

## Newsletter October 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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## La Strada International calls for better access to rights for trafficked persons in the EU

On 18 of October - EU anti-trafficking day, La Strada International called upon EU leaders and Members States to ensure that victims of human trafficking can effectively claim and access their rights within the European Union by removing all existing legal and practical obstacles that currently prevent the adequate identification, protection and support of trafficked persons in Europe. See [full statement](#).

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## La Strada International joins European Sex Workers' Rights Coalition

On 13 October the [European Coalition on Sex Workers' Rights and Inclusion](#) was launched during the first Congress of the European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA). 15 organisations including La Strada International have joined this coalition and call for decriminalisation of sex workers and meaningful inclusion of sex workers in decision-making related to sex work. See [more](#).

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## New project on posted workers in care sector launched

During 2020 – 2022 La Strada International participated in an international project consortium (Postcare) which researched the posting of third-country nationals in European care services. Now a follow up project has been launched this month which aims to inform and raise awareness among posted care workers about their rights and among employers on how they should use the EU posted workers directive to prevent exploitation and abuse. In 2023 La Strada International will develop and launch an online information portal and related tools about posting and posted care work, next to organise trainings and develop information materials. More soon at our website.

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### LSI members news

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## LSI members take action around EU anti-trafficking day

LSI member organised numerous awareness activities around 18<sup>th</sup> of October. These actions included statements and reflections by [FLEX](#) and [ASI looking ahead](#) related to national UK developments including the revision of the anti-slavery act. Also debates and conferences were organised including [a public debate](#) in Bosnia Herzegovina by Novi Put and an [expert meeting](#) by CoMensha as well as the launch of a [Fair recruitment agency](#) and the publication of a [public poll](#) by FairWork in the Netherlands. In Belgium Payoke launched a [talk mobile](#) and PAG-Asa the [Human trafficking Week](#).

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## LSI members support candidates for ODIHRs Survivors Advisory Council

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) is [calling](#) for applications to join its International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC). The deadline for applications has been extended until 6 November 2022. LSI members have again supported several candidates to apply, this time including the applications of Henriette Siliadin ([Siliadin V France case](#)) and current ISTAC member Zita Cabais, both have been working with and are supported by CCEM. Also Marko Tamindzija ([Case of Zoletic and others v AZERBAIJAN/Serbaz case](#)) applied with support of ASTRA. La Strada International strongly supports these candidates and hopes they will be selected.

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## What is going on?

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### Revision Single Permit Directive being discussed

Currently a revision of the EU Single Permit Directive ([Directive 2011/98/EU](#)) is being discussed. This Directive creates a combined single permit for residence and work for non-EU workers legally residing in an EU country, a single application procedure for this permit, and a set of rights (including equal treatment compared to nationals in that country) for non-EU workers covered by the Directive. One of the key asks of PICUM and La Strada International in the negotiations concerns the right for workers to change employer, and the simplification of the procedure attached to this right. We are pushing for workers to be able to change employer on the same permit, with minimal administrative requirements. See the [legislative train schedule](#).

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### EU civil society Platform held in Brussels

On 26 and 27 of October, the office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator organised the Joint Session of the EU Network of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms and the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings. Sessions related to the impact of the military aggression against Ukraine on human trafficking; the cooperation of national authorities with civil society in implementing the EU Strategy on combatting trafficking in human beings; and the [EU Anti Trafficking Day](#). Many LSI members joined the EU Civil Society Platform and representatives of LEFO IBF, KOK, PAG-Asa and La Strada Czech Republic spoke at the event. See [more](#).

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### GRETA report on Belarus refers to systematic clampdown on civil society organisations in the country

This month, GRETA published its second evaluation report on the implementation of the Council of Europe Anti-trafficking Convention by Belarus. While GRETA noted progress in the implementation of the Convention, the expert group also raised concern about 'the widespread and systematic clampdown on civil society organisations in Belarus. Anti-trafficking NGOs have been dissolved and the majority of civil society still remains in exile, including staff of our two former member organisations in the country. See [more](#).

