

## Newsletter December 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 reacts to revision EU Anti-Trafficking Directive**

On December 19, the European Commission [proposed a revision](#) of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive (2011/36/EU) based on the conducted evaluation. See our [first reaction](#) to the proposals made.



#### **LSI appeals against dismissal of legal complaint on profiting of severe exploitation by Dutch companies**

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 an appeal challenging the Dutch government's failure to investigate the profiting of the use of North Korean forced labour in the shipbuilding supply chains of two Dutch shipbuilding firms has been filed by La Strada International with support of Prakken d'Oliveira and Global Legal Action Network (GLAN). See [more](#)

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## Policy paper on Impact of Criminalising ‘Knowing Use’ on Human Trafficking

As part of the proposals to amend the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, the European Commission proposed a binding provision to criminalise the knowing use of services provided by trafficked persons. However an assessment by La Strada International concludes that there is currently no proven impact of the criminalisation of the knowing use of victims on combatting human trafficking. See [policy paper](#)

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## LSI representation December 2022

This month we contributed to several events where measures addressing human trafficking were discussed. These include the [2022 Evidence2Action Conference](#); a meeting with a special EU advisor on the reception of Ukrainian refugees; consultations related to development of a new Dutch National Action Plan on human trafficking; and participation in the OSCE [Alliance Expert Coordination Team](#) Meeting on Trafficking, next to UN Tasks force meetings on trafficking and gender based violence related to the situation in Ukraine. LSI also spoke at the Italian EMN conference '[Countering human trafficking in Europe: learning from best practices and designing joint interventions](#)', held on 15 December.

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## LSI members news

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### Director of Victim Support Finland receives award

The Finnish president has awarded Leena-Kaisa Aberg, the executive director of RIKU (Victim Support Finland), the knight badge of the order of the Finnish Lion, for civilian merit. RIKU's special support service for victims of human trafficking and related crimes currently assists over 1000 people who have been exploited in Finland, mostly at their workplace. RIKU's special support service helps and advises people confidentially and assists with advancing their (legal) case if they choose to do so.

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### KOK launches report on trafficking in the context of the Ukraine war

This month KOK – the German Network against Trafficking in Human Beings – launched the report [Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation in the Context of the Ukraine War](#). The research report analyses and evaluates measures to raise awareness and prevent trafficking among refugees from Ukraine in Germany. The report is based on a survey among Specialised counselling centres, who were questioned about their experiences in recent months. A hard copy can be ordered [here](#)

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### ASTRA presents comprehensive research on human trafficking in Serbia

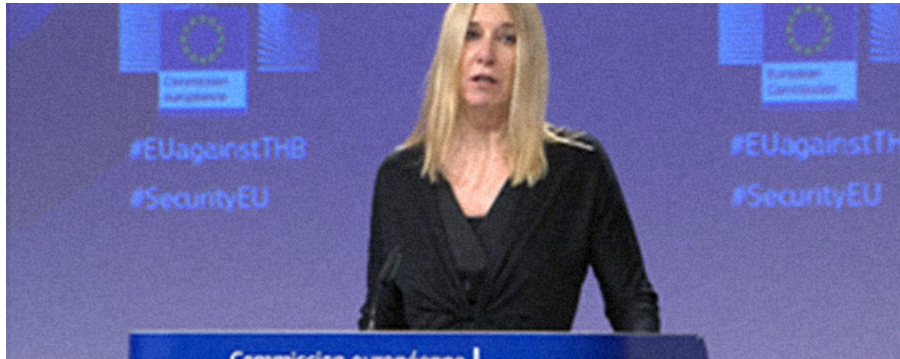
At a recent [conference](#), ASTRA presented the findings of their latest [research on human trafficking in Serbia](#). This publication on the prevention of (potential) victims of human trafficking was prepared in cooperation with the SeConS Development Initiative. While the

research confirmed some already recognized trends, it also provides new useful insights. See here the [Serbian version](#)

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## What is happening?

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### EC presents proposal revision anti-trafficking Directive and 4th progress report

As mentioned, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December, the European Commission presented a [proposal](#) to strengthen the rules in the Anti-Trafficking Directive that prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. See LSI's reaction above. Next to the proposal and the [fourth progress report](#) new [statistical data](#) related to human trafficking for the years 2019-2020 was published.

The data show a major change; 51% of the victims were trafficked for sexual exploitation, while in 2017-2018 this group still represented 92% of the total reported victims. 28% of the cases reported related to labour exploitation, this figure almost doubled compared with the previous years. See [more](#)

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### Draft report on VAW and Domestic Violence under discussion

A new [draft report](#) by FEMM and LIBE on the [proposal](#) for a EU directive on Combating violence against women and domestic violence has been published and will be presented to EU Parliament committees on January 12, 2023. To our concern there are attempts by MEPs to introduce yet another criminal provision that would conflate all sex work (prostitution) with violence against women. With several European Human Rights Networks, La Strada International follows the negotiations. A joint reaction will be published in January 2023.

