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With this quarterly newsletter, La Strada International wishes to inform and update you on developments in the field of trafficking in human beings and the activities of La Strada International and the La Strada member organisations. We welcome your feedback and input. Please [e-mail us](#) by 1 September 2014 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 !

### 7<sup>TH</sup> LSI NGO Platform 'NGO - Business engagement in addressing human trafficking'

On 19-20 June 2014, La Strada International organised the 7<sup>th</sup> LSI NGO Platform in Sofia, Bulgaria, gathering more than 50 representatives of anti-trafficking NGOs and experts from across Europe. The Platform was hosted by Animus Association/La Strada Bulgaria, in the framework of the EU-funded project "NGOs & Co: NGO-Business Engagement in Addressing Human Trafficking".

Accountability of the business sector and other stakeholders was discussed in relation to human trafficking and forced labour in Europe during the opening panel. Panellists reviewed legislation and measures, including the new ILO protocol on forced labour, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and different complaint mechanisms. CSR policies and the role of grassroots NGOs in addressing workers' rights violations were also discussed.

Eight workshops focused more on practical tools and measures including: campaigning and communication with the corporate world, how to research a company, promoting fair employment & recruitment standards, lodging complaints and non-judicial grievance mechanisms, and multi-stakeholder certification schemes.

The NGO participants explored venues for action and practical pathways for influencing and establishing effective cooperation between European grassroots anti-trafficking NGOs and the private sector. Participants exchanged experiences and gained insights from experts active in the field of labour rights,



Nadia Kozhouharova, Animus Association and Gergana Alexova, Secretary General of the Bulgarian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

including representatives of the ILO, IOM and ECPAT, as well as academics, to engage with companies in order to prevent human trafficking for labour exploitation in Europe.

Platform participants underlined that civil society organisations still perceive partnering with businesses as a challenging decision; however, they acknowledged that anti-trafficking efforts cannot be sustainable without engaging the private sector. They further acknowledged that time and resources are needed for NGOs to work more with the private sector. On the basis of all input, LSI will draft guidelines for NGOs, and a toolkit to be published in 2015. Further, LSI will launch a campaign on trafficking for labour exploitation on 18 October 2014, at the EU anti-trafficking day. More information on the project can be found [here](#). More information on LSI's NGO platform can be found [here](#).

### EU funded project, TRACE, examines human trafficking as a criminal Enterprise

TRACE (Trafficking As a Criminal Enterprise), is an EU-funded project (7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration) that started in May 2014 and will run until April 2016. TRACE consists of a multi-disciplinary team from across Europe, which will develop state-



of-the-art knowledge on the business of human trafficking in an effort to support stakeholders in their fight against this crime. TRACE is coordinated by Trilateral Research & Consulting in London.

La Strada International is one of the consortium partners, as well as the Vrije University Brussels, Tilburg University in The Netherlands, the Council of Baltic Sea States Secretariat, the National Agency against Trafficking in Persons in Romania, the Cyprus Police and the French Committee against Modern Slavery. A first launch meeting was held in May 2014 in London.

TRACE will acquire cutting-edge knowledge of current and future criminal, social, economic, psychological and political processes that make the trafficking industry so profitable. The project will also focus on understanding the individuals involved in the business of human trafficking and the relationship between them, as to-date little is known about the profiles of traffickers, what influences their business and how trafficked persons become traffickers. Furthermore, TRACE aims to examine current and future trends in technology's potential role in human trafficking. Preliminary findings will be available in the fall of 2014. For further information and project updates, including workshop announcements, please see the [TRACE website](#) or follow TRACE on Twitter: @TRACE\_EU.

### La Strada Moldova is operating the 116111 Child Helpline in Moldova

On 1 June, the Moldovan Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, contracted La Strada Moldova to operate the 24-hour national toll-free Child Helpline, 116111. The Helpline collaborates with similar services in the European Union.

The helpline will provide psychological counselling to at-risk children, as well as to parents and child caretakers in difficult situations and requiring professional support and assistance.

