Used in Europe - LSI campaign on human trafficking and labour exploitation in Europe

On 17 October La Strada International, together with 30 partner NGOs, launched the campaign “Used in Europe: human trafficking and labour exploitation on our continent”. The campaign reaches out to consumers, the private sector and states to address human trafficking, including forced and exploitative labour in Europe.

The campaign is launched in the framework of LSI’s NGOs & CO project, aiming to engage the private sector in the fight against human trafficking.

The campaign website includes a map of Europe, where major cases of human trafficking and labour exploitation, reported by the media or by NGOs, are presented in an attempt to make human trafficking and severe forms of labour exploitation in Europe more visible. In a joint statement, LSI and partners called upon governments to take a clear stand against human trafficking and to end exploitative labour conditions for all workers, including migrant workers, in Europe. LSI will continue to update the website and upload cases. Please help us collect more cases and share them with us.
LSI’s 20th anniversary - 20 Years of promoting the rights of trafficked persons

On 15 September 2015, La Strada will celebrate its 20th anniversary. 2015 will therefore mark a special year, in which we will organise several activities to highlight our past and current work in the promotion of the rights of trafficked persons. In May, at LSI’s 20th assembly meeting in Skopje, Macedonia, LSI will adopt its new Strategic Plan for the next five years (2016 - 2020). This event will be linked with LSI’s NGO platform, where we would like to reflect back with NGOs and to discuss our strategies to address human trafficking moving forward. Please check our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter for more information on our highlights and activities of our celebration year. We hope that you continue to support us in the coming year as we continue to affect important change in the field of human trafficking and human rights.

Google promotes La Strada hotlines

In December, Google launched its promotion of La Strada International’s anti-trafficking hotlines in Bulgaria, Poland, Moldova and Ukraine. These hotlines are crucial lifelines for trafficked persons and/or their friends and relatives who are in need of assistance and help. When searching Google in these countries for specific keywords related to human trafficking, including child trafficking, exploitation and abuse, users are presented with an information box, showing the La Strada hotline phone number, its business hours, supported languages, website and mobile services, if available. This action is part of Google’s efforts to join the global fight against human trafficking and was first launched in the US and Korea. Following its successful implementation, the current initiative has started with these four European countries, and intends to expand in the coming years.

New regional anti trafficking programme in Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova funded by Norway

Recently La Strada Ukraine, La Strada Belarus (Gender Perspectives), La Strada Moldova and LSI joined IOM in a newly developed regional anti-trafficking programme, funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordinated by IOM Kyiv. This two-year programme, which will run until 2016, is the third phase of the Programme against Human Trafficking in Eastern and South Eastern Europe, which was earlier supported by the Danish government. The new programme comprises various activities in the three countries to better address human trafficking, including activities related to monitoring, running helplines, establishing NRM and more.

A first launch meeting was held on 16 December in Minsk, Belarus. At this meeting the common programme was presented and discussed and all partners updated each other on prospects for the next six months. Additionally, a discussion was held on how awareness on victims of human trafficking in the region can be improved, along with a discussion on the risks and opportunities resulting from the crisis in Ukraine. In the framework of this programme a regional conference is planned in Moldova in 2015.

Empowering migrant women at risk of exploitation

In December, La Strada Czech Republic, LEFÖ (Austria) and Ban Ying (Germany) started the project “Empowerment of Migrant Women at Risk of Exploitation, Trafficking or Enslavement”. The project aims to empower migrant women who are victims of violence and other criminal abuses or who are at risk of becoming victims. The particular focus of the project is on women working in hidden or enclosed environments such as households, cleaning services within gated hotels, diplomatic complexes, etc.

Because migrant women are isolated from common awareness raising measures, such as media, social networks etc, the project aims to find alternative ways of informing them about their rights and ways of resolving abusive situations, as well as to offer them assistance through specialised services. The project will build on the extensive complementary experience of partner organisations in various forms of outreach work, awareness-raising campaigns and advocacy activities.
Research into the environments of the target group will bring detailed information about their specific needs and contribute to both modifying existing specialised services, designing new ones and advocacy activities for target groups’ rights.

**Animus Association/La Strada Bulgaria 20th anniversary**

On 21 November Animus Association/La Strada Bulgaria celebrated its 20th anniversary. Since 1994 Animus has grown from a small grassroots women’s organisation to the biggest provider of counselling and psychotherapeutic services in Bulgaria and has initiated social discussions about violence against women and human trafficking in Bulgarian society.

In its 20 years of existence, Animus has supported over 127,000 women, children and families, who used the counselling, psychotherapeutic and social services, whether in person or through the hotlines. The 24-hour crisis centre, which is the only one in the territory of Sofia, has accommodated 1642 women and children victims of violence to date and has provided crisis consultations to another 2908 clients. Recently Animus signed a contract for a grant from the Bulgarian-Swiss cooperation programme to establish a specialised trauma centre for children and families.

La Strada International congratulates Animus on its 20th anniversary and wishes the organisation continued successes in the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children victims of violence in Bulgaria. More information about the organisation and its celebration can be found on its [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

**Balkans Act Now! Campaign**

On the occasion of EU Anti-Trafficking Day and the end of the project “Balkans Act Now”, the project partners, among which Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia and ASTRA from Serbia, launched the campaign “Prevent, Protect, Compensate”. The campaign presents the story of Hanna who fell victim to human trafficking but was not properly identified, assisted and compensated. The aim of the campaign and the accompanying video is to inform the general public in the Balkans about human trafficking and exploitation and how to identify and prevent potential human trafficking situations.

