists in combating forced labour.

Such as Fauziah Shaari, a victim of forced labour, who came to Ireland from Malaysia in 2009. She worked as a domestic worker caring for 4 children in a private home. She worked 14 hours per day, seven days a week for less than one euro an hour. Her employer did not update her visa and rendered her undocumented in the country. Her movements were restricted and she lost control over her own life. Fauziah was not protected by Irish law. “I still have not got justice on my case. I have campaigned for this law as I do not want other workers to suffer the way I have suffered.”

This change in the law will ensure that workers like Fauziah will be protected and their employers will be held to account.

Another well-known action group leader of MRCI is Mr Mohammed Younis, whose story is included in [LSI Newsletter 26](#). The Churches' Commission for Migrants in Europe (CCME), jointly with the Platform on International Cooperation for Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) have nominated Mr Mohammed Younis and MRCI for the [Solidar Silver Rose Award 2013](#) in the European category “Social Justice in Europe”. The nomination is founded on their work to promote the rights of undocumented migrant workers in Ireland. CCME and PICUM hope that this nomination would highlight and support the important work for more justice and equality of all workers in Ireland and the EU at large, regardless of their nationality, race or residence status.

Dhaka Principles for Migration with Dignity

The [Institute for Human Rights and Business](#) in consultation with a range of stakeholders from business, government, trade unions and civil society, has developed the [Dhaka Principles for Migration with Dignity](#), which were launched on International Migrants Day, 18 December 2012. The Dhaka Principles are a set of human rights based principles to enhance respect for the rights of migrant workers from the moment of recruitment, during overseas employment to further employment or safe return to home countries. They are intended for use by all industry sectors, in any country where people immigrate and emigrate for employment reasons. They are based on the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) and international labour and human rights standards. The Dhaka Principles provide a roadmap that traces the worker from home to place of employment and back again and provides key principles that employers and migrant recruiters should respect at each stage in the process to ensure migration with dignity.

Migrant workers and temporary workers lack rights in electronics sector

The need for businesses to have principles in order to uphold workers' rights are underlined in the studies of [makeITfair](#) - a European public awareness campaign aimed at improving the labour rights situation and work environment in the production chain of consumer electronics, such as mobile telephones and laptops.

Their studies show that electronics manufacturers and telecom companies are currently investigating the steps they need to take to be compliant with the UN standards for Enterprises and Human Rights. Their CSR reports show that codes of conduct are being adhered to more than before. Indeed, within this sector in Europe wages are increasing and union rights of permanent workers are being acknowledged. However, there are less permanent workers than before. Migrant workers, temporary workers and students are crowding the workplaces and their employment position is considerably weaker. Companies want to be flexible and to be able to avoid high costs if they have to let workers go. MakeITfair will collect more case studies in 2013 of those temporary labourers who have practically no rights.



ETUC fears social dumping and exploitation of workers

According to the [European Trade Unions Confederation \(ETUC\)](#) the opinion of the European Parliament internal market committee on the Enforcement Directive on the posting of workers, legitimises social dumping and exploitation of workers. ETUC fears that with this document, which will be forwarded as an opinion to the Employment and Social Affairs Committee (the leading Committee in this dossier) the protection of workers would become secondary to the internal market objectives.

National authorities would be discouraged from spotlighting fraudulent companies as only a limited number of control measures would be authorised. Furthermore, an amendment seeks to restrict even more the Posted Workers Directive by only recognising a limited number of collective agreements.

Veronica Nilsson, ETUC Confederal Secretary said: *“This opinion is a huge disappointment and is unacceptable. The objective of the Commission’s proposal was to improve the protection of a very vulnerable category of workers against exploitation. The document adopted today would actually make the current situation even worse. Every day, thousands of posted workers are being exploited as cheap workers. The European Parliament cannot just ignore this reality in the name of internal market principles. The ETUC urges the Employment and Social Affairs Committee to distance itself from this opinion and to start a debate on how to tackle exploitation of workers and social dumping”.*

ILO develops new standards on forced labour and trafficking

At its 101st Session (2012) the International Labour Conference (ILC) concluded that new standards to complement the International Labour Organisation’s (ILO) forced labour Conventions to address prevention and victim protection, including compensation and human trafficking for labour exploitation should be considered. The ILC called on the ILO to “conduct a detailed analysis, including through the possible convening of meetings of experts to identify gaps in existing coverage of ILO standards with a view to determining whether there is a need for standard setting”.

