

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

LSI Update

Due to the summer period, August was a quiet period for La Strada International, but we are back in full operation. Over the summer we did join three AMIF applications with different consortia for proposals to strengthen the referral and support to third country national (TCNs) victims of human trafficking; to raise the awareness of TCNs along migration routes into Europe, next to a research proposal focusing on exploitation in the hospitality sector.

The coming months we will work on analysing data related to the support we provided to Ukrainians. We are also finalising research on shrinking space for AT NGOs in Europe, to be launched on 18 October and will publish information collected by our Working Group on Identification. We also hope to launch our handbook on access to compensation still this year. As for European advocacy, this week we will start again monitoring the negotiation processes around the Victim Rights Directive revision, the Forced Labour Ban, as well as the national transposing of the adopted amended THB Directive, VAW Directive and the CSDDD.

This autumn, we will also start to prepare for our 30-anniversary year, with a social media campaign and an anniversary event around 15 September 2025. More information will follow.

LSI MEMBERS NEWS



Highlights from LSI Members' Work in August:

- **LSI Ukraine** launched an awareness campaign together with the Ukrainian Railway Company, informing readers about human trafficking by sharing stories and showing how seemingly harmless situations can get dangerous. See more [here](#).
- **Accem** offers training courses, sharing knowledge gained from 30 years of experience in providing social care to vulnerable groups in society for a wide range of groups including public administrations, educational institutions, companies and the general public. See more [here](#).
- **La Strada - Open Gate Macedonia** was featured in a recent UNODC [article](#) and [video](#) regarding child trafficking. In the video, Marija Todorovska reflects on the work of Open Gate in the area of child trafficking and talks about the needed support for children who became victims of human trafficking.
- **Fair Work** in collaboration with the Dutch Red Cross and migrant self-organisations recently announced their new awareness campaign against exploitation, raising awareness on human trafficking for labour exploitation among undocumented people. The awareness videos will be launched from the beginning of September on, followed by an online tool to help recognising exploitation.



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Von der Leyen Guidelines: Much focus on return of Migrants and Border Control

The [Political Guidelines for the Next European Commission 2024–2029](#), in which Commission President Ursula von der Leyen outlined priorities, announce a reinforced approach to the exploitation of migrants and poor working conditions. However, measures focus in particular on enhancing border management and controls; the reinforcement of a 'European digital border management' system and strengthening the work of Frontex and Europol, next to putting forward a new approach for the return of migrants. Much less attention is put on enhancing labour migration and inclusion policies for migrants. Earlier Von der Leyen also gave her support to controversial migration reforms that would involve deporting people to third countries for asylum processing and the imposition of a quota system for those receiving protection in EU countries. See also reaction by [PICUM](#).

UN Rapporteurs Divided on ECtHR Ruling Regarding the Purchase of Sexual Services in France

UN Rapporteurs have reacted differently on the [ECtHR ruling](#) of last month, which ruled that France's law which criminalises the purchase of sex is not in violation with article 8 of the human rights convention. While the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Rapporteur [welcomed](#) the Court's ruling and claimed that criminalising the purchase of sexual services shows the inherent violence and discrimination in the area of sex work, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Tlaleng Mofokeng, raised instead her [strong concern](#) about the ruling. She stated that the criminalisation of sex work presents obstacles to the enjoyment of sex workers' right to health and might prevent sex workers of seeking proper healthcare in systems that criminalise their work, due to their fear of legal consequences, harassment, judgement or stigmatisation.

First Conviction in the Netherlands for Knowing Use of Sexual Services of a Victim of Trafficking

In the Netherlands a 50-year-old man has been sentenced to 12 months in prison, for having sex with a (minor) person, while knowing she was being exploited. He is the first person convicted under Article 273g of the Dutch Penal Code, which since January 2022, criminalises any person who performs sexual acts with another person, while knowing - or having serious reason to suspect - that the other person is in a trafficking situation. In the Netherlands and in many other European countries the knowing use of services provided by a trafficked person is only criminalised in relation to sexual services. However, with the amendment of the EU THB Directive, all EUMS are now obliged to criminalise the knowing use of all services by trafficked people. See earlier [LSI policy paper](#) on the issue.

ILO Announces International Statistical Standards for Care Work

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is [launching a new programme](#) to develop international statistical standards for care work due to increased global interest in the care economy. Care work, both paid and unpaid, is a sector which is vulnerable for exploitation and abuse, but is often underestimated in official statistics, regardless of the increased demand for reliable statistics on care work.

G20 Agreed on Promoting Decent Work

The Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO) has urged the G20 labour and employment ministers to take decisive action to reduce inequalities, promote gender equality, and support diversity in the workplace. At a recent meeting, the ministers agreed on a package of measures to address global labour market challenges, ensure just transitions, and promote decent work. The measures include creating quality jobs, promoting social inclusion, and eradicating hunger and poverty through coordinated social, economic, and environmental policies. Read more about it [here](#).