The project also produced an app for Android and iOS “Ban Human Trafficking”. By playing this interactive game, the users are able to get acquainted with different types and stages of trafficking in human beings, from recruitment, to exploitation and escape from the situation, as well as offering resources on recovery and addressing challenges of social reintegration.

**Raise your voice against human trafficking**

In the framework of the project “Raise your voice against human trafficking”, funded by the European Commission, Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia organised a National Conference on proactive and coordinated fight against human trafficking in December with a focus on labour exploitation. The conference, entitled, ‘Promotion and application of indicators for identifying victims of human trafficking’, was conducted in cooperation with the Macedonian National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration. The conference brought all relevant actors in the fight against human trafficking in Macedonia together in order to consolidate their efforts for a coordinated and proactive identification of cases of human trafficking, especially in situations of labour exploitation. The main challenges that professionals face related to the issue of identification of trafficked persons were discussed and recommendations for improvement were made.
At the conference, Open Gate launched its new media campaign, “Raise your voice against human trafficking” that aims to increase knowledge about human trafficking that is happening outside the sex industry or in developing countries. The campaign includes a short video clip, which is broadcast on Macedonian TV, a radio spot and printed materials.

**CoMensha Twitter campaign**

On the occasion of EU Anti-Trafficking Day, 18 October, CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands drew attention to the issue of human trafficking in The Netherlands through a Twitter campaign. “Do you ever think about exploitation and human trafficking? It happens much more often than you think,” was CoMensha’s main message. CoMensha also drew attention to the fact that victims of trafficking are invisible. The Dutch state secretary of Justice and Security posed for the campaign, as well as representatives of law enforcement, service providers and NGOs.

**Staff Changes LSI**

In November, Sofia Skrypnyk, the project manager of NGOs & Co, left the organisation to pursue a career in supporting human rights defenders in Asia and the Caucasus. LSI thanks Sofia for all her dedication and hard work and wishes her further professional successes.

In December, Irina Alkhovka from Gender Perspectives/La Strada Belarus stepped down as a member of the LSI Board after three years and was succeeded by Marija Todorovska from Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia. LSI thanks Irina for her important contributions as a Board member and looks forward to cooperating with Marija on the implementation of daily actions and strategies of the LSI network. The LSI board consists of three members - Marija Todorovska, Irena Konečná and Kateryna Levchenko.

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**What’s going on?**

**International Migrants Day**

Today, on International Migrants Day, several organisations raised attention for migrant workers’ rights. The IOM project Migrants Contribute highlights how migrant workers contribute to countries’ economic development, due to their involvement and initiatives in various labour sectors. In fact many migrants are behind current well known businesses. “When people move country they bring a lot more than just a suitcase. They bring skills, innovative new ideas, entrepreneurial spirit and a desire to succeed.”

LSI joined International Migrants Day with the Thunderclap campaign message to show its support for migrants worldwide and acknowledge their contribution to the world.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) used the opportunity of International Migrants Day to call for urgent action to save the lives of migrants and stop smugglers from exploiting their desperation to extort huge sums of money. In his statement IOM Director General William Lacy Swing says that “All States have the international obligation to save the lives of those seeking help. Rescue operations should continue in the international waters of the Mediterranean. The current operation, Triton, while laudable, covers too small an area.” IOM wants to see better access to safe, regular migration. This includes promoting labour migration partnerships and family re-unification, providing clear information about the risks of irregular migration, and supporting community stabilisation and job creation efforts in countries of origin.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reaffirmed in his statement for International Migrants Day, the UN’s commitment to shape diverse and open societies that provide opportunities and lives of dignity for all migrants. He called on all States to ratify and implement all core international human rights instruments, including the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant
Workers and Members of their Families, as well as relevant instruments of international labour law. He also urged States to adopt comprehensive and human rights-based migration policies that promote legal migration channels.

**International Day to End Violence against Sex Workers**

On 17 December, sex workers and their allies mark the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. This day was founded in 2003 by Dr. Annie Sprinkle and the Sex Workers Outreach Project USA (SWOP-USA), an American sex workers rights organisation, to raise attention for the rights of sex workers. ICRSE and SWAN released a joint-statement listing examples of violence experienced by sex workers in Europe and Central Asia as well highlighting other events organised by their members on that day.

ICRSE further released a video **“Sex workers are the solution, not the problem!”** filmed at their first Regional Training on Sex Work, HIV, Health and Human Rights which was held in Budapest in October with 22 sex workers from Serbia, Macedonia, Turkey, France, Spain, Sweden, Romania and the Republic of Ireland. In this video, sex workers participants deliver inspiring messages to colleagues, allies and those who do not yet realise that the only way to stop violence against sex workers is by listening to them and working with them.

The Global Network of Sex Work Project (NSWP) launched an **Advocacy Toolkit** looking at the real impact of the Swedish model on sex workers. The toolkit will serve to continue to raise awareness of the outcomes of the law through the ongoing publishing of evidence-based fact sheets and advocacy tools, tools that will provide resources to sex workers, allies and researchers around the world to challenge the widespread promotion of this detrimental legal and political approach to the regulation of sex work.

