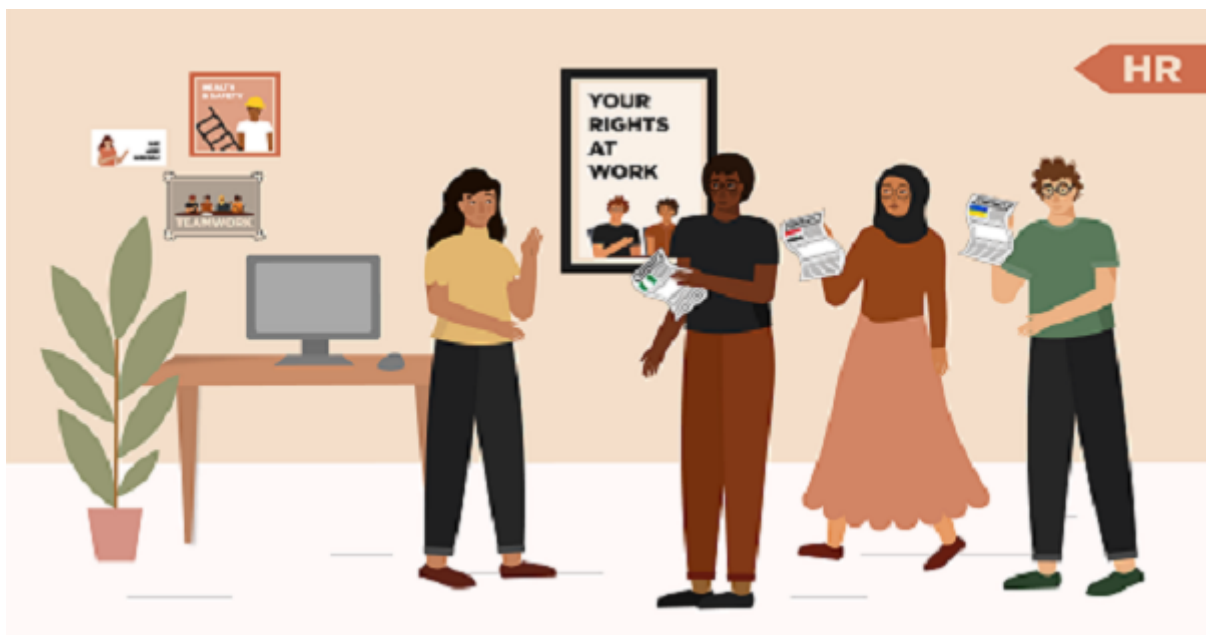


NEWSLETTER MAY 2023

LSI NEWS

Human Rights Due Diligence guidance launched

Yesterday, 30 May, Anti-Slavery International and La Strada International launched the guidance '[Human rights due diligence: risks of modern slavery for displaced workers](#)'. This guidance has been designed for businesses to support the employment of displaced people and address the risk of modern slavery in their value chains. See [more](#).



La Strada International's representation in May

On 9 May 2023, LSI's International Coordinator spoke at the TIATAS online conference "Fostering Transnational Cooperation in Combating Human Trafficking within the European Union: Best Practices and Innovative Actions" co-organised by LSI members Proyecto Esperanza and SICAR cat. See [recording of the event](#) and the [TIATAS presentation slides](#). On 11 and 12 May, LSI contributed to the ELECT THB International Training workshop on Labour exploitation, organised by HEUNI in Tallinn, Estonia. On 15 May, LSI participated in an online CSO consultation on the [Global Slavery Index](#), which was launched a few days later. Further, this month LSI attended several NGO consortia meetings for the monitoring of negotiated EU law.

Joint civil society briefing on UK Illegal Migration Bill

FLEX and Anti-Slavery International, together with other UK organisations working across human rights, migrant justice, asylum, modern slavery, and healthcare, prepared a joint briefing on the Illegal Migration Bill. See [more](#). The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women also published a [statement](#) opposing the Bill, which was co-signed by 50 migrant rights and anti-trafficking NGOs from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas, including LSI.

FairWork and CoMensha react to draft Dutch anti-trafficking law

FairWork and CoMensha submitted responses to the Dutch government's consultation on a draft bill to expand and modernise the human trafficking law. Both organisations welcome the draft revision but make recommendations to lower the threshold of proof for labour exploitation, ensure better victim provisions for everyone with indications of human trafficking and ensure clear definitions and indicators of key concepts to prevent arbitrariness and confusion among first responders. CoMensha also called for explicit reference to the non-punishment principle. See [more](#).

