

PUBLIC EVENT

GOOD PRACTICES AND CHALLENGES IN ADDRESSING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND FORCED LABOUR DURING MAJOR SPORTS EVENTS

By La Strada International & Comité contre L'Esclavage Moderne (CCEM)

Venue: Hôtel CIS Paris Kellermann, 17 Bd Kellermann, 75013 Paris, France

This public event is organised in the framework of La Strada International NGO platform, held in Paris on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Comité contre L'Esclavage Moderne (CCEM) and the Olympic Games to be held in France from 26 July to 11 August 2024.

Sport events are not a root cause of human trafficking or forced labour. The reasons why persons end up in a situation of severe exploitation and abuse are diverse. Poverty, conflict, inequality, the absence of viable employment opportunities or social support and discrimination are among the main reasons for people to become more vulnerable. Also, the lack of safe and legal migration opportunities and the general demand for cheap and exploitative labour combined with the lack of legal protection, exposes large groups of people to a considerable risk of exploitation and abuse.

Especially migrant workers with precarious, dependent, or irregular status experience conditions below those required by minimum labour standards, in terms of pay, working time, rest periods, sick leave, holiday, and health and safety.

While evidence on the link between human trafficking and major sports events, is generally much lacking and the links remain complex, there have been studies and reports concluding that major sport events might create demand for or result in cheap and exploitative labour or services of national and migrant workers, including sex workers.

Amnesty International reported that in Qatar, since the country was awarded the right to host the 2022 World Cup in 2010, the migrant worker population rapidly expanded. Driven in part by the subsequent construction boom, the country's population jumped from 1.6 million people in December 2010 to 2.7 million in October 2018. Coming from some of the world's poorest countries, and working in sectors including construction, hospitality and domestic service, migrant workers comprise 95% of the country's labour force. Many of these migrant workers fell victim to Qatar's exploitative labour system not only before and during, but also still now after the World Cup has ended nearly two years ago. It can therefore also be questioned how much the hosting of the sport event, or rather the system in place is to blame.

In we investigate claims about the large demand for sexual exploitation, we also see a very wide discrepancy between claims that are made prior to large sporting events and the actual number of trafficking cases found. Trafficking is often conflated with sex work and anti-trafficking organisations; sex workers rights organisations and other stakeholders have strongly therefore refuted the claim that large sporting events cause an increase in trafficking for sexual exploitation.

During this event speakers will discuss:

- When do major sport events lead to human trafficking and forced labour? How does the demand for workers lead to exploitation and abuse?
- Do we see expected changes related to specific forms of human trafficking? (e.g. forced begging, forced prostitution, forced criminality and labour exploitation?)
- How can major sports be used to raise awareness/prevent THB? Have earlier campaigns lead to proven positive outcomes?
- What evidence is there on the link to human trafficking and major sport events; what can we prove and what not?

- What possible risks are there for increased labour exploitation and sexual exploitation, including human trafficking in France this summer and elsewhere?
- What due diligence and other preventive measures have been taken by the French government and should be considered to prevent the exploitation and abuse. (e.g. related to the building of the Olympic village and its supply chains, the cleaning, merchandise, catering),
- What are general challenges related to the exploitation of migrant workers related to labour exploitation that should be tackled?
- What are lessons learnt & best practices and what are recommendations to prevent exploitation and abuse, also for upcoming sports events.

PROGRAMME

15.00 - Coffee and registration

15.30 – 16.00 Opening

- Ms Suzanne Hoff, LSI coordinator, & Ms. Mona Chamass, Director CCEM/LSI Board member
- Ms. Roxana Maracineanu, National Coordinator MIPROF, France
- Ms. Zita Cabais, person with lived experience and activist for the defence of domestic workers' rights in France

16.00 – 17.00 Panel I – Human trafficking and sports events

Moderation Ms. Mona Chamass

Panellists

- Ms. Parosha Chandran, Anti-Trafficking and Human Rights Lawyer and Professor (King's College London), legal advisor on Sports Trafficking for Mission 89
- Ms. Aurélie Hauchère Vuong – ILO Forced labour and Sport events
- Ms. Cécile Riou – French National rapporteur, CNCDH, France
- Ms. Geneviève Colas - Collectif against Human trafficking, France
- Ms. Sophia Wirsching - KOK Germany

17.00 – 18.00 Panel II – Human trafficking for labour exploitation

Moderation Ms. Eefje de Volder

Panellists

- Ms. Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
- Ms. Elodie Goyard – Magistrate at the France permanent mission to OSCE and UNODC
- Gen. José-Manuel Montull - Central Office against illegal labour, OCLTI, France
- Mr. Oscar Oesterle - Labour Inspection, France
- Ms. Roxane Ouadghiri Hassani – Vice-Director, CCEM, France

Concluding and closing

18.00- 19.00 Reception/ cocktail