**Figures on trafficking in human beings**

In November, the Walk Free Foundation presented the 2014 edition of its **Global Slavery Index**. The declared goal of the Index is to estimate the number of people in modern slavery in 167 countries. “It is a tool for citizens, non-government organisations, businesses and public officials to understand the size of the problem, existing responses and contributing factors, so they can build sound policies that will end modern slavery”. This year’s Index estimates that 35.8 million people in the world live in situations of modern slavery (human trafficking, forced labour, child labour and early/child marriage). This is an increase from the 29.8 million people, estimated in the 2013 Index, which is attributed to the new and improved methodology in 2014. According to the report, of all people living in slavery, 61% live in the five countries with the highest numbers - India, China, Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Russia. The countries that are making the most efforts to combat slavery include The Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States.

Since its first edition in 2013, the Global Slavery Index has been endorsed by a number of politicians, businessmen, antislavery activists and academics and at the same time has been heavily criticised by academics and researchers. The methodology of the 2013 Index was criticised by Prof. Ronald Weitzer and more recently, by a team of researchers for the **Journal of Social Inclusion** who argue that: “An analysis of the Index’s methods exposes significant and critical weaknesses and raises questions into its replicability and validity”. Anti-trafficking expert Dr. Anne Gallagher also expressed criticism of the Index’s methodology, while Siobhan McGrath and Fabiola Mieres criticised the underlying politics of the Index, comparing it to the US Department of State annual Trafficking in Persons report. The authors note that the “good” countries are the developed countries of the Global North, while the “bad” countries are those that are less developed: “Unfortunately, there is no radical call for redistribution of global wealth here. Instead, the ranking system implies that the blame should be placed squarely on the national governments of the less ‘developed’ countries for
the plight of their citizens (even, in most cases, when these citizens travel abroad). The map hides
the interdependence of regions and countries in many domains, and the ways in which the
‘developed’ and the ‘developing’ world interact with and affect each other. The stigmatisation of
certain countries suggests that the problem at hand has only ‘national roots,’ narrowing the debate
towards ‘national solutions’ in the form of development.”

La Strada International has consistently advocated caution and critical awareness when using data
to measure human trafficking, including using data to justify the development of measures and
policies. Data collection on such a complex phenomenon as human trafficking has proven to be
extremely difficult and inconsistent. Although many reports that present data do give out warnings
not to consider this data as the ‘absolute truth on human trafficking’, LSI has observed that
politicians, international organisations and NGOs use the data to advocate for specific issues and
policies on trafficking or as validation for their position in the field. Ranking systems and indexes do
not reflect a thorough impact assessment of governmental efforts to combat trafficking in human
beings, but rather serve the political or financial interests of the those who publish the reports.

Trafficking as a criminal enterprise
The research project Trafficking as a Criminal Enterprise (TRACE), in which LSI is a partner, has produced three new
deliverable publications recently. Firstly, a Review of the media framing of human trafficking explores how human trafficking
is framed within the European news media, using case study examples from Poland, Cyprus and the
United Kingdom (see more in the “What’s on your mind?” section). Secondly, A review of the implementation of the EU strategy on human trafficking by EU Members aims to provide a state of
the art report on human trafficking in the context of the European Union and to identify the main
obstacles and challenges, based on desk research on the implementation of the Directive in five
countries (UK, Poland, Cyprus, Romania and The Netherlands). The findings show that despite the
attention at both the EU and national levels to address and combat human trafficking, a number of
issues in the areas of prevention, protection and prosecution remain problematic. Thirdly, a report on the macro and micro analysis of human trafficking offers an analysis of the processes associated
with three types of trafficking in human beings: trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation;
labour exploitation, forced begging and trafficking in the context of other types of crime. The micro
analysis focuses on the different phases in the trafficking process: the recruitment, transport,
housing, and other aspects facilitating human trafficking. This study is predominantly based on
literature research and case studies from Romania, Sweden, Latvia, Cyprus and the Netherlands.
The TRACE project will continue until 2016 and more deliverables will be presented in the course of
next year, including an analysis of a desk study conducted on the geographical routes of the human
trafficking industry, the modus operandi utilised by human traffickers and trafficker responses to
law enforcement policies. The outcomes of this desk research will be presented and discussed
during a one-day workshop in Nicosia, Cyprus on 2 February. Anyone who wishes to attend can use
this link to register, however, the project cannot cover participants’ travel and accommodation.

Human Rights 365
On 10 December Human Rights day was celebrated to commemorate the
date of signing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year’s
slogan, Human Rights 365, encompasses the idea that every day is Human
Rights Day. It celebrates the fundamental proposition in the Universal
Declaration that each one of us, everywhere, at all times is entitled to the
full range of human rights, that human rights belong equally to each of us
and bind us together as a global community with the same ideals and
values.
La Strada International welcomed the UN’s statement that human rights should be promoted and
upheld every day of the year and recalled its campaign One Story Two Outcomes, launched on
Human Rights Day 2013, which shows how the respect for the human rights of trafficked persons can
have a significant impact on their lives.
Orange your neighbourhood
This year’s theme of the International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women - 25 November - and the sixteen days of activism against gender-based violence was “Orange Your Neighbourhood”. The UN Secretary-General’s Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women encourages citizens and activists to take the campaign to local streets, shops and businesses and organise “orange events” in their neighbourhoods in order to raise awareness about violence against women and discuss solutions that would be most effective for their communities. The 16 days of activism also aimed to build momentum for next year’s 20th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, at which global leaders committed to ending violence against women in all its forms.

