



# Newsletter

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With this quarterly newsletter, La Strada International wishes to inform and update you on developments in the field of trafficking in human beings and the activities of La Strada International and the La Strada member organisations. We welcome your feedback and input. Please [e-mail us](#) by 1 September 2015 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 !

### La Strada International NGO Platform

At the 8<sup>th</sup> LSI NGO Platform, United against trafficking in human beings, La Strada International celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the La Strada Network and the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the host organisation Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia with all our members and partners.



The [NGO Platform](#) was initiated in 2005 to enable European counter-trafficking organisations to strengthen their cooperation on advocacy, awareness and prevention and direct support to trafficked persons. Currently the platform comprises 28 European NGO members.

At this year's platform meeting, LSI and its partners reflected back on the past developments, among others via a [special Anniversary LSI timeline](#), and looked ahead, discussing future needs for adequate protection and support for trafficked persons. The workshops focussed on the accountability of NGOs/service providers, based on a GAATW participatory research among trafficked persons; on NGO monitoring, partly based on a draft monitoring tool developed by the

BALKANS ACT NOW II project; on identification of trafficked persons and the challenges related to it, and on working with the private sector. A special session was dedicated to highlight the violation of the rights of a trafficked woman from Serbia, for which ASTRA currently aims to attract more attention. A report on the NGO Platform will be available soon.

### New LSI Strategic Plan 2016 - 2020 adopted

At the 20th LSI General Assembly Meeting, held prior to the platform, on 26-27 May, LSI adopted its new Strategic Plan for 2016 -2020. This new Strategic Plan presents the key strategies that LSI will employ in the coming years to ensure that trafficked persons' rights are recognised, respected and realised.

LSI aims to **realise rights** by supporting grass-roots NGOs to continue providing high quality services based on the needs, experiences and best interest of trafficked persons and affected groups.

LSI supports NGOs to stay independent and critical and to monitor their States' efforts to **respect the rights** that trafficked persons are entitled to according to international legislation. To this end, LSI aims to develop a Europe-wide NGO monitoring system on implementation of rights, so that grass-roots NGOs are equipped with tools, skills and capacity to include impact assessment on the rights of trafficked persons into their daily work.

LSI believes that the **recognition of the rights** of women, workers, migrants and sex workers is vital to prevent people from becoming vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. Therefore LSI aims to build Strategic Partnerships with international organisations and other social movements in developing the social agenda for addressing trafficking in human beings.

To realise our objectives, LSI will further work the coming years on building the sustainability of the network and ensuring that it remains a learning and leading organisation.

### TRACE Workshop: The Traffickers



TRafficking as A Criminal Enterprise

The [TRACE project](#), in which LSI is a partner, conducted research on the specific characteristics of perpetrators and their interactions with one another and larger criminal networks.

In The Netherlands, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, England and, to a lesser degree Poland, the researchers looked at the demographics, family status, personal characteristics, social environment and criminal background of the traffickers, how they became involved in the crime and if they themselves had been victims of trafficking. In asking these questions the authors were able to combine information and scrutinise it.

The analysis contained in the report paints a picture of the traffickers, based on consolidated information from: (i) traffickers who were interviewed or filled out a questionnaire; (ii) interviews with experts and victims; (iii) court files concerning cases of human trafficking where the perpetrator was found guilty. All project reports can be found on the [project website](#).

At the moment the TRACE consortium is looking at current and future trends related to the role of technology in human trafficking. The aim is to provide stakeholders with up-to-date information and good practice policy recommendations for responding to the challenges posed by various technologies and applications. This will be the focus of the next TRACE workshop, to take place on 29 September in the Netherlands. The report on the traffickers, mentioned above, will be disseminated at this meeting. If you are interested in participating in the workshop, please contact [Borislav Gerasimov](#) at LSI.

### DemandAT stakeholders seminar

DemandAT is another FP7-funded research [project](#), in which LSI is partner, which addresses the challenge of understanding demand for trafficking in human beings and analyses the policy and practical measures that can influence this demand. The project investigates multiple forms of human trafficking and forced labour to assess the impact and potential of demand-side measures and policies to reduce trafficking, taken by European countries.

The project seeks to critically assess questions like: Can consumer choices indeed influence the occurrence of trafficking? And if so, how can consumer choices be best influenced? How can employers be made to comply with labour standards in a context of limited law enforcement resources? How effective are criminal sanctions in addressing trafficking? Would market-based incentives better serve the purpose?

At the stakeholder seminar on 5 June in Brussels, the preliminary findings of the first phase of the project were presented. This first phase focused on a conceptual analysis and broad mapping of debates and policies across different “fields” of human trafficking and a number of studies on measures governments have taken in other fields to influence consumer behaviour. The presentations on the findings can be found at the DemandAT [website](#).

### Convening for sex workers rights

The [International Committee on the Rights of Sex Workers in Europe \(ICRSE\)](#) coordinated a Convening for Sex Workers Rights from 4 to 6 June in Paris. The aim of the meeting was to strengthen the ICRSE network and reflect on future strategies. Ahead of the meeting, sex workers and their allies commemorated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [occupation of the Saint Nizier church in Lyon](#), when more than 100 sex workers demanded an end to criminalisation, violence, police repression and imprisonment. This event is regarded as the beginning of the movement for sex workers rights in Europe.



In a [statement](#), following the ICRSE convening, sex workers demand the same and call for an end to the conflation of (migration for) sex work and human trafficking.

