

## Newsletter April 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](#).

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### LSI news

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#### LSI contributes to OSCE Alliance conference

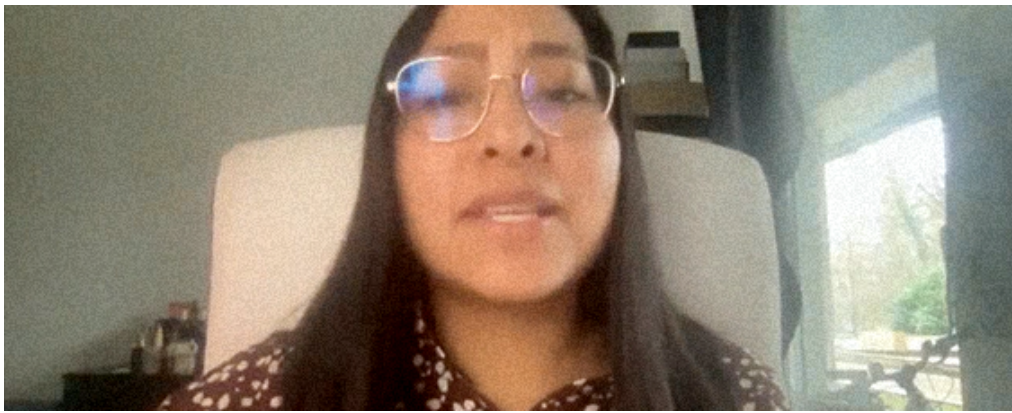
On 3-4 April, OSCE organised the [22<sup>nd</sup> high-level Alliance Conference against Trafficking in Persons](#), with a focus on protecting victims of human trafficking and upholding their rights. LSI's International Coordinator, Suzanne Hoff spoke at the first panel session and highlighted in her [presentation](#) that victims of human trafficking should be entitled to adequate assistance and support, regardless of residence status and on the basis of (indications of) their victimhood and violations of human rights, and not on the basis of their cooperation with the authorities. The report of the OSCE meeting is expected to be published later at the [OSCE website](#).

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#### Unconditional support and access to residence

Parallel to the OSCE conference La Strada International organised, together with LEFO IBF, PICUM and the Council of Europe/GRETA secretariat, a [side event](#) on 5<sup>th</sup> April on unconditional support and access to residence on personal grounds. You can still watch the [recording](#).

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## Webinar Promoting NGO – Media partnerships on reporting about trafficking

On 20 April, the Journalismfund.eu's Modern Slavery Unveiled programme and La Strada International organised a webinar on Promoting NGO – Media partnerships: reporting about human trafficking. Speakers discussed the role of the media in raising awareness about human trafficking, reducing vulnerabilities and holding governments, law enforcement and businesses to account. The recording is still available [here](#).

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## Monitoring work related with the war in Ukraine and assessing related risks

La Strada International is working with Freedom Fund on a rapid assessment of risks and gaps in the anti-trafficking response related to the prevention of human trafficking of refugees from Ukraine. For this assessment a visit to Poland took place from 10-13 of April. This assessment report is expected to be published around 9 May 2022. See [more](#) on our current monitoring work on Ukraine.

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## Survey launched on trafficking-related risks with the war in Ukraine

La Strada International has launched an online survey for national and international governmental bodies, civil society actors and others, to collect responses on the main trafficking-related risks to refugees from Ukraine, including refugees formerly resident, but not citizens of, Ukraine. We hope you can contribute to this [survey](#). In the next newsletter we hope to share the first results, so please respond by 20 May 2022.

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## LSI members news

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## Novi Put receives Stop Slavery Hero Award

Novi Put, LSI's member in Bosnia Herzegovina has won the global 2022 Stop Slavery Hero Award of the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "We are immensely proud that we receive this prestigious award" states Abida Pehlic of Novi Put. See more information on the award and other recipients [here](#).



## La Strada Ukraine speaks at UN Security Council

Kateryna Cherepakha, Director of La Strada Ukraine, spoke at the UN Security Council on 11 April 2022. She raised concern about how women and children are vulnerable to the risks of gender based violence and exploitation and mentioned cases of forced deportations, kidnapping, killing and rape. She called upon all members of the Security Council, international institutions and governments to stop the war in Ukraine and ensure the safety of children, women and men of Ukraine, which would be the best prevention of human trafficking. See her presentation [here](#).

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## FLEX

FLEX and the [Latin American Women's Rights Service](#) (LAWRS) have published [a guide](#) highlighting the negative impact of sharing personal data without consent between the police/labour inspectors and immigration enforcement and showing how safe reporting mechanisms can help prevent and address abuse and exploitation. Two videos accompany the report on the importance of safe reporting for [labour exploitation](#) and [domestic abuse](#).

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## What is happening?

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## Victim Rights Platform and revision

On 26 April, the European Commission organised a consultation meeting for civil society actors that are member of the Victim Rights Platform on the review of the Victims' Rights Directive. Participants discussed victims' rights to protection and strengthening victims' access to support services. A next consultation session will be held on 10 May to discuss victims' access to justice, compensation and restoration including horizontal supportive measures to victims of crime, including to victims of war crimes. The public consultations for the EU Victim Rights Directive revision are still ongoing. You can provide feedback until 31 May 2022, please click [here](#).

