



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 December 2013 if you have news, information about your organisation, a new report or documentary or an outspoken opinion on (inter)national



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Staff changes at LSI Secretariat

In July, after more than three years of working at the International Secretariat, Wiesje Zikkenheiner, who managed the COMP.ACT, ENPATES and other projects, left the organisation to pursue a career in other fields. We thank Wiesje for her dedication and hard work and welcome Sofia Skrypnyk as the new Project manager of the LSI team. Sofia will manage the project "NGOs & Co - NGO-business engagement in addressing human trafficking", and will be responsible both for the project implementation and the financial management. In addition, she will support the International Secretariat in the development and implementation of new projects and network strategies. Prior to joining LSI, Sofia worked with Amnesty International, Nonviolent Peaceforce, and a number of other non-governmental organisations. Sofia holds an MA in Development Studies from the International Institute of Social Studies in The Hague and an MA in Philosophy from the University of Amsterdam.

datACT conference in Berlin

Together with KOK e.V. - the German NGO network against trafficking in women and violence against migrant women - La Strada International has launched 'datACT' - a project on data protection in anti-trafficking responses. From 25 to 27 September 2013, datACT hosted a conference in Berlin with experts from the fields of politics, science and civil society to discuss data protection and privacy rights issues for marginalised groups. In addition, the conference focused on data protection as a new challenge in anti-trafficking policies in the digital age. Participants from 15 countries exchanged experiences on relevant topics, including data collection procedures and victims' protection, European data protection developments and the rights of marginalised populations, counselling centres and National Rapporteur mechanisms, and the right to privacy for trafficked persons.

La Strada Moldova signs a Memorandum of Understanding with General Police Inspectorate

On 8 August, La Strada Moldova signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the General Police Inspectorate (GPI) of the Ministry of Interior. The main objective of the MoU is to strengthen the mutual cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, child pornography and commercial sexual exploitation of children.

According to the MoU, GPI will provide identified trafficked persons with information about their rights and offer protection measures. The GPI will keep La Strada updated of the progress and outcomes of any criminal investigation their clients may be part of. La Strada Moldova will inform GPI about the outcome of their general monitoring work and organise capacity building activities for specialists involved in combating trafficking in human beings, child pornography and commercial sexual exploitation of children through trainings, workshops, round tables etc. La Strada will also allow GPI and its subdivisions to use its *Child Interviewing Room* and will inform GPI on cases of child trafficking and sexual exploitation registered via the national Hotline 0 800 77777 and the web portal on child safety online www.siguronline.md (operated by La Strada). The parties also agreed to exchange experiences and good practice and cooperate in the development and distribution of information materials targeting both professionals and at-risk groups.



This MoU and the earlier signed MoU between La Strada Moldova and the Ministry of Education come as a response to the need to enhance the collaboration among state structures and civil society as well as the implementation of the *National Action Plan to prevent and combat trafficking in persons* (2012-2013). For more information you can contact [La Strada Moldova](http://LaStradaMoldova).

National Report of Moldova on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2012

In August, the Moldovan government published a [report](#) on the country's progress in the field of combating trafficking in human beings. The report highlights the provision of quality social assistance to victims, the consolidation of the Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, the increase in the number of prevention activities and the establishment of new measures to protect child victims. Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings continues to be a priority for the government of the Republic of Moldova, which is reflected in the national policies and the commitments to international standards.

La Strada Moldova evaluates positively the transparent and cooperative process in which the report was drafted in consultation with all stakeholders, including civil society organisations.

Belarus accedes to CoE convention

Belarus is the only country in Europe that is not a member of the Council of Europe. The main obstacle for Belarus' accession to the Council is the country's use of the death penalty. Despite the fact that the country is not a member state, it can ratify CoE conventions and the government has indicated its interest in joining the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. Therefore a new draft law on the accession of the Republic of Belarus to the Convention was published on the national legal web portal <http://law.by> on 1 July. On 17 September the country officially joined the Convention.

All necessary steps and measures to fully comply with the provisions of the Convention should be taken in the next six months. La Strada Belarus and other NGOs have already made a number of recommendations to bring the national legislation in line with the Convention.

Balkan declaration on the suppression of human trafficking and exploitation



On 19 September in Zagreb, Croatia, La Strada Macedonia (Open Gate) signed together with three other organisations, the [Balkan Declaration on the suppression of trafficking and exploitation](#) in the region, as part of the project "Balkans ACT (Against the Crime of Trafficking) Now!".

The aim of the Declaration is to encourage further development of national, regional and international cooperation, promotion of concrete measures and standards, best practices and mechanisms to combat human trafficking. The document also refers to the prevention of human trafficking, protection and assistance to victims and cooperation with state institutions. Special emphasis is placed on highlighting the international obligations of States in preventing and combating this crime.