In his remarks, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that violence against women and girls is the most extreme example of the political, financial, social and economic oppression of women and girls worldwide. Mr. Ban stressed that everyone needs to play a part in eliminating violence against women and reminded of the HeForShe campaign that the UN launched two months ago, which “brings together one half of humanity in support of the other, for the benefit of all.” Ki-Moon continued, “It is only by changing the everyday experience of women and girls that we can challenge discrimination and impunity, and put a stop to practices and customs that encourage, ignore or tolerate violence against them. Together, we must end this global disgrace.”

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), a close partner of LSI, published a press release, highlighting the urgent need to end impunity for violence against women and girls, especially those who are undocumented. “While undocumented migrant women are disproportionately affected by violence, they rarely report it to the police due to the risk of being arrested, detained and deported. The tendency to link access to justice with migration enforcement denies protection to undocumented victims of crime, and provides impunity to perpetrators.” PICUM has produced a short guide entitled EU Victims’ Directive: An Opportunity to Advance Justice for Undocumented Migrants and a clear outline of the rights and protections guaranteed by the Directive.

EU Anti-Trafficking Day
Ahead of the 8th EU Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October, the European Commission presented several documents highlighting EU actions against human trafficking. The second statistical report on victims and traffickers for the years 2010-2012 shows that during that period 30146 identified and presumed victims were registered. As in the previous years, the majority of victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, were female and were EU citizens. Sixteen percent of the registered victims were underage. Member States reported 8551 prosecutions related to human trafficking during the three years, with 3786 convictions.

A mid-term report presented the activities undertaken as part of the 2012-2016 EU strategy against trafficking in human beings. These include, among others, the establishment of the EU Civil Society Platform and e-Platform against human trafficking, the publishing of Guidelines for identification of victims, and Guidelines on the rights of victims and a Handbook for assistance and protection of children as especially vulnerable to human trafficking.

The report contains in an annex the “Second Activity Report following the Joint Statement of the Heads of the EU Justice and Home Affairs Agencies”, which provides details on a series of joint actions that have been developed in the field of Trafficking in Human Beings between October 2012 and October 2014. Additionally, the agencies published a document enumerating the main actions individually developed by the agencies in the field of THB.

In a separate communication, the Commission also reported on the application of Directive 2004/81 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings. The figures show that the possibility of issuing temporary residence permits to non-EU victims is currently under-used. For example, in 2012 only 1124 first residence permits were granted in the EU to victims who cooperated with the authorities, whereas for that same year 23 Member States registered 2171 non-EU citizens as victims of trafficking.
Four UN Special Rapporteurs, including the Rapporteurs on Trafficking, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Urmila Bhoola, the Rapporteur on Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children, Maud de Boer-Buquicchio, and the Rapporteur on Migrants, Francois Crépeau, called in their joint statement for a concerted global response to human trafficking. “Trafficking is a grave violation of human rights, yet it remains pervasive because its eradication requires coordinated efforts to address poverty, inequality, discrimination, and other factors causing vulnerability. Efforts to stop and punish traffickers and smugglers are critical, but it is also important that they do not come at the cost of migrants rights. In certain contexts, police operations might have the unintended consequence of pushing migrants deeper into clandestinity, thus entrenching criminal rings and exploitative employers.”

LSI organises NGO side event at the UNTOC Conference

In October, LSI together with GAATW, LEFÖ and Ban Ying, participated in the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols on Trafficking and Smuggling. At the Conference, the NGOs presented their statement, calling again for a multi-disciplinary review mechanism to the Palermo Protocol. Two years ago, at the COP in 2012, States were unable to agree terms for the process of the review mechanism as several countries showed great reluctance to include civil society. This year our message was clear: “15 years after the adoption of the Protocol it is time to review implementation; it is time to work together to support people who have been trafficked and share strategies to ensure that there are fewer such individuals in future. It is time to deliver the accountability that victims of organised crimes, including human trafficking, deserve from States, parties and the UN.” On the last night of the COP, States adopted a resolution looking to renew the work towards a review mechanism with a view to bringing it to the next session of the COP for adoption (in 2016). The resolution still enables the possibility of civil society participation, but the process is proving to be extremely difficult and slow.

LSI and their partners also ran a side event at the COP, that was chaired by the Austrian National Coordinator on Combating Human Trafficking, Ambassador Dr. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, with a keynote speech by Dr Anne Gallagher. The NGO speakers used the upcoming 15th anniversary of the UN Trafficking Protocol in 2015 to open up a space to review progress on its implementation and look at issues of compensation for trafficked persons, how trafficked persons experience anti-trafficking measures, and funding for anti-trafficking work.

Fundamental Rights and Migration into the European Union

The Fundamental Rights Conference organised by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) together with the Italian Presidency of the Council of the EU, took place on 10 and 11 November in Rome and focused on “Fundamental Rights and Migration into the European Union.” The event brought together over 300 EU and national decision makers, members of national parliaments, the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and experts from international organisations, as well as national human rights bodies, civil society bodies and academics involved with migration issues on a daily basis. Building on the strategic guidelines for legislative and policy planning in the area of freedom, security and justice, adopted by the European Council in June 2014, the conference highlighted key fundamental rights challenges to be taken into consideration when referring to migration policies.

