

To Ambassador Christian Meuwly  
Chair of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe  
Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Amsterdam, 23 November 2022

Dear Ambassador Meuwly and other members of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings,

On behalf of La Strada International, the European NGO Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings, which represents 30 Anti-Trafficking NGOs in 24 European countries, I would like to address you in relation to the upcoming GRETA elections on 25 November 2022, to be held at your 31<sup>st</sup> meeting in Strasbourg, France.

Over the last months, we have been monitoring the nomination process of candidates for this election at national level and have been supporting several of the candidates. We are glad to see again so many well-qualified candidates placed on the nomination list, including representatives of national governments, law enforcement, the judiciary, academia as well as NGOs.

We would like to inform that we in particular express our strong support for the following candidates, which are persons we have worked closely with at national or international level over the last years:

- Ms Antoaneta **VASSILEVA** (Bulgaria)
- Ms Irena **FERČIKOVÁ KONEČNÁ** (Czech Republic)
- Ms Anne **BRANDT CHRISTENSEN** (Denmark)
- Ms Vanessa **SIMONI** and Ms Georgina **VAZ CABRAL** (France)
- Ms Biljana **LUBAROWSKA** (North Macedonia)
- Mr David **MANCINI** and Ms Francesca **NICODEMI** (Italy)
- Ms Radmila **DRAGIČEVIĆ DIČIĆ** (Serbia).

We hope you will take note of this strong civil society support for these candidates, when voting for the seven GRETA members.

I would like to use this opportunity to express our support to GRETA remaining an effective body in monitoring States' implementation of the Convention. As we work for many years in the field and engage in direct support to trafficked persons as well as in advocacy to promote and protect their rights, we acknowledge the benefits of the Convention and feel strongly supported by the work of GRETA in raising awareness for remaining gaps and bottlenecks in practice. GRETA's monitoring mechanism and standards have proven to be a unique, important and influential instrument in the protection of the rights of trafficked persons across member states.

It goes without saying that we are looking forward to continuing our close cooperation with the Council of Europe and the newly selected GRETA members in our common action against human trafficking.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Hoff".

Suzanne Hoff,  
International Coordinator