This is the first time that a state institution in Moldova has delegated the provision of a social service to an NGO. „The state needs the partnership with civil society in order to achieve commendable success in implementing such a mechanism on prevention and combating violence and various forms of child abuse”, said Valentina Buliga, Minister of Labour, Social Protection and Family. Ms. Buliga also expressed her hopes that this is only the beginning of a successful long-lasting collaboration with NGOs, which have proved their competence in the provision of social services to vulnerable groups.

In addition to the new Child Helpline, La Strada Moldova also operates a hotline for safe migration and human trafficking, one for support to victims of domestic violence and a [website](#) for child safety online.

### Safe return of victims of trafficking and domestic violence



In May, the Dutch Shelter Federation started working on the project “Safe Return for Victims of Trafficking and Victims of Domestic Violence without or with an Uncertain Residence Permit”, in cooperation with, among other organisations, CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands and Animus Association/La Strada Bulgaria. The aim of the project is to develop and apply a methodology for safe return and reintegration of victims of human trafficking and domestic violence.

Clients who wish to return to their country of origin will be assisted with preparations to move; clients who have already returned will be supported in their reintegration efforts in the home country. Another part of the project will involve desk research on the factors that hinder safe return and

reintegration, the most common countries of origin of clients, and possible partners in The Netherlands and abroad. More information about the project can be found [here](#) (in Dutch).

### The Netherlands in process of establishing a National Referral Mechanism

The Dutch government has begun consultations on establishing a [National Referral Mechanism \(NRM\)](#) for (potential) victims of human trafficking. At the end of May, an interdepartmental group, consisting of the Ministry of Security and Justice, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, developed a proposal for the mechanism. The next phase is to determine the precise roles of the different state and civil society actors in preventing human trafficking and supporting victims, to conduct expert meetings and study visits, and to consult with other countries who are already implementing similar mechanisms. The process of establishing an NRM is conducted in close cooperation with the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children and civil society organisations. CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands is one of the organisations, consulted in the process. Bas de Visser, senior advisor Public Affairs & PR of CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands is positive about the recent developments. He believes that the Dutch NRM will clearly outline the different tasks and responsibilities of all stakeholders and will ensure better care and support for trafficked persons.

## What's going on ?

### New UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, appointed



At its regular 26<sup>th</sup> session, the UN Human Rights Council appointed Maria Grazia Giammarinaro as the new UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Ms. Giammarinaro is currently a penal judge from Italy, and was until recently the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. She has policy-making experience as the Head of the Legislative Office of the Minister for Equal Opportunities and through her work at the European Commission. She has drafted Italian legislation on non-discrimination and trafficking, and the EU Directives on trafficking and sexual exploitation of children.

LSI is very pleased with this appointment and is looking forward to continuing the fruitful cooperation with Ms. Giammarinaro in her new position. We have no doubt that she will be a highly effective new UN Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, as she has clearly demonstrated the required professional expertise and in-depth experience in the field.

### Tenth anniversary of the mandate of UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking

At the same 26<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, the former UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, presented her last annual [report](#) of activities for the period March 2013 - March 2014, "Stocktaking Exercise on the Work of the Mandate on its Tenth Anniversary". The report examines and reflects on the first decade of work of the Special Rapporteur with particular attention paid to the principles that have informed the mandate since its inception, namely that the human rights of trafficked persons are at the centre of anti-trafficking efforts and that measures taken against trafficking should not adversely affect the human rights and dignity of all persons. The report also looks at the principles and themes guiding the mandate, the main areas of focus and concern and the challenges in combating human trafficking. The report ends with conclusions and recommendations to the council and the next mandate holder, among others, to focus on the consequences of a human rights-based approach to human trafficking and on measuring the impact of anti-trafficking interventions and the effectiveness of victim identification tools. More information on the report can be found [here](#), and more specific documentation on the report [here](#).

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presented a [report](#) on the regional consultations that the former Special Rapporteur on trafficking had been leading over the last year. The report sets out the basic principles regarding the right to effective remedies for victims of trafficking in persons. The basic principles outlined by the report include: restitution and recovery (rehabilitation) and compensation; procedural preconditions in realising the right to effective remedies, and special considerations for trafficked children.