The main conclusions of the conference were that the EU and its Member States need a comprehensive and sustainable migration policy, and that a new and positive narrative is necessary to counter the current negative image of migrants and migration that stresses the benefits of migration both to migrants themselves and to the countries of destination. The full conclusions of the conference are available here.
Ethical issues in preventing and combating human trafficking

On 4-5 November the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings organised the 14th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference, entitled “Ethical Issues in Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking”. The conference addressed different ethical factors in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, such as exploring what measures the OSCE participating States, the private sector, international organizations, civil society, and other actors can take and enforce to ensure that they do not contribute to exploitative situations where goods and services are produced through trafficking in human beings.

In her opening speech, Madina Jarbussynova, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, raised several ethical questions related to human trafficking: “How do we determine at what point labour becomes exploitative on the continuum of decent work to forced labour? How do we address the migration debate in our region and the implications of human trafficking on immigration policy and law enforcement, when trafficked persons are not identified as victims but punished for migration violations and deported?”

The four main panels at the conference focused on ethical sourcing to prevent forced labour and trafficking in the private sector, ethical treatment of trafficked persons, medical ethics and human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal. Three side events focused on measures that businesses, civil society and governments can take to prevent labour exploitation, human trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households and leveraging anti-money laundering regimes to combat human trafficking.

Use Employer Sanction Directive to prioritise labour rights of undocumented workers

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) and the Polish organisation Stowarzyszenie Interwencji Prawnej (Association for Legal Intervention) called on the EU to prioritise the enforcement of the labour rights of undocumented migrant workers, on the occasion of a public hearing at the European Parliament on the impact of the 'EU Employers’ Sanctions Directive'.

The ‘Directive providing for minimum standards on sanctions and measures against employers of illegally staying third-country nationals’ (Directive 2009/52/EC) entered into force in July 2009 as part of the EU’s migration policy to prevent irregular migration. Article 6 of the Directive establishes several safeguards to protect the labour rights of undocumented workers, including a requirement for the employer to pay any outstanding wages to the worker, and the possibility to issue residence permits of limited duration in cases of particularly exploitative employment conditions. However, five years after the Directive’s adoption, the EU Commission’s monitoring of its implementation in member states indicates that there is very little evidence of enforcement of labour rights in cases of exploitation. As confirmed by the EU Commission’s own assessment, “Member States’ transposition efforts have often resulted in weak or non-existing mechanisms to facilitate the enforcement of the irregular migrants’ rights”.

All workers, irrespective of immigration status, should be able to file complaints against exploitative employers and make claims for redress without fearing immediate arrest and deportation.

In this regard the judgment of 5 November 2014 of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) in the case C-311/13 is also encouraging. The CJEU ruled in favour of the application to undocumented migrant workers of the protections established by the EU Directive on insolvency of employers. The case concerned the application of Mr Tümer, a Turkish national with no leave to remain in the Netherlands, to access his right to back pay as his employer became insolvent. Prior to the decision of the Court of Justice, according to Dutch legislation, undocumented migrants could not be considered “employees” for the purpose of the national application of EU law. The Court ruled that denying undocumented workers access to back pay when their employer becomes insolvent is “contrary to the social objectives of the directive” and thus clarified that member states could not refuse to apply the safeguards established by the directive to undocumented migrants.
**ILO follow-up on forced labour convention**

On Friday 7 November, the ILO Governing Body discussed the follow-up to the adoption of the Protocol and Recommendation on supplementary measures for the effective suppression of forced labour at the International Labour Conference in June 2014 - and the Action Plan to effectively eliminate abuses in the shortest time possible.

The overall vision supporting this strategy is that when the ILO celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2019, forced labour will no longer persist at a scale estimated by the ILO to affect 21 million women, men and children worldwide.

The objective of this strategy is therefore to effectively eliminate traditional and state-imposed forced labour systems and to address contemporary forms of forced labour, which are often linked to human trafficking. This would emancipate millions of people who are the least protected and poorest, and who often work in the informal economy.

All around the world, leaders from governments, trade unions, business and civil society have joined the global struggle to end forced labour. This “global alliance”, initially called for by the ILO in 2005, is now gaining momentum and provides an opportunity for lasting change.

**KOK exhibition on human trafficking in Germany**

KOK - the German Network against Human Trafficking - opened in October a new travelling exhibition informing the public about human trafficking in Germany. The main topics of the exhibition are: legal framework on a national and international level and the rights of victims of trafficking. It also presents the work of the specialised counselling centres and KOK and includes a module aimed at informing children and adolescents about Loverboys. In addition to informative texts, the exhibition includes interviews with victims, social workers and other stakeholders. A number of films are shown, including one about the work of KOK made specifically for this exhibition. Expressive photos emphasise the content of the exhibition. The travelling exhibition can be rented out by interested institutions and is accompanied by a brochure. More information can be found on the [KOK website](#) (German only).