The ILO Governing Body decided to convene a tripartite meeting of experts in February 2013 to draft recommendations to its 317th Session in March 2013 with the intention to develop standards that could be placed on the agenda for the 103rd Session of the ILC in June 2014.

For this process, ILO drafted a [report](#) covering examples of existing legislation and practice in member states from different regions and with different legal systems, traditions and circumstances; and analysing the measures adopted and the corresponding gaps in the three thematic areas. The report does not seek to provide a comprehensive analysis of the situation in all member states, but rather to highlight elements that facilitate the identification of any gaps in the existing coverage; and perhaps most importantly - in the implementation of ILO standards.

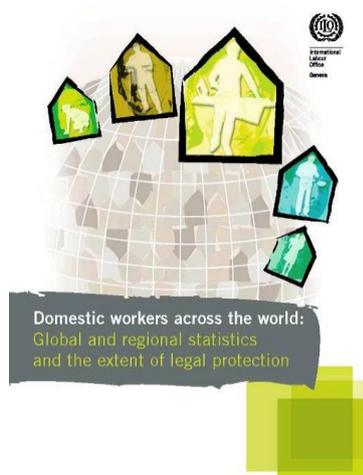
While most countries have adopted legislation criminalising forced labour, punishment is not always strong enough to act as a deterrent, in some cases amounting to fines or very short prison sentences. Most countries lack comprehensive measures targeting demand for forced labour goods and services, though some countries have taken legal and other measures to discourage individuals and businesses from exploiting workers in slavery-like conditions.

Identifying victims also remains a major challenge. Some countries fail to sufficiently support labour inspections, which can play a key role in finding the victims, as well as preventing situations of abuse from degenerating into forced labour.

In many cases, measures have been taken to reduce the vulnerability of specific groups, such as awareness-raising programmes aimed at workers heading overseas.

Consistent with the ILC conclusions, the ILO report provides a basis for assessing the need for further standard-setting to complement the ILO's forced labour Conventions, also taking into consideration the provisions of the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention.

Millions of domestic workers unprotected



At least 52 million people around the world (mainly women) are employed as domestic workers, according to the research [Domestic Workers across the world: Global and regional statistics and the extent of legal protection](#). They account for 7.5 percent of women's wage employment worldwide and a far greater share in some regions, particularly Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Between the mid-1990s and 2010, there was an increase of more than 19 million domestic workers worldwide. Many migrate to other countries to find work. It is likely that the figures contained in the report underestimate the true numbers of domestic workers worldwide, which may in reality be tens of millions more.

The figures also exclude child domestic workers below the age of 15, which are not included in the surveys used by the report. Their number was estimated by the ILO at 7.4 million in 2008. Despite the size of the sector, many domestic workers experience poor working conditions and insufficient legal protection.

Only ten percent of all domestic workers are covered by general labour legislation to the same extent as other workers. More than one quarter are completely excluded from national labour legislation. More than half of all domestic workers have no limitation on their weekly normal hours under national law, and approximately 45 percent have no entitlement to weekly rest periods. Just over half of all domestic workers are entitled to a minimum wage equivalent to that of other workers. The lack of legal protection increases domestic workers' vulnerability and makes it difficult for them to seek remedies. As a result, they are often paid less than workers in comparable occupations and work longer hours.

Live-in domestic workers are particularly vulnerable to exploitation since they are often paid a flat weekly or monthly rate irrespective of hours worked. In practice it means that a domestic worker is available whenever needed. The report follows the June 2011 adoption of a new [ILO Convention and Recommendation on domestic work](#). These new international standards aim to ensure decent working conditions and pay for domestic workers worldwide. The Convention so far has been ratified by three countries. Until now only seven other countries have completed national ratification procedures and many others have initiated them.

The findings of the research will act as a benchmark in which progress in extending legal protection will be measured.

ILO project 'Promoting Integration for Migrant Domestic Workers in Europe'

The ILO International Migration Programme is organising a [photo contest](#) to showcase the important and positive contributions that migrant domestic workers in Europe make to the societies they live in. The contest is part of the ILO project 'Promoting Integration for Migrant Domestic Workers in Europe', with the financial support of the European Integration Fund. The contest is looking for photographs that include migrant domestic workers in the work environment, in society, or in their own homes. The photographs should bring about a positive image of domestic work and migration and demonstrate the character and resilience of these workers. Participants can submit up to three photographs until 30 April 2013 and send them via email to [MDWcontest\(at\)ilo.org](mailto:MDWcontest(at)ilo.org).