### New ILO Protocol on Forced Labour

On 11 June, the delegates at the International Labour Conference (ILC) adopted a new legally binding [Protocol](#) designed to strengthen global efforts to eliminate forced labour. The new Protocol modernises the existing ILO Convention on Forced Labour, adopted in 1930, to address practices such as human trafficking. The accompanying [Recommendation](#) provides technical guidance on its implementation. “The Protocol and Recommendation mark a major step forward in the fight against forced labour and represent a firm commitment among governments, employer and worker organisations to eliminate contemporary forms of slavery,” stated ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. The Protocol strengthens the international legal framework by creating new obligations to prevent forced labour, to protect victims and to provide access to remedies, such as compensation for material and physical harm. It requires governments to take measures to better protect workers, in particular migrant labourers, from fraudulent and abusive recruitment practices and emphasises the centrality of the role of employers and workers in the fight against forced labour.

Before the ILC, where the Protocol was adopted, a number of organisations and human rights bodies urged the state representatives at the meeting to adopt such a protocol. Several human rights organisations, including GAATW, Anti-Slavery International and Amnesty International, started a [petition](#) calling on governments to make the new Protocol legally binding. The Dutch National Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings [urged the ILC](#) to revise the Forced Labour Convention, highlighting the link between forced labour and human trafficking. She also published an [article](#), which brings to the fore several critical issues including: the education of risk groups, the protection of workers who use recruitment and placement services, non-liability for offences that victims were compelled to commit, and the care and protection of victims, including compensation. The UN Special Rapporteurs on contemporary forms of slavery, on the human rights of migrants and on trafficking in persons, published a [joint statement](#), stressing that “a legally binding protocol is essential to fight forced labour and represents a crucial opportunity for more coherent international action to advance the eradication of slavery-like practices around the world”.

### Labour exploitation of migrants

In April 2014, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, Mr. François Crépeau, delivered a [thematic report](#) on the issue of labour exploitation of migrants, which was presented to the 26<sup>th</sup> UN HRC session in June. The report covers some of the most common manifestations of labour exploitation, groups of migrants who are specifically at risk of such exploitation, and suggestions for more effective remedies. The report is based on observations made during the Special Rapporteur’s country visits, communications he has received from individuals and civil society organisations in the course of his mandate, as well as desk research. In his report, Mr. Crépeau pays special attention to the rights of undocumented workers and calls for more regular migration channels: *“Unrecognized labour needs in destination States, especially for low-skilled labour, constitute a major pull factor for irregular migration. Opening up more regular migration channels for workers considered “low-skilled”, thus recognizing the labour needs of destination States, and sanctioning exploitative employers, would reduce irregular migration and limit the power of smugglers’ organizations, thus contributing to the better respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of migrants. All migrant victims of abuse and exploitation should have access to effective remedies, including the possibility of pursuing compensation claims, regardless of their residence status, without fear of retribution.”* The report concludes with recommendations to states and international organisations of how to prevent labour exploitation of migrants and to ultimately better protect their rights.

### GRETA starting second evaluation round



In May, the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) launched the second evaluation round of implementation of the Council of Europe Convention by sending [the new questionnaire](#) to the first three countries to be evaluated (Austria, Cyprus and the Slovak Republic).

Following the first round of monitoring (2010-2014), which provided an overview of the implementation of the Convention by each state party, GRETA decided that the second round would examine the impact of legislative, policy and practical measures on the prevention of trafficking, the protection of the rights of victims of trafficking, and the prosecution of traffickers. In addition,

particular attention was paid to measures taken to address new trends in human trafficking and the vulnerability of children to trafficking.

Before the second evaluation round, La Strada International, Anti-Slavery International and ECPAT were invited by GRETA to provide feedback on behalf of NGOs on the process of the monitoring visits and reports of GRETA. LSI and ASI launched an [NGO survey questionnaire about NGOs experiences with and expectations from GRETA](#), which NGOs can still respond too. The first outcome of [this survey](#) was presented to GRETA. LSI and ASI will continue to monitor the work done by GRETA and to encourage NGOs to take part. A first timetable of the new round is available at the [GRETA website](#).

