

## Newsletter August 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 and members join OSCE's BE SAFE campaign**

In July, LSI joined the digital awareness 'Be Safe' campaign by the OSCE's Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Thomson Reuters. This campaign, which targets refugees from Ukraine, provides information on recognizing and minimizing trafficking risks and how to get assistance, referring to available European hotline services, including the ones run by LSI members. See more <https://www.helpforukrainians.info>

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### **LSI contracted to conduct research for HEUNI on Ukraine and Poland**

HEUNI, the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control has contracted La Strada International to collect data on the modus operandi of traffickers and AT actors involved in both Ukraine and Poland. See [more](#)

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### Report on vulnerability migrant live in care workers in London

A [new report](#), published by - among others - our member FLEX, highlights the vulnerability of migrant live-in care workers in London to modern slavery. The report explores what can be done to mitigate risks, setting recommendations to reduce workers' vulnerability, particularly for those with precarious immigration status. See the full report and policy briefing [here](#)

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### Belgium establishes reporting centre victims of trafficking

In July, a new website [www.stophumantrafficking.be](http://www.stophumantrafficking.be) for victims of human trafficking was launched in Belgium by the three specialized anti-trafficking centers, including LSI members Payoke in Antwerp and PAG-Asa in Brussels, together with Sūrya in Liège. Victims and private individuals can report a situation – or find more information - about human trafficking and assistance options. In 2023 a joint national free and confidential telephone line, active 24/7, will become operational.

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### New emergency accommodation center for Ukrainian exiles in Grasse

LSI's Associate member, [ALC](#) in France manages a new emergency accommodation center to house and provide social support and access to health care for Ukrainian refugees, including schooling for children in cooperation with several French partners. The centre is funded by the French government.

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### Two La Strada colleagues awarded with 2022 TIP Hero Award

On 19 July the US government launched the [2022 US TIP report](#), which assesses the efforts by governments worldwide to prevent human trafficking; protect victims and prosecute traffickers. LSI is proud that the Presidents of La Strada Poland, Ms. Irena Dawid - Olczyk and La Strada Ukraine, Ms. Kateryna Cherepakha were both awarded with the '2022 TIP Report Hero Acting to End Modern Slavery Award'. See [more](#)

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## A binding EU provision for criminalising the knowing use of trafficking victims?

Article 18(4) of the current EU Anti-Trafficking Directive recommends the criminalisation of the knowing use of services which are the objects of exploitation, as one of the ways to curb demand. The European Commission is now considering revising the EU THB Directive of 2011 and to make this a binding provision for EU Members States. It is expected that the evaluation of the THB Directive and the revision of the Directive will be announced on 13th of December 2022. Read [more](#).

La Strada International is conducting a series of interviews on the impact of criminalising the knowing use with relevant stakeholders. Do you want to be interviewed and give your opinion on the matter, please contact us at [mb@lastradainternational.org](mailto:mb@lastradainternational.org)

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## UK Supreme Court overturns diplomatic immunity for servitude cases

In July, the UK Supreme Court overturned diplomatic immunity for modern slavery and servitude cases. This is the first time that a leading national court has held that modern slavery falls within the commercial activity exception to diplomatic immunity and that an acting diplomat can be sued for these actions. You can read the judgment [here](#).

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## Also UK ratifies Istanbul Convention but Turkey can 'legally pull out'

After recently Moldova and Ukraine ratified the EU Istanbul Convention on Violence against Women, now also the United Kingdom [committed](#) this July to this important women rights instrument; on 1 November 2022, the Convention will enter into force in the country. UK's ratification came two days after a Turkey's top administrative court ruled that Turkish [President Erdogan's](#) move to pull Turkey out of this European treaty was lawful, a decision which came after a year of [legal appeals](#) filed by the leading opposition party and women's rights groups, urging the court to block the withdrawal.

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## Evaluation Victim Rights Directive published

End of June, the European Commission published the adopted [evaluation](#) of the Victims' Rights Directive. The evaluation shows that the Victims' Rights Directive has greatly contributed to improving the lives of victims across the EU. However, the evaluation also points that there are still situations where not all victims can fully rely on their rights due to a lack of clarity and precision in the drafting of some of the rights in the Directive. The Commission will continue working on strengthening victims' rights and plans to propose a revision of the Victims' Rights Directive next year. See [more](#)

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### What's new?

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## Implementation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive

The European Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) compiled an overview of key aspects of national laws implementing the EU Temporary Protection Directive in nine EU Member States. See [more](#)

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## OSCE survey report on state efforts to Implement Trafficking Commitments

Last month, OSCE published a [2021 Survey Report](#) which finds that OSCE participating States should scale-up their anti-trafficking responses both at policy and practice levels. Not surprising - and in line with many earlier EU and other governmental and civil society reports - the survey outcomes reveal that a significant number of victims remain unidentified and that many traffickers remain undetected and/or unpunished, even when victims have been identified.

Numerous barriers to further progress in these areas are mentioned many related to resource availability, the complexity of THB as a crime, and a lack of incentives for victims to access services and for many the threat of mandatory return to country of origin.

