

Newsletter May 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



Human Rights Orchestra supports La Strada through a concert

On 5th of May 2022, the [Human Rights Orchestra](#) organised a concert in Lucerne, Switzerland. The concert aimed to advocate generally for human rights and to recognize the work of La Strada International and [Avant-Garde Lawyers](#) who have been selected this year to receive the proceeds from the tickets. La Strada International – represented by Joanna Garnier of La Strada Poland at the concert - is very thankful for the support provided by the great musicians of the orchestra, under the lead of Alessio Allegrini.

LSI and The Freedom Fund assessment report on trafficking risks of those fleeing Ukraine

La Strada International in partnership with [The Freedom Fund](#) undertook [a rapid assessment](#) of the current gaps in the counter-trafficking response related to the war in Ukraine. The research, carried out in March and April 2022, concludes the risks of trafficking and exploitation are likely to increase as the war continues. The report provides recommendations for governments, international organisations, civil society, and donors to prevent human trafficking risks. See [more](#)



LSI representation in the period May

On 11 and 12 May, Victim Support Europe hosted its [Annual Conference 2022](#) in Malta with the title “The Age of Resilience”. LSI participated and spoke about trafficking and exploitative practices of vulnerable groups both during the COVID-19 pandemic and now with the war in Ukraine. On 24 May, the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) hosted an on-line event called “Criminalizing the Buying of Sex? Experiences from the Nordic Countries”. La Strada International contributed to this webinar. Click [here](#) to watch the recording of the webinar. On 25 May, LSI, the Council of Europe and The Freedom Fund organised a joint [webinar](#) ‘Addressing the risks of human trafficking related to the war in Ukraine; what responses are needed?’

LSI members news

Anti-Slavery International reacts to the EU due diligence law proposal

Anti-Slavery International released a comprehensive analysis of the EU Commission’s proposal for a new Human rights and environmental due diligence law (HREDD). If adopted, this law has the potential to limit labour exploitation from businesses and support victims. However, the current version brings about loopholes that brake this opportunity. [Read more](#)

Revision Dutch temporary residence for trafficking victims unfounded

Because of suspicions of false declarations the Dutch former State Secretary of Justice and Security adjusted the temporary residence permit for human trafficking victims. Research by Lost in Europe now shows that this adjustment is unfounded. For their investigative research, the journalists spoke with various chain partners in tackling human trafficking, including LSI’s member CoMensha. See [more](#).

What is happening?

EU anti-trafficking action plan on Ukraine

On May 11, the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (ATC) published a [new EU Anti-Trafficking Plan](#) to protect people fleeing the war in Ukraine, which has been developed together with different EU agencies and EU Member States, as part of a [10 Point Action Plan](#). The AT plan builds on the [EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings](#) and sets forward five goals related to strengthen awareness, prevention and enhancing law enforcement and judicial response, as well as improve early identification, support and protection of potential trafficking victims from Ukraine in EU countries but also in Ukraine and Moldova. La Strada International calls upon the European Commission to invest sustainably and strengthen in particular existing anti-trafficking structures and hotline services in close cooperation with governments and civil society.



GRETA issues Guidance Note to address trafficking risks related to war in Ukraine

The Council of Europe's expert group GRETA, released a set of policy recommendations for European states, to quickly provide immediate assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine and detect potential victims and traffickers. GRETA's recommendations include ensuring adequate registration, the training of law enforcement officials and the provision of clear information to refugees. Read the [Guidance Note](#)

To follow up on GRETA's third evaluation reports, round tables meetings were organised in Austria, Slovakia, Serbia and Cyprus, this month. These meetings were organised to discuss progress made by these countries in the implementation of the third report. See [more](#)

Possible Amendment ILO declaration Fundamental principles and Rights at work

During the 110th International Labour Conference (30 May – 11 June), a proposed amendment to the ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work to include occupational safety and health as a [fundamental principle and right at work](#) will be discussed. If the proposed amendment is adopted, member States would have an obligation to respect and promote safe and healthy working conditions in the same manner and with the same level of commitment as the four principles currently covered by the Declaration (freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, elimination of forced labour, the abolition of child labour, and the elimination of discrimination).

INTA Committee votes in favour for an EU import ban

The [INTA committee](#) voted in May on the draft resolution for a trade instrument to ban the import and export of products made or transported by forced labour. The resolution was adopted by 37 votes, with no votes against and five abstentions. The [draft resolution](#) is scheduled to be debated in June and it is expected that the resolution will feed into the Commission's proposal on how to ban forced labour products. The new legislative instrument is planned for September 2022. The European Commission has now launched a [public consultation](#) where you can provide your feedback on this proposal until 20 June 2022. See [more](#)

What's new?

UN Rapporteur publishes report on trafficking in persons in agriculture sector

Siobhán Mullaly, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, published her report [Trafficking in persons in the agriculture sector: human rights due diligence and sustainable development](#). Several LSI members including FLEX, SICAR Cat; Proyecto Esperanza and FIZ have submitted contributions to the report.

As reflected in the report, the agricultural sector is characterised by high levels of informality, lack of oversight and protection, due to which temporary, seasonal and migrant workers remain at risk of exploitation in the sector. The shortage of and strong demand for agricultural workers, has not lead to better workers protection or safe migration pathways. In the report, the Special Rapporteur highlights the importance of mandatory human rights and environment due diligence measures to address exploitation in the sector. Her report will be presented at the Human Rights Council in June.



New report by PICUM: Digital technology and migration

The EU is increasingly using digital technology to control people who move, both at its borders and in immigration procedures. What does it mean for undocumented migrants?

The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) assesses the risks that the use of digital technology generate for undocumented migrants and suggests how EU could prevent violating their fundamental rights. [Read more](#)

ICAT launches policy brief ‘Addressing vulnerability to trafficking in persons’

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), launched a new policy brief, aiming to shed light on the concept of vulnerability and the different dimensions and factors that make a person vulnerable to trafficking in persons, while providing recommendations to relevant stakeholders in addressing those factors and mitigating the related risks. See [here](#)



Greece: A two-tier refugee system

A new brief by Oxfam, the Greek Council for Refugees and Save the Children looks at how Greece’s welcome of people fleeing **Ukraine** stands in stark contrast with others seeking safety. [Read more](#)

Trafficking, sex work and reproductive health among West African migrant women

Themes as labour migration, trafficking, sex work, debt and reproductive health, are often tackled separately, but the reality experienced by women on the move shows that they are much more intertwined than it might seem. This new report published by the Danish Institute for International Studies aims at exploring these connections bringing to the core of the conversation the first-hand experience of migrant women from West Africa. [Access the report](#)

Event updates

- **13 June – 8 July - [50th session HRC](#)** – where the new UNSR report on trafficking in the agriculture sector will be presented. A side event on the report might be

organised on 23 June 2022.

- **16 June 2022** - Domestic Workers Rights Day
- **16 - 17 June 2022** – negotiation and adoption of new CoE recommendation on labour exploitation
- **20 - 22 June 2022** - LSI NGO Platform in Helsinki, Finland including public (live streamed) Seminar ”**A Spotlight on Access to Justice for Victims of Human Trafficking: the role of Media and National Supervisory Authorities**”
- **23 June 2022** - [CEDAW elections](#)
- **27-30 June 2022** (13-15 (alternative date) - Porticus partners meeting in Brussels

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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