The Declaration was signed by the current four partners in the project - ASTRA (Serbia), Open Gate/La Strada (FYR Macedonia), Partnership for Social Development (Croatia) and MFS Emmaus (Bosnia and Herzegovina). In the coming months the partners will seek the involvement of other representatives of civil society organisations in the region to sign the declaration and it is expected that many other European organisations will support the document.

The four partners have agreed that there are many shortcomings in the fight against human trafficking and organised crime and that all relevant actors, both from civil society and government bodies, should further improve cooperation. Therefore, the regional partnership on the project [Balkans ACT Now!](#) is of great importance as it aims specifically at addressing the judicial sector, in particular legal proceedings in cases of human trafficking, targeting ineffective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators and ineffective protection of victims in accordance with the fundamental rights and EU standards.

Anti-trafficking standards adopted in Ukraine

For the last five years La Strada Ukraine, together with partner non-governmental and international organisations, has lobbied for the adoption of standards in the anti-trafficking field. The standards were finally adopted in August 2013 by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine.

The standards concern the prevention of human trafficking and the social integration and reintegration of trafficked persons, including children. The text of standards is available in [Ukrainian](#).

Now La Strada Ukraine and the Ministry are organising trainings for specialists working in the field of human trafficking to become acquainted with the new standards. The trainings will be conducted in Kyiv and several other big cities by the end of the year. The first workshop was already conducted in September in Kharkiv.

What's going on ?

Call for applications for a new Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of Slavery

The second term of Gulnara Shahinian as UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary slavery, including its causes and consequences, will come to an end in April 2014. At the 24th Human Rights Council session in September, she presented her last annual report on Kazakhstan and Madagascar. Ms Shahinian notes that although there have been some improvements, six years into her term on this mandate, the progress in eradicating and raising awareness of the contemporary forms of slavery that persist globally is too slow. There is still too little implementation and too few follow-up and enforcement mechanisms established at the domestic level. Comprehensive programmes and actions, including at the regional level, are needed to address this problem which violates human rights, affects economies, perpetuates organised crime and exploitation, and endangers the achievement of Millennium Development Goals. She recommends to have this mandate report to the United Nations General Assembly in New York as well, in order to enable it to raise awareness and bring relevant issues to that forum on a regular basis.

At the HRC in March 2014, the new rapporteur will be appointed. The deadline for the applications is 31 October 2013.



EU Framework for the Provision of Information on the Rights of Victims of Trafficking

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 healthcare to labour rights, rights regarding access to justice and to a lawyer, and on the possibilities of claiming compensation. Based on this document the European Commission drafted the [Revised Draft Council Conclusions on an EU Framework for the Provision of Information on the Rights of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings of part of Priority A, Action 4 of the EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016](#). The draft council conclusion invites member states to:

- Utilise the Commission EU rights document for the purpose of drawing up or, if necessary, amending Member State specific document(s). Such document(s) should provide clear, user-friendly information on labour, social, victim and migrant rights that victims of trafficking in human beings have under EU law in their jurisdiction with special attention being given to child victims;
- Supplement the information on the labour, social, victim and migrant rights that victims of trafficking in human beings have under EU law with any other rights of victims of human trafficking that exist under the domestic law in their jurisdiction, in/when drawing up such document(s);
- Ensure, as far as possible, where the information is to be provided in more than one document, that such documents are collated into a single dossier to facilitate victims' easy access to comprehensive information on their rights;
- Ensure that such document(s) outline(s) in a clear and user-friendly manner how such rights can be exercised by victims in their jurisdiction;
- Disseminate such document(s) to all relevant actors that work with victims of human trafficking in their jurisdiction (e.g. police, border guards, immigration and asylum officials, health and social work professionals, non-governmental organisations, etc.);

- Utilise such Member State specific document(s) in training to all relevant actors working in combating trafficking in human beings to ensure a human rights perspective.

Member States are requested to do this before June 2014.

The Commission is invited to support the Member States in providing and disseminating such specific documents and to allocate the necessary budget to fund projects concerning the implementation of the rights of victims.

Strengthening the European Union's response to human rights abuses inside its own borders



[The Human Rights and Democracy Network](#), of which La Strada International is a member, has issued [a statement](#) on the protection of human rights in the European Union. The Treaties of the European Union state that the EU is founded on the value of respect for human rights, as outlined in the [EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy](#) - adopted by the Council of the EU in June 2012. This means both ensuring that the Union's relations with other countries are founded on respect for human rights, and securing rights for everyone within the Union itself.

The Lisbon Treaty has reinforced the legal framework for EU action on human rights. Yet EU institutions have failed to respond adequately to some of the most pressing human rights issues inside the EU, including abusive laws and

practices by some member states. The quality of the response has also varied from institution to institution and from case to case.

