

Ambassador Maria Spassova, Chair
Ambassador Sini Paukkunen-Mykkänen, Vice-Chair
Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on
Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Amsterdam, 23 October 2024

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair and other members of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings,

La Strada International, the European NGO Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings, represents 32 Anti-Trafficking NGOs based in 24 Council of Europe countries. For nearly 30 years, we work in the anti-trafficking field and engage in direct support to trafficked persons, as well as in advocacy to promote and protect their rights. We acknowledge the benefits of the CoE Convention and feel strongly supported by the work of GRETA in raising awareness about remaining gaps in the implementation of the Convention, as well as its recommendations to State Parties to improve their legislation, policy and practice. GRETA's monitoring body has proven to be a unique, important and influential instrument in the protection of the rights of trafficked persons across the countries that are party to the Convention.

We are aware that on 29th November, at your 35th meeting of the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the next GRETA elections are scheduled. We have been monitoring the nomination process of candidates for this election at national level over the last months and are glad to see again so many well-qualified candidates placed on the nomination list.

As civil society actors, we would like to express our strong support for the following candidates:

- [Ms. Conny Rijken](#), Netherlands
- [Mr. Peter Van Hauwermeiren](#), Belgium
- [Ms. Irena Ferčíková Konečná](#), Czech Republic
- [Ms. Dorothea Czarnecki](#), Germany
- [Ms. Julia Muraszkwicz](#), Poland

- [Ms. Leila Hadjira Boussemacer](#), Switzerland
- [Ms. Anne Brandt Christensen](#), Denmark
- [Mr. David Mancini](#), Italy
- [Ms. Alina Barbu](#), Romania

All these nine candidates are persons who have been active for long in the anti-trafficking field and with whom we have been working closely together over the years, either at national or international level. All of these candidates have strongly supported a human rights-based approach and have defended the rights of trafficked persons and related marginalised groups. They also all recognise and support the work of civil society, some of them also worked for, or represent CSOs. This is very important for us, in times of shrinking civil society space and increasing anti-migration and xenophobic policies in Europe.

We hope you will take note of this strong civil society support for these candidates. It goes without saying that we are looking forward to continuing our close cooperation with the Council of Europe and the newly selected GRETA members in our common action against human trafficking.

La Strada International

ACCEM, Spain
 Adpare, Romania
 Animus Association Foundation, Bulgaria
 Anti-Slavery International, United Kingdom
 ASTRA, Anti-Trafficking Action, Serbia
 Ban Ying, Germany
 CoMensha, Netherlands
 Comité Contre L'Esclavage Moderne, France
 FairWork, Netherlands
 FIZ, Switzerland
 FLEX, United Kingdom
 Fundación de Solidaridad Amaranta, Spain
 Hope Now, Denmark
 HRDF, Turkey
 KOK, Germany
 La Strada Czech Republic

La Strada Moldova
 La Strada Poland
 La Strada Ukraine
 LEFO IBF Austria
 Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)
 MIST, France
 Novi Put, Bosnia Herzegovina
 On the Road, Italy
 Open Gate/La Strada North Macedonia
 PAG-Asa, Belgium
 Payoke, Belgium
 Pro Tukipiste, Finland
 RIKU/Victim Support Finland
 Vatra Psycho - Social Center, Albania
 Women's Rights - Agenda Belarus, Estonia