Recently GRETA published its first [report](#) on Macedonia and a first [report](#) on The Netherlands. GRETA expressed its satisfaction with the positive steps that Macedonian and Dutch authorities have taken. However the report on Macedonia notes that further steps are necessary to ensure that all victims of trafficking are properly identified, by strengthening multi-agency involvement and paying more attention to the identification of victims of trafficking among irregular migrants, asylum seekers and unaccompanied foreign minors. The report also urges the authorities to improve prevention through social and economic empowerment measures for groups vulnerable to trafficking and to ensure that assistance measures are implemented in practice and that victims of trafficking can obtain compensation, including by setting up a State compensation scheme. For the Netherlands, GRETA highlights the need to further strengthen efforts to tackle trafficking for labour exploitation, including limiting the dependency of workers on their employers when recruited through employment agencies. Further, GRETA asks the authorities to strengthen multi-agency involvement in the identification of victims of trafficking, in particular by formalising the role of NGOs and other professionals in this process. The report adds that authorities should also develop a proactive approach to identification of and assistance to child victims of trafficking.

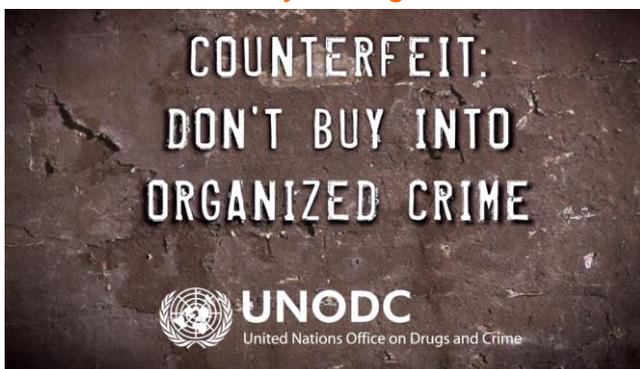
### Words Matter

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) promotes accurate, humane terminology and strictly avoids using the term ‘illegal migrant’. ‘Undocumented migrant’ and/or ‘irregular migrant’ are internationally recognised terms with equivalents in all languages.

[PICUM’s Terminology Leaflet](#) provides a lexicon with translations of ‘undocumented migrant’ and/or ‘irregular migrant’ in all EU languages, an overview of key institutions who have already committed to accurate terminology in reference to undocumented migrants and reasons to avoid using the term ‘illegal migrant’. Launched in June 2014, the leaflet serves as a major resource to support our network’s promotion of accurate and human terminology.



### Counterfeit: Don't buy into organized crime



To coincide with World Anti-Counterfeiting Day on 5 June, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched a new consumer awareness brochure on the links between counterfeiting and organised crime.

The new [brochure](#) complements UNODC’s current campaign - ‘Counterfeit: Don’t buy into organized crime’ - and has been developed specifically with consumers in mind in an attempt to reduce demand for this \$250 billion a year concern. Apart from money laundering, corruption and health hazards, consumer can overlook a wide range of ethical issues when considering the

impact of counterfeiting. Labour exploitation with low paid workers facing safety and security concerns with little or no benefits and unregulated conditions is one effect of producing counterfeit goods. In recognition of the organisation’s work on this topic, UNODC will also be presented with the 2014 *Global Anti-Counterfeiting Award* of the US Chamber of Commerce. This, the [second award to be presented](#) to UNODC, is recognition of the importance of awareness-raising in order to bolster understanding of some of the often overlooked aspects of this crime.

### Call for papers: 'Forced Labour and Human Trafficking'

Anti-Trafficking Review has published [a call for papers](#) for a Special Issue entitled 'Forced Labour and Human Trafficking.' While there has been a shift to acknowledging 'all forms of human trafficking,' the current scholarship around the intersections between human trafficking, forced labour and labour rights abuses more broadly is in its infancy. There are many unresolved conflicts between varying approaches to the broader spectrum of exploitative practices referred to (in some instances interchangeably) as slavery, forced labour, and human trafficking.