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### No remedies for workers abused during the preparations of the World Cup

The [2022 World Cup](#) has ended without any commitment from FIFA or Qatari authorities to remedy abuses, including unexplained deaths, that migrant workers suffered to make the tournament possible over the past 12 years. It has been estimated that over 6,500 migrant workers have tragically died building football stadiums for the Qatar World Cup, while millions more have lost their freedom. You can still sign the [petition](#) calling for remedies, at the website of our member Anti-Slavery International.

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## Launch of the ILO forced labour observatory

On December 2, the ILO Forced Labour Observatory was launched during an online event, bringing together high-level representatives from the IOE, ITUC and UN bodies including ILO to discuss the importance of the tool, which aims to share knowledge and drive policy action to tackle forced labour. Find out more [here](#)

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## NGOs oppose EU Parliament plans to Halt Human Rights Activities

The [Human Rights and Democracy Network](#) (HRDN), of which La Strada International is a member - sent a [joint letter](#) to EU president Metsola and the presidents of the political groups of the European Parliament, to raise concerns over recent debates and proposals to freeze all activities of the European Parliament's Human Rights Subcommittee (DROI) and to stop all urgency resolutions. See [more](#)

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### What is new?

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## Qatar in Belgium – new Documentary about the Borealis case

[Qatar In Belgium](#) is a short documentary by Docwerkers VZW, about the workers who were exploited on a building site at the port of Antwerp (Borealis case) and how they fought together to demand their rights. The victims of the Borealis case have been assisted by LSI's member Payoke in Belgium. See [more](#)

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## How EU rules still allow social dumping through subcontracting

A [new study](#) commissioned by The Left in the European Parliament sets out how even legal forms of subcontracting have become the business model for exploiting workers in the European Union. The study highlights how European rules on subcontracting allow employers to separate power and profits from risk and responsibility, such as wages and working conditions.

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## Addressing forced labour in public procurement and supply chains

[Modern Slavery PEC](#) published a [policy brief](#) on the effectiveness of public procurement measures in addressing modern slavery, next to a [report](#) on addressing modern slavery in long and complex supply chains.

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## Engagement of trafficked persons

Modern Slavery PEC also published a review of promising practices in the engagement of people with lived experience to address modern slavery and human trafficking. The full report, a summary and six regional reports is available [here](#).

A [new research](#) by the Rights Lab of the University of Nottingham has found that the UK scheme in which people share their homes with modern slavery survivors in order to provide them with safe accommodation has proven to be a positive experience for both hosts and survivors.

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## Ukrainian refugees at risk of violence, trafficking and exploitation

A webinar “Not a single safe place” held in November in the framework of a project by the Institute for Global Innovations and Institute for Advanced Studies of the Birmingham University, launched research reports on Ukraine and Poland, which examine the risks, experiences and awareness of gender based violence (GBV) and trafficking in both countries. La Strada Poland takes part in the research project. The research is available at this [website](#)

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## Reminder: ATR calls for papers for special issue on armed conflicts

*The Anti-Trafficking Review* calls for papers for a Special Issue themed ‘Armed Conflicts: Migration, Trafficking, and Labour Markets’. Deadline for submissions is 1 June 2023. In addition to full-length conceptual, research-based, or case study thematic papers, the ATR looks for short, blog-style articles related to the issue’s theme See [more](#)

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## Upcoming events in 2023

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- **18-19 January 2023**, UNODC Regional Expert Group Meeting on trafficking for the purpose of forced criminality in South Eastern Europe, Tirana, Albania (also with online participation)
  - **23-24 March 2023**, ERA seminar on Financial Investigation of Trafficking in Human Beings including on victim compensation, Sofia, Bulgaria [ERA – Academy of European Law > Financial Investigation of Trafficking in Human Beings](#)
  - **6 to 17 March 2023** – 67<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)
  - **7-9 June 2023** - [#VSEAnnualConference2023](#), titled "Protecting fundamental freedoms, a victim's perspective" hosted by [WEISSER RING e.V.](#), Berlin, Germany.
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## La Strada International would like to wish all of you a merry Christmas and a good 2023

On December 1, LSI traditionally launched its [adventscalendar](#), raising awareness and calling for support for LSI' members campaigns and actions to strengthen trafficked persons rights. You can still open several boxes until Xmas.

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**La Strada International is closed from 26th of December until 8th of January 2023**

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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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