



Newsletter

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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 September 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 !

Project Manager Vacancy at La Strada International

For the new two-year project 'NGO's & Co - NGO-Business engagement in addressing human trafficking', La Strada International is looking for a Project Manager. 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 terms of effectively preventing and addressing human trafficking. The project aims to increase the knowledge and capacity of grass root anti-trafficking NGOs by establishing effective means of cooperation with the business sector in preventing and addressing human trafficking via awareness-raising and partnership building and to improve consumer awareness on human trafficking and its links to everyday products and services. The Project Manager is responsible for implementing and monitoring the project and providing further support to the International Secretariat on our core and on-going international projects. If you are interested in this position please send your motivation letter and CV to [LSI](#) by 21 July 2013.

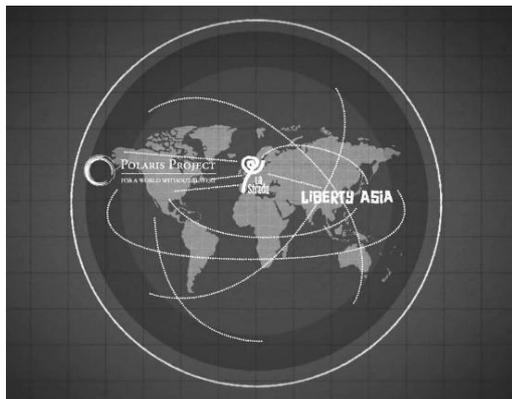
6th LSI NGO Platform in Estonia

With support of the European Commission's Daphne III Programme, LSI will organise the 6th LSI NGO platform in 2013. The La Strada International NGO Platform was initiated in 2005 to enable European anti-trafficking organisations to meet annually with the aim of strengthening and maintaining closer cooperation on advocacy, awareness and prevention, referral and direct support to trafficked persons. Moreover, with the NGO Platform LSI promotes the anti-trafficking debate among civil society, and encourages the exchange of best practices and lessons learnt. Previous NGO Platforms were organised in Warsaw (2005), Kiev (2006), Skopje (2007), Berlin (2009) and Rome (2011).

This year the platform will take place in Tallinn, Estonia and will be hosted by the Estonian anti-trafficking NGO Living for Tomorrow. Next to LSI's eight member organisations, the LSI NGO platform has welcomed eleven NGOs as affiliated partners. The platform comprises NGOs in both EU and non-EU countries.

As in the previous years, the platform meeting will include plenary sessions with guest speakers and facilitators, as well as several workshops on relevant topics and practical work for anti-trafficking NGOs. More information on this year's agenda will be available in September. For more information contact [LSI](#).

Launch of Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network



La Strada International is pleased to announce the launch of the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network, a new alliance of anti-trafficking hotlines that will build a broader safety net for survivors of modern-day slavery and develop a more coordinated global response for victims of this transnational crime. The alliance will also create a data-driven approach that identifies human trafficking trends and informs eradication, prevention, and victim protection strategies.

Being one of the recipients of the [Global Impact Award from Google](#), La Strada International joined the [Polaris Project](#) and [Liberty Asia](#) in the new hotline network. Global Impact Awards support entrepreneurial

nonprofits using technology to change the world. Additional members of the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network will be added throughout 2013 and beyond.

This project is making it possible for LSI and its member organisations to connect with diverse anti-trafficking organisations in other regions of the world, and to share data we collect and improve the knowledge and information on human trafficking collected by civil society. Moreover, the close cooperation of helplines globally will enable LSI to reach out to more vulnerable groups and can help to increase identification, referral and assistance of trafficked persons”.

Research on labour migration from Belarus to Poland

On 15 May 2013 La Strada Belarus presented its new research “Characteristics of labour migration from Belarus to Poland: legal, socio-economical, and gender aspects”. The research analysed the migration behaviour of Belarusian citizens setting out to Poland for employment in all stages of the migration process.

Since 2007, the number of people going abroad for employment increased four times. The number of people intending to work abroad doubled since 2006. The main reasons are economic, i.e. hoping to earn money and/or alleviate personal financial difficulties. The most popular countries for employment abroad for Belarusian citizens in 2012 were Russia, Poland, Lithuania, and the USA.

Poland is attractive for Belarusian citizens mainly due to its geographic and cultural proximity, developed economy, job opportunities, simplified employment schemes for Belarusian citizens, and the possibility for combining work and education in an EU country. The Polish labour market is rather open for Belarusian citizens, however at the same time is somewhat gender-segregated. Men occupy the well-paid spheres of construction, logistics and IT, while women conduct seasonal work, catering and hospitality, retail, and the garment industry. Around 15% of the interviewed migrants in this research entered Poland for employment without a valid work permit, however at a later stage they were able to legalise their status. The most significant breach of the labour rights of Belarusian migrants is non-payment for work, which occurs mostly when there are no written contracts and only oral agreements. Migrants also noted that they come across



such social problems as language barriers, difficulties in renting premises, and administrative procedures. A quarter of the migrants noted an existing negative attitude towards foreign workers.

Discovering trafficking for the purpose of forced labour and labour exploitation

A conference on human trafficking organised by [La Strada Czech Republic](#) entitled “[Discovering Trafficking for the Purpose of Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation](#)” took place in Prague from 22 to 23 April 2013. The international conference concluded a three-year [project](#) which aimed to give a greater number of trafficked persons access to legal protection and services. The specific objective was to define what trafficking for forced labour and labour exploitation means according to the legal institutions in the Czech Republic and in other countries. To support law enforcement and judicial authorities in the Czech Republic, the project also addressed the practical ways in which existing definitions and indicators are used in relation to trafficking in human beings for the purpose for labour exploitation.

Conference participants spoke in favour of developing inclusive migration policies that provide more channels for regular labour migration and highlighted migration policies that tend to criminalise irregular stay and are not gender-focused and thus allow for further abuse and exploitation of undocumented migrant workers.

Prevention of extreme violation of workers rights in Macedonia

On 29 May Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia organised the final conference of the two-year project “Prevention of extreme violation of workers’ rights”. The aim of the project was to strengthen the system of prevention, identification and referral of victims of forced labour and human trafficking, in cooperation with the Association of Macedonian trade unions (UNASM). More than 30 participants from trade unions, the labour inspectorate, NGO’s and the National Commission Against Trafficking and Illegal Migration discussed the activities and results of the project and the main gaps. In the framework of the project, five mobile teams were established and trained, consisting of members of local offices of UNASM in five cities in Macedonia (Ohrid, Struga, Sv.Nikole, Prilep, Skopje). Since their launch, the mobile teams have implemented fieldwork amongst workers in risk sectors such as the textile industry, service and tourism, agriculture and construction. Since October 2012, the team has conducted 67 outreach visits and has provided information, assistance, support and referral to 652 workers in these ‘at risk’ sectors.