This Special Issue of the *ATR* will consider how citizenship (in its many forms or its lack thereof) and/or trade union membership affect conditions and responses to labour- and migration-related exploitation. It will examine the limits of existing responses, including human rights instruments, counter-trafficking instruments, enforcement mechanisms, and the role of various international organisations, with specific focus on the ILO. These limits may be examined via interrogations of the connections between global supply chains, regulatory frameworks (at the national, regional and international level that include labour, tax, migration, trade, etc.) and the informal economy. The Special Issue is particularly interested in papers that examine private enterprise and responsibility as well as state responsibility in relation to upholding human rights. The deadline for submissions is 30 November and the issue will be published in 2015.

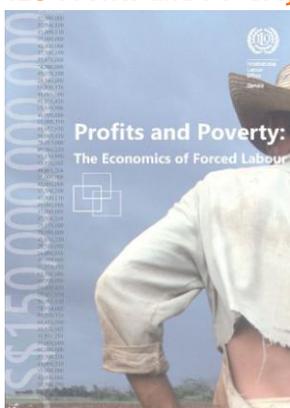
### "No Fees" Campaign

Millions of workers become vulnerable to abuse and exploitation through the actions of unscrupulous labour brokers, who charge exorbitant recruitment fees, do not provide contracts or change contract terms and impose unreasonable deductions from promised wages. For this reason, the International Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) has launched the ["No Fees" campaign](#), an initiative designed to ultimately lead companies to create robust management systems which will ensure that workers in their immediate and extended supply chains are not forced to pay for employment. As the "pay for work" practice is especially prevalent at the commodity-sourcing level of the food supply chain, the "No Fees" campaign, will initially focus on promoting ethical recruitment in palm oil and seafood sourcing, and eventually scale up to the 50-plus companies already engaged by ICCR members on human rights issues, including companies in the electronics, apparel, and extractives sectors.



## What's new ?

### ILO Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour



A new ILO report, ["Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour"](#), estimates that the global profits of forced labour amount to \$150 billion a year - three times more than previously estimated. Of these, \$99 billion come from commercial sexual exploitation and \$51 billion - from forced economic exploitation, including domestic work, agriculture and other economic activities. The report also looks at the socio-economic root causes that make people vulnerable to forced labour. It highlights income shocks and poverty as the main economic factors that push individuals into precarious labour situations. Other factors contributing to risk and vulnerability include lack of education, illiteracy, gender and migration.

"While progress is being made in reducing state-imposed forced labour, we must now focus on the socio-economic factors that make people vulnerable to forced labour in the private sector," said Beate Andrees, head of the ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour.

### ILO World of Work 2014 report calls for decent work as a post-2015 goal

Another ILO report, ["World of Work 2014: Developing with Jobs"](#) urges policymakers to invest in a diversified, productive capacity, tackle under-employment, reduce the incidence of workers in vulnerable employment, and improve the situation of the working poor. During the report's launch at the International Labour Conference in Geneva, Switzerland on 27 May, ILO Director General Guy Ryder

emphasised that development is not only about exports, open trade and foreign direct investment, but also about labour standards and job quality. The report recommends strengthening labour market institutions, designing social protection floors - not only as safety nets but also as drivers of development - and promoting balanced development that avoids harmful inequalities.

### **New ICMPD report on impact of regularisation on employment opportunities for migrants**

ICMPD released the final [report](#) for a study on the impact regularisation has had on employment opportunities for migrants who were in an irregular work situation in seven EU countries. The study, titled “Feasibility Study on the Labour Market Trajectories of Regularised Immigrants within the European Union (REGANE I)”, was funded by the European Union and was carried out by ICMPD from October 2012 to December 2013. While there is a growing body of research on regularisation policies, there has been only limited research on their impacts. In particular, little is known on the effects of regularisation on employment opportunities for individuals. The results of the study indicate that opportunities to escape the informal labour market or, more generally, to improve one’s labour market status through regularisation, are shaped by a variety of factors, including the recognition of qualifications, access to (vocational) training, the length of residence (until regularisation), gender, the welfare system, the labour market structure and, finally, the migration regime. Thus, one must look at other factors in addition to regularisation to get a full picture of the employment opportunities for regularised migrants. This study, which is based on explorative qualitative research, provides a first step towards examining all these aspects and lays out the design and feasibility of a quantitative study that would provide a deeper understanding of the impacts of regularisation.