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## EU anti-trafficking action plan on Ukraine

The EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ATC) is currently drafting a common Anti-trafficking Plan on Ukraine, which was announced under point 6 of the Commission's [10-Point Plan for stronger European coordination on welcoming people fleeing the war against Ukraine](#). Several LSI members have provided input to their national governments for this Plan.

Earlier on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022, the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator organised a meeting with civil society actors, to discuss the current situation in Ukraine, in relation to trafficking in human beings, to exchange information on victim support and to see what can be done to support civil society in counter-trafficking actions.

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## Frontex boss quits over allegations of mismanagement and pushbacks

On 29<sup>th</sup> of April, Fabrice Leggeri has resigned as head of Frontex, the EU border agency. Frontex has repeatedly been accused by aid groups of illegally returning migrants across EU borders - or of turning a blind eye when national authorities themselves carried out such "pushbacks". Greece's land and sea borders with Turkey have been a major focus of such allegations. This month an investigation by French daily *Le Monde* and investigative outfit Lighthouse Reports found that Frontex recorded pushbacks in Greek waters between March 2020 and September 2021 as "operations to prevent departures (towards Europe), carried out in Turkish waters".

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### What's new?

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## Special ATR issue on traffickers

The new [Special Issue of Anti-Trafficking Review](#) tries to fill the knowledge gap on traffickers. It provides insights into the characteristics, motivations, and modus operandi of traffickers, their relationships with victims, and their treatment in the criminal justice system. The issue reveals that many of the people convicted as traffickers are not members of organised criminal group, but like their victims, come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, ethnic and racial minorities, or other marginalised groups.

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## UNODC publishes report on concept of ‘harbouring’ in the trafficking protocol

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has recently issued a research issue paper entitled “[The Concept of Harbouring in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol](#)” to provide information on how countries globally have incorporated the concept of harbouring in their national practice. While the Trafficking in Persons Protocol is ratified by many countries globally, uncertainty over certain aspects of the definition of trafficking persists, as there is little guidance in the Protocol or interpretative materials concerning its meaning and application. See [more](#).

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## Access to compensation and reparation trafficked persons

A new [policy paper](#) by the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner finds low levels of compensation granted to trafficking survivors in the UK and calls for improved access to compensation and improved data collection and analysis of claims made and awarded. ATLEU, the Anti-Trafficking and Labour Exploitation Unit, has launched a [new toolkit](#) to help those working with survivors to prepare and submit an initial application to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) in the UK.

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## ILO publishes compendium on rights of undocumented migrant workers

The International Labour Organisation published its first ever global [compendium](#) exclusively focused on irregular labour migration and the rights of migrant workers in irregular situations. The compendium provides an overview of relevant international law and guidance, and identifies practices of States, employers’ and workers’ organizations that facilitate respect and promotion of the human rights of all migrant workers, regardless of status. (source PICUM newsletter April 2022)

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## New research: what works in the prevention of modern slavery in the UK?

New research has been published by the Modern Slavery Policy Evidence Centre (PEC), which examines current initiatives to prevent labour and sexual exploitation in the UK. The research developed twelve principles for prevention programmes, including prioritising community-based and survivor-led initiatives, promoting deep literacy rather than ‘surface



knowledge' of exploitation, and coordinated 'whole systems' responses. A full report and a shorter Research Summary are available [on the Modern Slavery PEC website](#), alongside a blog with [five key lessons learned](#).

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## New videos and podcasts promoting workers' rights

In the context of Labour Day's week, PICUM launched a new animation "[Fair labour migration: why we need decent work permits in Europe](#)": FLEX produced a [new video](#) on the links between labour abuses and more severe forms of labour exploitation, featuring testimonies from workers. The innovation forum published a new podcast on how the new EU Directive on corporate sustainability due diligence will be implemented? [Listen](#) here.

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## Upcoming events

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## Constructive dialogues for UN Review Mechanism

On 1 July 2022, the [Constructive Dialogues for the Review Mechanism of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime \(UNTOC\)](#) will take place. Interested non-governmental stakeholders (irrespective of ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) status) are welcome to apply by completing the form on the following [link](#) until 8 May 2022.

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## Seminar on Financial Investigation of Trafficking in Human Beings

On 14 and 15 July, ERA will organise a second seminar in Thessaloniki, Greece as part of a series of three co-financed by the European Commission. This seminar focusses on disrupting the financial business model of THB, following the money and untangling the business chain. Speakers will look at police and judicial cooperation in the field of THB financial investigations and confiscating assets, including red-flag indicators in various areas, such as money service businesses. See more [here](#) about how to register, conditions for participation and selection. La Strada International and LEFO IBF will be contributing to this seminar.

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## Support La Strada's work

La Strada International is fully dependent on donations and subsidies. 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. Currently we are collecting funding for the work of La Strada

Ukraine, see more [here](#).



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