

Newsletter November

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](#)

LSI News

LSI promotes civil society involvement in UN Review Mechanism

The first phase of the monitoring process of the [review mechanism](#) to the UN Palermo Convention has started. 15 European countries are currently being reviewed. See [country pairings](#). In order to promote civil society involvement, LSI and GAATW have developed a short [guidance](#) for NGOs and recommend NGOs to get involved. [See more.](#)

Members News



Online event on undocumented workers' risks to human trafficking

LSI's member FairWork and the Dutch Red Cross organised an [online event](#) on 28 October 2021 to raise awareness about the high risks of trafficking and exploitation among undocumented workers in the Netherlands. LSI's International Coordinator contributed to the event, as moderator of the panel discussions. [See more](#)

FLEX reports on social insecurity and risks of exploitation during COVID-19

A new [research report](#) by FLEX [No viable alternatives: Social \(in\)security and the risk of labour exploitation during Covid-19](#) explores the experiences of migrant workers in low-paid and insecure work during the Covid-19 pandemic. In this report – a joint initiative with the [Independent Workers Union of Great Britain](#) (IWGB) and [United Voices of the World](#) (UVW), FLEX focuses on barriers to accessing employment rights and social protections and the associated risks of labour abuse and exploitation. [See more.](#)

Serbia will appoint a National Rapporteur against Trafficking

The Parliament of Serbia recently adopted a new Law for a ‘Protector of Citizens’ (Ombudsperson) of which new responsibilities should include the mandate of a National Rapporteur against Trafficking in Human Beings. LSI member ASTRA lobbied for this for 8 years. [See more](#)

What is happening?

Vietnamese workers at Chinese factory in Serbia calling for Help

On 15 November, LSI’s member ASTRA-Anti Trafficking Action and the NGO A11 addressed all relevant Serbian governmental actors to take action related to severe exploitation of a group of Vietnamese workers. [See more](#)



UN General Assembly reaffirms global action to end human trafficking

Through the adoption of a [Political Declaration](#) UN Member States reaffirmed their commitments made and strong political will to take decisive concerted action to end human

trafficking. At the High Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on 22 and 23 November in New York, the progress achieved in the implementation of the [Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons](#), which was adopted in 2010, was appraised. Earlier this year in July, LSI contributed to a global hearing on the action plan through an intervention. [See more](#)

Netherlands proposes new Au Pair regulations to combat exploitation

Au pairs who come to the Netherlands must from now on be young, unmarried and childless. With these rules, the Dutch government wants to prevent au pairs from being exploited and used as cheap home servants. [See more](#)

UN Rapporteurs call on G7 Trade Ministers to take concrete action against forced labour

On 2 November a statement was published by the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and others calling upon G7 Trade Ministers' [to follow their strong stance against forced labour in supply chains with concrete action](#).



European Minimum Wages to guarantee decent living standards for workers

A new draft EU law should ensure a minimum level of wage protection in all EU member states, in order to guarantee decent living standards for workers and their families. In a vote on Thursday 11 November, MEPs on the Employment and Social Affairs Committee backed laying down minimum requirements to protect wages across the EU, either by establishing a statutory wage (the lowest wage permitted by law), or by allowing workers to negotiate their wages with their employers. [See more](#)

What's new?

UNSR calls for inputs: Trafficking of persons in the agricultural sector

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, Ms. Siobhán Mullally, is preparing a report on trafficking of persons for purposes of forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, or servitude, in the agricultural sector. The objective of her upcoming report is to examine the limits of current legal and policy frameworks that contribute to risks of trafficking in persons in the agricultural sector. The Report will be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2022. [See more](#)

ICAT publication on trafficking for organ removal

A new [issue brief](#) published by ICAT provides an overview of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, its scope and impact. It further provides recommendations for States and practitioners on how to tackle this issue.

New CoE HELP training on trafficking for labour exploitation

The Council of Europe launched a new [HELP training module](#) on Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation.

New ODIHR study on regularisation of migrants in an irregular situation

During an online event held on 8 November, ODIHR and PICUM presented a study concerning the regularization of irregular migrants in the OSCE region. The [study](#) sets forth recent developments, points for discussion and recommendations for stakeholders, after analyzing various regularization mechanisms in place in the region. [See more](#)

FRA calls for effective access to legal assistance to ensure access to justice

Effective access to competent legal assistance is a key safeguard to enable people in return proceedings to exercise their rights to an effective remedy and access to justice. This is one of the findings of a new report by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) on '[Legal aid for returnees deprived of liberty](#)' which suggests steps national authorities could take to improve access to justice for people in return procedures.

Survey by ILO and IOM

Alliance 8.7 Secretariat invites all to respond to a stakeholder consultation survey jointly designed and implemented by ILO and IOM in the framework of their project “From

Research to Action ([RTA](#)): Using Knowledge to Accelerate Progress in the Elimination of Child Labour and Forced Labour”. You can access the [stakeholder consultation survey here](#).

Documentaries, films and Podcasts

This [documentary](#) reveals the devastating effects of Britain’s immigration law, via the stories of female survivors of domestic abuse and exploitation, who have insecure immigration statuses in the UK.

In a new podcast series produced by Puijola, migrant women discuss gender-based violence, and the importance of professional support in dealing with the experiences; <https://www.radioformigrants.eu/>.

Forced labour and child labour do not happen in isolation and often occur alongside other crimes and abuses. This new podcast series by the [ILO Global Business Network on Forced Labour](#) (ILO GBNFL) explores links and looks at how these issues can be tackled successfully together. Please listen [here](#).

Blogs



Revising EU Directive on human trafficking? For bad or good reasons?

Directive 2011/36/EU is not fully and correctly implemented, especially concerning its most innovative aspects on victims’ rights. Therefore, I’m convinced that its implementation should remain a priority. The main reason why a number of actors are calling for a revision of Directive 2011/36/EU, is the idea of making the provision on demand under art.18(4) binding. This is not a good reason. [Read full blog post](#)

Event updates

25 November 2021 (UK time 11-12.30) via Zoom [Online Event](#): 'The gig is up:

Participatory research with workers in the UK app-based delivery sector' report launch - Join FLEX for the launch of its report into the experiences and main drivers of abuse and exploitation in the UK app-based delivery sector. More info and sign up details via [this EventBrite link](#).

26th November 2021 - 3rd Annual Laura Lee Sex Worker Human Rights Public Lecture – see [more](#).

29 November – 1 December 2021 - [10th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights](#) - The [concept note](#) for this year event and further information is available on the [Forum website](#).

30 November 2021 – 14.00 – 15.30 Event - Victims of labour exploitation – falling between the cracks? Organised by Heuni – see https://bit.ly/reg_3011

1 December 2021 – Launch of the forthcoming World Migration Report – watch [here](#).

3 December 2021 - Victim Support Europe's Autumn Conference [Link](#)

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