La Strada International, PICUM, Doctors of the World, Open Society Foundation, Transgender Europe and Release were invited to the convening in Paris, as important allies, working in related fields that have an impact on sex workers rights. LSI used this opportunity to establish closer cooperation with sex workers rights organisations and especially the ICRSE, as the European Network. LSI believes that that the protection of workers’ rights, including sex workers rights, is vital to prevent trafficking in human beings and acknowledges that anti-trafficking measures can have negative impact on the rights of sex workers.

### New procedures for victims of human trafficking in Belarus

On 22 June, new regulations on identification, registration and provision of information to victims of human trafficking in Belarus entered into force.

The new rules will allow presumed victims of human trafficking to receive state-based social services for up to 30 days without any status of formal identification or need to cooperate with the authorities. Different state bodies, including the Ministry of Interior, the Committee for State Security, the Investigation Committee, the Prosecutor’s Office and the Border Committee are responsible to assign persons with a ‘victim of trafficking’ status, but only after investigation measures have been taken within a period of 30 days. Victims receive social services, provided by NGOs and international organisations. Service providers are obliged to inform trafficked persons about their rights, types of assistance available and the possibilities to cooperate or not with the police.

Gender Perspectives/La Strada Belarus was involved in the drafting of the new rules and welcomes them as they provide better protection of the rights of trafficked persons. However, the organisation also sees some challenges: the services will not be available to undocumented migrants; the coordination of the social services will be done by the Ministry of Interior and not the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and NGOs and service providers are not able to contribute or to conduct the formal identification of victims.

### La Strada Ukraine research among internally displaced persons

Since the beginning of the conflict in Eastern Ukraine last year, the La Strada hotline has been receiving more and more calls from internally displaced persons. As a response, La Strada conducted a ‘Human Trafficking Risk [assessment](#) among Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine’. The research was carried out in December 2014 and January 2015 in 16 regions of Ukraine. The results show that over one-third of the respondents consider themselves to be in a disadvantaged situation

due to their displacement. This number is significantly higher for displaced persons who returned to their places of residence and live in the conflict areas.

A slight majority of the IDPs that returned (52.4%), reported to have had experience with illegal employment in Ukraine and abroad. 33.9% of respondents living in other areas have had this experience as well. No clear correlation between the illegal employment and the conflict was shown. The illegal employment abroad took place often earlier than during the past six months. 47.6% of the IDP respondents, who have returned to their residence areas and 66.1% among those who live in other areas had no experience with illegal employment either in Ukraine or abroad. The research further showed that although IDPs are largely aware of human trafficking (79.1% of those who returned to their places of residence and 72.1% of IDPs living in other territories), still around 30% do not know about the existence of the issue. Further awareness among this group is needed to reduce their vulnerability for possible exploitation.

**Combating sexual violence against children in Moldova**

“The Republic of Moldova still does not offer sufficient measures and educational programmes to prevent sexual violence against children, including on the internet”, said Daniela Misail-Nichitin from La Strada Moldova at the 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the PACE One in Five Network of Contact Parliamentarians to stop sexual violence against children, held in Chisinau on 20 May 2015. Research conducted by La Strada Moldova among 939 children, who use internet, shows that 13.3% have been exposed to viewing pornographic images, another 12% do not know how to react in offensive/ troublesome situations, and 11% have received indecent proposals by people they had

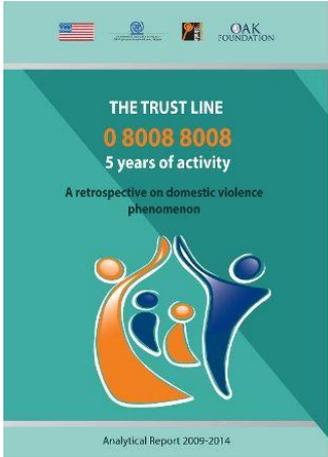


met through the Internet. To respond to these challenges, La Strada Moldova has undertaken a number of activities, including the launch and maintenance of a [portal](#) for provision of useful information to children and parents about protection measures in the online environment and reporting illegal and harmful content. La Strada Moldova further operates a counselling and information hotline for children and adults (Child Helpline 116 111); and has been implementing a number of awareness campaigns and information seminars, promoting the benefits of proper use of new information and communication technologies. In addition, La Strada has partnered with the private sector and trains specialists of tourist companies, hotels and airline carriers to identify potential cases of sexual exploitation of children, which are designed to empower the private sector by means of self-regulatory measures, such as adopting a Code of Conduct.

**Domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova**

A new publication of La Strada Moldova, [Trust Hotline 0 8008 8008 - 5 years of activity](#), presents an analytical overview of the more than 7800 calls received at the national toll-free trust line on domestic violence. Launched in November 2009, the hotline has acted as an important tool for victims of domestic violence and a point of contact for the general public and professional groups in the field.

Along with an overview of the received calls, the publication presents the profile of victims of violence, the types of assistance requested and the social attitudes towards domestic violence in Moldova. Special attention is paid to the multidisciplinary approach in cases of domestic violence within the Moldovan National Referral System, and the role that the different state actors play in the cases of domestic violence. It also describes the difficulties faced by the clients when they attempt to break the cycle of violence and those faced by the professional groups in their work with victims. The report concludes with a number of recommendations for representatives of state institutions, policy makers and the general public for preventing and combating domestic violence.