The statement finds that the European Commission seems to be reluctant to use human rights as the basis for infringement; its decision-making and criteria have been opaque, and it has sometimes accepted cosmetic changes as sufficient to halt proceedings. The Commission has also been hesitant to confront member states on their human rights record in its annual report on the application of the Charter.

The European Parliament has been more outspoken on occasion and has played an important role in scrutinising EU legislation and challenging EU policy on human rights. The recent strong resolutions on Hungary and European complicity in the CIA rendition and secret detention programme shows its potential as a guardian of human rights and the rule of law. But political and national allegiances have sometimes blunted the Parliament's effectiveness. According to the HRDN, the response of the Council of the European Union has been the most disappointing. It has established a Working Party on Fundamental Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP) where member state officials can discuss human rights challenges and possible EU action. But the work of FREMP has in fact been largely confined to negotiating the EU accession to the European Convention on Human Rights and no meaningful engagement with civil society has been established.

The EU already has well-developed institutional arrangements that should be deployed effectively to further promote and protect rights within the EU. At the same time, the vital contribution played by the Council of Europe institutions in promoting human rights in EU countries should be seen as a complement to, rather than a substitute, for stronger EU action. EU institutions should proactively promote implementation of Council of Europe recommendations as an essential part of securing concrete results. The statement concludes with 6 practical recommendations for the European Institutions to strengthen their response to human rights abuses within the EU borders.

UN and European anti-trafficking experts join forces to fight trafficking in persons



The United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, and the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) consolidated their standing co-operation in the first ever meeting to discuss innovative and effective joint actions, and enhance information-sharing to fight the phenomenon of human trafficking.

"Fifteen anti-trafficking experts underpin GRETA's great strength, as they all bring a wide range of expertise and specialisation," Ms. Ezeilo said. "This richness and diversity can only enhance an integrated approach to fight the multidimensional scourge of human trafficking in Europe and beyond."

Ms. Ezeilo's remarks came at a special meeting organised by GRETA in Strasbourg, France, to discuss key issues related to the national level application of the definition of trafficking and specific groups at risk of being trafficked, such as children. The anti-trafficking

experts also exchanged ideas to strengthen synergies between the work of these two mechanisms.

"GRETA, the independent mechanism monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, is grateful to the UN Special Rapporteur for promoting worldwide the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its high standards in the

field of protection of the victims of this gross violation of human rights," said GRETA's President Nicolas Le Coz.

"I look forward to continuing to engage with the GRETA experts in order to strengthen the effectiveness of our collective quest to end human trafficking – a modern day slavery, growing in scale and in terms of human rights repercussions," added the UN Special Rapporteur. "I value the longstanding co-operation my mandate and GRETA have nurtured throughout these years."

Civil society preparations for High Level Dialogue

On 3 and 4 October 2013, United Nations Member States are organising the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development (HLD). In December 2012, Member States adopted a resolution (67/219) in the UN General Assembly spelling out the overarching themes and modalities for this second High-level Dialogue (HLD). The overarching theme is: "Identifying concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications".

The HLD is a two-day meeting bringing together high level representatives of governments, including heads of state, ministers, vice-ministers and senior officials in a series of plenary sessions and four round tables. In the 2012 resolution, states decided upon four overarching round table themes:

1. Effects of international migration on sustainable development and identifying relevant priorities in view of the preparation on the post-2015 development framework.
2. Measures to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of all migrants, with particular reference to women and children, as well as to prevent and combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and to ensure orderly, regular and safe migration.
3. Strengthening partnerships and cooperation on international migration, mechanisms to effectively integrate migration into development policies and promoting coherence at all levels.
4. International and regional labour mobility and its impact on development.

The resolution does not specify the outcome of the HLD. It is up to Member States to decide whether they will negotiate an outcome document to be adopted, such as a resolution, or not.

Civil Society days

Ahead of the UN High Level Dialogue the UN General Assembly brought [civil society](#) leaders and networks from around the world to New York on 15 July to present their experience and recommendations to governments in interactive hearings. More than 300 representatives of grassroots, regional and international civil society organisations met with 100 governments, UN agencies and other international organisations in the hearings. The hearings focused particularly on the key issues of civil society's five-year agenda: migrant labour and mobility, migrant rights and protection, human development and diaspora action and migration governance and partnerships. You can view [photos](#) and [videos](#) with speeches of the interactive hearing.



Side event

To coincide with the two-day UN High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in October, there will be a week-long [Peoples' Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights \(PGA\)](#). This is a series of events taking place in New York City from Monday 30 September to 4 October. Activities will include a labour and community march and rally across the Brooklyn Bridge, major plenaries by international grassroots leaders and notable dignitaries, self-organised workshops, government lobbying visits, art displays, cultural events and numerous other activities.

