

# UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT AND ACCESS TO RESIDENCE ON PERSONAL GROUNDS IS NEEDED TO UPHOLD TRAFFICKED PERSONS' RIGHTS.

**Time: Tuesday 5 April 9.30 - 11.00 CET**

This side event is organised alongside the 22nd High Level Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons "Protection: upholding victims' rights and strengthening assistance" 4-6 April 2022.

## Description of the event

Access to support and residence is critical for the safety, stability, and future perspective of trafficked persons. However, access to support and residence for victims of human trafficking is currently very closely tied with the criminal legal system. Access depends first on identification, and then on cooperation with, and the needs of, law enforcement. This leaves many people without the protection, support and assistance they need and are entitled to. It leads to repeat victimisation.

The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings requires that assistance to victims is not made conditional on their willingness to act as witnesses or co-operate with competent authorities in the investigations and criminal proceedings. It foresees unconditional assistance and renewable residence permits on account of the personal situation of victims of trafficking.

This event will provide an analysis of the state of play and spotlight country examples that highlight both the need and policy options for a more person and human rights-centred approach to trafficking in human beings.

Language of the event: English.

Moderator: Ms. Lilana Keith, Senior Advocacy Officer, Labour rights and labour migration, PICUM.

## SPEAKERS:

### Ms. Petya Nestorova

Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings/Council of Europe.

### Ms. Marija Andjelkovic

Director ASTRA-Anti trafficking action, Serbia.

### Ms. Mercy Obade

Cultural social worker at Hope Now, Denmark and member of the OSCE International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC).

### Michelle Mildwater

Director Hope Now.

Convener/Sponsoring organization: Council of Europe/GRETA secretariat.

The event is organised by La Strada International - European NGO platform against human trafficking in cooperation with LSI's member LEFO IBF and the Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM).

[Register here](#)