

Newsletter February 2022

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

Concern about the Russian invasion and our colleagues in Ukraine

La Strada International is worried about the situation of the Ukrainian population, including our La Strada colleagues and the persons whose rights they are trying to protect. While most of La Strada Ukraine staff members have now left Kiev for other parts of Ukraine, some still remain in the capital. They continue hotline consultations via social media channels, as far as internet connections allow this. Staff members have also joined local initiatives to support persons where possible. You can follow our colleagues updates via [Facebook](#). Together with them, we call upon the international community to strongly react with far-reaching sanctions and to ensure respect for international human rights and humanitarian law.



Support La Strada Ukraine – Launch of emergency fund

To support our colleagues in Ukraine ([La Strada Ukraine](#)), La Strada International has established an emergency fund. Donations will be used to help them to remain safe, flee the country when possible, to access shelter and or other support for urgent needs. See [more](#).

La Strada Statement Victim Rights Day

On 22 February, on the European Day for Victims of Crime, La Strada International called upon European governments to offer trafficked persons access to a residence permit on personal grounds. LSI calls in particular for a revision of the EU 2004 Residence Permit Directive, to include a provision for a residence permit based on their personal situation of trafficked persons. See full [statement](#).

Policy brief on gaps related to the EU Anti Trafficking Directive

In October 2021, LSI contributed to a High Level expert meeting “Addressing the vulnerability of trafficked and exploited migrants: lights and shadows 10 years after the EU Directive 2011/36/EU”, which assessed the challenges and gaps in the implementation of the anti-trafficking Directive, an event organised by the VULNER project. A related policy paper has now been published. See [here](#).

La Strada International cooperates with ERA to counter human trafficking

In January, the Academy of European Law (ERA) launched a new project “[Countering Trafficking in Human Beings \(THB\)](#) - Practice-oriented training on measures to enhance investigations and prosecutions, disrupt the financial business model and intensify preventive measures projects”.

The main objective of this project is to train around 300 EU practitioners (mainly judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, financial and compliance officers and members of civil society/NGOs) in how to effectively counter human trafficking from a perspective that encourages better cooperation between Member States. Together with other [partners](#), La Strada International joined this project to support the training events. See [more](#)

LSI members news

FIZ Magazine on the topic of Victims of Human Trafficking exploited abroad

A publication by LSI's member FIZ reports about the Swiss application of the European CoE Convention to Combat Human Trafficking. Whereas the Convention clearly states that the access to support services under Art. 12 must be guaranteed independently of the place of exploitation, the Swiss Victim Aid Act denies access to victim aid to anyone who did not possess a residency in Switzerland at the time of the exploitation and has been exploited abroad. For foreign victims of trafficking, this means that they have technically only access to support if their exploitation took place in Switzerland, excluding those exploited abroad. See publication in [English](#) or [French](#).



FLEX published guide for Police and Labour Inspectors working with migrants

LSI's member [Focus on Labour Exploitation](#) (FLEX) and the [Latin American Women's Rights Service](#) (LAWRS) launched a joint publication '[Preventing and Addressing Abuse and Exploitation: A Guide for Police and Labour Inspectors Working with Migrants](#)'.

This publication highlights the negative impact of data-sharing between the police/labour inspectors and immigration enforcement on migrant victims of crime and shows how the introduction of safe reporting mechanisms can help prevent and address abuse and exploitation. It outlines practical strategies to increase trust between these agencies and migrant communities to enable migrants to securely report abuse and exploitation and agencies to access valuable intelligence to prevent and address these crimes. See related videos on [safe reporting for labour exploitation](#) and one for [domestic abuse](#).

What is happening?

EC announces proposal for a Directive for Corporate Social Responsibility

Two years after the announcement by European Commissioner Reynders, the European Commission has finally published this month its proposal for a [European Directive for Corporate Social Responsibility](#). Regrettably it is estimated by civil society actors that only 1% of all European companies fall under the law and companies do not have to investigate their entire chain for abuses. They can transfer their responsibility to their suppliers via a contractual clause. See [more](#).

Second Round UN Review Mechanism started but process not very transparent

In December 2021 the 2nd group of the first round of the [review mechanism](#) to the UN Palermo Convention started. The UN review seems to face severe delays. La Strada International and its members are trying to monitor the progress, but note that the process is not very transparent and states are either reluctant to provide more information, or ignorant about the process and their responsibilities. See [more](#).