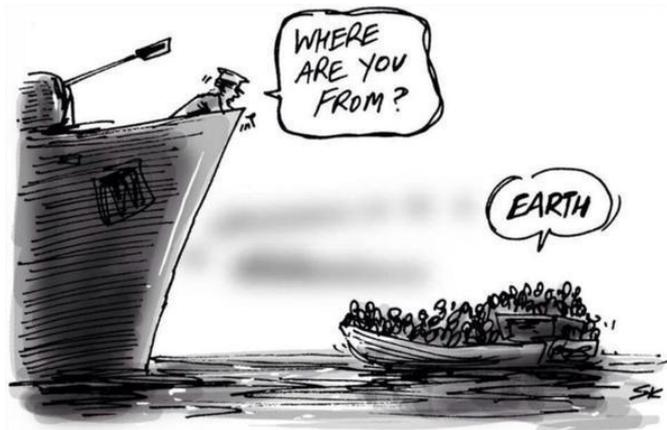
### Staff changes LSI

On 1 July, Marieke van Doorninck, LSI's Advisor Public Affairs, left the organisation, after a commitment of nearly 10 years. In May 2015 Bas de Visser, Policy Advisor and PR of CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands, left the organisation after more than six years. He is succeeded by [Suzanne de Jong](#). Also in May, Ana Revenco returned to her previous position as Director of La Strada Moldova, after several years of working at the Center for Combating Trafficking in Persons of the General Police Inspectorate of the Ministry of Interior.

La Strada International welcomes Ana back to the network and is looking forward to continuing the good cooperation from the past. At the same time we are very sad to say goodbye to Bas and Marieke, who have made extraordinary contributions both to the La Strada network and to Dutch and international policies and measures for the protection of the rights of trafficked persons. We wish them good luck in their future endeavours.

## What's going on ?

### New EU Agenda on Migration



In May the European Commission presented the new EU [Agenda on Migration](#), outlining the immediate measures that will be taken in order to respond to the increased migration flows in the Mediterranean, as well as the steps to be taken in the coming years to better manage migration in all its aspects.

According to the Commission, the Agenda sets out a European response, combining internal and external policies, making best use of EU agencies and tools, and involving all actors: Member States, EU institutions, International Organisations, civil society, local authorities and third

countries.

The agenda contains long-term and short-term goals, among which an increase in the capacities and assets of Frontex, a temporary distribution mechanism for people in need of international protection, and a resettlement scheme for 20 000 people. This last measure, the only non-repressive measure included, was rejected by the Council and Member States only agreed on a voluntary system of relocation of refugees. By imposing much stricter border controls and military actions against assumed smugglers, like bombing their vessels, EU Member States seem to rather focus on the protection of borders, instead of people.

In [a response](#) to the EU Agenda, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Francois Crépeau, raised concerns that security and defence policy options, such as destroying boats, constitute only a very short-sighted response to smuggling. "Smugglers will continue to skilfully adapt, as long as there is a market to exploit," Mr. Crépeau noted. "Strengthening the capacity of transit countries to stop irregular migration on their territory and resorting to military means, without offering migrants and refugees long-term mobility solutions and without adequate human rights guarantees, does not change the conditions that create the market and can only compound the human rights violations." For the Special Rapporteur, the EU must acknowledge the link between prohibition strategies which focus on securing borders and the entrenchment of smuggling rings and of underground labour markets, resulting in increasing risks for migrants and refugees.

The Special Rapporteur also points out that the new EU plan on migration did not acknowledge or address this issue, yet jobs continue to be available for low skilled migrants in European underground labour markets, where unscrupulous employers are exploiting them. "The EU continues to turn a blind eye to a key pull factor for many low skilled migrants. The EU must acknowledge and adequately respond to the needs of its low-wage labour market," he said. "I call on European and national authorities to quickly both open many more legal migration avenues for migrants at all

skills levels and firmly repress labour exploitation through the effective implementation of the Employers' Sanctions Directive and the strengthening of labour inspections.”

The EU policy was also criticised by over 700 academics and experts on migration, slavery and history who criticised the EU's [plans](#) to begin a military operation against smuggling networks operating out of Libya as a way to deal with the increased migration flow into the EU. The experts are angered over the use of slave-trade rhetoric to justify military action that can lead to the loss of thousands of lives. The [article](#) published in OpenDemocracy argues that talk of ending a 21st-century slave trade is both an “entirely self-serving” attempt to mask Europe’s unwillingness to provide safe access to European shores, and a “patently false” interpretation of the history of the slave trade.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) published a report '[The Mediterranean Migration Crisis: Why People Flee, What the EU Should Do](#)', stating that human rights abuses in their home countries are the driving force behind the surge in boat migration in the Mediterranean to reach Europe and that EU leaders should put human rights at the heart of their response. The report documents the human rights abuses driving people to make the dangerous sea crossing and the shortcomings of EU migration and asylum policies. The report is based on over 150 interviews conducted in May with recently-arrived migrants and asylum seekers and on extensive Human Rights Watch research in the home countries of many of those arriving by sea.

According to HRW saving lives and increasing safe pathways into Europe should be EU's priority, while ensuring that all cooperation with countries of origin and transit countries is based on respect for international human rights standards.

La Strada International joins the critics of the EU plan as it is likely to result in unnecessary loss of lives as 'collateral damage'. LSI believes that EU's restrictive migration and asylum policies facilitate human trafficking and migrant smuggling and a military operation will not be able to deter people from migrating in search of a better life.