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## Understanding Fundamental Rights of Migrant Workers in the EU

A new [study](#), commissioned by the European Parliament's Policy Department for Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs at the request of the LIBE Committee, aims to inform policy debates about how to protect more effectively the fundamental rights of irregular migrant workers in the EU.

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# Labour inspection and monitoring of recruitment of migrant workers

With a view towards contributing to achieving fair recruitment of migrant workers, a new [ILO paper](#) offers an overview of the main challenges pertaining to monitoring of recruitment of migrant workers by labour inspectorates, along with suggested ways forward.

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## Call for members for OSCE Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC)

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is calling for applications to join its International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC), which should mainly assist ODIHR in its anti-trafficking work. Members of the ISTAC shall be appointed for a term of two years and may be eligible for reappointment for up to two consecutive terms, for a maximum of six years. Interested candidates can request the application form by sending an email to [istac@odihhr.pl](mailto:istac@odihhr.pl). Applications are accepted until 17 October 2022.

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## Human Rights Council and relevant reports

The UN Human Rights Council and the General Assembly will be held in September and several relevant reports will be presented:

- [Report of the UN Special rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery: Contemporary forms of slavery affecting persons belonging to ethnic, religious, and linguistic minority communities](#) – Novi Put, ASTRA and Open GATE contributed to this report.
- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking: Addressing the gender dimensions of trafficking in persons in the context of climate change; displacement and disaster risk reduction](#)
- [Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants on climate change, human rights and migration](#)

Also the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children will publish a thematic report dedicated to addressing the vulnerabilities of children to sale and sexual exploitation in the framework of the SDGs, in particular targets 5.3, 8.7 and 16.2. Find out more [here](#)

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**Take action**

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## Good Clothes, Fair Pay campaign

The [Good Clothes Fair Pay](#) campaign, a European Citizens' Initiative for living wages in the fashion supply chain, is demanding legislation that helps achieve fair pay for textile and

garment workers around the world. The campaign calls on brands and retailers to put in place, implement, monitor, and publicly disclose a time-bound and target-bound plan to close the gap between actual and living wages. See

<https://www.goodclothesfairpay.eu/home> - they need 1 million signatures, sign now!

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## Tell FIFA to remedy migrant Worker Abuses in Qatar

Since 2010, when FIFA awarded the 2022 World Cup to [Qatar](#) despite its poor human rights record and lack of infrastructure, thousands of migrant workers have been killed or injured, and many more have been victims of wage theft, as they toiled to prepare facilities to host the event. You can join the [#PayUpFIFA](#) campaign to demand FIFA and Qatar remedy these abuses, including through financial compensation. See also this [commentary](#) by Anti-Slavery International.

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## FRA survey on social and economic integration displaced persons from Ukraine

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has launched an [online survey on persons displaced from Ukraine](#) and residing in different EU countries about a wide range of issues: their access to employment, education, housing, healthcare, language learning and other issues affecting their social and economic integration. You can respond to the survey via an [English](#), [Ukrainian](#) or [Russian](#) version.

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## ODIHR survey on safety and security of women refugees from Ukraine

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) launched a [Survey on safety and security of women refugees from Ukraine](#). The survey aims at hearing their voices in light of the armed conflict and identify their safety and security concerns, which make them vulnerable to THB. The survey targeting women refugees from Ukraine, is available in English, Ukrainian and Russian, response is welcome until 19 September 2022. The collected information will be used by ODIHR to draft policy recommendations to improve safety and security measures.

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## Upcoming events

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- **8-9 September 2022** - ERA training Reducing demand and preventing THB, at CEJ, Lisbon, Portugal. See [more](#)
- **12 September 2022** – Symposium Oxford ‘The Zero-sum game of economic migration: Integration through Rights?’ – Check for [more information](#).

- **20-21 September 2022** - Regional Council of Europe Conference on Combating Labour Trafficking in Europe: Standards, Realities and Challenges, Belgrade Serbia.
  - **26 September 2022** 17:00 – 19:00 CEST – Webinar Ensuring an impactful EU due diligence legislation - The CSDD Directive from a development policy perspective- see [more](#)
  - **27 September 2022 10.00-18.00 CET** - Conference “Enhancing the anti-trafficking identification, prevention and support mechanisms”, organised by KMOP Brussels Belgium. You can register [here](#)
  - **29 September 2022:** 10.30 CET – EMN Webinar on alternatives to detention in Europe. See [more](#)
  - **29 – 30 September 2022** - Final event of the "ALFa-Accogliere le Fragilità project", Turin, Italy
  - **30 September 2022** - International Expert Round Table - MIND THE GAP! Tackling the lack of attention on preventing human trafficking and exploitation. Registration is obligatory and will be open from 15 - 25 September 2022 - [Registration Link](#)
  - **7 October 2022 – SAVE the DATE** - Decent work day – LSI will organise a webinar on Asian Migrants trafficking in Europe, in the framework of the Disrupt programme.
  - **11-12 October 2022**, ICMPD organises the [7th VMC](#) in Vienna and online. [subscribe here for updates](#) about this year’s programme.
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## Support us

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.



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