Public EU consultation on transfer of criminal

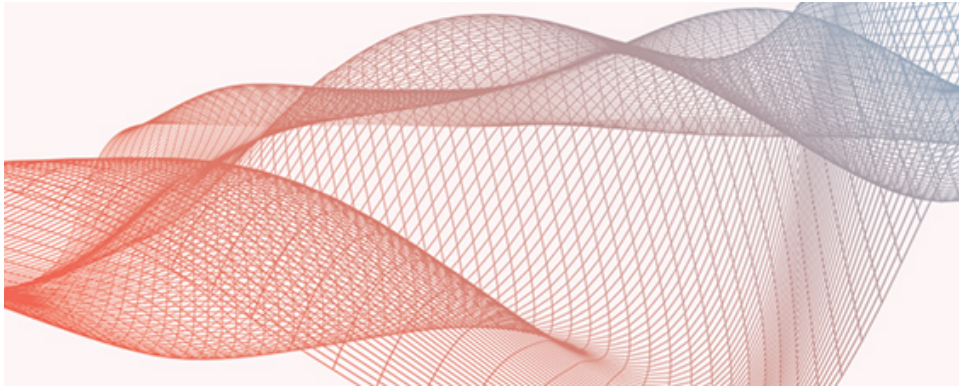
proceedings

The European Commission is currently working on a legislative initiative on the Transfer of Criminal proceedings and launched a general public consultation that is currently open. See more [here](#). The public consultation will close on 4 March.

CSOs and other actors raise concern about UK's Nationality and Borders bill

The UK [Nationality and Borders Bill](#) passed through the House of Commons unamended late last year. It is now making its way through the House of Lords where discussions on amendments to **part 5 of the Bill** will take place. LSI's members in the UK; FLEX and Anti-Slavery International and other CSOs have raised concern that the Bill as a whole represents a [dangerous and regressive move](#) in the UK's attitude to asylum, human rights and the victims of trafficking and represents a step backwards, conflating immigration enforcement with trafficking prevention and victim support. See more [here](#).

Five UN Special Rapporteurs, including the Rapporteurs on Trafficking and on Slavery spoke out about the UK's Nationality and Borders Bill [stating](#) that the bill 'undermines rights of victims of trafficking and modern slavery'.



OSCE Report on impact of internet on trafficking in human beings

On 15 February 2022, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) presented a study on policy measures against technology-based trafficking in human beings in a virtual launch event. The [report](#), entitled *Policy responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings: Analysis of current approaches and considerations for moving forward*, describes the increased influence of the internet on trafficking in human beings. See [more](#).

ITUC calls for making safe and healthy work a fundamental right

ITUC demands that the International Labour Organization (ILO) adopts occupational health and safety as a fundamental right at work. Three years have passed since the ILO Centenary Conference agreed that this would be done. In that time, according to ITUC, around 8.1 million people have died as a result of their work, and even more now live with life-altering injuries and illnesses because their employer did not protect them. The ITUC and its affiliates are therefore calling on governments to take action, see [more](#).

What's new?

UN publishes guide on rights-based bilateral agreements on labour migration

The UN Migration Network launched a new [guidance](#) for states and other actors, on how to ensure that bilateral labour migration agreements uphold human rights, including labour rights. The guidance stresses the need to protect workers and their families in case of loss or change of employment, and to adopt clear and transparent procedures for the extension or renewal of work permits, as well as pathways to settled status and citizenship. Measures to ensure that information, labour rights, equal treatment and effective remedy are meaningfully accessible for all workers, including when undocumented, are included.

Eurojust launches casework report on Victims' Rights

Eurojust Working Group on Victims' Rights launched a new [casework report on victims' rights](#). This report, based on Eurojust's operational work and using real case examples, identifies challenges faced by practitioners and presents solutions and best practices to address them.



FRA: Effective guardianship is key to protect unaccompanied children

Guardians are key to ensure children's well-being and that their best interests are taken into account. But the EU and its Member States continue to face many challenges to provide for full and effective guardianship for unaccompanied children arriving in Europe, reveals the [latest report from FRA](#).

Upcoming events

- **1-2 March 2022** - High-level virtual meeting under the French EU Presidency, co-organised by ILO Paris office and Alliance 8.7, Zero tolerance for child labour, forced

labour and human trafficking”, See [more](#) – La Strada International has been invited to speak

- **14 to 25 March 2022** – The sixty-sixth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW 66) will take place.
- **17 or 18 March (TBC)** - GRETA will launch its publication on online and technology-facilitated human trafficking.
- **22 March 2022** – [Deadline](#) - On 14 December, the Commission launched a 3rd public [consultation](#) for the evaluation of the THB Directive, which is open until 22 March 2021.
- **24-25 March 2022** - ERA webinar Countering impunity by enhancing investigations into and the prosecution of Human Trafficking, at ERA, Trier. See [more](#)
- **31 March 2022** - the [European Migration Network](#) will launch its new study on the detection, identification and protection of third-country national victims of trafficking in human beings. La Strada International has been invited to speak.
- **4-6 April 2022** – 22nd High-Level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference focusing on protection and assistance – and specifically the application of a victim-centred approach to support victims of trafficking in human beings and uphold their rights. LSI has been invited to speak. LSI and Council of Europe/GRETA secretariat plan a side event on the need for unconditional support and access to residence on personal grounds. More information soon available at [OSCE website](#)

Support La Strada’s work

La Strada International is dependent on donations and subsidies. If you want to support La Strada’s work financially, click [here](#). By making a gift, you will help us to continue our monitoring and advocacy work to ensure accountability for the effective implementation of European Anti-Trafficking policies and regulations and the support to trafficked persons



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