Civil Society input

The Global Alliance against Traffic in Women, together with the Women and Migration Caucus launched an [advocacy document](#) for the UN High Level Dialogue (HLD) on International Migration and Development. This document represents the voices and concerns of hundreds of women around the globe. These concerns were gathered from a global network of over 300 advocates from all regions of the world and the Women and Migration Caucus of the UN Civil Society Interactive Hearings for the HLD in July 2013. It draws on the outcomes of six regional civil society High Level Dialogue preparatory events organised by the [Global Coalition on Migration](#), which took place in May and June 2013. Contributions have also come from Women and Migration Caucus at the 5th World Social Forum on Migration in Manila 2012, the UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York 2013, and the UN Commission on Population and Development, New York 2013.

This document has sought to be a participatory and inclusive representation of voices from many different communities. The contributions from organisations and individuals from all regions around the world have ensured that this document reflects a global outlook on women and migration.

OSCE Special Representative calls for confiscation of assets of traffickers

The OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro said at an international seminar for judges in Haifa, Israel that trafficked people's legal rights must be upheld in court and that the overall criminal justice response must be strengthened.

In her keynote speech, Giammarinaro said the crime of human trafficking is rarely recognised, often only in situations in which extreme violence has been used. Commonly, when victims are coerced by taking advantage of their personal vulnerability (i.e. by threatening to report their immigration status which would result in deportation) traffickers still go unpunished.

"When an emerging crime threatens the whole society, the jurisprudence should avoid a conservative approach," Giammarinaro said. "It is time to be innovative in the interpretation of new legal provisions and apply severe penalties allowing confiscation of the proceeds of crime."

Confiscating funds and property belonging to human traffickers can also promote the victim's right to compensation since these assets can be used to finance restitution for unpaid labour. Compensation remains one of the most neglected aspects of providing justice in human trafficking cases, she said.

ILO domestic workers convention entered into force

The [ILO Domestic Workers Convention](#) No. 189, which offers vital protection to millions of domestic workers around the world, entered into force on 5 September. The Convention was adopted by ILO members in 2011 and sets standards for the estimated 50 to 100 million domestic workers worldwide - mostly women and girls - who perform essential household work in private homes. These workers cook, clean, and provide care for children and the elderly, but in many countries are excluded from basic labour law protections. Domestic workers face a wide range of human rights violations, including excessive working hours without rest, non-payment of wages, forced confinement, physical and sexual abuse, forced labour, and trafficking.

Under the Convention domestic workers are entitled to protections available to other workers, including weekly days off, limits to hours of work, and minimum wage and social security coverage. The Convention obligates governments to protect domestic workers from violence and abuse, and to prevent child labour in domestic work. It also requires governments to ensure that domestic work by children above the minimum age of employment does not deprive them of compulsory education or interfere with opportunities to participate in further education or vocational training.

As of September 2013, eight countries have led the way by ratifying the Domestic Workers Convention - Bolivia, Italy, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Philippines, South Africa, and Uruguay. In March the European Commission [urged EU member states](#) to ratify the Convention. As the Convention enters into force, countries that have ratified are now bound to implement its obligations. "All this shows that the momentum sparked by the ILO Convention on domestic workers is growing. The Convention and Recommendation have effectively started to play their role as catalysts for change. They now serve as a starting point for devising new policies in a growing number of countries - recognizing the dignity and value of domestic work," said Manuela Tomei, Director of the ILO's Working Conditions and Equality Department.

UK Campaign: Go Home or face arrest



In July, the UK Home Office launched a controversial campaign targeting undocumented migrants in six London boroughs. The text on the ads runs: "In the UK illegally? Go home or face arrest. Text HOME to 78070 for free advice, and help with travel documents. We can help you to return home voluntarily without fear of arrest or detention." It continues: "106 arrests last week in your area*." The asterisk is there to indicate that this is a made-up figure, relating to no particular area, and no particular week.

The Immigration Minister, Mark Harper, explained the purpose of the campaign: "We are making it more difficult for people to live and work in the UK illegally. But there is an alternative to being led away in handcuffs. Help and advice can be provided to those who co-operate and return home voluntarily." He said the pilot scheme was part of a package of immigration reforms being introduced this year, including restricting migrants' access to benefits and services.

The “Go Home” vans caused a public outcry by immigrants, [human rights organisations](#), the public and UK politicians. Human rights organisations have said the government’s targeting of illegal immigrants over the past two weeks is creating a climate of fear and intolerance that threatens to put race relations back decades. Amnesty International, Refugee Action and Freedom from Torture say in a letter [published in the Guardian](#) that the campaign was a cynical ploy that would foster hostility to minority groups and undermined the UK’s “commitment to provide sanctuary under the Refugee Convention”.