The reports of the mobile teams point to the exploitation of labour and violation of workers’ rights especially related to: working below the mandatory minimum wage, inadequate working conditions, long working hours, irregular payment of pension and health insurance, insufficient mandatory sanitation equipment, unregistered employment contracts and prohibition to joining a trade union. Additionally, they discovered that there was insufficient information and awareness among workers about their labour rights. Often exploitation is not being reported due to mistrust in the existing institutions that often fail to process complaints that are reported. Also, people are afraid that reporting will lead to being dismissed from work.

Next to the outreach work of the mobile teams the project provided for information sessions amongst workers, which helped to raise the level of knowledge about labour exploitation and trafficking in Macedonia among the members of UNASM. These project activities have directly resulted in the increased capacity of UNASM to provide better services to workers; the increased awareness of the various forms of human trafficking and labour exploitation among workers and members of UNASM; and the establishment of fruitful cooperation between Open Gate and UNASM in the fight against human trafficking in Macedonia.

Main recommendation of the conference:

- More vigorous efforts from the responsible state institution to identify cases of trafficking other than sexual exploitation especially for the purpose of labour exploitation.
- Continuation and expansion of the outreach activities among workers in other cities in Macedonia
- Strengthening the cooperation between the trade union, civil society and institutions with regard to improvement of the identification, referral and assistance of cases of labour exploitation and trafficking
- Inclusion of the trade unions as important actors and service providers in the work of the National Commission for Combating Trafficking and Illegal Migration
- Reinforcement of the activities for raising awareness among seasonal workers and those who seek employment abroad about their rights and the conditions of work in foreign countries.

New interactive method for prevention of trafficking in human beings



The interactive theatre “I travel alone”, organised by Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia, informs young people about trafficking in human beings and at the same time gives them information about protective measures and the role of institutions and NGO’s in the fight against this crime. With this performance, students had the opportunity to put themselves in the “shoes” of a victim and to experience the harsh reality of being trafficked. Through the revival of the three real stories of children from Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia, the participants

were able to translate the abstract concepts into concrete experiences. The theatre performance was a big challenge for Open Gate because it was a new method of prevention and education and for the first time was implemented in Macedonia. This activity concluded the six month preventive campaign of 47 lessons in which 1 600 students of 15 primary schools in Skopje participated.

CoMensha figures 2012

In April [CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands](#) published its figures for 2012, showing an increase of 40% of registered (potential) victims of human trafficking in The Netherlands. In 2012, CoMensha registered 1 711 (potential) victims, compared to 1 222 in 2011.

In 2012, the large majority of registered potential victims were trafficked into the sex industry with a total number of 1 223 individuals. The number of victims of economic exploitation increased also to 256, which is more than double compared to 2011. The most common nationalities in 2012 were Dutch (428 victims), Bulgarian (303) and Hungarian (217).

Within this number, 1 177 women and girls were exploited in the prostitution sector, compared to 716 in the previous year. Men and boys were predominantly exploited in sectors such as construction, agriculture, etc. Of the 199 registered men and boys for 2012, 46 were exploited in prostitution and 128 in other sectors.

CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands is the national registration and coordination centre for human trafficking. Each year CoMensha notices an increase in the number of registrations - 10% in 2010, 23% in 2011 and 40% in 2012. Most of the referrals in 2012 came from the Police, the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee (part of the Ministry of Defence) and the regulative labour inspections. However, not all institutions have the obligation to report victims they come in contact with to CoMensha. “We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg”, said CoMensha chair Martin Sitalsing. “That is why we think it’s necessary to extend the duty to report to other institutions too. Only then can CoMensha, in cooperation with all other relevant stakeholders, get a better picture of the real situation and offer the victims adequate protection and support”.

The report can be found [here](#) and the press release [here](#) (in Dutch).

Pilot categorical accommodation and assistance for trafficked persons

In response to a shortage of suitable shelter facilities, the Dutch government started a two-year pilot project in 2010 on categorical accommodation and assistance (CAA) for trafficked persons by offering specialised housing and assistance for fifty adult victims of THB in three institutions. The main objective of the pilot was to accommodate the victims’ immediate needs for secure shelter facilities and to ensure their safety. It was expected that because of immediate, categorial housing and assistance in a safe environment, victims would be more willing to cooperate in law enforcement investigations and the criminal prosecution of traffickers. In addition, it was expected that the pilot would increase the transition to follow-up accommodation, provide insights into the needs of victims, and contribute to the development of an assistance methodology for the target group. The vast majority of victims in CAA consisted of third-country nationals who were still in the ‘reflection period’ upon arrival, while the majority of foreign victims in regular shelters already had a residence permit at the time of arrival to the shelter. For psychological assessments and diagnoses, trafficked persons were referred to trained professionals. An important aspect of the assistance in CAA was the support during legal procedures. Compared to CAA, most regular shelters accommodate a limited number of non-national victims of THB; in some of these shelters the expertise in legal procedures concerning the B9 is limited and few staff members who have a good understanding of these procedures.

To evaluate the pilot, a comparison was made with regular shelter facilities that accommodate victims of THB in addition to other groups - such as victims of domestic violence. The aim of the [study](#) was to examine the extent to which the pilot on CAA contributed to its objectives. The study provided an overview of the characteristics of victims of THB who were accommodated in the pilot on CAA as well as the assistance provided in these shelters. In addition, the report offers an analysis of the situation once leaving the shelter, e.g. return to the country of origin, follow-up accommodation or independent housing in the Netherlands. Furthermore, figures are presented on the number of victims who file a complaint against their traffickers. For all of these aspects, a comparison is made between the pilot on CAA and regular shelter facilities. Based on the present findings, no conclusions can be drawn on the effectiveness of CAA compared to regular shelter facilities. To draw such conclusions in the future, registration data should be more consistent and more accurately kept, and victims of THB should be randomly assigned to the different types of shelters.

Results Dutch campaign Report Crime Anonymously



Almost five times a week anonymous callers pass on important signals regarding human trafficking and illegal prostitution. Meld Misdaad Anoniem (Report Crime Anonymously) figures show an increase of 76% in reports regarding forced prostitution since the start of the new campaign in June last year. The human trafficking campaign '[Schijn bedriegt](#)' (Appearances are Deceptive) predominantly

reaches out to clients of prostitutes. Through sex sites such as Hookers and Kinky they are confronted with potential signs of forced prostitution and are encouraged to report any abuse. This has led to 30 000 views on the special campaign site and 77 000 views on the forums of the sex sites. The general interest in the topic has increased significantly amongst this target group, and whilst Meld Misdaad Anoniem does not register who is calling, the valuable tips keep coming in. Even though human trafficking is one of the most complex issues to battle and most investigations are ongoing, the first results following anonymous tip-offs are now showing. In 2012 and 2013, the tip-offs have contributed to the arrest of 12 human traffickers and 4 solved cases. Through Meld Misdaad Anoniem, police and other government departments are making good use of the assistance of the general public. Two thirds of all anonymous information is new and would otherwise not have been received.