### **The Price of Rights: Regulating International Labour Migration**

[The Price of Rights](#) analyses how high-income countries restrict the rights of migrant workers as part of their labour immigration policies and discusses the implications for global debates about regulating labour migration and protecting migrants. It comprehensively looks at the tensions between human rights and citizenship rights, the agency and interests of migrants and states, and the determinants and ethics of labour immigration policy.

### **Migrant domestic workers face severe mistreatment**



In a new report, entitled [“Hidden Away: Abuses against Migrant Domestic Workers in the UK”](#), Human Rights Watch (HRW) addresses the severe abuse and challenges that migrant domestic workers face arriving in the UK with their employers. Estimates show that every year around 15 000 migrant domestic workers travel to the UK with their employers. Largely due to the ‘tied visa’ introduced in 2012, which does not allow migrant domestic workers to change their employer, HRW argues that the current safeguards in place, despite the claims of the UK government, do not protect migrant domestic workers. Through the use of interviews, the report gathers data on a wide range of criminal and labour abuses. While acknowledging the right of

the UK government to control its borders, HRW states that immigration controls cannot supersede the obligation to protect abused and exploited individuals. To fulfil this obligation, HRW makes specific recommendations to the UK government, the police and British embassies including a call to the UK government to ratify the [ILO Domestic Worker Convention](#) and implement it accordingly into national policies and practice.

### **Council of Europe report on the state of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe**

Serious human rights violations including corruption, human trafficking, racism and discrimination persist across Europe, according to a [new report by Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland](#). Unemployment and poverty in many countries are fuelling extremism and conflicts. The report represents the first consolidated analysis of human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe, based on the findings of the Council of Europe’s monitoring bodies.

Referring to the crisis in Ukraine and Russia’s military intervention in Crimea, Mr Jagland warned of the risk of similar conflicts erupting in Western Europe: “The lack of democratic checks and balances, free media and an independent judiciary caused widespread corruption and misuse of power”. The Secretary General called on member states to comply fully with the European Convention on Human Rights: “I urge member states to stop the erosion of fundamental rights and to adopt further reforms of Europe’s unique Convention system. Europe needs a new pan-European security agenda, which must include the protection of the rule of law and democratic principles. Together, we need to put Europe

back on the path of unity and co-operation, based on common values, standards and legal obligations”, he said.

### How to strengthen Europe’s fundamental rights protection: FRA suggests ways forward



The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) outlines practical suggestions in its [Annual report](#) about how to ensure people in the EU can have their rights better protected. It also maps out the fundamental rights challenges and achievements that took place over the course of 2013.

“FRA’s Annual report points to the many fundamental rights challenges in Europe today. But it also testifies to the significant achievements that have been made in 2013,” says FRA Director

Morten Kjaerum. “The concrete suggestions we have put forward should help ensure that rights protection across the EU makes further progress. The choices the EU makes now will shape fundamental rights for the years to come. We need to work together to ensure that the laws we have today deliver fundamental rights in practice for everyone in the EU.”

As in past years, the FRA Annual report 2013 highlights challenges and achievements in many areas of fundamental rights from across the EU. According to FRA, greater efforts are needed to strengthen support and protection of victims under the 2012 EU Victims’ Directive. Furthermore, there is an [urgent need for EU-wide action](#) to safeguard the lives and rights of migrants. The European Commission initiative to reduce deaths at sea outlines action needed to address many of the issues through stronger European cooperation. FRA also calls for significant reforms of the EU’s data protection rules in order to strengthen data protection across the EU.