The organisations say the immigration ‘spot checks’ - which have seen officials stopping people at tube stations in the capital to check their immigration status, are severely damaging race relations.

The Advertising Standards Authority has received 60 complaints from members of the public concerned that the ad is in breach of the UK advertising code because it is offensive and irresponsible. The body has now launched an investigation into the campaign.

Ministers will evaluate the initiative in the autumn and have not ruled out extending it to other parts of the country. But they are already [facing a challenge in the courts](#), and the three organisations say the hardening rhetoric may breach the government’s wider legal obligations. Following the legal complaint, the Home Office has agreed to consult with local communities before attempting to embark on such a campaign again.

UN Working Groups on Trafficking in Persons and on the Smuggling of Migrants

The fifth session of the UN Working Group on Trafficking in Persons will be held from 6 to 8 November 2013 at the UN building in Vienna, Austria. This meeting is not open to NGOs but the reports will be available [online](#).

There is a new background paper in the series of analyses of key concepts of the Trafficking Protocol, this one with a focus on consent. There will also be a focus on ‘demand’ - good practices and tools for reducing the demand for trafficking in persons, including the fostering of public-private partnerships. Another focus will be on forms of exploitation that have arisen in national, regional or international contexts or practice since the Trafficking Protocol was adopted in 2000.

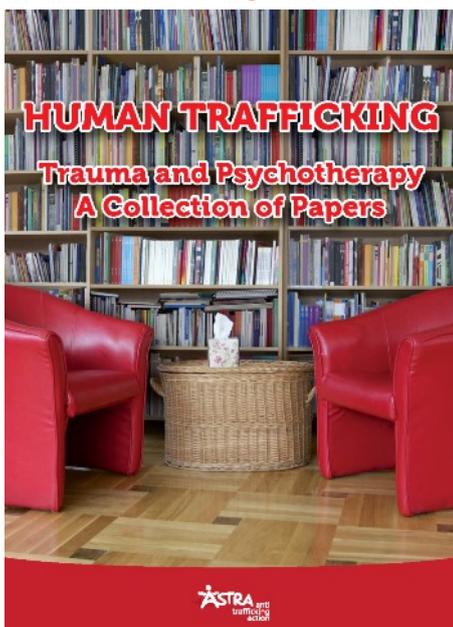
What’s new ?

Human Rights at the Border

Many people decide that despite barriers and risks they must cross a border for survival, either in terms of economics or safety. In many cases at border crossings, it is not possible for practitioners to determine if people are being strictly trafficked or whether they fall in another migration category. Yet the risks created by border systems and the violations experienced by individuals at borders are not to be left out of conversations on trafficking and of migrants’ rights more broadly.

The eight peer reviewed articles in the second issue of the [Anti-Trafficking Review](#) look into the role for border controls in anti-trafficking responses and how anti-trafficking measures play out in border zones.

Human Trafficking: Trauma and Psychotherapy



This new [publication](#) of the Serbian NGO ASTRA: Human Trafficking: Trauma and Psychotherapy can be used as a basic theoretical overview of concepts and psychological approaches to complex trauma and as a set of recommendations for working with trafficked persons. It is meant for psychotherapists and other professionals working in the field of mental health and disorders as well as for employees of institutions whose task it is to recognise potential trafficking victims and understand the process that underlies reactions of people who had been exposed to trafficking in human beings.

The publication consists of two sections:

The first section contains conclusions and recommendations written on the basis of content expounded at the international conference “Contemporary Psycho-Social Challenges in Combating Human Trafficking”. The objective of the conference was to highlight current challenges in combating human trafficking which are seldom addressed by professionals and decision makers, as well as to open up dialogue on significant issues, above all on approaches offered and models recommended for providing direct psychological support to trafficked persons. Recommendations contain information about trafficking as a phenomenon, followed by the definition of trauma and complex trauma, discussion on posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and

complex PTSD, as well as recommendations for working with victims and understanding the complex processes they are going through.

The second section consists of papers written by international and local experts in the field of psychology and psychotherapy, as well as practitioners with rich experience in providing psychological support to traumatised persons. In this section of the handbook, the focus is on the complex trauma and the psychological processes

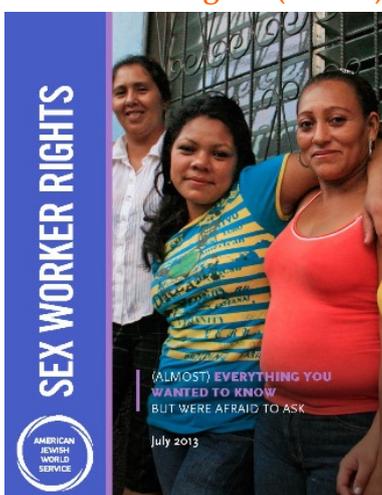
that occur as a response to traumatic experiences the victim had been exposed to. The authors do so by presenting their perspective, offering explanations and recommending techniques which they have tested in their psychotherapeutic practice.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of measures for the integration of trafficked persons

