

## Newsletter June

*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 & 50 NGOs call for domestic workers rights**

On June 16<sup>th</sup>, on International Domestic Workers Day, La Strada International together with 50 other NGOs [called](#) upon European governments to ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention and to take measures to ensure better protection and access to rights for domestic workers.

Ten years ago on June 16, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) adopted the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), which recognizes that domestic workers should have access to the same rights as all other workers. It is an important step towards achieving decent working and living conditions, fulfilment of human rights and access to social protection for domestic workers.

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### **LSI side events address CoE and OSCE**

## representatives

In June, La Strada International organised two side events. The first [side event](#) was held on June 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 and organised on the margins of the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. The second side event was organised on 16<sup>th</sup> of June, during the 21st Alliance against Trafficking in Persons [Conference, 'Confronting Demand: Tackling a root cause of trafficking in human beings'](#), which was held from 14-16 June 2021. This side event focussed on 'The impact of criminalizing the knowingly use of services, which are the object of exploitation on trafficked persons and related vulnerable groups'. [See more](#)

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## Marija Andjelković, ASTRA Director elected board member Missing Children

At the regular annual assembly of the European Organization for Missing Children (MCE), held on June 17, 2021, Marija Andjelković, director of ASTRA, has been elected as member of the board of directors of this organization. ASTRA has been a member of the European Organization for Missing Children since 2012, when it started to run the European number for missing children 116.000 in the Republic of Serbia.

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## La Strada Ukraine launches new academic journal

Seeing the need in accumulating efforts of women's rights perspectives in the academical sphere and to strengthen positions and arguments to respond to anti-gender initiatives and backlashes faced globally, La Strada-Ukraine recently launched a new **Academic and Practical Journal "Human. Society. State: Gender Perspective"**. This journal is an officially registered periodical, published at least twice a year with articles in Ukrainian and English. It will publish the results of empirical and theoretical studies of academicians and practitioners in the area of law, state management, psychology, sociology and social work.

For more information please contact La Strada Ukraine. **Contact person:** Olena Fayduk, e-mail: [o.faidiuk@la-strada.org.ua](mailto:o.faidiuk@la-strada.org.ua) Materials for the first issue **should be sent no later than August 1, 2021.**

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## What is happening?

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## KISA's appeal against deregistration by Cyprus Authorities rejected

On June 10th, the Cyprus Administrative Court rejected KISA's recourse against the decision of the General Registrar to deregister KISA from the Register of Associations. Together with PICUM and others, La Strada International has been [calling](#) upon the Cypriot authorities and the EU – and other international governmental bodies – to take action and to condemn the ongoing judicial harassment against KISA and to call on the Cypriot authorities to respect and uphold the European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights, the rule of law principles, and the right to freedom of association. [See more](#)

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## **New EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator appointed**

On 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the European Commission announced that Ms. Diane Schmitt took up the function of [EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator](#) (ATC). Earlier Mr. Olivier Onidi had been appointed in March 2020, as acting ATC. In the course of 2019 and 2020, LSI inquired with the Commission stressing the importance of the work of the EU AT Coordinator as mandated in the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive and calling for transparency in the process of appointment. [See more](#)

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## **On-going 'fitness check' of EU legislation on preventing and combatting violence against women**

The European Commission is conducting an on-going 'fitness check of EU legislation on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence', next to an impact assessment for a legislative proposal on the topic, as announced in the Commission Work Programme 2021. The scope of the aforementioned study includes comprehensive national research, to which La Strada International and some of LSI's members contributed. [See more](#)

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## **European countries work towards national due diligence legislation**

EU Commissioner Reynders has postponed his proposal for European due diligence legislation until after the summer. Many expect it to be postponed even further and the

proposal may not be presented again this year.

At national European level however progress is being made in the meantime. On 11 June, the German Bundestag [approved the due diligence law](#).

In the Netherlands a further discussion of a proposed Sustainable and Responsible International Business Initiative Act will take place after receiving the advice of the Council of State. In April this year, the Norwegian government submitted its [due diligence bill](#) and the same month, also the Belgian Parliament decided to consider a [private member's bill](#) introducing a duty of care and accountability for human rights and the environment for the entire value chain of companies in Belgium. Earlier, in March the Social Democrats in Austria introduced a [private member's law](#) that imposes a duty of care for human rights and the environment on companies.

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## **UNSR presents non-punishment report at 47 Human Rights Council**

On 29th and 30th of June, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Ms. Siobhán Mullally presented her recently published report on the [Non-Punishment Principle in International Trafficking and Human Rights law](#) at the 47th HRC. On 30 of June, the UNSR together with ICAT organised a side event related to the findings of the report. [See more](#)

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## **ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment entered into force**

On 25 June 2021, the [ILO Violence and Harassment Convention 190. \(C190\)](#), entered into force, it was adopted in 2019 by the International Labour Conference of the ILO.

Governments that ratify C190 will be required to put in place the necessary laws and policy measures to prevent and address violence and harassment in the world of work. The ILO is now embarking on a [global campaign to build support for C190](#) and invites constituents, stakeholders and civil society actors to get involved. La Strada International and its members will call upon European governments to ratify and implement ILO Convention 190. No European country has yet ratified C190.

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## **Committee of the Parties elects new GRETA member**

On Friday 4<sup>th</sup> of June, the [Committee of the Parties](#) to the [Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings](#) elected Professor and former prosecutor Svala Ísfeld Ólafsdóttir from Iceland as new GRETA member. She is an Associate Professor of law at Reykjavík University and previously served as state prosecutor and senior advisor at the Ministry of Justice. Her expertise lies within the fields of

criminal law, child protection, domestic violence and support to victims of abuse, next to human trafficking. [See more](#)

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## What's new?

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### US TIP report 2021 released

On July 1, the US State Department released its [2021 TIP Report](#). Like last year, the report reflects on the impact of COVID-19 and highlights substantial changes in financial situations which created new precarious situations. The report further acknowledges that governments faced the predicament of shifting priorities to focus on growing health and economic concerns, which drew attention and resources away from anti-trafficking efforts. According to the report, anti-trafficking actors experienced an all-around decrease in resources and operations. [See more](#)

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### ILO global call for action

In June ILO's annual International Labour Conference (ILC) adopted a strong [Global Call to Action](#), calling for a human-centred recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The plan was adopted with the unanimous support of government, trade union and employer representatives and fast-tracks implementation of the [ILO Centenary Declaration](#). [See more](#)

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## Blogs

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[Employers' sanctions: will the EU finally take steps to protect migrant workers?](#)

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[Effective access to remedy for victims of labour exploitation “nigh on impossible” without civil society support.](#)

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## Events

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- **14 July 2021 – 10 AM CET** – Webinar Human rights due diligence: The essentials on grievance mechanisms  
<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6808088450581291534>
- **13 – 16 July 2021** - ECOSOC High-level Segment event related to "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development." See <http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=172>
- **30 July 2021** – World Day Against Trafficking in Persons  
<https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-human-trafficking-day/background>
- **15 – 17 September 2021** - LSI NGO Platform in Amsterdam
- **14 – 15 October 2021** – International Conference - Defining the Gap – Trafficking in Human Beings and Data Policy Organised by KOK, Germany.



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