**Abolition of visas for non-EU cabaret workers in Switzerland**

In 2014 the Swiss government decided to abolish the artist visa that enabled women from outside the European Union to receive a legal status as dancers in strip clubs. The abolition of the short-term residence permit (eight months) for non-EU cabaret dancers, which will come into force in 2016, came as no surprise to FIZ Advocacy and Support for Migrant Women and Victims of Trafficking, member of the LSI NGO Platform and GAATW. Diplomatic pressure from the outside and xenophobic pressure from the inside have led to the abolition of the artist visa. The government justified the abolition of the so-called ‘cabaret-statute’ by claiming that the measure would combat trafficking in women and prevent abuse. FIZ is aware of the difficult conditions for cabaret dancers through its counselling work. But FIZ opposes the government’s assessment that the abolition of the visa prevents trafficking or abuses of other kinds. The opposite is true, the visa offers minimal legal protection for women from countries outside the EU who will lose their legal status and be more vulnerable to exploitation. Already in 2006 FIZ developed demands for better conditions for cabaret dancers in collaboration with other NGOs. Though some of these recommendations were taken into consideration by the authorities, there was no sign that authorities or cabarets owners would work towards improvements for cabaret dancers’ working conditions. After a national consultation amongst stakeholders and politicians it was decided to abolish the visa. At the same time the Minister of Justice set up an ‘expert commission on sex work and the artistic erotic sector’ to work out which protection measures for women in the sex industry were needed. FIZ welcomes that the group of experts is unanimously against the ban on sex work, and that they wish to strengthen the rights and self-determination of sex workers. FIZ has formulated recommendations how to improve the dancers’ statute.
The RACE project led by Anti-Slavery International in cooperation with other partners, including La Strada Czech Republic, published its concluding report. The report “Trafficking for Forced Criminal Activities and Begging in Europe” analyses the phenomenon of trafficking into crime such as cannabis cultivation, ATM theft, pickpocketing, bag-snatching, counterfeit DVD selling, benefit fraud and forced sham marriage, as well as being forced to beg. The report explores the situation in four countries (Ireland, the UK, the Czech Republic, and the Netherlands) and provides an overview of the rest of Europe. It exposes the dearth of systematic information and awareness about this type of exploitation among policy makers and justice system actors, with very few cases reported in official statistics and many victims misidentified as offenders. The findings show that the issue is more widespread than previously reported, with potentially thousands of victims being exploited through a variety of criminal activities. One of the biggest issues connected to these forms of exploitation is that the victims caught in the criminal act by the police end up being prosecuted, while the perpetrators who exploit these victims remain untouched.

The economic social and cultural rights of migrants in an irregular situation
The UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights published the report “The economic social and cultural rights of migrants in an irregular situation”, as a resource for policymakers in Governments, national human rights institutions, civil society, lawyers, judges and migrants themselves to understand the scope and content of the human rights of migrants in irregular situations. The report is a direct result of the deep concern expressed in 2010 by the international organisations making up the Global Migration Group about the human rights of international migrants in an irregular situation in a landmark joint statement. The Group observed that migrants in an irregular situation were more likely to face discrimination, exclusion, exploitation and abuse at all stages of the migration process. Through a specific focus on economic, social and cultural rights, the report seeks to challenge common assumptions about the entitlement of migrants in an irregular situation to such fundamental human rights as the right to health, to education, to an adequate standard of living, to social security, and to just and favourable conditions of work. Irregular migrants are human beings and as human beings they are protected by international human rights law.

IOM Data on Migrant Fatalities Worldwide
The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) released a report providing new data on migrant fatalities worldwide. The report “Fatal Journeys: Tracking Lives Lost During Migration” estimates that more than 40 000 people have died while migrating since 2000, which is eight people per day on average. “Fatal Journeys” uses statistical data compiled by governments and other agencies, as well as NGOs and media sources. However, IOM notes that the actual number is likely to be considerably higher. The research also found that Europe is the world’s most dangerous destination for migrants, costing the lives of an estimated 3 000 people since the beginning of 2014 and at least 22 400 people are estimated to have lost their lives since 2000.

Re/integration of trafficked persons. Working with trafficked children and youth
The paper, “Re/integration of trafficked persons. Working with trafficked children and youth” by Rebecca Surtees from the NEXUS Institute, addresses the issue of the re/integration of trafficked
children and youth, drawing on the first-hand experiences of service providers in Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia.

Children and youth have become an increasing portion of persons trafficked from and within the Balkan region. Some are exploited sexually, others are exploited for different forms of labour, including begging and street selling. This paper discusses each of the different services and types of support needed to meet the specific re/integration needs of trafficked children and youth in the light of international standards. It also looks into challenges facing service providers such as the identification of trafficked children, prosecution of perpetrators due to gaps in the criminal code as well as foster care.

Ensuring that Businesses do not Contribute to Trafficking in Human Beings

This Occasional Paper, entitled "Ending Exploitation, Ensuring that Businesses do not contribute to trafficking in human beings: Duties of States and the Private Sector", the seventh in a series published by the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, outlines the measures that businesses can take to ensure that trafficking in human beings does not occur in their workplaces or those of their suppliers (i.e., other businesses that sell products or services to them). It also reviews the obligations of the OSCE’s participating States to regulate business activities and to enable businesses to take appropriate action to stop human trafficking from occurring. It also provides a series of recommendations for OSCE participating States.

OSCE handbook on preventing domestic servitude in diplomatic households

A new OSCE Handbook for Protocol Officers serves to raise awareness and inform the relevant authorities about how to prevent trafficking in human beings for domestic servitude in diplomatic households, how to detect abuses and how to react to exploitative situations while protecting the rights of domestic workers. The handbook aims to increase knowledge about strategies and policies to discourage non-compliance in the employment of private domestic workers in diplomatic households. It also provides examples of national practices which have proven effective towards those ends.

