

## Newsletter July

*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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## LSI statement on World Day against Trafficking in Persons

On the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, on which the importance of listening to and learning from the experiences of trafficked persons was highlighted, La Strada International forwarded 7 actionable recommendations to ensure that trafficked persons' voice is elevated with dignity and respect alongside the critical role of an independent civil society [Read full statement here.](#)



## LSI joins global Letter in solidarity with the Belarusian civil society

Over the last weeks another wave of raids and detentions against Belarusian human rights defenders were reported. For years civil society actors have been facing pressure from the government, including NGOs that work on women rights and against trafficking in human

beings. 161 human rights organisations, including La Strada International, have demanded an end to the repression against human rights defenders in Belarus. [See more](#)

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## LSI contributes to hearing UN Global Plan of Action

On 13 July, UNODC organised an online interactive multi-stakeholder hearing on the [UN Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons](#). La Strada International contributed with an [intervention](#), raising concern about the remaining gaps in the implementation of anti-trafficking action in Europe and globally. La Strada International continues to note serious gaps in the prevention and prosecution of human trafficking, as well as the identification, protection and support to trafficked persons. [See more](#)

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## FEMM and LIBE reject amendments invalidating concept ‘consent’

On 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of July, the EU FEMM and LIBE Committees voted on amendments and the comprised draft Report on identifying gender-based violence as a new area of crime listed in Article 83(1) TFEU. La Strada International, ICRSE, PICUM and 9 other European networks developed a [joint letter](#) calling upon MEPs of both committees to reject 4 amendments that would outlaw sex workers’ ability to consent. Fortunately MEPs rejected the amendments. [See more](#)

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## Members news

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## New podcast series by Anti-Slavery International

A new [podcast series](#) by **Anti-Slavery International** under the umbrella of the UK [Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group \(ATMG\)](#), informs about importance of including survivors in research and building policy responses. In another [Podcast series](#) of Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST), a series exploring the connections between global finance and modern slavery and human trafficking, Jasmine O’Connor, Chief Executive at Anti-Slavery International tells more in Episode 8 about their collaboration on a new approach to tackling modern slavery risks through insurance.

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## MRCI is raising funding for their drop in centre

During the pandemic, our member **Migrant Rights Centre Ireland, (MRCI)** Drop in Centre supported over 3,400 people in 2020 with advice on employment rights, residency queries

and access to basic services such as health, housing and more. To be able to continue this work, they started a crowdfunding action during the month July. You can still make a donation and help to fund the vital work of the Drop-in Centre.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/challengeforchange2021>

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## **CoMensha and Terre des Hommes jointly address exploitation of minors**

CoMensha and Terre des Hommes are going to work together to tackle the exploitation of minors and launch the independent national 'hotline on exploitation of minors' (*Meldpunt Uitbuiting Minderjarigen*). The current WATCH hotline of Terre des Hommes will be merged into this hotline. The hotline is primarily intended for concerned parents, victims themselves and, for example, social workers who wish to have further investigations into suspicions of human trafficking carried out.

See website [www.melduitbuitingminderjarigen.nl](http://www.melduitbuitingminderjarigen.nl) (Dutch only)

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## **FLEX reports on labour exploitation in hospitality sector in UK**

The publication "[To help workers, I would tell the Government to...](#)" [Participatory Research with Workers in the UK Hospitality Sector](#) highlights key workplace issues in the hospitality sector, finding it to be a high-risk sector for labour abuse and exploitation, with workers experiencing frequent issues with pay, inability to take time off sick, dangerous working conditions and work-related violence.

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## **KOK calls for improvement in victim protection in criminal proceedings**

In the new study [Rights of Victims of Human Trafficking in Criminal Proceedings - A Study of the Implementation of the Human Trafficking Directive 2011/36 / EU in Germany](#) (Germany only), LSI member KOK points out the need for improvements in victim protection in criminal proceedings. For this publication, KOK looked at court proceedings on human trafficking and asked experts about the situation and rights of those affected by human trafficking to shed light on the change in the law.

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**What is going on?**

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## EC launches public consultation on evaluation of Victims' Rights Directive

The European Commission seeks to gather input for its public consultation on the evaluation of the EU Victim's Rights Directive. This evaluation is one of the Commission's key actions set out in [the EU Strategy on Victims' Rights \(2020 – 2025\)](#). The consultation which will collect information, data, views and experiences on the Victims' Rights Directive, will close on 25 October 2021. To access the public consultation, please click [here](#).

[See more](#)



## GRETA adopts (final and draft) reports on Malta, UK, France and Latvia

The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) held its [41st meeting](#) from 5 to 8 July 2021. During the meeting, GRETA adopted final reports on Malta and the United Kingdom as part of the third round of evaluation of the Convention. GRETA also approved draft reports on France and Latvia, under the third evaluation round of the Convention.

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## OSCE OSR visits Bosnia and calls for support for victims of trafficking

During a recent field visit to Bosnia Herzegovina, Valiant Richey, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, called for more support to victims of trafficking in Bosnia Herzegovina. [See more](#)

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## EU Instruments to control the import of forced labour products

A consortium of NGOs recently published a position paper concerning EU instruments to control the import of products that are made with forced labour in the value chain. LSI's member Anti-Slavery International, Clean Clothes Campaign and the European Coalition for Corporate Justice are part of this consortium. [See more](#)

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## ELA campaign on seasonal workers

In June, the European Labour Authority (ELA) has launched an information campaign “Rights for all seasons”. This campaign, to raise the awareness of seasonal workers and the employers hiring them on existing rights, obligations and counselling services, is conducted in partnership with the European Commission, the EURES network, the European Platform tackling undeclared work, EU countries and social partners. [See more](#)

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### What's new?

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## PICUM study: lack of protection for undocumented domestic violence victims

A new study by the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) of 10 European countries shows that half do not grant protection through secure residence permits to undocumented victims of domestic violence. In these countries, undocumented people risk detention and deportation if they report domestic violence to the police. [See more](#)



## ILO Study - Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers

A new – third edition - of the [ILO Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers: Results and Methodology](#) presents the most recent estimates on the stock of international migrant workers, disaggregated by age, sex, country-income group and region, and the estimation methodology. [See more](#)

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## UNODC launches new study on the impact of covid on trafficked persons

A [new study](#) released this month by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) illustrates the devastating impact of COVID-19 on victims and survivors of [human trafficking](#) and highlights the increased targeting and exploitation of children during the course of the pandemic.

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## New blog on evidence in identifying trafficked people

Blog by Julia Muraszkievicz and Ryszard Piotrowicz:

<https://rli.blogs.sas.ac.uk/2021/06/08/whose-evidence-counts-problems-in-the-identification-of-victims-of-trafficking/>

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## Events

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- **Webinar Series on labour rights of undocumented migrants**  
In October, PICUM, ETUC and the ILO are organising a webinar series focusing on how to ensure labour rights of undocumented migrant workers? For more info and to register see <https://bit.ly/3kVx1i2>.
- **14 – 15 October 2021** – International Conference - Defining the Gap – Trafficking in Human Beings and Data Policy Organised by KOK, Germany.
- **15 – 17 September 2021** - LSI NGO Platform in Amsterdam



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