Analysis of transnational cooperation in cases of human trafficking in the EU

SICAR.cat and Proyecto Esperanza in Spain published a [new report](#) analysing trafficking cases requiring transnational cooperation in the EU. It is based on eight cases that the two organisations assisted between 2016 and 2022. It identifies three scenarios: 1) where Spain is the country of entry into Europe and victims move to other EU countries; 2) where victims of trafficking are returned to Spain from other EU countries per the Dublin regulation; and 3) where victims of trafficking move to another EU country for their reintegration and recovery. In all these scenarios, trafficked persons are often not identified by asylum or law enforcement officials. As such, they don't receive the support they are entitled to and are often subjected to revictimisation and re-trafficking. The report concludes with recommendations, in particular, regarding coordination for the transnational referral of cases.

Campaign for a fairer employment permit system in Ireland

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)'s Employment Permits Campaign is calling on the Irish Government to provide workers on General Employment Permits (agricultural workers, chefs, healthcare assistants) the same rights as those on Critical Skills Permits (IT workers, engineers, doctors); give them the right to freely change employers after two years instead of five; to have their immediate family with them in Ireland and the right for their family members to work. See more and join MRCI's mailing list to receive updates about the campaign [here](#).

 <h3>Critical Skills Permit</h3> <p>(IT workers, engineers, doctors, nurses, architects)</p>	 <h3>General Permit</h3> <p>(Agricultural workers, healthcare assistants, chefs)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Can freely change employer after 2 years ✓ Right to bring immediate family ✓ Family members have the right to work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✗ Must wait 5 years to freely change employer ✗ No right to bring immediate family ✗ Family members have NO right to work
 MRCI MIGRANT RIGHTS CENTRE IRELAND	Give essential workers on General Permits the same rights as those on Critical Skills.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

EESC publishes opinion on THB Directive revision

On 16 March, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) organised a consultation to inform its opinion on the proposed revision of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive. La Strada International provided input for the consultations and is pleased with the strong reference to the need to strengthen victims' rights, including their access to non-punishment, compensation and residence in the adopted opinion. See [more](#).

MEPs back EU accession to Istanbul Convention

On 10 May, MEPs voted to approve the European Union's accession to the Convention on preventing and combating violence against women, concluding Parliament's role in the process. It is expected that the Council will conclude the accession on 9 June, together with adopting the Council's general approach on the VAW Directive. See [more](#).

Civil society organisations urge faster progress on the EU Forced Labour Regulation

Trade unions and NGOs, including LSI, sent a [joint letter](#) to the Spanish Secretary of State for the European Union to express concerns about the slow pace of the development of the EU Forced Labour Regulation (FLR). See [more](#). Yesterday, on 30 May, the European Parliament Legal Affairs (JURI) committee [voted](#) their draft opinion on the FLR.



European Parliament votes for migrant rights protections in AI Act

On 11 May, the EP's civil liberties and internal market committees voted on the Artificial Intelligence Act. MEPs overwhelmingly endorsed important protections against harmful uses of AI in migration, as LSI and other civil society had demanded in a [statement](#) earlier.

Among the bans that were voted, civil society [welcomed](#) the prohibition of emotion recognition technologies, biometric categorisation systems, predictive policing systems, all of which have been used to surveil and profile racialised people, both migrants and citizens. The Parliament vote also categorises certain uses of AI, such as forecasting tools surveillance technologies, as "high-risk" and subjects them to enhanced safeguards. The AI Act's protections and safeguards will also apply to the EU's large-scale migration databases.

ILO promotes labour rights in Ukraine

ILO launched a two-year project that will promote compliance with fundamental principles and rights at work throughout the process of modernising labour legalisation in Ukraine. See [more](#).

WHAT IS NEW

Anti-Trafficking Review special issue on Home and Homelessness

The new special issue of *Anti-Trafficking Review* examines the links between housing, homelessness, migration, and exploitation. With contributions from New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, the United States, and Ecuador, it critiques immigration, criminal justice, and social welfare systems that are failing migrants, survivors of trafficking, and other marginalised groups. It demonstrates how these systems create conditions for exploitation and uplifts the voices of people struggling to find not just a roof over their head but a home. See the new issue [here](#).

Failed market approaches to long-term care

In countries where responsibility for long-term care of a growing elderly population has shifted significantly to the private sector, expectations of quality of service and standards of care are not being realised. [This essay](#) by Jason Ward from the Centre for International Corporate Tax Accountability and Research draws on analyses and case studies from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, France and the United States. It shows that care workers, largely female and

often migrant, have been subject to severe exploitation. High turnover and chronic staff shortages are exacerbated by low wages and excessive workloads, undermining the quality of care. It calls for a return of long-term care to the public sector, improvements to the quality of care, and a stronger union presence in the care sector.

Opinion: Europe's fixation with returns does not work

In [this op-ed](#), PICUM Director Michele LeVoy and Advocacy Officer Marta Gionco describe how what the EU institutions call "returns" are in fact deportations, often uprooting people from the life they built for themselves and their families in Europe. They call for a U-turn in how the EU manages migration, to focus on decent pathways for people to access residence permits that allow them to live and work in dignity and safety. Such examples already exist in several countries but more governments need to implement regularisation measures that grant residence permits to irregular migrants. The EU must shift its focus on returns and support these measures instead.