Assessment of data collection systems in the Republic of Moldova

La Strada Moldova conducted a study "Assessment of Currently Existing THB Data Collection System in the Republic of Moldova". This country assessment is an activity within the Project "Fight against THB - Phase 1", implemented in Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Turkey by ICMPD in cooperation with FEI (France Expertise Internationale) and FIIAPP (International Foundation of Administration and Public Policies of Spain), funded by the European Union. One of the project objectives is to improve the existing systems of data collection, analysis and exchange at the national and transnational levels, in order to increase knowledge on trafficking in human beings and to enhance the anti-trafficking responses.

The assessment report provides an overview of the effective legal and regulatory frameworks, institutional framework and other practical information relevant to the existing situation in Moldova on THB data collection, analysis and exchange. It places a focus on good practices, identified gaps and areas for improvement both with regard to victim-centred data and trafficker-centred/criminal justice data. The assessment report also provides some general recommendations for state authorities and specific recommendations for possible intervention/activities within the framework of the project.

As the draft report was highly commended by the international experts and other members of the project team, it was decided to translate it into Romanian for dissemination among agencies involved in THB data collection in Moldova.

What's going on ?

“Stolen Lives, Stolen Money: The Price of Modern-Day Slavery”

The 13th High-level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference entitled “Stolen Lives, Stolen Money: The Price of Modern-Day Slavery” took place on 25-26 June 2013 in Vienna, Austria. At the conference, international experts on trafficking in human beings discussed a range of financial, social and legal factors that are currently part of the debate on globalisation, migration, inequality and trafficking. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings focussed on the nexus between trafficking in human beings and salient aspects of the current debate on globalisation, the



economic, social and political costs of modern-day slavery and how the approach of global justice can contribute to defining a comprehensive strategy to tackle trafficking in human beings. Many speakers emphasised that states contribute to trafficking in human beings by deregulating the labour market and that restrictive migration policies cause the inaccessibility of rights for migrants and lead to the exploitation and the abuse of workers worldwide. Cheap and disposable labour is required for the survival for the majority of the world's economic sectors, due to deregulations in labour in developed countries. Trafficking is thus a profit led crime, not a demand led crime.

In her concluding remarks, the High Representative pleaded for an inclusive approach to trafficking in human beings, making sure that human rights are accessible for all and not only for those who have been identified as victims. Evidence shows that conditional support does not work effectively and that grounds for assistance and residence permits should be based on the needs of the trafficked persons rather than on the needs of the prosecution.

La Strada International is very pleased that one of our main advocacy topics, *unconditional support* is now officially taken on by one of the most important international actors in the anti trafficking field and is looking forward to the international cooperation on this topic to educate nation states.

Trafficking for forced criminal exploitation and the non-punishment clause

The [RACE in Europe project](#) is a two-year initiative by [Anti-Slavery International](#) and its partners to improve knowledge and responses to human trafficking for the purposes of forced criminal exploitation and forced begging in Europe. Through undertaking exploratory research and by training relevant practitioners on the scale and scope of this type of trafficking, the project aims to ensure that victims are treated as such, rather than criminals. This means that individuals are provided with appropriate support and that traffickers are prosecuted not the victims.

The project witnessed a major victory when in early June the [UK Court of Criminal Appeal](#) overturned the convictions of four people trafficked into the UK for crimes they were forced to commit as a result of their trafficking. Three of these individuals were Vietnamese children who were forced to work in cannabis farms. In its judgment, the Court of Appeal recognised the importance of the non-punishment provision in Article 8 of the EU Trafficking Directive. Hopefully this will set a precedent to ensure that victims of trafficking are protected against criminalisation.

For the ruling, the Court of Appeal consulted the recent publication by the OSCE Office of the Special Representative on and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: [Policy and legislative recommendations towards the effective implementation of the non-punishment provision with regard to victims of trafficking in consultation with the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Expert Co-ordination Team](#). The paper examines the principle of non-punishment in international law, explores the scope of its application and discusses the challenges in its practical implementation. It includes a number of practical examples and court cases which were made available by national agencies, NGOs and legal professionals who have been examining these issues extensively, in particular the Belgian Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism, the Bureau of the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, as well as UK courts and lawyers. The paper concludes with the provision of practical guidance, and the formulation of policy

and legislative recommendations, towards the effective implementation of the non-punishment provision with regard to victims of trafficking.

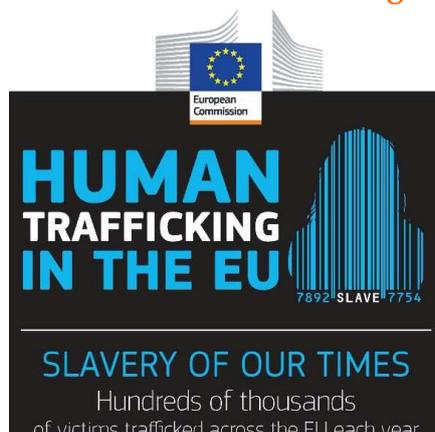
EU Civil Society Platform

On 31 May 2013, the European Commission launched the [EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings](#) in Brussels bringing together [102 civil society organisations](#). The EU -wide platform, set up by the European Commission, will serve as a forum for civil society organisations working at European, national and local levels, in the field of human rights, children's rights, women's rights and gender equality, migrants' rights and shelters. The launch was opened by Commissioner Malmström and chaired by EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Myria Vassiliadou and included a panel of speakers from several EU Institutions and Agencies. During this first meeting, participants reflected on the policy priorities and future activities of the platform, including possible awareness-raising activities, and ways to involve organisations based in countries outside the EU. The members are also expected to share and discuss good practices in tackling the recruitment of victims of trafficking and addressing demand on line. The Commission has stated to support the platform by organising regular meetings for participants to gather crucial, up-to-date information and feedback on the main challenges that civil society organisations are facing on the ground. A second meeting of the platform is now scheduled for the autumn of 2013. The Commission is also looking at how to facilitate online communication within the platform.



When the plan for establishing an EU civil society platform was launched, La Strada International welcomed the Commission's recognition of the important role of civil society and the need for cooperation, but questioned the task of the Commission to set up an umbrella structure. Together with other NGOs, we recommended giving support to the activities of NGOs and the act of networking between different civil society actors and between different sectors (including unions and migrant rights organisations). Despite its reservations, La Strada International applied for the participation in the platform, but was not selected. According to the Commission this was because our two member organisations La Strada Poland and La Strada Czech Republic, were invited. This argument seems odd, knowing that different Europe wide networks on related topics such as women's and migrants' rights have been selected as well as several of their partners. LSI was unpleasantly surprised about this decision, being a leading anti trafficking network in Europe and having proven commitment towards civil society networking across and outside the European Union (reflected in the establishment of LSI's NGO Platform in 2005 and the founding of the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women in 1994).

