



Newsletter January 2023

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](#).

LSI news

What did we do in 2022?

In 2022, we closely monitored the impact of the war in Ukraine and of other international developments, policy measures and legislative changes on human trafficking in Europe. We organised **13 public events and exchanges**, were represented at **81 international events** and spoke with more than 70 journalists. Each day we raised our voice for rights protection of trafficked persons, while our members continued the challenging direct assistance, prevention and advocacy work at national level. [Look back](#) with us on the year 2022.

Shrinking “urgency” resolutions’ length wrong response to Qatargate

HRDN members, including La Strada International, have raised concerns about proposals to freeze all activities of the EU Parliament’s DROI Subcommittee and to stop all urgency resolutions on human rights abuses in third countries in the wake of the “Qatargate” corruption scandal. We tell the President of the EU Parliament, that this is not how corruption should be tackled. See letter [here](#).

LSI reacts to EU proposal for revision of the EU Trafficking Directive

End of December, La Strada International [reacted](#) to the EU proposal for a revision of the EU Trafficking Directive. While the Platform generally welcomes the proposed amendments, we regret that these do not really address the protection of the rights of, or the assistance and support to trafficked persons. We continue to follow the process and have held our first meetings with MEPs this month. In February we will be contributing to the [public hearing](#) by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on the revision of the anti-trafficking directive.



LSI representation in January 2023

La Strada International and its members in North Macedonia (Open Gate) Bosnia and Herzegovina (Novi Put), and Albania (VATRA) contributed to the UNODC Regional Expert Group Meeting on forced criminality in South-eastern Europe. On 18 and 19 January they shared NGO practices, challenges and lessons learnt from the assistance to persons, who have been trafficked for the purpose of forced criminality. The identification and referral of this form of human trafficking is on the rise.

On 31 of January, La Strada International as member of the coalition advocating for decriminalisation of prostitution, spoke with members of S & D on the proposed resolution on prostitution and the draft Directive on Gender Based Violence, see *what is happening* below.

LSI members news

Study on available services for displaced persons from Ukraine in Moldova

La Strada Moldova recently published its study report "[*Mapping of services existing in Moldova for displaced people from Ukraine. Identification of risks of exploitation and human trafficking*](#)". The study reveals that the country hosts the highest amount of displaced persons per capita and that more than 90 external organisations provide support to Moldovan authorities, in overcoming the difficulties caused by the massive influx of displaced persons from Ukraine. Regardless this high number of organisations, the study identified a number of shortcomings in the protection of displaced people and trafficked persons. See [more](#).

Open GATE publishes monitoring report on N-Macedonian laws and policies

End December 2022, Open GATE launched its [Fourth Monitoring Report](#). This Report provides an overview of North Macedonia's progress to counter human trafficking; focusing

on identification, assistance, compensation and the institutional framework and cooperation in the country. See also Open Gate's [Shadow Report](#).

What is happening?

MEPs call for uniform Nordic prostitution model

Again, European MEPs try to advocate for a Nordic prostitution model in all EU countries that would criminalise buyers of sexual services. For this purpose, members of the European parliament have been working on a report including a motion for a resolution on the regulation of prostitution in the EU: its cross-border implications and impact on gender equality and women's rights. The [draft](#) report written by German MEP Maria Noichl regrettably includes multiple non-evidence based claims about human trafficking and prostitution, while also conflating both issue frequently. See [more](#).

Negotiations for revision of the EU Trafficking Directive started

The [legislative process](#) of the EU Trafficking Directive revision proposal has started in the new year. EU Member States will provide their first feedback until mid-February. Next to the Council negotiations, also the EU Parliament will review the proposal and the first (shadow) Rapporteurs have been appointed. It is possible to still send [feedback](#) on the Commission proposal.



