

Newsletter November 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](mailto:info@lastrada-international.org).

LSI news

LSI representation in international events

This month, LSI attended several international events including the S&D EU Parliament event: [Tackling forced labour in our global supply chains](#), the [Fundament Rights Platform annual \(online\) meeting](#) and the [third meeting of the specialised lawyers and NGOs](#) network set up by the Council of Europe. On 25 November, LSI observed the GRETA elections.

Today on 29 November LSI contributed to a [hearing](#) by the LIBE and FEMM Committees on trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, related with the war in Ukraine.

Members news



In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we announce the passing away of the founders of two of our member organisations. [Sylvie O'Dy](#), founder, president and spokesperson of CCEM in Paris deceased on 21 November. [Maria Cristina Boidi](#) founder of Lefoe, counseling support and education for migrant women, and TAMPEP in Austria died on 20 November. Both women have for long been advocating for better rights of trafficked persons. While CCEM assisted more than thousand persons trafficked for labour under the leadership of Sylvie, Maria Cristina in particular has been advocating for the rights of female migrants and sex workers. We thank them for their leadership and will continue their action for change.

New compensation law adopted in North Macedonia

This month, the Parliament of North Macedonia adopted the Law on State Compensation for Victims of Violent Crimes. Our member Open Gate/ La Strada North Macedonia pushed to get this law adopted for more than three years. Moreover, already back in 2016, the organisation conducted a feasibility study on the costs of a state compensation fund. Afterwards a multidisciplinary task group with representatives from several institutions and members of Open Gate drafted the law to realise this fund. See [more](#)

Model law for prohibiting products made with forced labour

On 14 September 2022, the European Commission proposed a '[Regulation on prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market](#)'. Anti-Slavery International, ECCHR and the Greens/EFA Group have now developed a [model law](#) comprising key elements to improve the EU Regulation.

New publications by LSI members

FIZ has commissioned a research to analyse the situation of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation in Switzerland, which looks into working conditions in the nail industry. See '[Glitter nails, precarious circumstances - Working conditions in the Nail industry in Switzerland and the danger of human trafficking for labour exploitation](#)' and a [summary](#) in English.

FLEX has published [a briefing](#) which explores the risks of exploitation and modern slavery faced by workers as a result of UK immigration policy and what needs to be done to address them to ensure workers are protected and treated fairly.

In October, KOK presented its [third data report on human trafficking and exploitation](#) in Germany. The data report analyses 612 cases of specialised German counselling centres. It provides more insight in cases reported as well as how many cases led to further investigations and prosecutions.

CCEM contributes to training guide for professionals

Last October, the French Inter-ministerial mission for the fight against violence against women and trafficking in human beings (MIPROF) presented its [training guide](#) (in French) for professionals who can help identify and protect victims of human trafficking. CCEM actively contributed to its writing, alongside other members of the [Collective "Ensemble Against Human Trafficking"](#).

La Strada Moldova organises seminar on online violence against women

On November 8, La Strada Moldova and the Council of Europe jointly organised a seminar on the digital dimension of violence against women to identify steps aimed at combating violence against women in the online environment and violence against women in general. The event was organized within the project "Supporting the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in the Republic of Moldova", in partnership with the Ministry of Labour and

Social Protection and within the framework of the Council of Europe's Action Plan for the Republic of Moldova 2021-2024. See [more](#).

What is going on?

Committee of the Parties elects seven experts for GRETA

On 25 November [seven members](#) of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([GRETA](#)) were elected by the Committee of the Parties. LSI observed the elections and strongly supported nine candidates from seven countries. Two of them; Ms Antoaneta Vassileva and MS. Biljana Lubarowska have been elected. La Strada International congratulates all elected candidates. See [more](#)



Elimination of Violence against women and 16 Days of Activism

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, international experts have issued a [joint statement](#) calling on States to bridge the gap of impunity for violence against women and girls across the world. On this day the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence](#) started, an annual international campaign that runs until Human Rights Day on 10 December. The campaign is supported by LSI members via their social media channels and through national activities.

During the 16 days, ITUC, Global Union Federations and trade unions across the world [call](#) on governments to ratify and implement the [Violence and Harassment Convention \(C190\)](#), which is so far only ratified by five European countries: Albania Greece, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. A [survey](#) by trade unions this year found that gender-based violence and harassment (GBVH) in the world of work has increased in recent years and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Corporate Sustainable Reporting Directive adopted

The European Parliament adopted the [Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive \(CSRD\)](#), that requires businesses to regularly disclose information on their societal and environmental impact. The law replaces and extends the Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD), and aims to remove the implication that “non-financial” reporting means sustainability considerations do not have financial relevance. Instead, sustainability information will enter the front end of annual reports and will need to be treated with the same degree of rigor and suspicion as financial information.