European Commission urges member states to ratify Domestic Workers Convention

The European Commission has presented [a proposal for a Council Decision](#) authorising EU member states to ratify the International Labour Organisation 2011 Convention concerning decent work for domestic workers (Convention No. 189). "Improving working conditions in personal services is an important objective for the Commission" said László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, adding "I urge Member States to ratify this Convention as soon as possible, which will also contribute to implementing the EU strategy against trafficking in human beings". The Commission proposal for a Council Decision is necessary because the EU member states cannot autonomously ratify ILO Conventions without prior authorisation by the Council in respect of those parts of the Convention which fall under EU competence. The EU itself cannot ratify any ILO Convention, because only States can be parties to it.

IOM calls for gender-sensitive migration policies

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is currently working on policies and programmes that aim to empower female migrant workers and migrant women who have been victims of violence by helping them to understand their legal rights. By doing this, IOM is hoping to contribute to the eradication of violence against women worldwide at every stage of the migration process and ensuring safe migration and migrant women's empowerment. Ambassador William Lacy Swing, Director General of IOM, said that migration is a way for many women and girls to fulfil their potential and stressed their vulnerability and risk to become victims of exploitation and abuse.

Campaign for EU member states to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families

Taking advantage of the fact that 2013 is the European Year of Citizens, SOLIDAR and CGIL (Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro) launched [a campaign](#) for a European Citizenship Initiative asking for the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their families by the EU. The convention has not been ratified by any of the EU Member States, yet it is an essential tool to grant the basic human rights of migrants, both documented and undocumented. SOLIDAR urges for the implementation of a rights-based approach to migration as well as to address the push factors affecting it, especially labour and poverty-related ones.

PACE calls for measures to combat trafficking in migrants

In a [Resolution](#) adopted on 25 January, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) called for measures to be taken to combat trafficking in migrants for forced labour, but ensuring that victims of this trafficking are not penalised. The proposed measures include the approval of laws to condemn the organisers of such crime, improvements in the regulation of employment and the revision of policies relating to migration and the return of immigrants.

Basic Principles on effective remedies

The UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Joy Ezeilo concluded in her 2010 Annual Report that states do not fulfil their obligation to provide trafficked

persons with effective remedies. Therefore, the Special Rapporteur drafted [Basic Principles](#) that provide guidance for states to operationalise the right to an effective remedy. They clarify the concept of the right to an effective remedy and enumerate specific factors to take into account in the realisation of this right.

The Special Rapporteur and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights are consulting states, regional organisations and civil society on the draft basic principles and will submit a summary of comments to the Human Rights Council at its 26th session, in June 2014.

Inputs can be sent by 15 May 2013 to srtrafficking@ohchr.org.

What's new ?

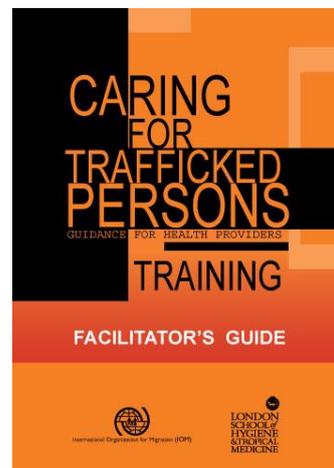
Economic empowerment efforts for trafficked persons in the Balkans

The King Baudouin Foundation has released of a [new issue paper on the economic empowerment of trafficked persons](#). This paper was developed in the context of the Trafficking Victims Re/integration Programme (TVRP), which funds NGO's in several countries of South-eastern Europe, in cooperation with GIZ (German Development Cooperation Agency).

The paper discusses economic empowerment efforts of trafficked persons in the Balkans, drawing on the first-hand experiences of both service providers and trafficked persons in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Kosovo, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia. Comprehensive (re)integration programmes typically include an economic empowerment component either through vocational training and job placement or through business training, planning and start up support. These programmes are complex and involve a raft of challenges, any of which can directly impact their success or failure. Moreover, this work is complex and constrained by the impacts of trafficking as well as the difficult socio-economic environments to which most trafficked persons return.

Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers Facilitator's Guide

For healthcare providers, trafficking in persons is best understood as a serious health risk because, as with other forms of violence, it is associated with physical and psychological harm. Health providers may come into contact with victims of trafficking at different stages of the trafficking process and at different stages of their recovery. The informed and attentive healthcare provider can play an important role in assisting and treating individuals who may have suffered repeated abuse. For health practitioners, diagnosing and treating trafficked persons can pose a range of new challenges related to care provision. In 2012, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the Gender Violence & Health Centre of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) developed a training package based on the handbook *Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers*. Published in 2009, the handbook combines research, field experience and good practice into a toolkit for those who provide health services to trafficked persons, whether identified victims or populations which may include unidentified victims or other exploited persons. The [Caring for Trafficked Persons Facilitator's Guide](#) and accompanying materials have been developed for individuals who wish to carry out training to help a concerned health provider understand the phenomenon of human trafficking, recognize some of the associated health problems and consider safe and appropriate approaches to providing health care for trafficked persons. The training is designed for all types and levels of health providers, particularly those actively providing services.



Human rights violations in the field of migration: a collective responsibility

The Brussels-based European affairs think-tank the European Policy Center (EPC), released in December 2012 a [policy brief](#) on human rights violations in the field of migration within the EU and its collective responsibility. In the policy brief, Senior Policy Analyst Yves Pascouau outlines the current problems and proposes solutions to remedy the situation. "In light of the EU receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for its outstanding contribution to democracy and human rights in Europe, the violation of migrants' human rights in some Member States cannot be further overlooked. In the

field of migration policy, migrants' human rights such as the right to family reunification, to asylum and the prohibition of torture, are continually being violated within the EU without appropriate measures taken by the European Commission to protect migrants' human rights and launch infringement proceedings against a member state. As a consequence, many migrants are largely being deprived of their rights in Europe”.

Anti trafficking review will follow the money spent on Anti-Trafficking



Anti-trafficking funding and work has mushroomed since the 1990's. Lacking however, is the analysis of these anti-trafficking funds - where they come from, who they go to, what they are meant to do, what they actually achieve, and indeed whether they are needed.

Donors, organisations and trafficked persons' priorities are not always aligned when it comes to how to spend money. Trafficked persons may or may not benefit from money flows aimed in their direction, or indeed may suffer as a result of anti-trafficking spending. Many organisations specifically dedicated to anti-trafficking work think donors do not prioritise this issue enough. Others feel anti-trafficking funds, especially for more surface-level awareness campaigns, divert attention and money away from substantial human rights work on issues concerning workers,

migrants, women and children.

The Anti-Trafficking Review calls for papers for a Special Issue Following the Money: Spending on Anti-Trafficking. This issue will present well-researched articles that analyse the funding landscape. The journal is interested in what kinds of organisations and work have been done by anti-trafficking funding and what work has been sidelined or excluded as a result. The Review promotes a human rights based approach to anti-trafficking, and it aims to explore the issue in its broader context including gender analyses and intersections with labour and migrant rights. The journal offers a space for dialogue for those seeking to communicate new ideas and findings. Academics, practitioners and advocates, working for, with and including trafficked persons and migrants are invited to submit articles. The Review presents rigorously considered peer reviewed material in clear English. The journal is an open source, annual publication with a readership in 78 countries. Deadline for submissions is 15 December 2013. For more information submissions@gatw.org.

First ICAT issue paper published

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) was set up in 2007 in response to a United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution in 2006 requesting intergovernmental agencies to work together to strengthen technical assistance provided to countries in the area of human trafficking. In response to this mandate, ICAT committed itself to publish a series of five issue papers over the course of 2012 and 2013. Each issue paper will examine one key issue that has been identified and agreed by ICAT's member organisations as a critical challenge to address for the international community to succeed in the fight against trafficking in persons in the coming decade.

The [first ICAT issue paper](#), entitled the *International Legal Frameworks concerning Trafficking in Persons*, characterises key related elements of the anti-trafficking response today and highlights assumed features that still require development. ICAT recommends a number of prioritised actions to bring to bear provisions and legal obligations from different bodies of law and legal instruments that are relevant to the task of preventing human trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting perpetrators.

What's new on the web ?

ILO videos showcase migrant domestic workers' contribution

On the occasion of International Migrants Day, 18 December 2012 the ILO released two videos highlighting the importance of recognising migrant domestic workers as equal employees as well as protecting their rights. The videos use two short stories ([Graciela](#) and [Coring](#)) to showcase how thousands of migrants live and work in European societies and give essential services to families and societies, even though their contributions are often undervalued.

Puzzled by Policy



The [Puzzled by Policy project](#), led by the Digital Enterprise Research Institute (DERI) at NUI Galway, developed a Platform which allows users to graphically compare their views on immigration with national and EU immigration policies, as well as with the opinions of relevant stakeholders. Users are then encouraged to join discussions on particular aspects of immigration policy they feel strongly about.