### 10 years Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

In June the Council of Europe organised [a conference marking the 10th anniversary](#) of the opening



for signature of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The Convention was opened for signature on 16 May 2005 in Warsaw. It has so far been ratified by 43 countries (42 Council of Europe member states and Belarus).

In his opening statement, Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland called on the Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Russia and Turkey to sign and ratify the Convention.

The conference focused on the Convention's innovative features and victim-centred approach, and explored the impact that it has had on states parties' legislation, policy and practice. Speakers and participants addressed substantive issues in the implementation of the Convention and discussed

new challenges. The conference also provided a forum for strengthening international partnerships against trafficking in human beings.

In her presentation, Marieke van Doorninck, the Advisor Public Affairs of La Strada International, thanked GRETA for the good cooperation in partnership with civil society in monitoring state efforts to implement the Convention. She mentioned the lack of identification of trafficked persons as one of the ongoing challenges and the protection of the rights of workers who have been severely exploited but do not fit the trafficking framework as an upcoming challenge that needs to be addressed. She concluded by urging the gathered anti-trafficking community to not allow the EU states to use anti-trafficking rhetoric for introducing repressive migration laws.

### New report by the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, called on governments across the world to fully recognise the rights of trafficked persons, “who are entitled to assistance, protection and access to justice and remedies regardless of their residence status or whether perpetrators are identified, investigated or prosecuted.”

“Not all migrants are trafficked. However, a significant portion of migrants are trafficked but are not recognised as such by national authorities,” she stated in her latest [report](#) to the Human Rights Council, in which she reminded States of their obligation to ensure policy coherence between anti-trafficking policies and migration and asylum policies.

In her report, Ms. Giammarinaro stresses that governments should be aware that pushing back people fleeing conflicts not only is contrary to their international obligations, but also results in denying trafficked persons the possibility to claim their rights. She urged States to address a broader area of exploitation and social vulnerabilities, and adopt effective measures, based on international agreement and cooperation, aimed at ensuring safe and regular channels of migration, effective asylum policies, and social inclusion of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

#### Anti-Trafficking review call for papers

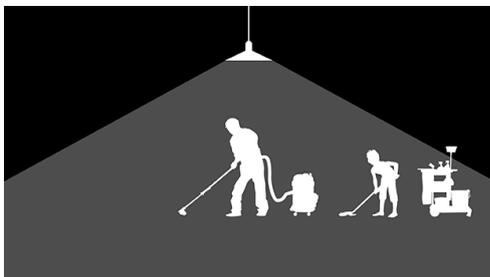
The [Anti-Trafficking Review](#) calls for papers for its next issue entitled: ‘Trafficking Representations.’

This issue will seek to explore the specific ways in which different forms of representation erase the complexity of the life trajectories of people who have experienced trafficking, as well as those of migrants, women, sex workers and others who are labelled as trafficked according to the rhetoric of neoliberal humanitarianism. At the same time, the special issue is interested in ways in which popular representations of trafficking and modern slavery have weakened the efforts to gain a better understanding of how social, economic and political inequalities and labour exploitation are produced and maintained in various locations.



The Anti-Trafficking Review is looking for submissions of 4 000 - 6 000 words by 8 January 2016. For any questions or more information, you can e-mail the [editorial team](#).

#### Crimestoppers campaigns against exploitation of cleaners and forced prostitution



The Dutch hotline Report Crime Anonymously (Meld Misdaad Anoniem - M.), part of Crimestoppers International, has launched a new campaign ‘[Dirty Practices](#)’ urging the public to report abuse and exploitation in the cleaning industry.

People working for cleaning companies are often forced to work long hours, are underpaid and may have to sleep in their work place. They work in bad conditions, without breaks or access to medical help. They are completely dependent on their employer and are often afraid to

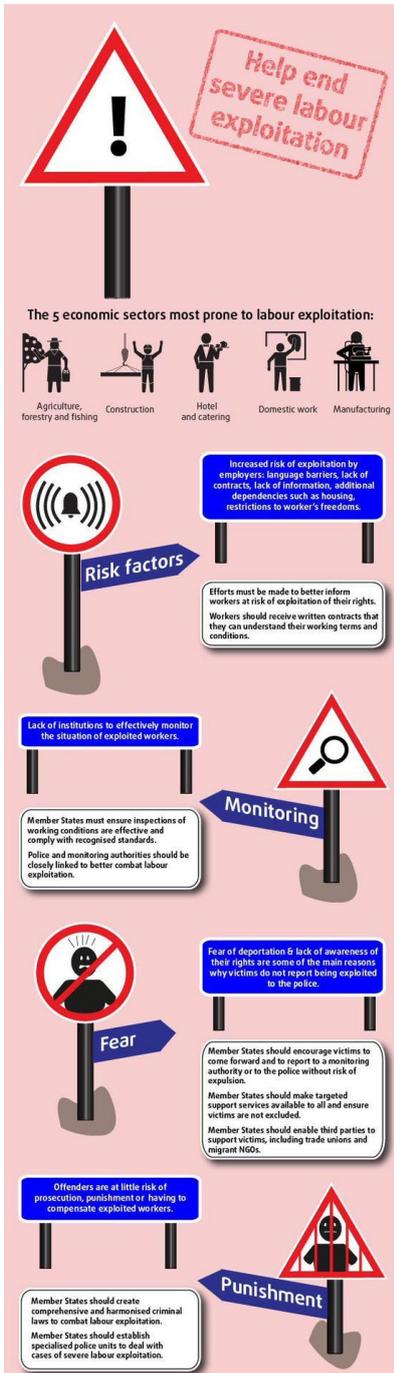
report abuse to the police. This is why M is urging people who work in restaurants, hotels or vacation homes to call the hotline if they notice indications of abuse and exploitation among cleaners.