The [Evaluation of the effectiveness of measures for the integration of trafficked persons](#) study has been carried out in the framework of the Foster and Improve Integration of Trafficked persons (FIIT) project. The aim of the project was to enhance the long-term integration of trafficked persons by identifying, sharing and transferring good practices in five EU Member states: Belgium, France, Hungary, Italy and the United Kingdom. These practices can be found in the legal, economic and psychosocial aspects of integration. The project has also sought to strengthen and enhance professional networks of national and European practitioners working with trafficked persons. One of the concrete objectives of this project was the undertaking of a study to establish effective practices on longer-term integration for third-country national trafficked persons.

Based on more than 100 interviews with service providers, policymakers and former trafficked persons; the study analyses and compares the integration measures dedicated to trafficked persons in the five case countries. It also provides recommendations to enhance the integration of trafficked persons in host countries. The FIIT [toolkit](#) is designed as a practical booklet for practitioners; bringing together basic information on the integration system available to victims of trafficking in the five case countries as well as successful practices they implement.

Sex Worker Rights: (almost) Everything You Wanted To Know But Were Too Afraid To Ask



[This resource](#) is a briefing on why the organisation - the American Jewish World Service - funds sex worker rights organisations, and it is also a very effective introduction to the concept of sex worker rights and the sex worker rights movement. It discusses who sex workers are, what sex work is, the rights of sex workers in places where sex work is illegal, and introduces a rights-based approach on the issue.

It goes on to tackle the inaccurate conflation of sex work and trafficking, and point to ways that the sex workers rights movement can help to combat exploitation and rights abuses. It discusses why merely offering 'exiting' strategies is stigmatising and unhelpful, and looks at the harms of criminalisation, along with the benefits of decriminalisation. The report notes the important difference between decriminalisation and legalisation, and tackles some 'feminist' responses to sex workers. It also discusses several of the many problems with the Swedish model or 'end demand' approach. It concludes with a concise world history of sex worker organising, a list of "Dos and Don'ts", and a glossary.

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal

["Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of organ removal in the OSCE region"](#) is a new publication based on reports of cases in the OSCE region where formal criminal investigations have taken place, or which have been fully prosecuted. This makes the paper the first based on a qualitative analysis of actual cases. The findings confirm that many countries in the OSCE region are affected by this form of trafficking.

"Persons trafficked for organ removal endure a particularly cruel ordeal both during and after surgery," said the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro. "Victims are unaware of the lifelong impact of organ removal; in fact they bear long-term and debilitating medical consequences including the inability to work, especially because they completely lack post-operative care or follow-up medical and psychosocial support. In addition, they very often do not receive the payment that was promised to them during their deceptive recruitment."

The paper also calls attention to the link between trafficking for organ removal and organised crime, the role that corruption plays in facilitating organ removal, and the transplantation networks which often include administrators and medical professionals. It also suggests a series of steps to prevent this transnational crime, which is headed by international brokers connected with transplant surgeons and local organ recruiters. Amongst other points, the paper recommends to review national legislative frameworks to ensure they are adequate to punish all those who are part of the criminal networks; expanding international co-operation to pursue criminals across borders; working with the medical community to prevent unethical behaviour; and co-operating with civil society to better address the physical, psychological and legal needs of victims.

European Commission Human Rights Sector Guides

In June 2013, the European Commission issued three [Guides](#) on implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights for Employment & Recruitment agencies, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) companies and Oil & Gas companies, written by the [Institute for Human Rights and Business \(IHRB\)](#) and [Shift](#) - non-profit centre for business and human rights practice.

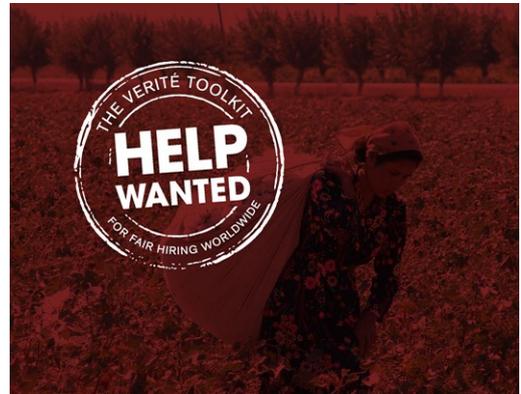
Each guide offers practical advice on how to implement the corporate responsibility to respect human rights in day-to-day business operations in each industry via step-by-step advice. At each step, the guide summarises what the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights expect, offer a range of approaches and examples for how to put them into practice, and links users to additional resources that can support their work. The guides are intended to help companies “translate” respect for human rights into their own systems and cultures.