MEPs urge the EU to deliver a credible migration and asylum policy

On 1 of February, in a EU plenary discussion with the Swedish Presidency and President von der Leyen, MEPs presented their views on how to deal with the migratory challenges facing Europe. EU leaders look into controlling external borders, cooperation with third countries and returning migrants and asylum-seekers without a right to stay in the EU 'more efficiently' to their countries of origin or transit. Earlier, the European Commission released a [policy document](#) outlining four priorities for an upcoming "operational strategy" to increase returns of irregular migrants. See [more](#). You can catch up with the debate [here](#).

Mandatory due diligence

Last week, several EU parliamentary committees, including the committee of economic affairs, voted in favour of keeping mandatory due diligence rules for the financial sector in their opinions. This will feed into the EU Parliament's overall position & further negotiations with EU member states on binding due diligence for companies in Europe. An [analysis](#) by the Global Policy Forum Europe & MISEREOR allege German Members of the EU Parliament to adopt the demands of the business lobby for the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive.

Council adopts recommendation on adequate minimum income

On 30 of January, the Council adopted the recommendation on adequate minimum income, aiming to combat poverty and social exclusion, and to pursue high levels of employment. This should be done by promoting adequate income support by means of minimum income, effective access to enabling and essential services for persons lacking sufficient resources and by fostering labour market integration. See [more](#).



EU Victim Rights campaign launched

The EU Victims' Rights Campaign "[I will keep my eyes open](#)" has just been launched in 10 EU Member States. A special focus is put on victims of five types of crime - gender-based violence, anti-LGBTIQ hate crime, xenophobic hate crime, violence against children, and violence against a person. La Strada International supports the campaign and hopes it will provide for a safe environment for victims to report crime, as many EU countries do still not have effective complaint and safe reporting mechanisms. See [more](#).

With a hoax, the Yes Men and Clean Clothes Campaign call for workers' rights

In January, in a high-profile hoax, stunt activists The Yes Men, working with Clean Clothes Campaign, launched a surprise announcement from 'Adidas', detailing their bold new plan to positive change and prioritise and protect workers' rights. Although the action was a hoax, it carried a real message: Adidas needs to sign the [Pay Your Workers agreement](#) to protect workers. Find out more at the [Clean Clothes Campaign website](#).

What is new?



UNODC Global Trafficking Report shows decrease in detection victims globally

UNODC launched its 2022 [Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#). The report reveals that for the first time in 20 years, a decrease has been noted in the number of victims detected globally and that also prosecution figures decreased. Moreover globally the number of detected victims of labour exploitation are in line with detected cases of trafficking for sexual exploitation, which number dropped with 24%. However statistics for Europe differ significantly; here there have been increases in the detection of victims, in particular related to cases of labour exploitation of men. In some parts of Europe, sexual exploitation is no longer the highest identified form of human trafficking. In Eastern Europe victims comprised for 63% of men and 24% of women. See [more](#).

UN Rapporteurs on Slavery and Trafficking call for input for thematic reports

The next thematic report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Slavery, Mr. Tomoya Obokata will focus on homelessness as a cause and consequence of contemporary forms of slavery. See his [call](#) for input, which lists the key questions the Rapporteur aims to answer. The UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, Ms. Siobhan Mullally will devote her next report to the access to international protection of victims of trafficking or persons at risk of trafficking. Here you can also find her [call](#) for input. See [more](#).

Open public consultation on OECD Guidelines

The OECD is updating its Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and is seeking [public input](#) on a [draft](#) of targeted updates to the text. OECD Watch urges civil society to participate by reading their [guidance](#) and filling out the OECD's [consultation survey](#). The OECD's [public consultation](#) is open until 10 February 2023.

Upcoming events in 2023

- **15 February 2023** - 10th OECD Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct (panel in hybrid format) – see [more](#).
 - **16 February 2023** - EESC public hearing on revision of EU anti-trafficking directive. Input will feed into an EESC opinion on the issue. La Strada International is Invited to speak. See [more](#).
 - **20 February 2023** - Victim Support Europe's event organised in light of the European Day for Victims of Crime, titled "Achieving Safe Justice for Victims of Crime". Brussels. The event will be live streamed on the [Brussels Press Club TV](#). You can [register for the event](#).
 - **22 February 2023** - EU victim Rights day.
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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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