Call for Input for the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Germany

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children will visit Germany between October 14th and 25th, where she will also be meeting with LSI member [KOK](#). The aim of the visit is to assess the situation, and the progress made in combating and preventing the sale, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, on which the Special Rapporteur will issue a report to the Human Rights Council (HRC) in March 2026. Interested individuals and organisations can send their input until 27 September. Learn more about the call and the specific topics [here](#).

WHAT IS NEW?



Good Practice Guide on Due Diligence for Companies

The Business and Human Rights Resource Centre (KnowTheChain) emphasised the role of companies in advancing human rights in their new [Good Practice Guide](#). By promoting fair work conditions, equal pay, and safe workplaces and ensuring that they do not contribute to human rights risks or exploitation throughout their supply chains, companies can contribute to upholding and strengthening human rights. The guide provides guidance for companies on how to implement due diligence and address forced labour risks in their supply chains.

FRA Guidance for Labour Inspectors Across the EU

The European Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has been working with labour inspectors across the EU on developing a practical manual to support them in detecting labour exploitation. The manual will be published in the fall of 2024 and also includes information on safeguards for third-country workers which are included under EU law. However, the FRA has already published a [list](#) containing six issues which labour inspectors should consider to better protect the rights of migrant workers, such as full pay, decent housing of the workers and providing migrant workers with information.

OECD Guidance on Due Diligence for Companies

In light of the adoption of the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), the OECD has published a [guidance](#) explaining how multinational companies can implement due diligence while conducting their business activities, at national or across borders. Read more about it [here](#) or access their [guidance videos](#) directly.

Labour Exploitation in the Western Balkans

The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC) has recently published a new [report](#). It highlights the problem of labour exploitation in the Western Balkans, affecting both local and migrant workers and was made in collaboration with civil society, including LSI's member Astra. The report highlights several incidents that illustrate the scale of the problem. Read more about it [here](#) or watch the [webinar](#) held for the report launch.

Safe Accommodation for People Affected by Human Trafficking in Germany

The German Institute for Human Rights published an [analysis](#) (only in German) on adequate and safe accommodation for victims of human trafficking with a focus on labour exploitation. It is based on interviews with representatives of specialist counselling centres, state administrations, investigative authorities and a person affected, as well as case reports from the financial control of undeclared work unit.

Legal Analysis Discusses UK Law Developments in the Field of Human Trafficking

During the past two years, the UK has adopted several legal and policy instruments which restrict victims' access to protections which should be granted to them under domestic and international law. In a recent [legal analysis](#) by the Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy Centre, Section 63 of the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 (NABA) is found to be incompatible with UK's international obligations on modern slavery. It breaches the obligation to identify and protect every victim of modern slavery without discrimination and without exceptions.

New OSCE Reports on Trafficking, Focusing on Vulnerabilities Related to Disabilities and to Minorities

The Office of the Special Representative on THB of the OSCE has released [Invisible Victims. The nexus between disabilities and trafficking in human beings](#), exploring the ways in which disability increases vulnerability to human trafficking, disability as a result of trafficking and exploitation, the intersection of disability and disaster, and the visibility of trafficking in justice systems.

The office of the Special Representative will also launch the publication [OUT OF THE SHADOWS: Addressing the Dynamics of Trafficking in Persons belonging to minorities, including national minorities](#) on 11 September, see events below.

Cases of Domestic Violence in Kosovo Courts

The OSCE in Kosovo recently published a [report](#) on the handling of domestic violence cases by Kosovo courts. The report is based on the analysis of cases which were directly monitored by OSCE trial monitors.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **5 September** - Online webinar (10-12 CET) by CBSS: 'Creating a cycle of protection for child victims of trafficking'. This webinar will present the newly published guidance from Promise TRM to support states in developing and strengthening the means for cooperation between anti-trafficking and child protection services. You can register [here](#).
- **11 September** - International Conference on Migrant Smuggling by the Council of Europe. See [conference website](#).
- **11 September** - OSCE OSR launch event for release of occasion paper, 'Out of the shadows: Addressing the dynamics of trafficking in persons belonging to minorities, including national minorities'. The event will take place at the Hofburg from 15.00-17.00 (CET) and can also be followed online. Register [here](#) for in person or online participation.
- **24 September** - [Webinar](#) From EU Directive to national law: Transposing the environmental obligations of the CSDDD. The webinar shares insights from a new legal analysis produced by ClientEarth and Frank Bold.
- **4 October** - [International Expert Round Table](#) - Countering the toxic interface of migration, human trafficking & related labour exploitation 2.0. Vienna, Austria 9.00-16.00 (CET).
- **30 September to 11 October** - 2024 Warsaw Human Dimension Conference. On 2 October there is a session on human trafficking. Find the agenda [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.

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