Fair Hiring Framework for Responsible Business

Verité’s [Help Wanted Fair Hiring Toolkit](#) provides brands and suppliers with the necessary tools to help fight forced labour in their global supply chains. Verité services help companies and other stakeholders fully understand labour issues, overcome obstacles, and build sustainable solutions into their supply chains, benefiting companies and workers alike.

The [Help Wanted Primer](#) articulates the risk to multinational companies of forced labour and resulting debt-bondage caused by labour brokerage. It identifies the places within a company’s sourcing practices where brokers present a reputational and legal liability. The report can be used to identify the needed changes in corporate practices and ways that brands and their suppliers can take action.

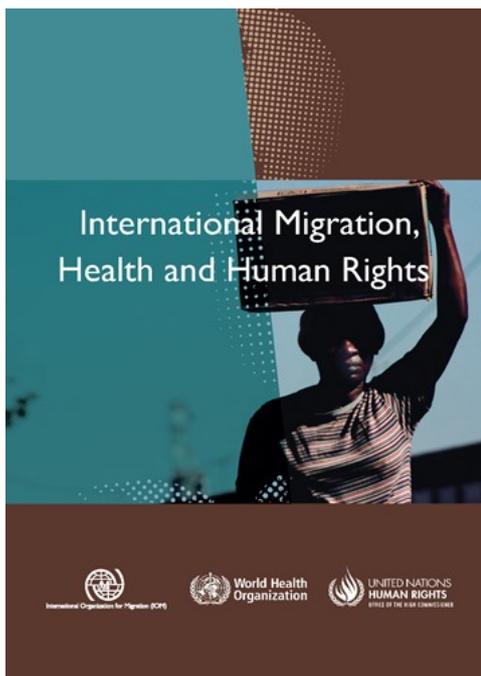
The [Policy Brief](#) defines the major policy debates and gaps in regulation, monitoring and enforcement and will help connect businesses with major national, regional and international resources and efforts on broker policy.



KOK statement on portrayal of human trafficking in German media in 2013

KOK - the German nationwide activist coordination group combating trafficking in women and violence against women in the process of migration - has issued a [statement](#) on the portrayal of human trafficking in German media in 2013. KOK has noticed that far too often the media presents the issue of human trafficking as a problem with prostitution and immigration, reports numbers which are not based on any real or reliable data and uses stereotypical, sexualised images to portray the victims, instead of focusing on the social and economic conditions that enable human trafficking and exploitation. KOK stresses the important role that media has in forming the public opinion and recommends that journalists adhere to the Press Code of the German Press Council. KOK also recommends that, when compiling an article or report on human trafficking, journalists avoid hysteria and clichés, conduct sound research on the topic and acknowledge that there are no precise figures. KOK advises the media to avoid conflating human trafficking and prostitution and to promote more empowering images of the survivors as strong, active subjects with the ability to shape their own lives.

International Migration, Health and Human Rights



The World Health Organization (WHO), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) published a [report](#) exploring the multifaceted health and human rights challenges that migrants face and the recent developments in this area. The aim of this publication is to provide all stakeholders with a reference on key health and human rights issues in the context of international migration. It is meant to provide inspiration to policymakers to devise migration policies and programmes that are guided by public health considerations and human rights imperatives, with a view to protecting the human rights and improving the health of both migrants and the communities in which they live.

Given the complex inter-linkages amongst the domains of human rights, health and international migration and the widely differing national and regional circumstances, this publication does not attempt to make broad recommendations. Instead it reflects on the developments that have occurred over recent years and attempts to stimulate debate on migration related health matters by using a human rights-based approach. It argues that the realisation of the rights of migrants is a sound public health practice that benefits all and provides new information, accomplishments and challenges with regard to international migration, health and human rights. It

examines the effects of the migration process on migrant health, as well as the protection offered to migrants through human rights instruments.

Call for papers “Following the Money: Spending on Anti-Trafficking”

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 explores the kinds of organisations and work that has been supported by anti-trafficking funding and touches on work that has been sidelined or excluded as a result. The journal looks at studies of money trails that reveal how anti-trafficking money has changed the world for the better or for worse.

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, trafficked persons and advocates 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 submission: 15 December 2013.

What’s new on the web ?

Women and Global Migration Working Group

The [Women and Global Migration Working Group](#) was established in a pre-meeting at the Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID) in April 2012. The Working Group is currently made up of national, regional, and global organisations. It seeks to strengthen a gender analysis within the migrant rights movement globally and to promote particular concerns of migrant women within the global women’s movement.