EU Statistics on trafficking in human beings



In April, the European Commission published their [first statistics report](#) on trafficking in human beings in the EU, compiled by Eurostat and DG Home Affairs. This report includes statistics on the total number of identified and presumed victims disaggregated by gender, age and form of exploitation. It also contains statistics on victims' citizenship and type of assistance and protection received. In the report, the total number of identified and presumed victims was 6 309 in 2008; 7 795 in 2009 and 9 528 in 2010, with an increase of 18% over the 3 consecutive years. The profile of victims by gender and age in the three years was 68% women, 17% men, 12% girls and 3% boys. The majority of the identified and presumed victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation (62%). Trafficking for forced labour (25%) came second and

trafficking in other forms such as trafficking for the removal of organs, for criminal activities or for selling of children follow with smaller percentages (14%). Most victims detected in EU Member States were citizens from Romania and Bulgaria. Most victims having citizenship outside of the EU Member States were from Nigeria and China. The total number of convictions for trafficking in human beings decreased by 13% from 2008 to 2010. The report also includes statistics on suspected, prosecuted and convicted traffickers disaggregated by gender, citizenship and form of exploitation. The data has been collected from different authorities working in the field of trafficking in human beings, including civil society organisations. The Commission has published a [Q&A](#) on trafficking in human beings in the European Union based on the statistics report.

At the launch the Commission noted that by drawing conclusions on the findings in this report, several issues need to be taken into consideration. The increase in the number of identified and presumed victims shown in the report could indicate that the phenomenon of trafficking in human beings in EU Member States is on the rise. However, better identification procedures, the involvement of more actors in the identification process, changes in legislation in individual Member States and higher priority in addressing trafficking in human beings can also have had an influence on the number of victims recorded.

More reservations can be made to the conclusions of the report to whether the statistics reflect the situation of trafficking in human beings in the EU. The report quotes the ILO estimations of 880 000 persons trafficked per year, but only 9 528 of these were identified in the EU region, without explaining the huge difference between the two figures. Also, the report concludes that the majority of trafficked persons in the EU are women trafficked into the sex industry, but this figure is only based on the figure of *identified* victims. It is generally known that the identification of men trafficked for labour exploitation is still very problematic in all EU countries - leading to the majority of trafficked men not recognised as such, but deported as illegal and unwanted migrants. This could easily explain the overrepresentation of women and the sex industry in the figures.

LSI welcomes the Commission's commitment to gather more and better figures on trafficking in order to get a clearer picture of the scale and scope of the problem and to develop more accurate counter-trafficking policies addressing the situation of the trafficked person and more focussed prevention activities. However, it is important to note that data collection procedures in Member States and by intergovernmental organisations should aim at securing the privacy of trafficked persons by design. As data collectors are cooperating with NGOs and service providers, an exact and transparent delineation of this cooperation is important. Their respective mandate and tasks should take into account the right to privacy for trafficked persons as a central principle.

EU Rights of trafficking persons

In April 2013 the European Commission published a [comprehensive overview of the rights of trafficked persons in the EU](#), based on the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, EU directives, framework decisions and European Court of Human Rights case-law. These rights range from (emergency) assistance and health care to labour rights, rights regarding access to justice and to a lawyer, and on the possibilities of claiming compensation. Additional rights for children have been included at the end of each chapter. This guide is addressed to victims and practitioners (NGOs, the police, immigration authorities, labour inspectors, border guards, health and social workers) working in the field of trafficking in human beings. It can contribute to the effective realisation of these rights by helping authorities in EU Member States to deliver the assistance and protection that victims need and deserve. It can also support Member States to develop similar overviews of the rights of human trafficking victims at national level. EU legislation provides for minimum standards; Member States can go beyond these standards as appropriate.

NGOs can use the guide when monitoring their states' efforts to implement the European legislation and their obligations to protect the rights of trafficked persons and affected groups.



FRA project on severe forms of labour exploitation

[The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights](#) (FRA) is an advisory body of the European Union. It was established in 2007 by a legal act of the European Union and is based in Vienna, Austria. The FRA collects evidence about the situation of fundamental rights across the European Union and provides advice based on evidence about how to improve the situation. The agency focuses on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU and its 27 Member States. Candidate countries and countries that have concluded a stabilisation and association agreement with the EU can be invited to participate following a special procedure.

In early 2013, FRA launched a project on severe forms of labour exploitation in the EU, focusing on the exploitation of migrants. The project is linked to work relating to victims' rights and support and will build on previous FRA research, in particular on the report on migrants in an irregular situation employed in domestic work, as well as the victim support services project. A key focus of the project is planned to be on the factors that allow victims of severe forms of labour exploitation to access (civil and criminal) justice and the factors that impede such access - looking also at victim support.

The project collects information on severe forms of labour exploitation in the EU Member States through interviews with labour inspectorates, law enforcement officers and immigration officials, as well as with victims themselves. It looks into the risk factors associated with labour exploitation and means of effective prevention. The study will also shed light on the obstacles that hinder victims of severe forms of labour exploitation from accessing justice, including claims for retroactive payment from employers. The results of the research will assist EU policy makers and national governments in combating labour exploitation and in protecting the right of every worker to fair working conditions that respects their health, safety and dignity.

The FRA organised two expert meetings to support the project on extreme forms of labour exploitation in November 2012 and June 2013 in which LSI took part. At the meetings, the research methods and content were discussed, as well as ways to tackle labour exploitation through, for example, licensing or financial investigations.

High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development



The UN General Assembly will hold the second High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during its sixty-eighth session from 3 to 4 October 2013. There will be several preparatory activities ahead of the event, including one-day informal interactive hearings with representatives of non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations and the private sector (which will be held at the United Nations headquarters in New York on 15 July 2013 to provide inputs for the high-level Dialogue). With an eye on the upcoming UN HLD, a large number of leading civil society organisations

created a global Working Group on the HLD and [Global Governance of Migration](#) in 2012. This Working Group made presentations and achieved a broad agreement during the GFMD Civil Society Days in Mauritius (2012) and also at the World Social Forum on Migration in Manila a week later. The [proposal](#), now endorsed by over 100 civil society organisations around the world including La Strada International, urges States at the HLD to work together with civil society over the next 5 years to make and measure progress on 7 specific issues at the intersection of migration and development:

1. regulating the migrant labour recruitment industry
2. assistance and protection needs of migrants stranded in distress
3. migration into the post-2015 development agenda
4. guaranteeing labour rights for migrant workers
5. needs and rights of women and children in the context of migration
6. implementation of international conventions in national legislation and practice
7. international mechanisms of migration governance and migrants' rights protection

There will be a [series of official regional preparatory meetings](#) for the HLD. The Transnational Migrant Platform (TMP) has organised a Europe civil society consultation called *Reclaiming Human Rights, Mobility and Transnational Engagement* on 5 and 6 July, in Athens Greece, bringing together

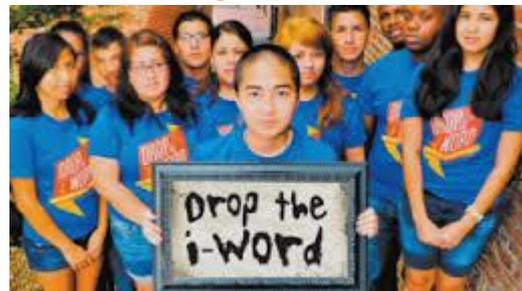
civil society organizations, trade unions, NGOs, political and cultural personalities from all around Europe to build convergence among Europe's social movements.

