

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.org).

LSI NEWS



Who are you voting for June 6-9?

Elections for the EU parliament will take place from June 6-9, giving European citizens the chance to impact the course of EU politics over the next years. La Strada International has looked into the manifestos of the European political alliances. Check our Website coming Monday to know which parties acknowledge the importance of labour rights, violence against women, shrinking space and other core topics of LSI and our demands for newly elected MEPs.

Other CSOs like [Human Rights Watch](#) have also published their view on party manifestos and discuss the parties which are up for election while keeping in mind a strong voice for human rights. Further, more than 300 EP candidates have already signed the Civil Society for EU pledge, promising to support civil society and to back a Civil Society strategy and a Civil Dialogue agreement if elected. You can check out the list of supporters [here](#). Further overviews about where the parties stand and what they advocate for can be found [here](#).

LSI Representation in May

On 8 May, La Strada International contributed to the Regional UNODC Conference: "Addressing trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation in South - Eastern Europe – a way forward towards whole-of-society response". From 22 until 24 of May, we participated in PICUM's General Assembly in Madrid Spain and the European Workshop on Safe Reporting and Effective Complaint Mechanisms. LSI further participated in the online meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform on the revised Anti-Trafficking Directive on 29 May.

LSI General Assembly

From 24 – 26 June, La Strada International will organise its General Assembly meeting in Paris, France. On 25 June a public event will be organised related to the 30th anniversary of our member Comité Contre L'Esclavage Moderne (CCEM) and the Olympic Games to be held in France from 26 July to 11 August 2024.

This event will focus on whether and when major sport events lead to human trafficking and forced labour. What evidence do we have and what preventive actions should be taken. Might you have done interesting studies or reflections on the issue please let [us know](mailto:info@lastrada.org).

LSI MEMBERS NEWS

Highlights from LSI Members' Work in May:

- **Vatra** recently had a meeting with clients for their project 'Counseling towards employment'. The project offers practical sessions for participants to prepare for entering the labour market as employees or self-employed. The project is mainly focusing on participants from the Roma and Egyptian communities with the goal of better integrating the members of those communities into the Albanian labour market.
- **Lef6** will host a public action for the international sex workers day on 3 June in Vienna. The event is co-organised by sex workers, sex worker coalitions, members of the Green Women's Party, and other CSO actors. They are calling for greater recognition, rights, the political and social destigmatisation of sex work as well as a violence-free society for all sex workers.
- **PAG-ASA** will exist for 30 years this year! They will celebrate the big event with their clients, who are the heart of their work. During the years PAG-ASA has assisted many victims of trafficking and helped them on their way to autonomous reintegration.
- **La Strada Ukraine** was visited by GRETA for the 3rd monitoring round. You can read more about the visit [here](#). The final report is scheduled to be published throughout 2025.



WHAT IS HAPPENING?



New EU Migrant Smuggling Law Expected

The EU is moving towards adopting a renewed law to criminalise migrant smuggling. The EU Council is now discussing its position for negotiations with the Parliament. Some governments appear to favour maximum criminalisation, calling for a broad definition of smuggling to facilitate prosecutions – a position that has been taken on board by the Belgian Council Presidency in an initial compromise text. Read the [full story](#) here.

THB Directive Accepted

On 27th of May, the Council of the EU adopted the revised THB Directive. This was the last step in the decision-making procedure for this revised legislative act. The recast Directive will now soon be published in the Official Journal of the European Union and will enter into force on the twentieth day following its publication, which is expected between to be around mid or end of June. EU Member States than have two years to transpose the Directive. Read more about the topic [here](#) and in our [joint press release with PICUM](#).

Update on EU Law

Several other EU directives were adopted in May, including the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, which was adopted on 14 May by the European Council. La Strada International is concerned that the new legislative framework does not provide any effective solution to the migration management issues, raised over the past years, fails to protect people, and undermines fundamental rights. You can find more about our concerns [here](#).

Other adopted EU laws will bring more positive outcomes, such as the Violence Against Women directive which was [adopted](#) on 7 May. The Directive adopts a holistic approach to combat violence against women and domestic violence, incorporating measures relating to prevention, protection, support for victims, access to justice and prosecution of perpetrators. Earlier, La Strada International, together with 12 other CSOs reacted to the adoption in a [joint statement](#).

Also, the Directive on Corporate Due Diligence (CSDDD) is fully adopted now, while the Forced Labour Regulation still awaits a formal adoption by the Council in June. The law and the regulation recognise that businesses are accountable for the impact of their operations on human trafficking and forced labour.

The Forced Labour Regulation should reassure European consumers will not be inadvertently buying products tainted with forced labour; protect companies from the unfair trading practices of competitors who exploit their workers, and strengthen an interlocking net of international protections against the import of goods made with forced labour.

Georgia Adopts Foreign Agent Law

Concerningly, the 'foreign agent' law proposed by the Georgian Parliament has been adopted. The law calls for media and non-commercial organisations to register as being under foreign influence if more than 20% of their funding comes from abroad, affecting CSOs who receive funds from foreign entities. Read more about the issue with the new law in our [April Newsletter](#).

WHAT IS NEW

Call for Input for the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, is preparing the next thematic report for the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in October 2024. This report will focus on trafficking and its intersections with gender, peace, and security.