As the Council discusses the priorities in the area of Justice and Home Affairs in the coming five years, FRA’s Annual report underlines the need for the EU and its Member States to reaffirm and strengthen their joint commitment towards protecting and promoting fundamental rights. It suggests the creation of an internal fundamental rights strategy and an annual policy cycle to better link up and to regularly assess fundamental rights efforts at EU and national levels. This would mirror the existing external human rights framework and consolidate the EU as a beacon of human rights worldwide.

## What’s new on the web ?

### Demand-side measures against trafficking - new website

The DemandAT [website](#) is developed within a major EU-funded (FP7) research project, investigating demand-side measures against trafficking entitled “Addressing Demand in Anti-Trafficking Efforts and Policies” (DemandAT). La Strada International is one of the consortium partners, and the project is coordinated by the [ICMPD](#).

The project aims at gaining a better understanding of the role of demand in trafficking in human beings and assesses the impact and potential of demand-side policies to reduce trafficking. It will critically examine whether the concept of demand is an adequate framework to address different forms of trafficking. DemandAT goes beyond analysing situations that fit into the legal concept of ‘trafficking’. It looks at a range of forced and exploitative scenarios and draws on insights on regulating demand from related areas in order to feed into EU and national policy making.

The website provides information on the project, the people involved, and events and publications, with the first project publications being released in mid-2015. In addition, the website is intended to provide a forum for discussion on the role of demand, and demand-side policies against trafficking more generally. The website’s blog area thus invites researchers, policy-makers, activists, as well as the wider public to engage in a debate on different aspects of the notion of demand in trafficking and related policies. Visit the [website](#) and join the debate on the ongoing debates on the role of demand in trafficking!

### New labour rights portal by Verité



For the last 15 years, Verité has been working in and researching global supply chains with the aim of ensuring that workers are employed under fair, safe, and legal conditions. To better understand the available data and share it with all interested parties, Verité has launched the [Labour Rights Portal](#) - a database developed to house data, findings and learnings. Though the database is still in development, one can explore

background and data on Malaysia and China to see the prevalence of workplace abuses in these countries. In the coming months, more sectors, data and countries will be added.

Verité sees many different types of workplace abuses in its work—from forced labour to child labour to underpayment of wages. Critical to helping different stakeholders (like companies, suppliers, trade unions, governments, NGOs, and consumers) understand these problems is to examine the frequency of such abuses in different geographies and sectors. It is also important to educate stakeholders on the standards, international requirements, and good practices that govern social responsibility. The objective of the Portal is to draw attention to these labour abuses and to the ways that Verité is having impact.

### The Migrant Files

A new initiative entitled [“The Migrant Files”](#) aims to keep a record of deaths of migrants on their way to Europe since the year 2000. According to the database, more than 23 000 migrants have died en route to Europe since 2000. The collected data includes death through drowning at sea, death due to violence at the EU’s borders, death in detention as well as data of migrants who were killed after deportation to the country of origin. The initiative was founded by a pan-European consortium of journalists of various national and EU level media and draws on previously collected data of United for Intercultural Action between 1993 and 2012. “The Migrant Files” groups data according to name, age, gender and nationality. Every fatal incident is recorded in an interactive map.

The project is partially funded by the European non-profit organisation [Journalismfund.eu](#).

## What’s happening where ?

1 July - OSCE Alliance Expert Coordination Team meeting, Vienna, Austria

14-18 July - Business and human rights - a summer course of the Tilburg University, The Netherlands

15-18 September - Second coordination meeting of DemandAT project, Bremen, Germany

25 September - Final conference project ‘Safe Return for Victims of Trafficking and Victims of Domestic Violence Without or with an Uncertain Residence Permit’ - The Hague, The Netherlands

23-26 September - GAATW 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and International members congress, Bangkok, Thailand

## What’s on your mind ?



Katrin McGauran is researcher at the Dutch organisation Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO), an independent, not-for-profit research and network organisation working on social, ecological and economic issues related to sustainable development. From 2006 - 2009 she worked for LSI secretariat in Amsterdam. This column is based on Katrin’s presentation at the recent LSI NGO platform in Sofia, Bulgaria.

