



Newsletter June-July 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

Preventing exploitation and ensuring decent working opportunities for persons fleeing Ukraine

On Friday 24 June, LSI, ILO and ETUC hosted a [webinar](#) with a focus on the labour rights of people fleeing Ukraine. Various speakers discussed obstacles encountered to find decent work, the measures taken by governments to assist them and how to identify and prevent labour abuse among refugees from Ukraine. Panellists concluded that more data exchange and cooperation between the different actors is needed, as well as further awareness and monitoring to ensure decent work for all refugees.

LSI General Assembly Meeting in Helsinki, Finland

From 20-22 June La Strada International organised its annual NGO Platform (General Assembly meeting) for its members in Helsinki, Finland, hosted by LSI's member RIKU, Victim Support Finland. Next to plenary sessions on strategic LSI actions, European advocacy and legal developments, 9 workshop sessions were organised, as well as a seminar and meetings with several relevant Finish anti-trafficking stakeholders. See [more](#)



LSI & Victim Support Finland organise livestreamed seminar on access to justice

On 21 June, La Strada International and its member organisation RIKU (Victim Support Finland) organised a seminar on access to justice for victims of human trafficking. Watch the YouTube livestream [here](#). See more information [here](#)

LSI members news

ASTRA published new report on Linglong case of exploited Vietnamese workers

LSI's member ASTRA published a new [report](#) "Would you really buy this?", in an attempt to collect and compile all of the relevant data and findings, regarding the case of labour exploitation of the Vietnamese workers contracted to work in the Linglong tire factory in Zrenjanin, Serbia. Over the last seven months, ASTRA has provided direct support to the workers, conducted field visits but also continued to put pressure on the Serbian authorities to take their responsibility.

FLEX conducts research on working conditions in the UK

LSI's member FLEX in the UK, is currently working on two new research projects. The [first one](#) explores the scale and nature of labour market non-compliance in the UK, with a particular focus on precarious work.

The [second project](#) aims to build evidence for the need to make temporary work schemes in agriculture safer and fairer for migrant workers in the UK.

What is happening?

Proposed new EU rules increase risk of fundamental rights violations

LSI joined a coalition of nearly 40 NGOs that released a joint statement on the reform of the Schengen Borders Code, which presents an increased risk of racial profiling and other violations of fundamental rights. Read more about the reform [here](#)



G7 leaders asked to stop forced labour and grave human rights violations of Uyghurs

Members and supporters of the [Coalition to End Forced Labour in the Uyghur Region](#) urged the G7 annual Leaders' Summit on 26-28 June to urge the adoption of concrete measures to combat forced labour and other grave human rights violations against Uyghurs and other Turkic and Muslim majority peoples of the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (Uyghur Region), perpetrated by the government of China. La Strada International and several of our members co-signed the [call for action](#).

On 21 of June a new historic US law came into effect, which takes sweeping measures to address corporate profiteering from Uyghur Forced Labour. See [blog](#) on this law, by our member Anti-Slavery International.

Constructive Dialogues UN Review Mechanism

On 1st of July, UNODC organised the [constructive dialogues](#) for the [UN Review Mechanism](#) regarding migrants smuggling and human trafficking. The purpose of the constructive dialogue was to brief a wide range of stakeholders, including NGOs on how the review process has developed. See here the [intervention](#) by La Strada International, as well as the [intervention by KOK](#); [LEFO IBF](#) as well as the [video intervention](#) by GAATW.

European Parliament calls for import ban of forced labour products

On June 9, the European Parliament [adopted](#) a resolution calling for an import ban on products produced with forced labour from entering the EU market. Public authorities should detain and seize the goods at the EU borders in case there is “sufficient evidence” that the goods were made or transported by forced labour. The European Commission is expected to present a proposal for an instrument to combat forced labour after the summer. La Strada International joined a civil society consortium to follow the developments and also provided input to the [EU consultation](#) on the matter. See more information [here](#)

CEDAW elections - Ukraine candidate Kateryna Levchenko not elected

On 23 of June, at the 22nd meeting of States parties CEDAW elections took place and twelve new members of the Committee [have been elected](#) out of 23 candidates. Current CEDAW members from Spain; Ana Pelaez Narvaez and Bulgaria; Genoveva Tisheva were re-elected. Estonia’s nominated candidate Marianne Mikko was elected for the first time. La Strada International [strongly supported](#) Ukraine’s nominated candidate, Dr. Kateryna Levchenko, who has unfortunately not been elected. See [more](#)

Occupational safety and Health fundamental principle and right at work

In June, the ILO Governing Body [approved](#) 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](#). Member States now 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).