Respond to Domestic & Sexual Violence

[Workplaces Respond](#) is a new online resource that provides information on creating an effective workplace response to victims of domestic, sexual and other forms of violence.

The website offers information to raise awareness, tools to help implement workplace policies and ensure safety, and resources for victims to get help and connect with local agencies, working around issues of sexual and domestic violence.

A new tool to provide contacts and advice to migrants on Europe borders

The website [w2eu.info](#), which is managed by the German non-profit organisation [bordermonitoring.eu](#), provides information such as contacts and advice to refugees and migrants. The webpage aims to offer information for all of those who come to Europe in a struggle for a better life through topic and country specific descriptions. In addition, the website contains a so-called 'Transborder map' which visualises the resistance against the European border regime. The map is the outcome of the Transborder Conference organised in March 2012 where international activists met in Istanbul, Turkey to discuss the experience they gained through their projects and campaigns on the external borders of the EU.

What's happening where ?

6-21 April	Solidarity march for undocumented migrants, Belgium
9 April	Launch of the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network, Washington, USA
22 April	CMW Day of general discussion "The role of migration statistics for treaty reporting and migration policies", Geneva, Switzerland
22-23 April	Discovering Trafficking for the Purpose of Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation, Prague, Czech Republic
24-26 April	FRA Sixth Fundamental Rights Platform, Vienna, Austria
31 May	Launch of EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings, Brussels, Belgium
7 June	Fourth annual Symposium of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna, Austria
25-26 June	13 th OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference, Vienna, Austria

What's on your mind ?

The importance of monitoring



Jan Van Dijk, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, member of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) of the Council of Europe

Ratifying international criminal law conventions is seen by many governments as a free lunch. One sends off a high ranking official to New York to add one's name to the list of State Parties. Polite applause. And the country looks good ever after. Since 2002, for example, 130 or more countries have rushed forward to ratify the UN Protocol against Human Trafficking, known as the Palermo Protocol. Whether these countries have thereafter actually improved their policies in this domain, remains to be seen. There is no way of knowing. Over the past ten years the State Parties have gathered in Vienna several times to agree on a monitoring

mechanism. To no avail. The assembled second-tier diplomats and bureaucrats - diplocrats and bureaumats for me - readily agreed that nosey NGO's, representing victim interests, should be kept out of the room. But on the idea of any kind of mutual or independent monitoring of the protocol's implementation no agreement whatsoever was ever reached.

An international criminal law convention without a monitoring mechanism is like an unconsummated marriage. Festivities galore, but no action. Fortunately, the Council of Europe has understood this to be an anomaly. The Warsaw convention against Human Trafficking, signed in 2005, is with its focus on the protection of the human rights of victims not only the most advanced legal instrument against human trafficking. It is also, and more to the point, a convention empowered with a set of provisions concerning the monitoring of its implementation. To this end a committee of independent experts has been established. This group sends out detailed questionnaires to the governments, and visits the state parties to monitor their implementation efforts. The opening meetings are usually with representatives of the community of NGO's servicing victims.

The Group has so far released extensive, 80-page reports on over ten countries, including Austria, Denmark, and the UK. These reports can be consulted on the [public GRETA website](#). Some general conclusions can be drawn. Almost all State Parties have incorporated the legislative requirements in their domestic laws. And many have also duly set up the suggested institutional arrangements for policy planning, investigation, prosecution and victim services. Nevertheless, the number of victims reached by these arrangements remains generally rather low. In most countries no more than a few dozens of victims are actually reached and supported on a yearly basis. Existing services are often underfunded. This is even more of a problem for the shelter homes and other services for male victims. Almost no victims, female or male, ever receive any kind of financial compensation for their losses or for their pain and suffering. And, most painful of all, in most countries only a handful of perpetrators per year are ever convicted. The female victims are almost invariably young, poorly educated and terrorized. Their testimonies are hampered by their social vulnerability, fear and shame, and lack of skills to express themselves in the language of the courts. With the help of defence counsels, many of the most brutal perpetrators are acquitted for lack of evidence. The traffickers leave the courtroom with a swagger. Considering these statistics, it is small wonder that not more victims come forward. What is needed, before anything else, are specialised prosecutors and judges who understand what human trafficking means and does to victims.

If one has to give a general assessment of the situation, what can one say? Is the glass half full or half empty? I am inclined to say the glasses have just been put on the table. But the actual pouring of wine in these glasses, has hardly even begun.



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