### Engaging the private sector in preventing forced labour

Anti-trafficking networks are just starting to discuss private sector engagement for a number of reasons. Until recently they have been mainly concerned with women’s rights and related debates, and human trafficking has largely been dealt with in criminal law frameworks rather than business and human rights frameworks. Further, they have therefore developed different networks from other NGO circles. Stakeholders have been law enforcement, criminal law experts, social services or immigration officials who deal with the identification and support of trafficked persons. Anti-trafficking NGOs have therefore traditionally focused on service provisions (shelter, medical and legal advice) and advocacy directed at states on the rights of trafficked persons.

Since 2000, with the new definition of human trafficking in the Palermo Protocol that includes all forms of forced labour, the sectors and relevant stakeholders to be addressed have expanded. With that expansion, the role of the private sector on trafficked persons has become highlighted, because companies have a great impact on the rights of victims of forced labour and trafficking in these sectors.

### NGOs and the emergence of Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate social responsibility (CSR), has a long history and there is a close relationship between existing human rights law and the responsibility of businesses in making sure human rights are respected in their supply chain and directly owned operations. As the development of the UN Human Rights and Business

Framework shows, there is also a tension between binding vs non-binding framework with regards to business conduct. The global context is not only of lack of an international enforcement body, but also the power of Multinational Corporations (MNCs) has increased with many of them having greater economic power than the majority of nation-states in the world today.

### Changes

For a long time, CSR has been limited to environmental issues and CSR has long been seen as a philanthropic exercise or form of charity. But there has been a shift from seeing CSR as a voluntary option to a responsibility of the company. This is reflected in the conflation of labour rights, human rights and CSR in the international framework. Instead of using the term CSR, many NGOs therefore now talk about corporate accountability. The understanding of CSR by companies and NGOs has therefore undergone a lot of changes.

With regards to NGO-private sector engagement, CSR can also be very controversial because it has been used a lot by the corporate sector as window-dressing as a response to naming and shaming campaigns rather than actually changing corporate practice.

Many NGOs think CSR has failed to address important social and environmental issues because it doesn't deal with what they see as the root of the problem, which is the growth of corporate power and lack of international enforcement mechanisms at a time when most corporate activity crosses international boundaries. They therefore call for corporate accountability, demanding legally binding rules to force companies to improve their conduct and provide victims with enforcement.

At the same time, the impact of businesses on human rights is a fact and NGOs and trade unions deal with every-day grievances that have to be solved for actual people.

Negotiating with businesses is therefore an every-day fact as well. Engagement can be in the form of a campaign, or a negotiation with company representatives or lawyers on compensation or changes in corporate practice, depending on the situation. They can be direct or through a grievance mechanism such as those offered by the OECD Guidelines. Most business sector associations also have their own CSR principles including on forced labour, which are relevant to anti-trafficking. Examples here are the recruitment sector, or the building or agricultural sectors.

### Motivations for engagement

NGOs should be interested to engage in private sector because corporations obviously impact on human rights. There are number of reasons why businesses themselves can be interested to engage with NGOs on CSR. They might have a real interest in protecting their brand name and not be associated with human rights violations (*facts on brand value*). So investors and shareholders are also interested in avoiding profit losses as a result of negative publicity for instance.

In a less cynical take, there are also businesses, board members and investors that genuinely want to have an ethical business and not see instances of labour rights or environmental rights violations in their direct operations and supply chains. The rise of social enterprises shows that there are motivations in the private sector that go beyond only the business case.

In all cases though, it is clear that existing guidelines, principles and declarations will only be implemented and mean anything on the ground for actual people if civil society organisations monitor the situation and victims themselves demand justice in case violations take place. NGOs are crucial to ensure enforcement, of binding rules as well as non-binding regulations.

In order to do that though, NGOs need to have knowledge of the frameworks that exist and be aware of different engagement strategies and the impact they have. So that they can ensure effective monitoring and implementation, to avoid wasting their own resources or to avoid being co-opted by corporate interests.

So with the two distinct fields of anti-trafficking and CSR having merged, the question for anti-trafficking NGOs now is how to position themselves in the very broad field of private sector engagement.



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