The (non) implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive

The 36/2011/EU Directive on trafficking in human beings was adopted by the Council in April 2011 and was supposed to be transposed by the Member States by 6 April 2013. To date only nine Member States (the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Sweden) have transposed the Directive to its full extent, and four other Member States (Belgium, Bulgaria, Slovenia and the UK) have transposed it partially. At the press conference launching the EU statistics on trafficking in human beings, Commissioner Malmström expressed her dissatisfaction about the small number of countries that have transposed the Directive and indicated that the Commission will not hesitate to start infringement procedures against States that do not intensify their efforts to transpose the Directive. It is now the task of the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Myria Vassilinou, to monitor the states' efforts on the implementation of the Directive and the effects of the policies. She has indicated that she hopes to cooperate with civil society on this.

Associated Press drops the word "illegal" when applied to migrants

The news agency Associated Press (AP) whose stylebook is a guide for principles and practices of reporting for media outlets internationally, has decided to drop the word "illegal" when referring to migrants. However, the term "illegal immigration" is still used when referring to the action of entering the country unauthorised. This shift in the terminology is due to a widespread campaign which is largely driven by migrants and other civil society organisations in the United States that calls on media outlets to stop labelling human beings as "illegal". The aim is to use more specific terminology considering various circumstances leading to irregularity.



EU Home Affairs Commissioner [Cecilia Malmström](#) has applauded the AP news agency for dropping the term "illegal immigrant" from its stylebook. On Twitter she said: "The EU should follow. I've worked to eradicate the term 'illegal immigrant' from all Commission docs. No human being is 'illegal', ever".

UN Rapporteur on migration calls for human rights-based EU migration policies

Migration policy in the European Union (EU) must incorporate a human rights approach instead of solely focusing on security concerns, according to the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Mr. François Crépeau. This is one of the recommendations from the research on the rights of migrants in the Euro-Mediterranean region, focusing in particular on the management of the external borders of the EU in key transit countries. "Within EU institutional and policy structures, migration and border control have been increasingly integrated into security frameworks that emphasize policing, defence and criminality over a rights-based approach. I regret that within the EU policy context, irregular migration remains largely viewed as a security concern that must be stopped, this is fundamentally at odds with a human rights approach, concerning the conceptualisation of migrants as individuals and equal holders of human rights."

Crépeau called on EU authorities to factors that are linked to irregular immigration in Europe, such as the demand for a seasonal, low-skilled, easily exploitable workforce and instead open up more regular immigration channels, including for low-skilled workers, that more accurately reflect the labour needs of the EU.

In his [report](#) to the Council, Mr. Crépeau also said there has been an 'externalisation' of border control through which countries of departure or transit bear all the responsibilities for preventing irregular migration, and underlined that the EU must share this responsibility among its Member States.

US Supreme Court rules against the anti-prostitution pledge

The US Supreme Court ruled on 20 June 2013 that the "anti-prostitution loyalty oath" mandated by USAID is unconstitutional. The Court [ruled](#) that the government policy requiring organisations to explicitly oppose prostitution as a condition of receiving funding from the US

government's President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR) programme for HIV/AIDS programmes overseas, violates the First Amendment of the US Constitution. The pledge effectively conflates all sex work with trafficking and severely limits the work that groups can do to assist people who are trafficked into the sex industry - and the many sex workers who are not trafficked, but are too often collateral damage of States' and NGOs' counter-trafficking efforts.

The US position on sex work had become increasingly untenable as authorities such as World Health Organisation and UNAIDS adopted policies upholding the rights of people in sex work. The Global Commission on HIV and Law, (a panel of international experts) stated in 2012 that the anti-prostitution pledge placed grantees in an "impossible position - of being denied funds if they do not agree, and if they sign they are barred from supporting sex workers in taking control of their own lives". The Global Commission called for the repeal of the pledge and all other such punitive conditionality in official development assistance.

So far the decision only applies to US-based organisations. International groups who want to apply for USAID money are still covered by the pledge. The US government needs to extend the Supreme Court decision to all groups applying for USAID funds if it is to enable meaningful efforts [to support sex workers and combat HIV](#) and support efforts worldwide to end trafficking. They have the opportunity to do this when PEPFAR comes up for re-authorization this year, let's hope they take it, because the real work -of ending human rights violations against sex workers and promoting human and labour rights to prevent trafficking in the sector - can only be done when we can support the work and protect the rights of sex workers and their organisations.

End of impunity for diplomats in Belgium

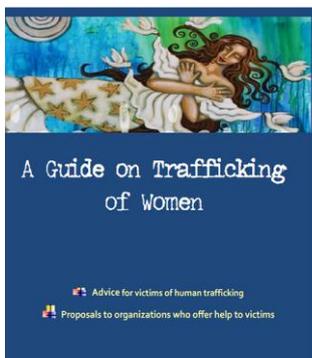
Undeclared work, intolerable hours, very low pay and a complete lack of respect. Behind the beautiful embassy facades, the working conditions of diplomatic staff are sometimes closely akin to slavery. In Belgium in 2011, an inter-trade union of diplomatic workers and international organisations was established to create a [forum](#) to defend these workers. This has now been accomplished: at the end of May, a circular from the Ministers of Employment and Foreign Affairs endorsed the establishment of a Good Offices Committee (GOC). This Committee has three objectives.

- Firstly, to amicably resolve and on a case by case basis, the disputes between embassy staff and employers before seeking recourse at the Labour Court. The inter-trade union will defend the workers during these negotiations.
- Subsequently, to draw up a code of good practice for employers, particularly with regard to the regularisation of undeclared work and social security contributions.
- Finally, to create a tailor-made law for workers in this sector to guarantee their fundamental rights such as the minimum wage and indexing, holidays and the reimbursement of travel expenses.

The first meeting of the GOC was on 27 June, when dozens of files were opened for examination.