GRETA elections foreseen for end 2022

GRETA elections are expected to be held later this year, as the term of 7 GRETA members will terminate on 31 December 2022. Some of these GRETA members can stand again. The deadline for governments to submit nominations is **11 September 2022**. The elections should take place in late November or early December. La Strada International calls upon civil society to lobby for good candidates!

Conny Rijken new Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings

Prof. Conny Rijken will take office as of 1 September 2022 as the new Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children. Conny Rijken is currently professor of Human Trafficking and Globalization at Tilburg University. She is also a member of GRETA. La Strada International congratulates Conny Rijken and is looking forward to close cooperation. See [more](#)



Ukraine ratifies Istanbul Convention

On 20 June, Ukraine's parliament passed a bill ratifying the Istanbul Convention. After years of advocacy and calls from human rights activists including La Strada Ukraine, Ukraine finally adopted the treaty amid its EU membership bid. La Strada Ukraine calls it a 'historic moment' and hopes that the ratification will decrease both the number of gender-based violence and domestic violence cases in the country and ensure an increase in resources of assistance available for victims. See [more](#)

What's new?

ITUC launches 2022 Global Rights Index on respect for workers' rights

The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) launched its [Global Rights Index](#) 2022 edition. This Index ranks 148 countries on the degree of respect for workers' rights and links with an [interactive website](#) where cases of violated rights and national ratings can be viewed by country and region. According to the index, collective bargaining rights were severely trampled in most European countries while in Eastern European countries, independent trade union movements were still heavily suppressed. The number of countries where workers experienced violent attacks showed a marked increase from 12 per cent to 26 per cent of countries.

OECD Watch's 'State of Remedy' report finds NCPs largely fail to facilitate effective remedy

OECD Watch's annual 'State of Remedy' report finds National Contact Points (NCPs) still largely failing to facilitate effective remedy outcomes in 2021. Cases filed with National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines left complainants largely empty-handed in 2021. [The report](#) underscores the need for mandatory due diligence laws with effective enforcement, and it confirms that an update of the Guidelines is urgently needed if they are to remain a leading international standard on responsible business conduct.

UNSR presents report on trafficking in agriculture

Siobhán Mullaly, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, especially women and children published and presented her report [Trafficking in persons in the agriculture sector: human rights due diligence and sustainable development](#) on 21 June to the Human Rights Council, you can still see the recording [here](#)

PICUM Guide to Undocumented Workers' Rights at Work under International and EU Law

As a outcome of the ETUC-ILO-PICUM online [legal seminar series](#) on how to ensure labour rights of undocumented migrant workers in a changing economy in October 2021, PICUM published a "[Guide to Undocumented Workers' Rights at Work under International and EU Law](#)". The guide highlights rights of undocumented migrants in the labour context under international and EU law, and some important case law on violations of those rights, as a reference for all stakeholders. The guide is available in [English](#), [Italian](#), [Greek](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). You can also read more in PICUM's [blog](#)

Information and prevention materials refugees from Ukraine

The European Commission released a new video with tips for Ukrainians entering the EU and looking for shelter. See [here](#). ICMPD launched a [podcast: Refugees Welcome? Challenges and opportunities to the integration process of Ukrainians in the EU](#). On 8th of June they also organised a webinar on Good practices, challenges and opportunities for beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from Ukraine; you can still listen to it via youtube [here](#)

Upcoming events

- **14-15 July 2022** - ERA training Financial investigation of Human Trafficking, at ESDI, Thessaloniki. For more information see [ERA – Academy of European Law > Financial Investigation of Trafficking in Human Beings](#)
 - **18 July 2022** - 16:30-17:30 CEST - launch event of 2021 Survey Report of efforts to implement OSCE commitments and recommended actions to combat trafficking in human beings, Vienna Austria. https://www.osce.org/odihr/shdm_3_2022
 - **30 July 2022** – World day against Trafficking in Human Beings - This year's focus is the role of technology both to enable and impede human trafficking. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/endht/index.html>
 - **8-9 September 2022** - ERA training Reducing demand and preventing THB, at CEJ, Lisbon. See [more](#)
 - **20-21 September 2022** - Regional Council of Europe Conference on Combating Labour Trafficking in Europe: Standards, Realities and Challenges, Belgrade Serbia
 - **30 September 2022** - International Expert Round Table - MIND THE GAP! Tackling the lack of attention on preventing human trafficking and exploitation. See [more](#)
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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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