



United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime



Government Offices of Sweden



Government of the Republic of North Macedonia
National commission for fight against trafficking in human beings
and illegal migration

AGENDA

Regional Conference: “Enhancing Cross-Border Cooperation of National Referral Mechanisms to Address Trafficking in Persons in Contexts of Displacement and Mixed Migration Flows”

Hotel Marriot, Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia

12-13 November 2025

Hybrid format with in-person and online attendance

Day 1

09:00-09:30	Registration of participants
09:30-10:00	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Mr. Davor RAUS</i>, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ola SOHLSTROM, Ambassador, Embassy of Sweden in North Macedonia • Mr. Sasho PETRUSHEVSKI, National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of North Macedonia • Ms. Rita COLUMBIA, United Nations Resident Coordinator in North Macedonia • Ms. Stojna ATANASOVSKA DIMISHKOVSKA, Officer-in-Charge/Head of Office, UNODC Programme Office in North Macedonia, National Programme Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section.
10:00-10:15	Group photo



<p>10:15-10:30</p>	<p>Session 1: Presentation of RC concept, methodology and participants</p> <p><u>Session objective: to present the key aims relating to the RC and tour de table introduction of the participants</u></p> <p><i>Speaker</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Davor RAUS, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC
<p>10:30-12:00</p>	<p>Session 2: Displacement, Vulnerabilities, and Protection Needs – Current Trends, Trafficking Risks among Refugees from Ukraine and Mixed Migration Flows, and the Role of NRMs in Early Identification, Referral, and Protection of Women, Children, and Unaccompanied Minors</p> <p><u>Session Objective: This session will examine the protection challenges arising from large-scale displacement, with particular attention to refugees from Ukraine and vulnerable groups within mixed migration flows. It will review current trends and trafficking risks affecting women, children, and unaccompanied minors, and highlight the specific vulnerabilities that increase exposure to sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse. Participants will discuss how National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs) can adapt their procedures to improve early identification, safe referral, and cross-border protection, ensuring that responses remain victim-centred, trauma-informed, and aligned with international standards.</u></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Mr. Davor RAUS</i>, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Claire HEALY, Social affairs officer, UNODC (online) • Ms. Filipa Bernardes VILELA, Policy Officer Office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator (online) • Ms. Petya NESTOROVA, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (online) • Mr. Oleksandr KYRYLENKO, Anti-trafficking expert <p>Discussion and Q&A Session</p>



12:00-12:30	Coffee break
12:30-13:30	<p>Session 3: Country-Specific Mapping of Trafficking Risks and Responses in the Context of the War in Ukraine – Insights from Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine</p> <p>Session objective: <u>This session will present the results of a rapid country-specific mapping exercise conducted in Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine. The session aims to highlight national practices, gaps, and challenges in identifying and protecting victims of trafficking among displaced populations, while fostering cross-country dialogue on lessons learned and potential avenues for harmonized referral and protection mechanisms.</u></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Ms. Stojna ATANASOVSKA DIMISHKOVSKA</i>, Officer-in-Charge/Head of Office, UNODC Programme Office in North Macedonia, National Programme Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tatiana FOMINA, Senior Analyst, La Strada International Center, Moldova (online) • Ms. Julia Maria WILLIAMSON, Anti-trafficking expert, Poland • Mr. Dan CRISTEA, Head of Program Implementation and International Relations Unit, Romania (online) <p>Discussion and Q&A Session</p>
13:30-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-15:15	<p>Session 3 (Part II): Country-Specific Mapping of Trafficking Risks and Responses in the Context of the War in Ukraine – Insights from Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine</p> <p>Session objective: <u>This session will present the results of a rapid country-specific mapping exercise conducted in Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine. The session aims to highlight national practices, gaps, and challenges in identifying and protecting victims of trafficking among displaced populations, while fostering</u></p>



	<p><u>cross-country dialogue on lessons learned and potential avenues for harmonized referral and protection mechanisms.</u></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Ms. Stojna ATANASOVSKA DIMISHKOVSKA</i>, Officer-in-Charge/Head of Office, UNODC Programme Office in North Macedonia, National Programme Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section.</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lucia BALOGHOVA, Senior Police Officer, National Centre against Trafficking in Human Beings, Expertise Unit, Crime Prevention Bureau, Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (online) • Ms. Julia SACHENKO, Independent Consultant and Expert on Combating Human Trafficking and Child Protection, Ukraine <p>Discussion and Q&A Session</p>
15:15-15:45	Coffee break
15:45-16:30	<p>Session 4 (Part I): National Perspectives on Cross-Border NRM Cooperation</p> <p>Session objective: <u>Session objective: This session will provide a platform for participating countries to present their national experiences in strengthening the functioning of National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs) in cross-border contexts. It will highlight good practices that have improved victim identification, referral, and protection across borders, while also addressing the challenges and obstacles that remain. Country presentations will focus on lessons learned, gaps in existing procedures, and opportunities for greater harmonization of protocols, with the overall aim of fostering peer-to-peer learning and identifying concrete ways to reinforce cooperation for more effective and victim-centred protection.</u></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Mr. Davor RAUS</i>, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Klejdi MULLAJ, Prosecutor at the Prosecution Office at the Court of First Instance of General Jurisdiction, Korçë, Albania