Nigerian Women’s journey to Europe: between slavery and lack of protection

A new publication by Women’s Link World Wide, The Trafficking of Nigerian girls and women: slavery between borders and prejudices (in Spanish) advocates for the recognition of trafficking victims’ human rights and demonstrates the need for authorities to protect them. The report, taking into account the social, political, economic and cultural context of Nigeria, examines the causes and motivations why so many Nigerian women and girls decide to leave their home country and undertake journeys that often end up as human trafficking. The report seeks to provide essential knowledge on the issue in order to properly identify women and girls victims or potential victims of trafficking and subsequently to help them in an adequate way that protects their fundamental rights.

The Role of Consent in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) published The Role of Consent in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol - part of a series of issue papers looking at clarifying problematic aspects of the definition of trafficking in the Palermo Protocols. Drawing on interviews with practitioners from 12 States and finalised with input received during an expert group meeting, the issue paper aims to assist criminal justice officers in penal proceedings. The Issue Paper provides an overview and analysis of the international legal and policy framework around consent and related concepts explored in the Paper. It includes an analysis of the results of a survey conducted of national law and practice as it relates to consent within the definition of trafficking. The findings of the survey are drawn together in a series of key statements. The paper concludes with a list of issues and questions for discussion.

Preventing Trafficking in Persons by Addressing Demand

The UN Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), representatives of intergovernmental agencies working on human trafficking (UNODC, ILO, UNOHCHR UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM) has published a report on demand. In the years after the UN Trafficking Protocol was
adopted, prevention efforts focused mainly on origin countries of trafficked persons. There is at present little evidence of the success of either of these approaches and debate has increased regarding the viability of preventing trafficking in persons solely by interrupting the ‘supply’ of potential trafficked persons at source countries, that is in countries and communities of origin. These concerns have recently generated greater discussion around the need to revisit the dominant strategies to date. At the forefront of this discussion has been an increasing interest in looking at factors that contribute to demand for goods and/or services that could be tainted by trafficking in persons for labour exploitation. The paper argues that a greater focus on demand that, alongside existing approaches, would go a long way in devising more successful prevention strategies for trafficking in persons. Addressing demand requires a shift in the focus of existing efforts and priorities, bringing increased attention to the places where trafficked persons are exploited and to root causes and contributing factors that make the exploitation of trafficked persons possible, including economic, social and cultural factors.

The report aims to provide guidance to organisations and practitioners by mapping out the dimensions of demand as it relates specifically to trafficking in persons for labour exploitation. The report also highlights strategies that can be used to address this aspect of the problem.

Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

UNODC also published its 2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons. The report provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at global, regional and national levels, based on trafficking cases detected between 2010 and 2012 (or more recently). The Country Profiles present a national level analysis for each of the 128 countries covered by this edition of the report. The report found that 49% of the registered victims of human trafficking were adult women and 33% were children. The majority of victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation (53%), while 40% were trafficked for forced labour. The detection of forced labour cases has increased steadily over the past few years. It is interesting to note that while in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, most people were trafficked for sexual exploitation, in the Americas they are equally trafficked for sexual and labour exploitation and mostly for labour exploitation in Asia.

Fundamental rights at the EU’s borders

Two new reports by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) present the human rights situation at the EU’s air and land borders where asylum seekers as well as victims of trafficking for labour and sexual exploitation and for organ extraction may also first enter the EU. The reports are based on research at five airports and six major land border crossing points, and demonstrate the potential for fundamental rights infringements at the EU’s borders. Together with FRA’s earlier report on fundamental rights at the EU’s southern sea borders, these studies describe the treatment of people entering the EU and make suggestions to improve respect for their human rights.

The two new reports reveal a number of issues that affect the fundamental rights of non-EU citizens arriving in the EU. In the light of these findings, FRA makes a number of proposals to improve fundamental rights safeguards at the EU’s borders, aimed at EU and national policy makers, the EU borders Agency Frontex, and operative officers working at border check posts.

Recommended Principles & Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) released its Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders during the 69th session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 23 October 2014. The guidelines address, among others, legal and policy frameworks, ensuring human rights in rescue and interception, screening and interviewing, avoiding detention, and return or removal. In reference to irregular migrants, the guidelines state that measures to address irregular migration shall not be discriminatory in purpose or effect. States shall also ensure that measures aimed at addressing irregular migration and combating transnational organised crime at international borders, shall not adversely affect the human rights and dignity of migrants.
The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights said at the launch of the Principles and Guidelines: “While recognising that States have legitimate interests when they exercise immigration controls, they must also respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of migrants at borders. All migrants arriving by land, air or sea, regardless of their migration status or circumstances, are entitled to equal respect for, and protection of, their human rights, without discrimination of any kind. The respect for the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their status, promotes effective governance of borders, rather than hinders it.” His speech also briefly outlines the ten guidelines for border governance.

What’s new on the web?

Beyond Trafficking and Slavery

Beyond Trafficking and Slavery is a new editorial partnership between openDemocracy and researchers from all over the world. Its aim is to “challenge both the empty sensationalism of mainstream media accounts of exploitation and domination, and the hollow, technocratic policy responses promoted by businesses and politicians”. In their articles, academics and researchers look critically at current slavery and trafficking discourses and actions, such as flawed statistical reports, the conflation of human trafficking and prostitution, the “celebritisation” of human trafficking, etc. You can also follow Beyond Trafficking and Slavery on Facebook and Twitter.

