

Ambassador Corina Călugăru and Ambassador Christian Meuwly  
Chair and Vice - Chair of the Committee of the Parties of the  
Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Ms. Petya Nesterova, Executive Secretary of the  
Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Amsterdam, 9 November 2020

Dear President, Vice-President and Members of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings,

With great attention, we follow the upcoming elections for the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, to be held at the 27th meeting of the Committee of the Parties on 4 December 2020.

La Strada International, European NGO Platform against trafficking in Human Beings, comprising 26 member organisations and three associate members in 23 European countries has been advocating for the rights of trafficked and exploited persons in Europe for the last 25 years.

The Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Expert group GRETA have been of great value for our work, in particular due to the regular monitoring of action taken by State Parties and recommendations made, urging States to address remaining gaps and bottlenecks. GRETA's monitoring mechanism and standards have proven to be a unique, important and influential instrument in the protection of the rights of trafficked persons across Europe.

As it is in our particular interest that GRETA remains an effective expert body in monitoring States' implementation of the Convention, we would like to use this opportunity to stress the importance of ensuring a good gender and geographical balance of GRETA's composition, as well as multidisciplinary expertise, representing all actors involved in the fight against trafficking and providing support to victims, as stipulated by the Convention.

In that respect, we are glad to see the excellent list of candidates that have been nominated by State Parties for the 8 vacant seats to be fulfilled, including representatives of national governments, law enforcement, the judiciary, academia as well as civil society representatives. With this letter, we would like to express our strong support for several of the nominated candidates, which we have closely worked with and are committed professionals with in-depth knowledge on the issue of human trafficking and experience in the field.

These candidates are:

1. Ms Conny RIJKEN – The Netherlands
2. Ms Dorothea WINKLER - Switzerland
3. Ms Anne BRANDT CHRISTENSEN - Denmark
4. Mr Djordje ALEMPIJEVIĆ - Serbia
5. Ms Radmila DRAGIČEVIĆ DIČIĆ - Serbia
6. Ms Ivana RADOVIĆ - Serbia
7. Ms. Patricia LE COCQ - Belgium
8. Mr Peter VAN HAUWERMEIREN - Belgium
9. Ms Helga GAYER – Germany

We hope you will take note of our strong civil society support for these candidates, when voting for the new GRETA members in December. It goes without saying that we are looking forward to continuing our close cooperation with the Council of Europe and the newly selected GRETA members in our common action against human trafficking.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Hoff  
International Coordinator

ADPARE (Romania)  
ALC (France)  
Animus Association (Bulgaria)  
Anti-Slavery International (UK)  
ASTRA Anti-Trafficking Action (Serbia)  
Ban Ying (Germany)  
CoMensha (The Netherlands)  
Comité Contre l'Esclavage Moderne (CEEM, France)  
SICAR Cat (Spain)  
FairWork (Netherlands)

FIZ (Switzerland)  
Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX, UK)  
Gender Perspectives/Social Changes (Belarus)  
Hope Now (Denmark)  
Human Resource Development Foundation (Turkey)  
KOK (Germany)  
La Strada Czech Republic  
La Strada Moldova  
La Strada Poland

La Strada Ukraine  
LEFÖ (Austria)  
Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)  
Novi Put (Bosnia and Herzegovina)  
Open Gate (North Macedonia)  
Pag-Asa (Belgium)  
Pro Tukipiste (Finland)  
Proyecto Esperanza (Spain)  
Victim Support Finland  
On the Road (Italy)