In June 2014 M. launched a [campaign](#) encouraging sex workers in the Netherlands and their clients to report instances of suspected human trafficking and forced prostitution (see for more information [LSI Newsletter 34](#)). The campaign ran until April 2015 and in June M. announced the [results of the campaign](#) (in Dutch). In total 297 reports were received of possible abuse and exploitation and illegal prostitution, which is an increase of 34% compared to the year before. Two-thirds of the reports contributed significantly to law enforcement investigations and 22 suspects have been apprehended after anonymous tips. One hundred and thirty-seven callers reported concrete signals of abuse and exploitation, 33 of which involved possible underage victims. Clients of sex workers also called if they saw advertisements related to middlemen or if they felt that the sex worker was afraid of her pimp. Another 207 people called about crimes in places outside the permitted areas of prostitution - for example, illegal brothels in residential areas or above cafés. In these cases callers noted that women are brought and returned by someone else, cannot leave or have to sleep at their workplace.

The campaign coordinator Annemarie van der Burg says “Anonymous callers trust us. Most of them provide information which is not known to the police. Often they are close to the criminal and their

information is invaluable for the uncovering of human trafficking crimes. Through M. victims are supported, the criminals are caught and the risk of new victims is decreased”.

## EU Fundamental Rights Agency: Zero tolerance to severe labour exploitation



On 2 June the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) launched a new [report](#) on severe forms of labour exploitation at a [public event](#) in Brussels. The report shows that while the EU has legislation prohibiting certain forms of severe labour exploitation, workers moving within or migrating to the EU remain at risk of becoming victims. Moreover, the offence of employing a migrant worker under particularly exploitative working conditions is only punishable in some EU Member States with a maximum sentence of less than two years, a penalty that does not reflect the gravity of the fundamental rights violations involved.

The report comprehensively explores all criminal forms of labour exploitation in the EU affecting workers moving within or into the EU. The findings show that criminal labour exploitation is extensive in a number of industries, particularly agriculture, construction, hotel and catering, domestic work, and manufacturing, and that perpetrators are at little risk of prosecution or of having to compensate victims. Among proposals FRA makes in the report to improve the situation are the following:

- EU Member States must ensure a comprehensive, effective and well-resourced system of workplace inspections.
- To improve the effectiveness of investigations into cases of severe labour exploitation, close links should be established between the police, public prosecutors and monitoring authorities such as labour inspectorates, support services, and employers' associations, also in cross-border contexts.
- Victims' access to justice needs to be strengthened, e.g. through greater efforts to make them aware of their rights, both before and after their arrival in the EU country in which they are working.
- National authorities need to establish trust and provide a sense of safety, security and protection to encourage exploited workers to report their experiences, while labour inspectorates and police should cooperate more closely to ensure they identify cases of severe labour exploitation wherever they occur.
- Both private companies and national authorities are called on to ensure they avoid supporting labour exploitation by contracting or subcontracting companies involved in the exploitation of workers.
- Consumers must be informed of the risks that a product or service offered was created involving severe labour exploitation by such means as a system of certification and branding of products of companies that respect workers' rights.

## European Parliament votes on new EU Gender Equality Strategy

On 9 June the European Parliament voted in favour of a [resolution](#) on the EU Strategy for equality between women and men post 2015 (2014/2152(INI)), which serves as input for the EU's Gender Equality strategy 2016-2020.

The resolution calls on the Commission to propose new binding laws that protect women from violence; to ensure adequate maternity and paternity leave in order to increase female employment

rates; to reach a common position on quotas for women in top positions and equality within national and EU authorities; to ensure high-quality and readily accessible services in the areas of sexual and reproductive health and rights and safe and legal abortion and contraception and member states to promote a balanced, non-stereotypical image of women in the media and advertising.

The Rapporteur Maria Noichl said: “Despite our differences, MEPs focused on our key aim: to finally achieve real gender equality in Europe. The resolution will serve as a good, balanced and forward-looking basis for a new women’s rights and gender equality strategy for all women and men in the EU.”

### **PICUM: Employers’ Sanctions Directive do not protect undocumented workers from exploitation**

On 1 May, on the occasion of International Labour Day, the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) called for political commitment to effectively address the persistent and systematic exploitation of undocumented migrant workers.

PICUM’s new [position paper](#) analyses the practical impacts of the EU Employers’ Sanctions Directive, adopted in 2009 to prevent irregular migration and establish sanctions for employers who hire undocumented workers. The position paper examines how the new EU law has been applied in Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and the Netherlands, finding that in these four countries, the new legislation on employers’ sanctions has not improved and in some cases has even degraded the situation of undocumented workers. Based on the information collected from the four countries, PICUM doubts whether the aim of the directive - to reduce the demand for irregular work - is being achieved, as repercussions for employers remain very limited and facilitation of complaints insufficient.

PICUM recommends policy makers to consider adequate regular employment and residence opportunities for migrant workers, as more effective policy tools to reduce irregular employment. To this end, the brief includes recommendations for the EU to establish a more adequate labour migration policy through the creation of more entry and stay opportunities in the EU for third country migrant workers across skill levels and labour sectors.