Video Migrant Domestic Workers - Standing Together

In early 2013, a team of GAATW member organisations and friends visited two countries of destination of migrant domestic workers: Lebanon and Qatar. A [video](#) produced shares the women’s perceptions of their lived migratory experience in Lebanon. During the visit, the team identified a number of possible research and policy directions for GAATW to take in future work both independently and in collaboration with members and allies. Mainly aiming to address the intersecting themes affecting migrant workers and provide greater information on actors or issues which are central to women’s disempowerment in migration.

What’s happening where ?

- 30 September - 4 October - Peoples’ Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights, New York City, USA
- 3-4 October - High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, New York City, USA
- 10 October - Combating human trafficking: business and human rights, London, UK
- 10 October - Seminar “Is compensation for trafficked persons achievable?”, The Netherlands
- 10 October - Conference on human trafficking, Lisbon, Portugal
- 16 October - PICUM working group on fair working conditions, Brussels, Belgium
- 16-18 October - Counter child trafficking - global online conference
- 18 October - 7th EU Anti-Trafficking Day, Conference “Exploring the Links between the Internet and Trafficking in Human Beings: Cyberspace for Prevention, not Recruitment”, Vilnius, Lithuania
- 18 October - EU Anti - trafficking day: “Not my life” film screening, Brussels, Belgium
- 21-23 October - Civil Society Exchange & Networking Seminar on Trafficking in Human Beings, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 2-3 November - Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings: Modern Slavery, Vatican City
- 5-6 November - Final conference of the Danish programme against trafficking in Persons, Kiev, Ukraine
- 6-8 November - UN Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, Vienna, Austria
- 11-13 November - UN Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants, Vienna, Austria
- 18-22 November - La Strada International General Assembly meeting and NGO Platform, Tallinn, Estonia
- 27-28 November - Putting Victims First: Conference on protecting and Promoting the Rights of Victims of Trafficking, Warsaw, Poland

What's on your mind ?

Why Punish the Victims?



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Anyone who has been involved in the fight against trafficking in human beings (THB) knows that the victims are not responsible for what has happened to them. THB entails the subjugation of the victim to the control of the exploiter. And yet, in many European countries, victims of THB have been prosecuted for acts they committed in the course of being trafficked (such as immigration offences) or as a consequence of being trafficked (such as doing illegal work). And they have often been convicted and punished, fined and/or imprisoned.

These convictions are a true denial of justice. No investigation of the trafficker takes place and the trafficked person becomes a victim twice over: first at the hands of the trafficker, and then at the hands of the State. Yet all legal systems recognise that sometimes a person cannot be held criminally liable for acts they have done. This can be because they lack mental capacity, or because they acted in self-defence, or because they acted under coercion with little or no real choice.

Victims of THB lack real choice. They are exploited and intimidated to such an extent that they no longer have free will. As such they should not be blamed or punished for what might seem like criminal acts when the bigger picture shows that they are simply not responsible. We are not suggesting that victims of THB have a licence to do anything at all. We are all accountable for illegal acts that we freely commit and to the extent that a trafficked person breaks the law and this is unconnected to their situation as a trafficked person, they should also be accountable. But they should never be punished for acts which are really the responsibility of someone else.

This is recognised under human rights law and under European law. The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2005) and the EU anti-trafficking Directive (2011) both require States to ensure that victims of THB are not punished for offences linked to their status. However, legally, the situation is rather complex. There are significant differences in how the legal systems of European States operate and applying what is actually a rather clear principle can be problematic on the ground in particular countries.

Recognising both the importance of protecting victims of THB from unjust punishment and the desirability of encouraging States to ensure that they prevent such injustices from taking place, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, in 2012 commissioned a report on the issue. This was published in spring 2013 - *Policy and legislative recommendations towards the effective implementation of the non-punishment provision with regard to victims of trafficking*. The report was drafted in consultation with the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* Expert Co-ordination Team.

The report is significant for several reasons. First, it explains in some detail the rationale for the non-punishment principle, then sets out the international legal basis for the principle, elucidating why non-punishment is actually a duty and not just an option for countries that encounter this dilemma - which means basically every country in Europe. Second, the report grounds the principle firmly in the human rights arena, justifying why respect for the principle is a part of States' human rights obligations towards trafficked people. Third, the report clarifies the exact scope of the principle in cases involving children and adults. Finally, the report sets out a series of recommendations to assist legislators and prosecutors who are confronted with the situation where a trafficked person appears to have committed an offence. The added value of this section is

that it sets out the elements of a complex situation in clear terms with the objective of assisting legislators and prosecutors, who may very well wish to do the right thing but may lack the expertise or experience to do so effectively.

All in all, the report provides a clear outline of the duty of non-punishment in the context of a complex legal background that includes multiple legal systems. It includes case studies that demonstrate how the principle has been applied in real trafficking situations, and it is hoped that the report will have a positive impact in assisting legislators, prosecutors and judges but also NGOs and lawyers assisting trafficked people.



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