What's new ?

From victim to agent of change



The organisation [Border Women](#), a network of trafficked women, developed the [Guide on Trafficking of Women](#). Through an innovative and empowering research exercise, victims of trafficking became agents of analysis and change. Instead of focusing on the tragic side of their experience, they shared among themselves how they managed to escape from trafficking and rebuild their lives. They discussed the existing support mechanisms, scrutinised the core policy instruments and eventually summarised their own experience and recommendations in this publication.

It is a document written by trafficked women for trafficked women, as well as for policymakers and social and institutional agents concerned with preventing and combating trafficking.

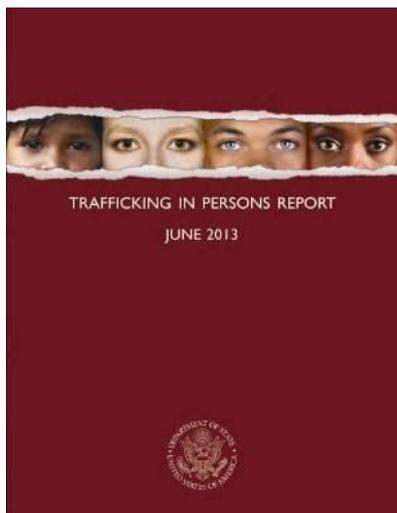
ENPATES handbook

The [ENPATES Handbook](#) is a collection of the most relevant project products of the ENPATES network in which La Strada International has participated and still cooperates with. It includes: a. the Advocacy Guide designed for facilitating lobbying activities with the aim of policy change to fully protect the rights of trafficked persons. b. An overview of twenty relevant anti-trafficking practices carried out by European NGOs in the area of prevention, training and research, identification and first support for trafficked persons, long-term assistance and social inclusion in countries of origin, destination and third countries. c. An overview of transnational cooperation procedures between NGOs in cases of human trafficking.

The Annex section includes the overview of NGOs needs and expectation with respect to the ENPATES Platform and a full description of the relevant practices and the case studies respectively analysed in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3. It also contains the Charter on principles, objectives, activities, membership, structure and functioning of the ENPATES Platform as well as the final conference statement listing the key lessons and recommendations identified through the project implementation.

US TIP Report 2013

In June the US State Department released their annual [Trafficking in Persons Report \(TIP\)](#). The TIP report exists to highlight the issue of trafficking in human beings and rank individual countries progress in combating the issue. The State Department places each country onto a tier. Each year, governments must meet the minimum standards of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol to gain the top tier status while those who rank on the bottom tier may suffer consequences such as the withholding of non-humanitarian and non-trade related foreign assistance.



The 2013 report focuses on victim identification as an essential first step to bring people out of the darkness on exploitation. The report sheds light on proper ways to identify victims and the challenges faced when countries fail to do so. Using a victim-centred approach, victim identification begins with respecting a person's rights, providing them with protection and helping them receive access to essential lifesaving services. When adequate anti-trafficking laws are enforced, identification of a person as a victim must begin with a process that respects their rights, provides them protection, and enables them to access services to recover from the trauma inflicted by traffickers. However, when authorities misclassify or fail to identify victims the victims lose access to justice. Even worse, when authorities misidentify trafficking victims as illegal migrants or criminals deserving punishment, those victims can be unfairly subjected to additional harm, trauma, and even punishment such as arrest, detention, deportation, or prosecution. These failures occur too often, and when they do, they reinforce how traffickers around the world

commonly threaten their victims: law enforcement will incarcerate or deport victims if they seek help. To prevent such lapses, government efforts to identify victims must go well beyond laws guaranteeing certain mechanisms, rights, or statuses. Governments need to seek to implement proactive systematic identification strategies designed to fit the wide range of settings and circumstances in which victims have been or might be found. The report stresses on the importance of adequate cooperation between all the actors- from service providers, to labour inspectorates to unions to prosecutors and judges, and regular capacity building and trainings.

A small chapter in the report deals with the demand issue. Whereas the entire report underlines the point that trafficking in human beings occurs in all economic sectors; unfortunately the demand issue is traditionally narrowed down to prostitution. The report calls for continued dedicated efforts to enact policies and promote cultural norms that disallow paying for sex, based on the oversimplified assumption "If there were no demand for commercial sex, sex trafficking would not exist in the form it does today".

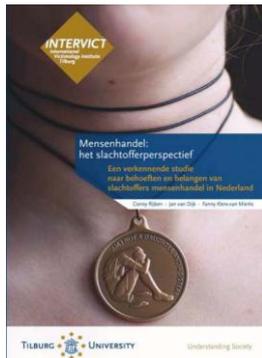
Dutch National Rapporteur calls for specialised judges

The Dutch National Rapporteur's office published six reports on human trafficking in 2012. In one of these reports, [Case law on trafficking in human beings](#) the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, advises for the specialisation of judges. The

Rapporteur studied over 400 judgments on human trafficking in the sex industry and other forms of exploitation.

The conclusion of the report of the National Rapporteur is that specialisation and training are needed to ensure that human trafficking cases are handled in a manner befitting the seriousness of the offence and the concern about human trafficking at national and international level. In that respect, it is also important to pursue consistency in sentencing. When determining sentences, there are major disparities. The report shows that there is a lack of uniformity in the application of factors that can influence sentencing, such as aggravating circumstances. There is also considerable discrepancy in awarding compensation for victims. No consistent link seems to be made in human trafficking cases in the Netherlands between confiscation and compensation.

Research on victims needs in the Netherlands



The International Victimology Institute Tilburg (INTERVICT) conducted [a survey](#) on the current protection and assistance provided to victims of trafficking in the Netherlands and whether they match the needs of these victims. The study found that the protection and assistance offered to victims of trafficking in the Netherlands is not adapted to the differentiated and phased nature of the victims' needs. The first three months after leaving the situation of exploitation must be used for rest and reflection, after which a decision on (possible) victimhood should be taken based on information from different sources including care organisations. The current system (in which a residence permit is linked to the willingness to cooperate and indicators to start criminal investigation are collected during the reflection period) creates pressure on victims to make a statement against the trafficker at an early stage in the process. Such pressure is undesirable

given the needs, problems and fears of the victims immediately after they have left the situation of exploitation. The researchers plea for a system in which protection and assistance is adjusted to facilitate the recovery process. It is expected that more victims will be inclined to cooperate and testify - and will be better equipped mentally to do so. There would also be less opportunity for the defence to challenge the reliability of a victim's statement. Hence, the proposed changes create a win-win situation from both the victim's perspective and the law enforcement perspective. The proposed changes will lead to a more victim-centred approach, in line with the policy applied to victims of other severe crimes, and bring an end to the migration linked policy currently in place, which is primarily focused on law enforcement.