### **CoE workshop for judges and prosecutors on the non-punishment provision**

In April the Council of Europe and the OSCE organised for the second time a joint workshop for judges and prosecutors on enhancing the protection of victims of trafficking in human beings. The workshop focused on the implementation of the non-punishment principle enshrined in Article 26 of the Council of Europe Convention, which holds that victims should not be punished for unlawful activities they were forced to commit by their exploiters.

Promoting the non-punishment principle is one of the core areas identified for enhanced co-operation between the Council of Europe and the OSCE following a joint conference held in 2014 organised under the Swiss OSCE Chairmanship and the Austrian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe.

“More and more countries are adopting specific legal provisions concerning the non-punishment of victims of trafficking for offences they were forced to commit by the traffickers, but it is necessary to sensitise prosecutors and judges to the importance of applying these provisions” said Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

## **What’s new ?**

### **Position of Trafficking Victims in Court Proceedings in Serbia**

For the fourth year in a row, ASTRA - Anti Trafficking Action, Serbia, a close partner of LSI, has published the results of the [legal analysis](#) of the position of trafficked persons in court proceedings based on the examination of judgments for trafficking offences rendered in 2014. Based on the most important findings and observations regarding the position of victims in court proceedings against minimum standards set in international documents, the analysis seeks to point out the problems in judicial practice in this area which may arise out of shortcomings in domestic legislation or its inconsistent enforcement.

This year’s analysis shows that the position of trafficking victims in court proceedings has not improved compared to the situation observed in the 2011-2013 analyses. Serious obstacles are still

present when it comes to achieving full protection and respect of victims' rights in court. Criminal legislation, which is for the most part in accordance with international standards, is not fully and consistently implemented in practice. Basic victims' rights, such as the right to protection of privacy, right to assistance, counselling and information on rights and free legal aid, right to safety and compensation, are still not enjoyed to a sufficient degree. Although the duration of trials slightly decreased, victims are still questioned in the presence of the defendants, there are still sporadic cases of direct confrontation between the victim and defendants and/or witnesses, without reaction aimed at the protection of victims. The right to compensation is not achieved in criminal proceedings, while penal policy remained unchanged compared to previous years. While some of these problems may be solved by insisting on consistent enforcement of the law and further training of judicial professionals, free legal aid and compensation are the issues which require new legislation and serious government commitment.

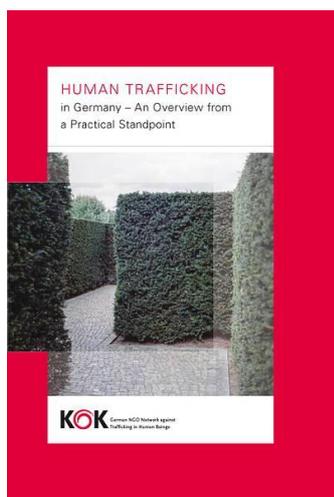
### National report on Bulgaria: child trafficking among vulnerable groups

A new [report](#) by the Bulgarian Centre for the Study of Democracy examines three specific forms of human trafficking in Bulgaria: trafficking of children for begging, trafficking for pick-pocketing and trafficking of boys for sexual exploitation, and how they manifest among vulnerable Roma groups. The report outlines the profiles of the victims and the factors which make the Roma minority a group particularly vulnerable to exploitation. The research presents empirical data about the mechanisms of recruitment and exploitation of victims, with the aim of improving the efforts of combating human trafficking and identifying trafficked persons. Special attention is paid to the policies and measures for victim support. The report highlights specific gaps in the provision of support and how these reflect on Roma victims and offers suggestions for improvements in the support of child victims. More information about the project and the reports from different countries on child trafficking can be found on [the project's website](#).

### The human rights situation of Roma people

The UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues presented her latest [Report](#) on the human rights situation of Roma worldwide to the Human Rights Council on 15 June 2015. The report provides an overview of the human rights situation of Roma worldwide, applying a minority rights-based approach to the protection and promotion of the rights of Roma, including the protection of their existence; the prevention of violence against Roma; the protection and promotion of Roma identity; the guarantee of the rights to non-discrimination and equality, including combating racism, anti-Gypsyism and structural discrimination; and the guarantee of the right of Roma to effective participation in public life, especially with regard to decisions affecting them. Drawing on the responses to her questionnaire, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues provides an overview of trends in State practice, highlighting positive developments as well as challenges.

### Human Trafficking in Germany - An Overview from a Practical Standpoint



A new publication of KOK - the German NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings, called "Human Trafficking in Germany - an overview from a practical standpoint" - is an extended continuation of KOK's brochure "Trafficking in Women in Germany", first published in 2001 and updated in 2009. Numerous legal changes and developments in the field of trafficking in human beings have made it necessary to revise this publication completely.

The book presents a great range of different aspects of trafficking in human beings. With its publication KOK hopes to continue making substantiated contributions to discussions on the topic - not only within the public debate, but also on a political, scientific and practical level. Special about this book is the fact that all authors are experienced practitioners working in the field, and that it combines the legal as well as the practical perspectives. All forms of exploitation are examined, as well as related contemporary topics, such as the issue of data protection for trafficked persons in the

asylum procedure.