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Edin MANJO, Inspector at the Ministry of the Interior of the Bosnian-Podrinje Canton, Bosnia and Herzegovina <p>Discussion and Q&A Session</p>
16:30-17:00	<p>Closure of Day 1</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Mr. Davor RAUS</i>, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC</p>
19:30	Joint dinner at Restaurant “Skopski Merak”

Day 2

09:30-11:00	<p>Session 5: Regional and International Approaches to Victim Identification and Cross-Border Referral through NRMs</p> <p>Session objective: <u>This session will examine how regional and international actors can strengthen victim identification and ensure effective referral to National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs). The discussion will highlight cross-border cooperation, coordination among partners, and the adaptation of NRMs to challenges linked to displacement, mixed migration, and technology-facilitated exploitation.</u></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Mr. Davor RAUS</i>, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Edi MUJAJ, Head of Unit, Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, Council of the Baltic Sea States (online) Ms. Teute KRASNIQI, Senior Liaison Officer to Western Balkans, FRONTEX
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goran VIDICEK, Senior Operational Analyst-AP Phoenix (THB), European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), Europol • Ms. Suzanne HOFF, Coordinator, La Strada International (online) • UNHCR (TBC) <p>Discussion and Q&A Session</p>
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:30	<p>Session 6: Ensuring Victim-Centred and Trauma-Informed Support in Displacement Contexts</p> <p><u>Session Objective: This session will address the specific vulnerabilities of refugees and displaced persons to trafficking, with particular attention to the heightened risks faced by women, children, and unaccompanied minors. It will explore culturally sensitive and trauma-informed strategies for victim identification, referral, and protection, highlighting the critical role of civil society organizations in ensuring timely support, effective service delivery, and survivor-centred approaches within both national and cross-border contexts.</u></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Ms. Julia Maria WILLIAMSON</i>, Anti-trafficking expert, Poland</p> <p><i>Speakers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Susanne LINDERED, Coordinator, National Support Programme in Sweden and the Swedish Platform Civil Society against human trafficking (online) • Ms. Marija SUNLIDEN, Manager for Anti Human Trafficking, Social Protection Specialist, The Salvation Army Helsingborg, Sweden • Ms. Natalia HOLYNSKA, Project manager, Caritas, Ukraine (online) • Ms. Nilsu Cagla KAYA, Policy Officer, European Council of Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) (online)



	Discussion and Q&A Session
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:30	<p>Session 6: Ensuring Victim-Centred and Trauma-Informed Support in Displacement Contexts</p> <p><u>Session Objective: This session will address the specific vulnerabilities of refugees and displaced persons to trafficking, with particular attention to the heightened risks faced by women, children, and unaccompanied minors. It will explore culturally sensitive and trauma-informed strategies for victim identification, referral, and protection, highlighting the critical role of civil society organizations in ensuring timely support, effective service delivery, and survivor-centred approaches within both national and cross-border contexts.</u></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Ms. Julia Maria WILLIAMSON</i>, Anti-trafficking expert, Poland</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Marija VUKASINOVIC, VoTs Support Team Senior Consultant, NGO Astra, Serbia (online) • Ms. Mariana MESHI, Executive Director, Different & Equal, Albania (online) • Ms. Cvetanka KAMCEVA ZLATEVA, Shelter coordinator, Open Gate- La Strada Macedonia, North Macedonia <p>Discussion and Q&A Session</p>
14:30- 15:30	Coffee break
15:30- 15:45	<p>Session 4 (Part II): National Perspectives on Cross-Border NRM Cooperation</p> <p>Session objective: <u>This session will provide a platform for participating countries to present their national experiences in strengthening the functioning of National</u></p>



	<p><u>Referral Mechanisms (NRMs) in cross-border contexts. It will highlight good practices that have improved victim identification, referral, and protection across borders, while also addressing the challenges and obstacles that remain. Country presentations will focus on lessons learned, gaps in existing procedures, and opportunities for greater harmonization of protocols, with the overall aim of fostering peer-to-peer learning and identifying concrete ways to reinforce cooperation for more effective and victim-centred protection.</u></p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Mr. Davor RAUS</i>, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Svetlana CVETKOVSKA, Head of sector for equal opportunities, Ministry for Social Policy, Demography and Youth, North Macedonia • Ms. Ana KONSTANTINOVIC, Expert Associate, Service for Coordination of Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, Center for the Protection of Trafficking Victims, Serbia (online) <p>Discussion and Q&A Session</p>
15:45-16:15	<p>Conclusions and Closure of RC</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p><i>Mr. Davor RAUS</i>, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Mr. Sasho PETRUSHEVSKI, National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, National Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration of North Macedonia</p>