French CSO Collective calls upon government to enhance action on trafficking

Members of the French [Collective "Ensemble Against Human Trafficking"](http://www.contrelatraite.org/octobre-2022), including CCEM jointly called for more action from the French government as there is currently no secretary general of the inter-ministerial mission in charge of anti-trafficking, since the last one left in mid-September. The collective further regrets that France still does not have an inter-ministerial delegation dedicated to the different forms of human trafficking, neither a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for the identification and support of victims. Also the 3rd Action Plan for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings is seriously delayed as the previous one finished in 2021. See call by civil society in French <http://www.contrelatraite.org/octobre-2022> See [more](#)

Missing Children Europe celebrates 20th anniversary

On November 15, Missing Children Europe (MCE) celebrated its 20th anniversary in presence of Queen Paola of Belgium, who is Honorary President of Missing Children Europe's Patrons' Council. La Strada International congratulates Missing Children Europe with this important milestone and thanks the organisation for the good cooperation at international and national level. LSI's member ASTRA runs the European number for missing children in Serbia since 2012.

German Federal government withdraws Istanbul Convention reservations

The German Federal Government's has decided to implement the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) without reservation. When the Convention was ratified in 2018, the federal government made reservations about individual provisions. Now the Istanbul Convention will apply without restriction in Germany from February 1, 2023. LSI's member KOK had strongly criticized the reservation on Article 59 of the Istanbul Convention, which referred to residence regulations for foreign victims of violence and, together with many other organizations, called for its withdrawal.

UN Rapporteurs call for more efforts to combat child trafficking and abuse

On 18 November, several UN experts - including the UN Rapporteurs on Trafficking and Slavery – [called for intensified efforts](#) to combat persisting prevalence of violence, exploitation, abuse, trafficking, torture and harmful practices against children. In their [statement](#) the experts urged states to substantiate the best interests of the child and take measures to promote physical, psychological recovery and social reintegration of child victims, in an environment which fosters the health, self-respect and dignity of the child, while addressing weaknesses in protection systems.

What is new?



VSE Paper on National Framework for comprehensive victim support

In order to enhance the debate on the planned revision of the Victims' Rights Directive, Victim Support Europe organised an event in Brussels, where they launched the [National Framework for Comprehensive Victim Support paper](#), which includes the challenges and opportunities in improving victim support systems in the EU. The [recording](#) and pictures of the event are published on VSE [website](#). A summary of the presentations will also be made available in the upcoming weeks.

More than 50.000 people lost their lives during migratory journeys since 2014

Since IOM's Missing Migrants Project began documenting deaths in 2014, more than 50.000 migrants have lost their lives during their journey, according to a [new IOM report](#) published this month. The report concludes that despite the increasing loss of life, little action has been taken by governments in countries of origin, transit, and destination to address the ongoing global crisis of missing migrants.

PICUM report on Social protection and undocumented migrants

[PICUM](#)'s new [report on social protection and undocumented migrants](#) looks at what international and EU standards say about access to social protection, and highlight some situations where national, regional and local governments have recognised that including undocumented residents in social protection measures is necessary, feasible and beneficial. It is also available in [French](#) and in [Spanish](#).

Anti-Trafficking Review calls for Papers

GAATW's Anti-Trafficking Review calls for papers for a Special Issue themed 'Armed Conflicts: Migration, Trafficking, and Labour Markets'. See [more](#).

Upcoming events

- **28 – 30 November 2022** - Annual UN forum on Business and Human Rights, Geneva Switzerland – see [more](#).
- **1-2 December 2022** - [ERA training Countering impunity by enhancing investigations into and the prosecution of THB, at BMJ](#), Vienna, Austria

- **8-9 December 2022, (online)** Evidence2Action conference organised by Winrock, Bangkok, Thailand
 - **12 December 2022** - Conference "Together against human trafficking: Prevention of Child Trafficking in Europe in the Current Practical Context", organised within the [ProUCare project Bucharest](#). See [website of the event](#).
 - **13 December 2022** – The European Commission will present the package for the revision of the Human Trafficking Directive
 - **15 December 2022** – Annual (online) national conference of the European Migration Network (EMN) organised by the Italian Ministry of Interior.
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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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