

Newsletter February

La Strada International wishes to inform and update you on developments in the field of trafficking in human beings and activities of the Platform and member organisations. We welcome your feedback and input. Please [e-mail us](#).

La Strada News

MEPs asked to commit to 10 points of action to improve access to rights for trafficked persons

Today on the occasion of the European Day for Victims of Crime, La Strada International addressed Members of the European Parliament to help improve access to residence for victims of crime, in particular victims of trafficking and severe forms of labour exploitation. EU Parliament members are asked to commit to 10 points of action to improve access to residence for victims of trafficking. These recommended actions, are based on research conducted in the framework of the project REsidency Status: STrengthening the protection of trafficked persons (REST project), coordinated by LEFÖ IBF in Austria and five other LSI members. [See more](#)



Webinar EU Strategies on Victim Rights and Human Trafficking

On 25th January 2021, La Strada International together with Porticus organised the webinar EU Strategies addressing Trafficking and Victims' rights. Four speakers; including Mr. Olivier Onidi - Acting EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator; were invited to directly exchange with anti-trafficking and labour rights NGOs in Europe. They reflected on the new and upcoming EU strategies addressing human trafficking and victim rights and related European developments. [See more](#)

Call upon MEPs voting for new EU Resolution on trafficking

On 9th of February, the European Parliament adopted a non-binding resolution by the FEMM and LIBE committees on the implementation of Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims (2020/2029(INI)). Prior to the vote, La Strada International, ICRSE and PICUM reached out to MEPs asking them to vote against several proposed amendments and paragraphs. [See more](#)



FLEX participatory research on cleaning sector in the UK

LSI's member FLEX, published recently the working paper ['If I Could Change Anything About My Work...' Participatory Research With Cleaners In The UK](#), exploring the experiences and drivers of labour abuse and exploitation in three understudied low-paid sectors of the economy in the UK: cleaning, hospitality and the app-based courier sector. The publication provides unique evidence of labour abuses and risks faced by workers in cleaning. [See more](#)

OPEN GATE tackles online fraudulent labour recruitment

In North-Macedonia, like everywhere else, lack of information, lack of labour opportunities combined with lack of social support, might encourage people to search online for work abroad and to accept dubious job offers. Open Gate/La Strada North Macedonia therefore started the project 'Opportunity or Exploitation' which directly targets national jobs seekers online, by building and promoting a fake online job recruitment platform 'WORKinEU'

[See more](#)

What's going on?

ECHR ruling related to non-punishment of victims of trafficking

On 16th February, the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) ruled – nearly ten years after submission of the case - that the UK had failed to protect two victims of child trafficking and ordered the UK to pay 25,000 euros in damages and 20,000 euros for costs and expenses to each of the applicants, who are now in their 20s. The Ruling is the first precedent from the ECHR on the scope of Article 4 ECHR in respect of its strict requirements in terms of the application of the non-punishment provision for victims of trafficking, including State's obligations to identify and Courts' duties to protect potential victims of trafficking. [See more](#)

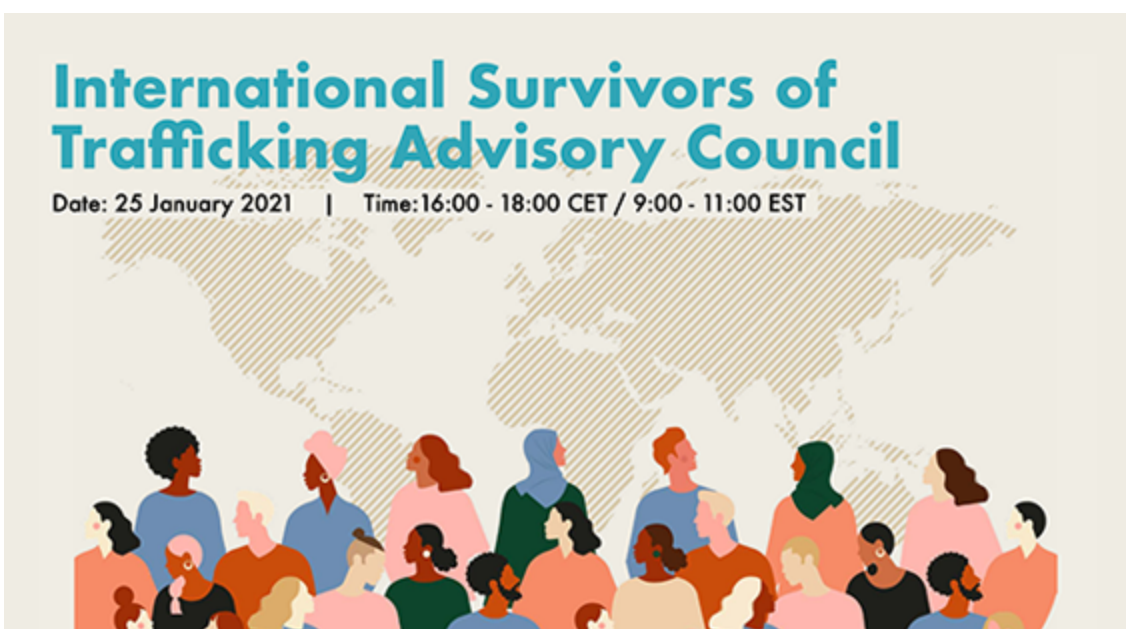
37 organisations denounce the ongoing harassment against the NGO KISA and call on the Cypriot authorities to reinstate their official registration

In December 2020, the Cypriot Minister of Interior abruptly removed KISA, and many other civil society organisations, from the Register of Associations. KISA is a close partner of La Strada International and member of PICUM. On 3 March, the Cypriot administrative court will review KISA's appeal against the decision to remove the organisation from the Register of Associations, through an expedited procedure. If the removal of KISA from the register is confirmed and the procedure for dissolution completed, people in extreme situations of vulnerability, including trafficked persons will stop receiving crucial help from the organisation. [See more](#)



UNODC launches new Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

On 2nd February the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the new edition of its [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#) based on statistics for 2018. The report reveals that over the last 15 years, the number of detected victims has increased, while their profile has changed. The share of adult women among the detected victims fell from more than 70 per cent to less than 50 per cent in 2018, while the share of children detected has increased, from around 10 per cent to over 30 per cent. In the same period, the share of adult men has nearly doubled, from around 10 per cent to 20 per cent in 2018. [See more](#)



ODIHR launched International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC)

In November the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) launched the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC), consisting of

21 persons that have been trafficked, across the OSCE region. ISTAC should assist ODIHR's work in combatting trafficking in human beings. The online launch event highlighted the role and function of ISTAC as well as its activities for 2021, in particular related to including and promoting the voices of survivors in all matters related to combating trafficking in human beings. [See more](#)

What's new?

New Commentary on CoE Convention on Action against Trafficking

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings is an important binding human rights treaty to effectively fight trafficking in human beings. Now a comprehensive Commentary has been published which provides a first fully up-to-date analysis and interpretation of the Convention. It offers a concise yet thorough article-by-article guide to the Convention's anti-trafficking standards and corresponding human rights obligations. [See more](#)



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