Using legal strategies to enforce undocumented migrants' human rights

The new report by the Platform on International Cooperation for Undocumented Migrant in Europe (PICUM) outlines ways for advocates of undocumented migrants to engage with legal systems on both national and international levels. The report is a practical guide to mechanisms within the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations that advocates can use to enforce undocumented migrants' fundamental rights and to fight impunity. The report is the outcome of a discussion amongst representatives from key monitoring bodies, legal experts, and frontline service providers at PICUM's Annual Workshop in June 2012.

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has developed guidelines for EU member states to enable undocumented migrants to report crimes and access justice without fear of being apprehended. These guidelines suggest the possibility for anonymous reporting to the police through a third party and to detach the immigration status of victims from the main residence permit holder if he or she is the perpetrator. Two European Union directives also foresee ways for undocumented migrants to access justice. Under Article 6 of the Employers' Sanction Directive (Directive 2009/52/EC), which provides for "minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals", undocumented migrants are entitled to introduce a claim against their employer for outstanding payments. The Victims' Directive (2012/29/EU), establishing "minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, adopted in October 2012 and to be transposed by EU Member States by 2015, aims at strengthening the rights of all victims and their family members, irrespective of their residence status as stated in Article 1 of the Directive.

The challenge remains on the national, regional and local levels to ensure that practical measures will be put in place so that undocumented migrants can safely file a complaint if they have been exploited or abused. By building cases, the report gives concrete examples of how to take action at

national and at EU levels, including the collection of evidence of exploitation, how to lodge a complaint and training within NGOs to proceed with court cases.

UN Special Rapporteur report on demand

[This year's annual report](#) of the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, Ms Joy Ezeilo focussed on the issue of demand. In the report, the SR emphasizes that the demand side should not be understood merely as the demand for sexual, labour or other services of victims of trafficking, but more broadly, as an act that fosters any form of exploitation that, in turn, leads to trafficking. Measures taken by States to discourage demand have often focused exclusively on demand for commercial sexual exploitation, particularly of women and girls, and neglected other forms of demand (such as demand for exploitative labour and sale of organs). In the report the SR urges Governments worldwide to broaden their perception of the problem, stressing that the demand side of trafficking generally refers to the nature and extent of the exploitation of the trafficked persons after their arrival at the point of destination, as well as the social, cultural, political, economic, legal and developmental factors that shape the demand and facilitate the trafficking process. States have a responsibility to protect against human rights abuses- including trafficking in persons and exploitation of persons by third parties, such as business enterprises and criminal associations; through appropriate policies, regulation and adjudication. The Special Rapporteur also emphasized that Governments should ensure that all business enterprises within their jurisdiction respect human rights throughout their operations, both at home and abroad, and take appropriate action to stop trafficking in persons or the exploitation of persons from occurring; regardless of the size, sector, operational context, ownership and structure of the business enterprise. Businesses must be seen as an important partner in the fight against trafficking in persons," the Special Rapporteur underlined, recalling her previous report on the issue of trafficking in persons and global supply chain presented last year to the United Nations General Assembly. In a majority of trafficking cases that have been brought to her attention, private actors are often implicated particularly in the context of labour exploitation. Moreover, the SR stresses the necessity of ensuring that anti-trafficking measures do not adversely affect the human rights and dignity of persons, in particular the rights of those who have been trafficked. States should therefore actively monitor the impact and possible side effects of measures to discourage demand and take appropriate action to address any unintended implications.

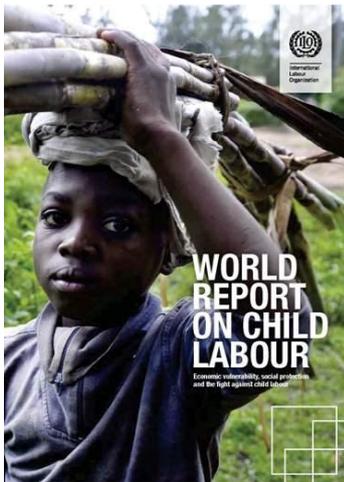


In a [written statement](#) submitted to the Human Rights Council where the Special Rapporteur presented her report, the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women, GAATW welcomes the growing focus on the demand for exploitative labour practices, particularly in globalised supply chains. This presents a more promising direction on 'demand' than the traditional debates around ending the demand for sex work which have typically been central to anti-trafficking debates.

Trafficked at sea. The exploitation of Ukrainian seafarers and fishers 2012

The NEXUS Institute published a [study](#) exploring the issue of trafficking at sea through the experiences of 46 Ukrainian seafarers and fishermen trafficked to Russia, Turkey and South Korea on vessels under flags from Panama and Russia. Through a discussion and exploration of their specific trafficking experiences and post-trafficking lives, the paper considers ways that anti-trafficking policies and programmes can increasingly take into account the experiences and needs of trafficked seafarers and fishermen. While trafficking at sea has been reported in different regions, there are some aspects of the Ukrainian experiences and context that are unique and signal different sides of vulnerability, experiences and, by implication, different intervention needs and opportunities. Efforts to address trafficking in the seafaring and fishery sectors need to pay careful attention and seek to respond to this complexity and diversity.

International Social protection is crucial in tackling child labour



The [World Report on Child Labour: Economic vulnerability, social protection and the fight against child labour](#), by ILO's International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC), reviews relevant research on how different types of social protection measures can help combat child labour. This report is the first in the series of World Reports on Child Labour called for in the outcome document, the Roadmap, emerging from the Hague Global Child Labour Conference of 2010. The World Report series is seen as an additional vehicle for promoting effective action against child labour, complementing the periodic Global Estimates exercise and other global ILO publications. The series is aimed in particular at monitoring and helping to inform global efforts in the lead-up to the 2016 target date for the elimination of the worst forms of child labour. The World Reports are an integral part of the Global Action Plan on the elimination of child labour, endorsed by the ILO's Governing Body in November 2010, and by the November 2012 Action Plan to promote

fundamental principles and rights at work.

The report argues that child labour is driven in part by household vulnerabilities associated with poverty, risk and shocks, and that social security is critical to mitigating these vulnerabilities. The overall aims of the report are, first, to highlight the relevance of social security as part of a broader strategy for eliminating child labour; and, second, to help advance understanding of the specific ways in which social security systems can support efforts against child labour. The report concludes by stating that social protection policies have a key role in the fight against child labour, which currently affects some 215 million children worldwide.

Labour Exploitation and health

Research on the health of trafficked men and on the health problems associated with trafficking for labour exploitation are extremely limited. This [study](#) analysed data from a case series of anonymised case records of a consecutive sample of 35 men and women who had been trafficked for labour exploitation in the UK and who were receiving support from a non-governmental service between June 2009 and July 2010. Forty percent reported experiencing physical violence while they were trafficked. Eighty-one percent (25/31) reported one or more physical health symptoms. Fifty-seven percent (17/30) reported one or more post-traumatic stress symptoms. Not surprisingly the research shows that a substantial proportion of men and women who are trafficked for labour exploitation may experience violence and abuse, and have physical and mental health symptoms. People who have been trafficked for forced labour need access to medical assessment and treatment.

