

From Criminalisation to Protection: Strengthening the Non-Punishment Principle in Cases of Forced Criminality

21 April;

13.45 – 14.45

Bibliotheksaal

[Click here to join](#)

[via zoom;](#)

Meeting ID: 993 6193 4485

Passcode: 72805709

Co-organizers: *La Strada International and the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)*

CONCEPT NOTE

Purpose and Relevance

The 26th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons highlights forced criminality as a growing and under-recognised security blind spot. A central yet insufficiently addressed issue within this context is the inconsistent implementation of the non-punishment principle. Although the principle is recognised in international and regional anti-trafficking frameworks and reflected in OSCE commitments, trafficked persons across the OSCE region continue to be arrested, detained, prosecuted, and convicted for unlawful acts they were compelled to commit. Those most affected include migrants, asylum seekers, children, and individuals in irregular situations.

Content

This side event will explore the gap between legal standards and their implementation, focusing on forced criminality cases and barriers to applying the non-punishment principle, presenting findings and recommendations from global and European research and national case law and litigation experience. .

Discussion Focus

Speakers will highlight systemic failures in identifying trafficked persons, analyze barriers to applying the non-punishment principle, share lessons from case representation, and offer recommendations for OSCE States. The discussion aims to foster constructive dialogue between frontline actors, state authorities and other relevant stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes

This side event aims to raise awareness among OSCE participating States about ongoing protection gaps in forced criminality cases and provide practical recommendations for consistent application of the non-punishment principle. By focusing on accountability in implementation, the event seeks to support OSCE efforts to align anti-trafficking responses with human rights standards and ensure trafficked persons are not punished for crimes they were forced to commit.

From Criminalisation to Protection: Strengthening the Non-Punishment Principle in Cases of Forced Criminality

21 April;

13.45 – 14.45

Bibliotheksaal

[Click here to join](#)

[via zoom;](#)

Meeting ID: 993 6193 4485

Passcode: 72805709

Co-organizers: *La Strada International* and the *Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW)*

AGENDA

Opening by HOST/Moderator

Moderation: Ms. Suzanne Hoff, International Coordinator La Strada International

Panel discussion

- **Professor Conny Rijken, Dutch National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking and Sexual Violence against Children**, who will reflect on the situation in the Netherlands, based on the new pending legislative change on non-punishment, and Dutch case law.
- **Ms. Daisy-May Carty Cowling, Human Trafficking and Forced Labour Programme Officer of GAATW**, who will pre-launch new global research on trafficking for forced criminality and the impact on women and adolescents. (online)
- **Ms. Kamena Dorling, Director of Policy at Helen Bamber Foundation**. She will present findings from a new report examining the criminalisation of trafficking victims in the United Kingdom, drawing on legal casework and victims testimony.
- **Ms. Tamara Schmidt, