

## Newsletter March

*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](#).*

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### La Strada News

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#### **La Strada International accepted into EU Victims' Rights Platform**

La Strada International has been accepted to participate in the EU Victims' Rights Platform. The EU Victims' Rights Platform was inaugurated on 22 September 2020, after which the Commission launched a call this year for expression of interest for EU level umbrella organisations, interested to engage in the implementation of the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020 – 2025). [See more](#)

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#### **LSI members ASTRA and Novi Put awarded**

La Strada International is happy to inform that two of our members [ASTRA](#) from Serbia

and [Novi put](#) from Bosnia Herzegovina have both been awarded the international Child10 Award for 2021. ASTRA was praised for their efforts to eradicate all forms of exploitation and trafficking of girls in Serbia and Novi put for their fight against child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. The awards were provided by the Foundation Child10 from the Kingdom of Sweden, and included a grant the Swedish Queen Silvia and her Foundation "Care about the Children". Both LSI members were among the ten awarded organizations, selected from over 90 nominees from 27 countries around the world.

[See more](#)

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## Webinar on access to Residence

On 12<sup>th</sup> of March 2021, La Strada International organised a webinar to launch and reflect on the findings of the research report "[Residence permits, international protection and victims of human trafficking](#)". This report has been developed in the framework of the [REST project](#) which aims to strengthen the rights to residence and international protection for third-country nationals trafficked in Europe, by examining promising practices, gaps and challenges in their actual access to these rights in 6 European countries (Austria, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Moldova and Serbia). [See more](#)

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## FLEX assesses forced labour risks on UK seasonal Workers Pilot

LSI's member FLEX's latest report [Assessment of the risks of human trafficking for forced labour on the UK Seasonal Workers Pilot](#), is based on research carried out over the past year with consultant Caroline Robinson and [Fife Migrants Forum](#). This report provides unique independent evidence of worker experiences on the Seasonal Workers Pilot (SWP) in the UK, a temporary labour migration programme that seeks to respond to concerns about labour shortages in agriculture, particularly following the end of free movement.

[See more](#)

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## **ASTRA publication on safety of trafficking victims and service providers**

LSI's member ASTRA launched a new publication "[The safety of trafficking victims and service providers and the risk assessment](#)". This publication aims to shed light on ways to prevent safety risks of trafficked persons and victims' assistance providers. Victims of trafficking face safety risks from the moment they come into contact with persons involved in their trafficking. The safety risk for service providers is comparatively lower, but it is also present. [See more](#)

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## **What's going on?**

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The logo for GRETA (Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings) is displayed on a dark blue background. The word "GRETA" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below it, the full name "Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings" is written in smaller, white, sans-serif capital letters, stacked in four lines.

**GRETA**  
**Group of Experts  
on Action against  
Trafficking  
in Human Beings**

**GRETA elections**

GRETA will held new elections on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021, during the next meeting of the Comité of the Parties. 33 countries, that are Parties to the GRETA Convention that are not yet represented in GRETA, are eligible to nominate candidates for the vacancy and nominate candidates by 11 April 2021. The GRETA seat has become vacant, since Ana Revenco, Executive Director and founder of La Strada Moldova resigned and left the organisation to work for the Moldovan government as Advisor to the President. Due to her new position, she also resigned as member of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) membership. See

<https://www.lastradainternational.org/news/daniela-misail-new-executive-director-of-la-strada-moldova/> La Strada International calls upon NGOs to get updated about the nomination process in their countries, to ensure that good experts are nominated for the next GRETA elections. Governments are encouraged to inform and involve NGOs. See [general election procedures](#).

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## **Pay Your Workers coalition demands immediate relief and apparel industry reform during week of action**

Clean Clothes Campaign has partnered with trade unions and labour rights organisations around the world to mount a global campaign to demand immediate relief for garment workers and apparel industry reform. La Strada International joined the campaign, as the global garment industry is a very vulnerable sector for severe forms of labour exploitation. The [#PayYourWorkers](#) Campaign is a week of action calling on brands to pay the living wages and uphold labour rights in their supply chains. [See more](#)

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## New Dutch Bill for Responsible and Sustainable International Business Conduct

Four political parties submitted a bill on human rights and environmental due diligence in Dutch parliament. This Dutch [Bill for Responsible and Sustainable International Business Conduct](#) follows and proposes to replace the [Child Labour Due Diligence Act](#) that was adopted by the Dutch Parliament in 2019 but has not entered into force yet. The law imposes a duty of care to prevent negative impacts on human rights and the environment – including the climate – on all companies in all economic sectors – including the financial sector – that are registered in the Netherlands or sell products or services on the Dutch market. [See more](#)



## Turkey withdraws from Istanbul Convention

The decision of the President of Turkey on 20th March to withdraw from the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic

violence (CETS No.210), has led to strong protest in Turkey and abroad. The Convention which aims to prevent violence against women, protect victims and prosecute perpetrators, upholds women's fundamental human right to a life free from violence. [See more](#)

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## What's new?

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### **Enhancing cross-border cooperation and investigations to support trafficked persons**

In February, Eurojust launched a new report on Trafficking in Human Beings; [Best practice and issues in judicial cooperation](#). This report presents Eurojust's practises in complex Human Trafficking cases requiring judicial coordination. The first part relates to the coordination of investigations and the second to victims' rights, including their safety, position and ability to participate in witness protection programmes. [See more](#)

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## OSCE virtual meetings focusing on trafficking of migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In preparation for an upcoming field visit, OSCE PA Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Migration Margareta Cederfelt (Sweden) and OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Valiant Richey are participating in a series of online meetings this week focusing on combating human trafficking along migration routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. [See more](#)



## Human Rights Council voted in favor for a resolution

Today the Human Rights Council (HRC) voted in favor for a resolution, mandating the High Commissioner to create a new robust monitoring and reporting mandate focused on accountability for human rights violations in Belarus that have taken place since 1 May 2020. In so doing, the Council demonstrated its determination to hold Belarusian authorities to account. [See more](#)



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