

OPINION | LA STRADA UKRAINE

Despite the challenges of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine, Ukraine continues to take important steps to protect survivors of human trafficking. GRETA noted positive developments in access to justice, legal aid, and support for survivors. At the same time, the report emphasises the need for further steps, ranging from legislative changes to strengthening child protection. Ukraine received clear recommendations for further steps in combating human trafficking.

Despite the challenges of a full-scale war, Ukraine continues to take important steps to protect survivors of human trafficking.

The GRETA report notes positive changes in access to justice, legal aid and support for survivors. The adoption in 2023 of the State Special Purpose Social Programme for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings for the period up to 2025, taking into account the challenges posed by the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia, demonstrates that Ukraine is aware of the importance of combating the crime of human trafficking.

At the same time, the report emphasises the need for further steps, in particular to strengthen the protection of children and employees. We received clear recommendations. Among them are legislative changes that will allow survivors to avoid punishment for crimes committed under coercion, which are in fact human trafficking, and professional assistance for their reintegration. The report also pays special attention to child-friendly justice that takes into account the needs of child survivors.

The GRETA report calls for a comprehensive approach that includes both prevention and effective detection and prosecution of those responsible for the crime of human trafficking.