Does the US forced labour import ban lead to remedies for workers?

A [new report](#) by The Remedy Project and the Freedom Fund looks at the relationship between forced labour remediation in response to import bans under the US Tariff Act and the provision of remedies such as compensation for exploited workers. It found that while import bans have resulted in significant remedies in some cases, overall, few forms of direct reparation have been provided. Instead, the evidence suggests that the focus placed on the removal of forced labour indicators actually hinders the effectiveness of the Tariff Act in supporting access to remedy. Furthermore, company remediation efforts in response to import bans and corrective action plans are typically designed from the top down using a risk-driven audit/compliance approach and with limited stakeholder engagement – workers, trade unions and civil society have little or no input. This hinders the ability of company remediation efforts to create systemic-level changes and provide improved remedy access.

La Strada International hopes that these lessons are taken into account in the negotiations for an EU forced labour ban, especially as LSI, together with Anti-Slavery International and others, is [calling](#) for more meaningful inclusion of remedies and engagement of workers.

Wage protection for migrant workers

Underpayment or non-payment of wages continue to be major challenges for many migrant workers. Migrant workers may also experience problems in collecting any owed wage amounts due to language or legal barriers due to discrimination, unfair recruitment processes, and/or restrictions based on their migration status. This new [Guidance Note](#) by the International Labour Organization (ILO) outlines international labour standards on wage protection, with a particular focus on migrant workers. It covers key provisions of relevant international labour standards.

Displaced Ukrainians in the European labour markets

This [new research report](#) by the Migration Policy Institute suggests that many displaced Ukrainians are successfully integrating in the EU labour market, thanks to the EU Temporary Protection Directive; the pre-war experience that many had with travel, residence and employment in the EU; and a strong sense of solidarity in receiving societies. However, challenges such as language barriers, getting foreign education credentials recognised, and trouble securing childcare have limited some Ukrainians' ability to enter the labour market and find a job commensurate with their skills. The report also examines how governments can work together with civil society and employers to help new arrivals find quality jobs and, in doing so, help European societies benefit from their skills.

Code of Practice for ensuring the rights of victims and survivors of human trafficking

This [Code of Practice](#), authored by OSCE in consultation with trafficked persons represented in ISTAC, provides guidance for ensuring the inclusion of victims' and survivors' voices and their full engagement in anti-trafficking responses. It also gives guidance to states on how to implement their commitments to protect the rights of trafficked persons, including on identification and protection, support and access to services, justice and redress, social inclusion and victim- and survivor-engagement strategies.

Monitoring the reintegration of trafficking survivors

[This report](#) by IOM presents findings from a study undertaken in four countries (Bangladesh, Nigeria, Moldova and Tunisia) with 100 survivors of trafficking and 40 professionals, and introduces a toolkit to monitor the reintegration experiences of survivors. The monitoring toolkit aims to support the identification of factors that specifically affect their reintegration as well as best practices for effective support provision by capturing their individual understandings, preferences and reintegration priorities.

How to build a survivor-led anti-trafficking movement

This feature series of Open Democracy/Beyond Trafficking and Slavery explores the role of survivors in the anti-trafficking movement. It grapples with the objectification of survivors and their historical exclusion from the corridors of power and decision-making in NGO and policy spaces. It also highlights how survivor participation and leadership can not only help remedy these historical wrongs but also lead to more effective anti-trafficking policies and practices. Read the introductory article [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **5 - 6 June 2023** – Seminar “Reducing Demand and Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings”, organised by ERA, Krakow, Poland. See [here](#).
- **9-10 May 2023** – Webinar “Access to remedy: Sharing responsibility with suppliers”, organised by Social and Economic Council of the Netherlands (SER) and the Initiative for Global Solidarity (IGS). See [more](#).
- **7-9 June 2023** – [Victim Support Europe Annual Conference 2023](#) titled “Protecting fundamental freedoms, a victim’s perspective” hosted by [WEISSER RING e.V.](#), Berlin, Germany.
- **9 June 2023** – Webinar “Housing for migrants and survivors of trafficking”, organised by GAATW. See [more](#).
- **19 June - 14 July 2023** – 53rd session of the UN Human Rights Council, where [reports](#) of the UNSRs on Trafficking and Rights of Migrants will be presented.
- **3 - 6 July 2023** – 20th Annual Conference of the International Migration Research Network, “Migration and inequalities. In search of answers and solutions”, Warsaw and online. See [more](#).

Support us

La Strada International is fully dependent on donations and subsidies. By making a [donation](#), you will help us continue our monitoring and advocacy work to ensure accountability for the effective implementation of European anti-trafficking policies and the support to trafficked persons.

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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