

Newsletter December

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



La Strada International wishes everyone a happy 2022 in good health and with access to justice!

States should commit to a Human Rights Based approach

On 10th of December on International Human Rights Day, LSI [called](#) upon states to commit to a human rights based approach as serious gaps remain in the protection and support for trafficked persons.



Merry Conscious Christmas

To countdown to a Merry Conscious Christmas, La Strada International launched an online [Adventscalendar](#), highlighting how people can support our work and that of our members to address trafficking in human beings. 2 days left for Christmas.

Members News

PAG-ASA supports Vietnamese migrants in ‘Essex’ trial in Belgium

In Belgium the trial has started of those accused of transporting 39 Vietnamese people to the United Kingdom in the back of a lorry (Essex case), during which they suffocated. Our member PAG-ASA has filed a civil action to support – and give a voice to - a few Vietnamese migrants, who travelled through Belgium via the same criminal smuggling network during the same period, but were ‘fortunate’ not to have been shipped in the same refrigerated truck and thus survived. In total 24 men including ten taxi drivers are being tried. Earlier, four men have already been [found guilty](#) in the UK and given heavy sentences for their part in the transport.

Irish government announces new regularisation scheme for undocumented persons

After 11 years campaigning for a pathway to papers for undocumented people, Justice for the Undocumented (JFU) and MRCI have won! On 3 December, the Irish Government has officially announced the new regularisation scheme for undocumented persons. See [more](#)



20th anniversary La Strada Moldova

In November, La Strada Moldova celebrated its 20th anniversary. To reflect back on their journey they created this [video](#)

What is happening?

EU Calls upon Serbia to investigate allegations of forced labour

On 16 December, the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) voicing its concern over allegations of forced labour of around 500 Vietnamese people, who were recruited to work for the Chinese-owned Linglong Tire factory construction site in Serbia. Our member ASTRA in Serbia has been [advocating for action](#) to ensure access to justice for the Vietnamese workers. See [more](#)



European Council agrees on EU Framework on Minimum Wages

The European Council agreed its position on a Commission proposal for an EU law on adequate minimum wages. This decision paves the way for negotiations between Parliament and member states, possibly leading to the adoption of the directive as soon as Spring 2022. We hope this will create more decent working and living conditions in the EU. See [more](#)

New public consultation launched for evaluation of EU Trafficking Directive

The European Commission has ordered a study to support the evaluation of the Anti-Trafficking Directive and an impact assessment for a legislative proposal on the topic. Several consultations have been launched to identify gaps and assess the impact, in view of a potential revision of the Anti-Trafficking Directive. See [more](#)

Evaluation EU Victim Rights Directive

The [EU Victim Rights Directive](#) is currently being evaluated. The first conclusions of the evaluation findings were shared last week at the EU Victim Rights Platform and include gaps in its implementation, but also showed the added value of the Directive. See [more](#)

New GREVIO member elected

On 7 December 2021, Ms [Maria Rún Bjarnadóttir](#) was elected as new member of GREVIO, the Council of Europe's Group of experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence. Ms. Bjarnadóttir is Director for Internet Safety at the Icelandic National Commissioner for Police. The elections were held, following the withdrawal of Turkey from the Convention and the subsequent resignation of the Turkish member of GREVIO, due to which one of the 15 seats of GREVIO had become vacant.

What's new?



IOM releases World Migration Report 2022

The [World Migration Report 2022](#), which has been launched on the 1st of December by IOM, presents key data and information on migration as well as thematic chapters on highly topical migration issues such as human trafficking. See [more](#)

Migrant Worker Access to Justice for Wage Theft: A Global Study of Promising Initiatives

A new report [Migrant Worker Access to Justice for Wage Theft: A Global Study of Promising Initiatives](#) by the Migrant Justice Institute, identifies initiatives from around the world that seek to disrupt employer expectations of impunity and enable migrant workers to bring claims and obtain redress for wage theft. See further [recording](#) of the launch of the publication.

How clean are Europe's food supply chains?

OSEPI launched the report [How Clean Are Europe's Food Supply Chains? The Myths Fuelling the Massive Growth of Spain's Pork Industry](#), as a case study of the various labour, social, human rights, environmental issues in European supply chains, including exploitation of (undocumented) migrant workers. This report illustrates how internal European agri-food supply chains need cleaning up, both literally and figuratively.

New report exposes demand for forced labour in the illicit part of the economy

TRACIT has been investigating the incidence of - and demand for - forced labour in a largely overlooked part of the global economy, namely illicit market activities. According the report [The human costs of illicit trade: exposing demand for forced labour in the dark corners of the economy](#), Illicit trade thrives in the presence of regulatory gaps, poor law enforcement, weak state institutions and where informal markets have been left unattended.

What's new online

Short film on exploitation in construction sector

PAG-ASA published a [short film](#) about economic exploitation in the construction sector. The film, directed by Jorge Leon, is based on statements made to a social inspector of the Belgium National Social Security Office by a victim who was accompanied by PAG-ASA. His words bear witness to what victims endure during the exploitation.

Human Rights Forum recordings online

On 7 & 8 December the 23rd [EU-NGO Human Rights Forum](#) took place with side-events following on the 9 December. This year the Forum discussed how the EU can further protect civic space worldwide and promote a rights-based recovery through the strengthening of healthcare and decent work for everyone. The [recordings](#) of the sessions are now available online, together with the [interviews](#) of five human rights defenders.

Calls for submissions

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has launched a [consultation](#) for civil society organisations working in the EU, Serbia, Albania and North Macedonia to know about their daily challenges for their next report on protecting civic space. **The deadline is 13 January 2022.**

The UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons (UNVTF) opened a new call for Proposals for the sixth grant cycle. The guidelines, templates and other information related with this call can be found at their [website](#). The deadline is **31 January 2022.**

The UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery launched a call for input for his next report to the Human Rights Council for 2022. This report will focus on the victimisation of people belonging to ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, communities discriminated on work & descent as well as migrant workers in contemporary forms of slavery. See more [information](#). The deadline is **20 February 2022.**

In May 2022, the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) will take stock of the progress and achievements made towards implementation of the Global Compact for Safe,

Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). To this end, the UN Network on Migration will in **February 2022** launch its Repository of Practices on the [Migration Network Hub](#). Read their [guide](#) (also available in [French](#) and [Spanish](#)) on how to prepare your submission and share your practice.

GAATW calls for papers for the upcoming [Anti-Trafficking Review](#) issue “Home and Homelessness”. This issue aims to examine the link between migration, exploitation, and trafficking and housing or homelessness. Deadline for submissions is **1 July 2022**. See [more](#).

Donate to our member in exile

This year our member in Belarus has been [liquidated](#) by the Belarusian government. They are trying to continue their work while in exile. You can [donate](#) funding for them via LSI, then indicate ‘Belarus’. Via LSI [members’](#) websites you can also find options to donate to our other members.



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