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## ETUC and ITUC call upon EU MS to support Health and Safety at work

A majority of EU member states are failing to support health and safety at work as a fundamental and international right according to the trade union umbrella organisations ETUC and ITUC. In June, the ILO agreed to make two Health and Safety Conventions (155 and 187) into core conventions – making them a fundamental right. However, while EU MS supported these conventions, the majority of EU member states have still not ratified both of these conventions themselves. At the start of the European Week for Safety and Health at Work (24-28 October 2022) ETUC and ITUC urged EU countries to ratify both conventions and recognise health and safety as a fundamental right. See [more](#).

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## LSI supports several nominated GRETA candidates for upcoming elections

On 25<sup>th</sup> of November, the next GRETA elections will take place. The terms of office of 7 of the 15 current members of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings will expire on 31 December. La Strada International is monitoring the elections and calls upon States to vote for the best candidates, while taking into account the gender aspect and diversity of backgrounds for the composition of GRETA, but also to give a chance to those countries that have not yet been member of GRETA. See [here](#) who we as LSI strongly support.

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### What is new?

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## New research concludes inconsistent application of Dutch THB law

A new critical investigative report '[Labour exploitation under the microscope – analysis of the explanation of labour exploitation in the Netherlands](#)' commissioned by the Dutch trade union FNV and LSI's member CoMensha – the Dutch national coordination center against human trafficking analysed 105 verdicts in human trafficking for labour exploitation cases that came to Dutch court between 2014 and 2021. An important conclusion of the research is that international legal obligations are not fully complied with in the application of the Dutch THB law. See [more](#).

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## UNHCR report on 6 months implementation of the EU Temporary Protection Directive (TPD)

Based on research conducted in 26 countries implementing the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD), a new [UNHCR report](#) presents the main findings relating to the practical implementation of the Directive and refugees' ability to access and exercise rights protected under it. Key findings of the report include that the rights guaranteed under the directive are interdependent; refugees inability to exercise one right impeded the realisation of other rights. Also the existence of practical, administrative and legal barriers to enjoyment of rights was frequently noted, as well as increased obstacles to access rights for refugees with specific needs. These challenges seem equally applicable to refugees who have been granted status through national asylum systems. See more [here](#).

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## Independent International Commission of Inquiry report on Ukraine

In this new OHCHR [report](#), the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine reports on war crimes, violations of human rights committed in Ukraine since 24 February 2022. As part of the research, the Commission documented patterns of rape and other sexual violence committed in areas occupied by Russian armed forces across four Ukrainian regions. Around 30 cases of CRSV were documented and investigated. The Commission continues to investigate the extent to which sexual and gender-based violence constituted a widespread pattern. La Strada Ukraine is also collecting evidence on CRSV in Ukraine and received so far 24 testimonies via its hotlines.

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### Upcoming events

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- **3 November 2022 – 15.00 – 17.00 CET** UN University hybrid event titled '[From promises to practice: Towards the effective implementation of the Global Compact on Migration](#)' organized in partnership with the MIDEQ Hub and Geneva Science-Policy Interface. To register click [here](#).
- **8 November 2022** – EU Parliament S&D event: Tackling forced labour in our global supply chains' from 15h30 to 18h00, Brussels Belgium – You can [register here](#) – see further the [agenda](#).
- **10 November 2022, 13:30-17:00 CET online** – Fundamental Rights Platform annual meeting 2022 – see [meeting programme](#) and to [register](#) – it focusses on civil society & rule of law including discussions on a new EU strategy on Civil Society.
- **17 – 22 November 2022** - ITUC 5<sup>th</sup> World Congress [Read more](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)
- **25 November 2022** – GRETA elections during Committee of the Parties meeting
- **25 November 2022** (until 12 December) Violence against Women day and start of campaign. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action/16-days-of-activism>
- **28 – 30 November 2022** - Annual UN forum on Business and Human Rights, Geneva Switzerland - see <https://www.ohchr.org/en/events/forums/2022/11th-un->

[forum-business-and-human-rights](#)

- **1-2 December 2022** - ERA training Countering impunity by enhancing investigations into and the prosecution of THB, at BMJ, Vienna, Austria
- **13 December 2022** – expected launch of the evaluation package of the THB Directive, Brussels Belgium

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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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