You can see a short film about the book on [KOK's website](#), while the publication is available on request through [info@kok-buero.de](mailto:info@kok-buero.de).

### UNODC Issue Paper: The Concept of "Exploitation" in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol

Fifteen years ago, the United Nations adopted the UN Trafficking Protocol, which for the first time provided a definition of trafficking in human beings. However, the Protocol does not define exploitation per se but alludes to its meaning by enumerating some of the purposes of exploitation. The purpose of [this third issue paper](#) by UNODC is to clarify the key concept of exploitation in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. The Issue Paper was developed drawing on a series of interviews conducted with practitioners and experts from twelve States representing different regions and legal traditions well as on expert input provided during an expert group meeting. The Issue Paper aims to assist criminal justice officers in penal proceedings. It was launched at the thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April 2015.

### Life beyond trafficking. The re/integration of trafficked persons in the Balkans 2007 - 2014

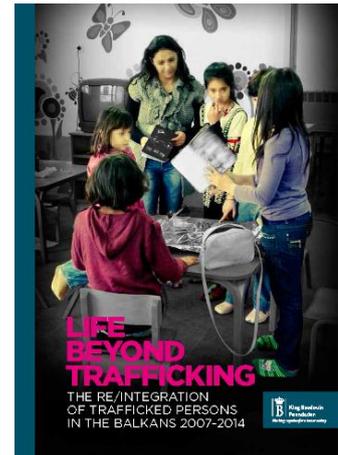
Addressing Human trafficking in the Balkan region, in particular supporting the re/integration of trafficked victims, has been a priority issue within the King Baudouin Foundation (KBF) in Belgium for many years.

In order to break the vicious circle of trafficking and to go beyond direct and short-term assistance to victims and invest in their longer term socio-economic inclusion, KBF set up the *Trafficking Victims Re/integration Programme (TVRP)* which funded re-integration schemes in seven countries of the Balkans. Between 2007 and 2014, more than 2000 trafficked persons and their families throughout the Balkans benefitted from such tailor-made inclusion programmes.

According KBF, 'Re/integration is one of the most important and most complex aspects of the anti-trafficking response. It is comprised of different components including settlement in a stable, safe environment, a reasonable living standard, mental and physical well-being, and opportunities for personal social and economic development. It's a complicated process, requiring intensive and long term assistance, particularly in the case of trafficked children, who are especially vulnerable'.

In view to the termination of the TVRP, a comprehensive review has been undertaken in order to measure the impact of this programme both on the life of beneficiaries and, more generally, on anti-trafficking work and policies in the Balkans.

A [factsheet](#) highlights the main achievements and lessons learned over the last eight years and the whole publication can be downloaded [here](#). For further information you can contact [Fabrice de Kerchove](#).



### Report of the Dutch National Rapporteur

In June the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children published [four quantitative updates](#) of the report "Trafficking in Human Beings: Visible and Invisible II" (available in Dutch only), with figures of human trafficking in the Netherlands from 2010 to 2014.

According to the report, more possible victims of human trafficking were identified in the Netherlands in 2014: 1561, compared to 1437 in 2013. The largest group of possible victims were exploited in the sex industry (66%), but the proportion of victims that were exploited outside the sex industry increased. The largest group of possible victims have Dutch nationality (30%), followed by Romanian (14%), Bulgarian (10%), Polish (6%) and Hungarian (6%). Fewer foreign victims relied on the arrangements for granting temporary residence to victims of human trafficking in 2014. The number of claims for compensation that were awarded to victims actually increased and the courts issued 45 orders to offenders to pay compensation. More human traffickers were convicted, but the average sentence imposed by the Dutch courts was shorter. The National Rapporteur will monitor developments in sentencing in order to determine whether this becomes a trend and, if so, will investigate the cause.

### Assessing the integration of vulnerable migrant groups in ten EU member states

A recent [publication](#) of the Bulgarian Centre for the Study of Democracy presents the results of a comparative monitoring study of the integration policies and outcomes for third-country-nationals women, children and victims of trafficking in ten EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Spain.

The study produced findings at two levels of analysis: an in-depth assessment of how migrant integration policies and programmes meet the needs of vulnerable migrant groups, and an assessment of their integration outcomes. Drawing on the analysis of these findings, the publication provides recommendations for improving monitoring mechanisms for migrant integration at the national and EU levels and for elaborating policy approaches for better integration of vulnerable migrants.

## What's new on the web ?

### New website for the Dutch National Referral Mechanism



As part of the new Dutch National Referral Mechanism for victims of human trafficking, which is

currently being developed, the Dutch government launched an [online guide \(signpost\) human trafficking](#), which is managed by the Ministry of Justice and Security, Victim Support Netherlands and CoMensha/La Strada Netherlands. The website provides information for service providers and other professionals, trafficked persons and concerned citizens. Professionals, who may come into contact with trafficked persons, can find information about different legal, medical, residency or compensation procedures for their clients. Trafficked persons are informed about the legal working conditions in the Netherlands and the different exploitative situations in the sex industry, other labour industries begging. There is also a link to CoMensha's website '[from here on/hoe nu verder](#)' which provides detailed information for trafficked persons in English, Dutch, Romanian, Bulgarian and Polish. The page for concerned citizens similarly provides information about the signs and indicators of human trafficking and where people can call to report suspected cases.

