

Support Our Work

La Strada International advocates for the rights of trafficked persons, as well as those vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking. To ensure accountability for the effective implementation of policies and regulations, LSI advocates for legislation that recognises and respects the rights of all trafficked persons and seeks to monitor the implementation of legislation to help ensure that those rights are realised.

In 2024, we lobbied in particular for fair migration pathways, decent work, access to remedies, safe reporting and unconditional support for victims. At EU level we closely monitored the revisions of the EU Anti-Trafficking, Victim Rights and Single Residence Permit Directives, as well as the developments around the new Directives on Violence Against Women, Due Diligence (CSDDD), the Forced Labour Ban and the Asylum and Migration Pact which were all adopted in 2024. We met with representatives of member states, the Commission and Parliament and connected with various NGO consortia. Building an extensive network of contacts and allies, we engaged in writing joint letters, statements and developing guidance for EU law transposing, next to launching campaigns.

We also followed the EP elections and appointment of the new commissioners, raising our voice for the need for more space for civil society.

In 2024, we contributed to over 50 international events, and to monitoring the work of GREVIO, GRETA, OSCE, and UN bodies. Ahead of the Olympic Games, we organised our annual NGO platform in Paris, with a Public Panel discussion on Sports Events and their Link to Human Trafficking, next to organising side events at UN fora including UNTOC and CSW, and several webinars over the year.

We followed the situation in the world with concern. Wars, conflicts, inequality, the absence of viable employment opportunities or social support and discrimination are among the main reasons for people to migrate and seek opportunities abroad. Our members conducted outreach work, provided information and direct support to Ukrainian displaced persons and other migrant and refugee groups. Thousands of potential victims of human trafficking have been directly assisted by our members in 2024, through their hotline and assistance programmes, including support in legal proceedings.

To defend victims' interests and hold exploiters accountable, we further worked on strategic litigation, having filed a <u>legal action</u> against Dutch Companies for Allegedly Profiting from Forced Labour of North Koreans in Polish Shipyards. While this case, unfortunately, did not lead to further investigations or prosecution, our members have been successful in court procedures and ensured access to justice for many this year.

We conducted our own research and contributed to the research of others. In 2024, we published a case assessment report on non-punishment, and have been working on the development of a Chatbot related to the intra-EU posting of workers in the agriculture and manufacturing sectors (Info Rights project), next to working on academic research on identification, the exploitation of forced marriage and surrogacy, remedies as well as on criminalising the knowing use of services by trafficked persons. We also contributed to GAATW Special ATR Issue on Following the Money for human trafficking and joined the interdisciplinary research project COMCRIM to detect crime in unconventional data sources such as banking records and discern criminal networks, patterns, and effects. We reported about all this work via our monthly newsletter, our social media channels, and direct work with media representatives, aiming to contribute to the creation of a more realistic picture of human trafficking, its root causes, and the different forms of human trafficking.

Donate

Since our establishment, La Strada has not received any structural funds and is dependent on gifts, donations, and project grants. This allows us to take up a critical watchdog role and to engage independently with other actors. Please support us and help us to continue our important work in the anti-trafficking field.



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