Detecting and tackling forced labour in Europe

Forced labour relates to workers who cannot freely choose to leave an abusive employer. In much of Europe, however, the term is associated with trafficking and unlawful cross-border mobility. [The study](#) by the [Working Lives Research Institute](#) and published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation considers how those exposed to forced labour are supported in nine EU Member States: France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Latvia, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Sweden. It draws on specially prepared national reports on practices, policies and debates regarding forced labour in each of the countries. The study also identifies lessons which can inform the development of responses in the UK. Forced labour practices occur in all nine countries studied, but reliable studies measuring the size of the problem are rare. The International Labour Office (ILO) has estimated that 880 000 workers are subject to forced labour in Europe. Migration is a major source of the vulnerability which can end in forced labour, notably for migrants from Bulgaria, Poland and Romania (within the EU), and China, Morocco and Turkey (from outside the EU). However, forced labour does not always involve migrants.

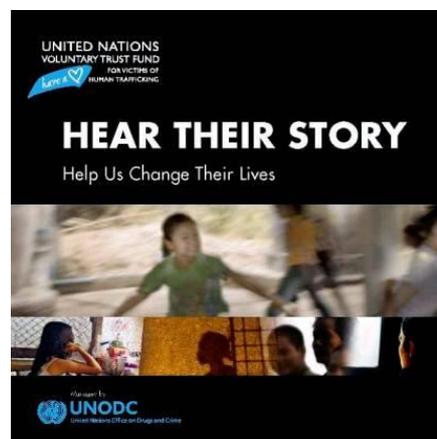
Sectors frequently identified as those using forced labour were domestic service, construction, agriculture, hospitality, cleaning, food manufacturing and processing, and textiles and clothing. But forced labour also occurred in the supply chains of significant sectors such as pharmaceuticals (e.g. berry pickers in Sweden) or major fashion labels (e.g. clothing workshops in Spain).

Recommendations include better information and training on forced labour indicators, enlarging relevant inspectorates, establishing main contractor liability in areas like construction and agriculture, and pursuing unpaid wages and compensation in prosecution cases.

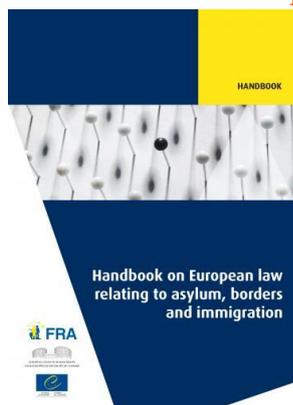
Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons

On 31 August 2010, the General Assembly Plan of the United Nations adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which urges governments, the private sector and concerned individuals to take coordinated, comprehensive and consistent steps to combat this crime and support those harmed by it. The Global Plan of Action included the establishment of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. By supporting the Trust Fund governments, the private sector, NGOs, the media and concerned individuals can offer an effective means of assisting the victims and survivors of human trafficking, as well as preventing others from becoming victims.

The new [information brochure](#) of the Voluntary Trust Funds tells the stories of trafficked persons who have been supported through the means of the fund. One of them is Trang, a Vietnamese worker who was exploited in the scandalous Czech tree workers case and has now, with the support of La Strada Czech Republic, filed a criminal complaint against the company claiming compensation for unpaid labour and damages.



Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration



The [Handbook on European law relating to asylum, borders and immigration](#) is jointly produced by the European Court of Human Rights and the FRA. It examines relevant law in the field of asylum, borders and immigration stemming from both European systems: the European Union and the Council of Europe. It provides an accessible guide to the various European standards relevant to asylum, borders and immigration.

The handbook is the second joint publication of this kind following a first handbook on non-discrimination issued in 2011. It is based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights and the European Court of Justice as well as on the relevant EU regulations and directives and also a first point of reference on the European Social Charter (ESC) and other instruments of the Council of Europe.

The handbook designed to assist legal practitioners at national and European level, including lawyers, judges, prosecutors, border guards, immigration officials and others working with national authorities; as well as non-governmental organisations and other bodies that may be confronted with legal questions in any of the areas the handbook sets out to cover.

Migration and Development Policies and Practices

The study [Migration and Development Policies and Practices: A mapping study of eleven European countries and the European Commission](#), prepared by ICMPD and its partner, the European Centre for Development Policy Management, and commissioned by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, was launched at the GFMD thematic meeting on development issues in Geneva.

It provides input for continued policy discussions in and beyond the European level and assists states in identifying future directions and common ground for addressing the inherent development potential of migration in the global, regional and national migration and development debates.

What's new on the web ?

Human trafficking search

The HumanTraffickingSearch.Net is an extensive web resource that provides knowledge and information about human trafficking to service providers, professors and students, advocates, law enforcement personnel and researchers.



The multilingual website is aimed at increasing public awareness and facilitating the elimination of human trafficking worldwide. It contains information in 14 languages, on 120 countries; and is searchable by keyword, country, organisation and theme.

AWID Membership Activities and Resources

AWID has launched a special webpage dedicated to [Membership Activities and Resources](#). The new webpage is available in English, Spanish and French. The webpage contains some of the latest membership activities, opportunities to engage with AWID's strategic initiatives, members can share their views on AWID's latest analysis, connect with other AWID members and submit announcements. Items can be posted through membership@awid.org

Critical anti-trafficking online resource online

The [Research human trafficking](#) blog collects and publishes abstracts and book descriptions of academic and non-academic research on human trafficking. The database contains recent critical essays of anti trafficking policies, the Swedish model, victims and the media, anti migration policies and the effects of these policies on trafficked persons and affected groups.

E-Learning platform for businesses and organisations

On 27 May [End Human Trafficking Now](#) launched the first ever [global human trafficking E-learning platform](#). The platform is an online space specially designed to meet the needs of large corporations wishing to extend training on human trafficking not only to a small group or office (as is the case for traditional training systems) but to a large number of employees and at different locations at a minimum cost. Designed for businesses and employees, the aim of the E-tool is to help them understand what human trafficking is, identify how human trafficking poses a risk to their businesses and identify actions they can take to address potential risks.

What's happening where ?

- 8-10 July - Meeting of the Global Human Trafficking Hotline Network, Prague, Czech Republic
- 25-27 September - Data protection conference, Berlin, Germany
- 3- 4 October - The UN High Level Dialogue on Migration & Development, New York, United States
- 1- 9 November 19 Days of activism for prevention of violence against children and youth
- 25 November - 10 December 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign



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We greatly appreciate financial support from private donors for our work. For more information on how you can contribute to La Strada's work [see our website](#).