



Prevention of trafficking in persons in Central and Eastern Europe
Prewencja handlu ludźmi w Europie Środkowej i Wschodniej
Предотвращение торговли людьми в Центральной и Восточной Европе
Prevençe obchodu s ľidmi ve Střední a Východní Evropě
Prevenčija trgovine ljudima u Centralnoj i Istočnoj Evropi
Запобігання торгівлі людьми в країнах Центральної та Східної Європи
Prevenirea traficului de fiinte umane in Europa Centrala si de Vest
Превенция на трафика на хора в Централна и Източна Европа
Превенција од трговија со луѓе во Централна и Источна Европа
Preventie van mensenhandel in Centraal en Oost Europa

To the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Ref: Letter of Recommendation Mrs. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of La Strada International's Board and Assembly, I would like to express our strong recommendation for Mrs. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro for the position of UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

La Strada International (LSI) is a leading European NGO network, working from a human rights perspective to ensure a world without trafficking in human beings where human rights are respected. Since its establishment in 1995, La Strada has empowered trafficked persons and advocated for the promotion of their universal rights and access to justice.

La Strada International has cooperated with Mrs. Giammarinaro since 2006, when she started to work for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Justice, Freedom and Security in Brussels, where she was responsible for the issue of trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of children, as well as for penal aspects of illegal immigration within the unit dealing with the fight against organized crime. We met with Mrs. Giammarinaro on several occasions and she supported LSI with information and consultation, related with actual European policies and measures on the issue.

When Mrs. Giammarinaro in December 2009, was appointed the new OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for combating trafficking in human beings, the good cooperation continued, in particular within the framework of LSI's membership of the OSCE Alliance Expert Coordination Team (AECT) and our attendance to AECT meetings.

As the Special Representative, Giammarinaro had a broad mandate aiming to assist building the political will to combat human trafficking. The Special Representative helped the Organization's participating States to fulfill OSCE commitments and recommendations, and to exchange best practices and experiences. Her solid expertise in the area has been beneficial not only to OSCE Member States, but also to many civil society actors operating in these countries, including La Strada.

Mrs. Giammarinaro has been very dedicative and productive in the past four years, visiting countries, organising conferences and expert meetings and under her leadership her office has produced many qualitative and objective in depth reports on specific focus points of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, promoting the rights of trafficked persons. Also last year, still during her mandate a new addendum to the OSCE action plan on human trafficking was adopted.

Where possible she made linkages with other human rights issues and ensured involvement of all relevant stakeholders. Mrs. Giammarinaro has been very outspoken about the need for unconditional support for trafficked persons in order to have a truly human rights based approach. In her work she broadened the scope of the fight against trafficking in human beings to more preventative work focusing on decent working conditions and social inclusion. She has been able to raise relevant issues at the highly political level, including the need for access to justice and effective remedies, including payment of compensation for trafficked persons.

From 2010 to 2012 La Strada International, together with Anti-Slavery International and other NGO partners in 14 European countries, implemented the COMP.ACT project, which aim was to mainstream compensation for trafficked persons through research, awareness-raising and advocacy at the international level. For this project we received strong support from Mrs. Giammarinaro, who enabled us to organize a special side event on compensation, at the annual OSCE Alliance Conference.

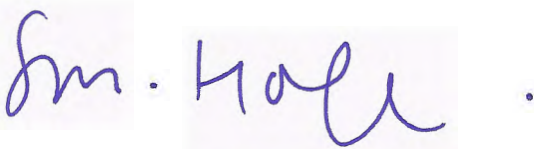
In all the years of our cooperation with Mrs. Giammarinaro, she has demonstrated deep understanding of the phenomenon of human trafficking, its root causes and the needs of trafficked persons. She has reacted swiftly to new trends and developments in the area with profound concern for the human rights of trafficked persons and other affected groups.

The fact that she worked in the past, and recently has resumed to her previous function, as a judge at the Criminal Court of Rome, gives her furthermore a good insight in the existing legal European framework and implementation of justice in practice, which qualifies her even more for the offered position.

We have no doubt, that she will be a perfect new UN Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, as she has clearly demonstrated the required professional expertise and in depth experience in the field. Moreover Mrs. Giammarinaro is a good communicator and able to consult with and convince high level officials, but also to interact with civil society, giving them the possibility to be heard. Moreover she possesses the personal integrity to act impartial and objective and has been a very pleasant person to work with.

We strongly believe, that as UN Rapporteur, she can raise attention for gaps in legislation and practice and motivate people globally to take further action, ensuring that trafficked persons have access to the rights they are entitled too.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Hoff", followed by a period.

Suzanne Hoff
International Coordinator

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