### Human Rights information

The [website RightsInfo](#) is about bringing human rights to life using infographics, stories and social media. The website was established to counter the image problem that human rights have in the UK. The public debate is based on misinformation and lack of understanding. Laws and judgments are aimed at specialists. This means that most people are ambivalent or negative towards human rights. With attractive infographics the website explains 'everything you need to know about human rights and 'what human rights do for us'. While the website is developed for the UK context, it provides much information on human rights in general and can be an example for human rights education in other countries.



### New AWID website



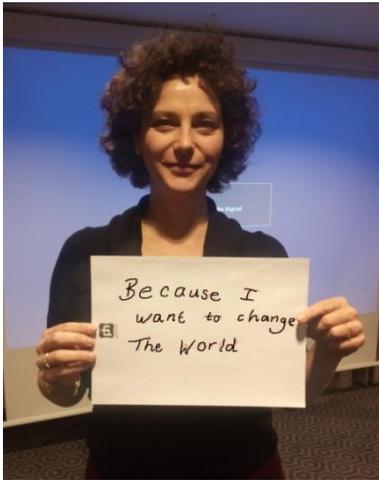
The Association for Women in Development (AWID) has redesigned and relaunched their [website](#). Feminists and women's rights activists around the world can stay informed, inspired and tuned into a wide range of issues and opportunities to take action.

The website is designed so it is accessible no matter what device you use - smartphone, tablet or computer. Users can learn about the work and [Priority Areas](#) of AWID, keep up to date with [News & Analysis](#) on women's rights and gender equality issues globally and find [Publications](#) and [Resources](#) on feminist issues. The website also has a [Member Area](#) which allows 4700 members to get in touch, learn and participate in discussions.

## What's happening where ?

- 18-19 September - BAN II project meeting, Podgorica, Montenegro
- 29 September - TRACE workshop on the role of technology in human trafficking, The Netherlands
- 29-30 September - Regional counter-trafficking conference, Chisinau, Moldova
- 12-13 October - GFMD Civil Society Days 2015, Istanbul, Turkey

## What's on your mind ?



### Working towards an inclusive framework

*Marieke van Doorninck was the Advisor Public Affairs of La Strada International from August 2005 until June 2015. The message on the picture is her answer to the question: Why Do you Do What You Do?*

In March this year the UK Modern Slavery Bill was adopted. Unfortunately, this bill did not put an end to the tied visa system for overseas domestic workers, despite the dedicated advocacy of our friends from NGOs like Anti-Slavery International and Kalayaan. The system ties the residence permit for overseas domestic workers to one employer, meaning that if domestic workers want to leave their employer because of exploitative working conditions or other forms of abuse, they immediately lose their residence permit. The system is the reason that so many

migrant domestic workers have to put up with exploitation and abuse, as they have no other choice. The new law would have been the perfect opportunity to get rid of this system that makes workers dependent and therefore vulnerable to abuse. Unfortunately, an amendment to the law in this direction was rejected. The Home Secretary Theresa May said to the extremely disappointed domestic workers that they had nothing to fear, because if they are exploited, the new law provides for harsher punishment for their exploiters and the workers would, if they qualify as a victim of trafficking, be provided with support and protection.

This reasoning by the British government illustrates for me perfectly what is so totally wrong with the anti-trafficking framework and the way it is being used by states. Anti-migration measures prevail over States' obligation to uphold rights and the neoliberal pressure to deregulate the labour markets leaves more and more workers without protection. People are being deprived of the tools to protect themselves from exploitation, such as legal labour migration and job opportunities and strong labour protection mechanisms. And in return, if workers are subsequently severely exploited, they are entitled to support, legal aid and a temporary residence permit. But only if they come forward or are found, if they are identified by the authorities, if their exploitative situation fits the legal definition of trafficking in human beings, if they behave like a victim and they are willing to cooperate with the authorities... Only if all these boxes are ticked, states are willing to allow trafficked persons to participate in a state-developed victim protection scheme. For states the human rights approach means protecting victims (and the state decides who is a victim), not upholding and protecting the rights of (migrant) workers to prevent them from being trafficked and exploited.

General rights protections are being reduced and replaced by exclusive rights for a limited group, justified by anti-trafficking rhetoric and even human rights language. The anti-trafficking community and especially civil society needs to consider to what extent the benefits of the anti-trafficking framework - the protection of the rights of identified trafficked persons - outweigh the collateral damage and misuse by states of the framework that provides them with a perfect diversion from their repressive migration control measures and labour market deregulation.

Human trafficking is not an isolated crime that can be solved by just prosecuting the criminals and rescuing victims, it is the symptom of the structural violation of workers and migrants rights. While these rights violations are not committed by states, they are political choices made by states that allow for these violations to happen. There is a lot to say for human rights NGOs to abandon the anti-trafficking framework and focus on (sex) workers rights, migrants rights and human rights in general to prevent people from being trafficked. There is only one reason not to do it. While anti-trafficking is still very trending, workers and migrants rights are not.

I believe the best strategy for NGOs is to do the same as governments do - to use the anti-trafficking framework to push for an alternative agenda. The framework provides for the opportunity to create

both space and an audience for a thorough debate about labour rights and the rights of migrant workers in a way that it cannot be ignored by those in power.

In the past decade, civil society together with international organisations have accomplished that rights protection of trafficked persons has been included in the criminal justice framework of combating human trafficking. The next challenge is to transform it into a real inclusive framework that is based on the prevention of human trafficking by ensuring the protection of the rights of all workers, irrespective of their residence status and irrespective of the sector of work.



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