Global Modern Slavery Directory

The Global Modern Slavery Directory is a collaborative effort led by Polaris, the Freedom Fund, and the Walk Free Foundation to build a resource for any organisation or individual that seeks to identify and connect with the full range of actors working to end human trafficking, forced labour and exploitation across the globe. The Directory aims to map out the contours of the movement worldwide to enable more effective communication among stakeholders.

This first release of the Directory represents the efforts of multiple organisations, including La Strada International, that have contributed by engaging in thought leadership, sharing contact lists of member and partner organisations, and offering volunteer and staff time to verify organisations for inclusion in the directory. The creators of the Directory encourage organisations to apply to be included and to provide feedback for improvements.

Council of Europe journal on human rights

The Council of Europe broadcasts a television news programme “The Journal” summarising the main events and activities of the week involving the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. Every edition addresses international political and social issues, which may be relevant to experts and associations dealing with global policies. You can also follow the Council of Europe WebTV on Twitter.

LINEA Network

The Gender Violence and Health Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine established the LINEA Network (Learning Initiative on Norms, Exploitation and Abuse). As new network of partners who are addressing the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, LINEA will focus on aspects of child sexual exploitation and abuse that do not involve organised crime, with an initial emphasis on the sexual exploitation of adolescent girls in low and middle income countries. LINEA will host regular webinars and provide a platform for sharing developments in the areas of social norms, structural drivers, and the sexual exploitation of children. To join LINEA and receive information about webinars and other activities, please register through this link.
What’s going on?

- 22 January 2015 - Workshop “Understanding the data protection and privacy issues surrounding human trafficking”, Schaerbeek, Belgium
- 2 February 2015 - TRACE workshop: The Act of Human Trafficking, Nicosia, Cyprus
- 8 March 2015 - International Women’s Day
- 9-20 March 2015 - 59th Commission on the Status of Women, New York City, USA
- 27 May 2015 - La Strada International NGO Platform and celebration of 20th anniversary

What’s on your mind?

Review of the media framing of human trafficking

Julia Muraszkiewicz is a PhD candidate at Vrije Universiteit Brussels and is also a member of the TRACE project. Julia is passionate about fighting the crime of human trafficking and spends her free time volunteering in shelters for trafficked persons and is involved with the organisation Stop The Traffik in the UK.

As part of the TRACE project we scrutinised how human trafficking is framed within the European news media, using case study examples from Poland, Cyprus and the United Kingdom. The research was conducted for the period 2010 - present day, and in total, a sample of 77 articles was examined. We considered this to be an important undertaking as there is a mass receipt of press media, who in turn are able to steer discussions and consequently influence public opinion and policy. In other words, for most citizens of Europe, information on various issues affecting their countries and the EU are communicated through the press, as well as other media sources and the Internet. People will look to the press to seek information, to understand and to interpret events. Therefore, by analysing newspaper articles, the report illustrates how human trafficking is understood by Europeans.

Overall the report found that the dominant discourse surrounding human trafficking in the press concerns a focus on sexual exploitation, and particularly prostitution. Stories focused on the female victim and described where, by whom and how she was sexually exploited as well as the arrest/trial of the perpetrators. Rarely in any of the three countries examined did the story or subsequent articles follow up on what happened to the victim, nor was there much discussion of the fundamental rights that were violated. Much of what the press reported on did not acknowledge that the problem of human trafficking does not begin with the traffickers but with the conditions that push the victims to migrate under circumstances that make them vulnerable. It is interesting to ponder why the focus is on trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation and the answer is probably twofold. On the one hand, the dominance of sexual exploitation as a form of human trafficking could be a result of the fact that this type of trafficking is most reported and investigated. On the other hand is the old notion that “sex sells” and is newsworthy.

While the case study of Cyprus did not show this, the British and Polish media also framed human trafficking as a matter of migration. No article, bar one in the British Guardian, linked restrictive migration policies to causing human trafficking, instead there was a common feeling that migration (in particular the free movement of people in the EU) is the cause of human trafficking. In the tabloid style press we also observed a heavy reliance on sensational stories such as arrests and court cases with a common thread of high level of detail about anything that may shock or outrage the reader.

Our findings further showed that articles exploring the social issues and complex underlying problems of human trafficking were few and far between. The explicit mention of the European Union, in any context (whether legal or policy related), was also scarce. One reason for this could be that unlike academic writers, who publish in specialised journals with an expert audience, press
reporters angle their work towards the general public and often publish what they believe may sell. Long discussions of laws and their national implementation may not necessarily pull readers into reading a story.

All in all, the report shows that the press media does not paint the real picture of the complex crime of human trafficking. The articles tend to focus on shocking stories and provide little “food for thought” which in turn is evaluated critically by the authors of the report. Without presenting the public with an in-depth discourse on human trafficking (that captures more than just ‘shocking’ stories surrounding sexual exploitation) the public’s understanding of the extent and nature of the problem is likely to be inaccurate, and may as a consequence have little impact on the fight to combat human trafficking. As the media is a source of information for the public, it is important to take care in shaping the content of the articles. Attention should be given to making sure that the articles reflect the realities of the crime so as not to create false images of the victims and offenders, which in turn can have an impact on the level of support and the measures taken to fight trafficking. The good news is that we noted that the number of articles in all three countries combined with the sensationalist style of writing could have a positive effect on raising awareness of the fact that human trafficking is a prominent issue in Europe.

The full report can be found here.