To support this work, the Special Rapporteur seeks contributions from relevant stakeholders to provide information on the progress made in addressing trafficking in persons within women, peace, and security action plans, programmes, and transitional processes in states emerging from conflict. The goal is to assess the implementation of recommendations for better integration of a human rights-based approach to trafficking, in line with Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). The deadline is 20 June 2024 and the full Call for Input is available [here](#).

Report Exposes UK Shortcomings in Human Trafficking Policies

The new report '[A can of worms: Challenges and opportunities in gathering modern slavery evidence](#)' by [After Exploitation](#) investigates UK shortcomings in handling human trafficking. The report reveals big gaps in the collection, publication and management of data related to exploitation. It is found that governmental data is lacking on trafficked persons' access to essential entitlements, like safe housing, counselling, and compensation. This finding is especially concerning as there are clear international obligations to ensure access to these things. Additionally, the report also delves into transparency issues hindering stakeholders who proactively request modern slavery evidence for their work.

The findings highlight how affected people struggle with accessing their case data, with crucial information such as NRM referrals and needs assessments often not shared consistently. It also entails recommendations on how to improve the situation. Find an executive summary of the report [here](#).

Picum Briefing Explores Criminalisation of Migration Across EU

PICUM recently published a new briefing '[Between administrative and criminal law: An overview of criminalisation of migration across the EU](#)'. The briefing explores the conflation of criminal and administrative law in the context of migration alongside 3 key trends: the detention of migrants for 'national security' or 'public order', the use of criminal law to manage migration, with the purpose of preventing and deterring people's mobility and the use of digital technologies and AI for migration control and surveillance.

Legal Approach to Forced Marriage

In a new publication '[Legal approaches to forced marriage](#)' HEUNI delves into the legal landscapes surrounding forced marriages in Germany, Spain, Ireland, and Finland, offering insights into prevailing legal approaches and institutional initiatives. The report is designed as a tool for policymakers and practitioners and provides insights for future interventions and informed discussions in the field of forced marriage and prevention. Forced marriage is now criminalised in the new EU VAW/DV law, while the exploitation of forced marriage is now criminalised under the recast THB Directive.

Civic Space Report

The European Civic Forum has published its new [Civic Space Report](#). It is based on an EU-wide analysis and organised in 15 country chapters. The report finds that overall, civic freedoms have deteriorated in Europe during the last five years. On their [website](#), factsheets for all analysed countries can be found.

IOM Report Shows Shifts in Global Migration Patterns

[IOM has released the 2024 world migration report](#) which reveals significant shifts in global migration patterns. The report highlights persisting challenges in migration while also identifying migration as an important driving force in human development.

Handbook for Forensic Child Interviews in Presumed Cases of Trafficking

The CBSS and the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI) have recently collaborated to publish the Handbook for forensic child interviews in presumed trafficking cases. [This publication](#) aims to support professionals in conducting investigative interviews in presumed cases of child trafficking.

Fueling Injustice: Tracking Allegations of Abuse in Transition Mineral Mining in Eastern Europe & Central Asia

Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) are key for clean energy minerals but face severe abuses in mining. A report (2019-2023) records 421 allegations, mainly from Russia, Armenia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Kazakhstan. Nearly half involve worker health, safety issues, and deaths. The energy transition is costly for workers, communities, and the environment in EECA. Read more on [our website](#) or visit the [website of the Business and Human Rights Center](#).

ESWA Research on Needs and Demands of Sex Workers

The European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (ESWA) is conducting a research project aimed at understanding the needs and demands of sex workers regarding advertising platforms. For that, they are seeking sex workers who actively use online advertising platforms to participate in their research. The goal is to design a platform that respects sex workers' rights, ensuring their health and safety. Read more about the research [here](#).

Call for Papers on Climate-Induced Labour Conditions

GAATW's Anti-Trafficking Review will issue a special edition documenting the deteriorating climate-induced labour conditions for migrant and local workers. The issue will also discuss what courts as forced labour when extreme heat conditions become normal on the globe and climate-related disasters change landscapes, economies, and everyday lifeways. Contributions are welcome until 15 December 2024. Find out more about the call for papers [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **4 June** - launch ceremony for the 'Global Initiative against Impunity for International Crimes and Serious Right Violations: Making Justice Work'. Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU and the European Commission. Brussels and online. Registration [here](#).
- **6 June** - 13.00-14.00 CET - Webinar 'Criminalising Migration: How criminal and administrative law impact fundamental rights?' PICUM. Registration [here](#).
- **10 June** - PILnet and members of the legal community hold a [hybrid event](#) on 'Gender, Justice and the Law: Legal and Practical Challenges for Refugees'
- **17-19 June** - Conference 'Making Rights a Reality: The Human Rights of Undocumented and Precarious Migrant Workers' organised by the Amsterdam Centre for Migration and Refugee Law (ACMRL). More info [here](#).
- **24-26 June** - LSI General Assembly/annual NGO Platform Meeting in Paris, France. On 25 June public event on human trafficking and sport events – for more information contact [us](#).
- **24 June - 12 July** - International Labour Standards and Human Rights, online course. ITC ILO. More information [here](#).

Support us

We are 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.

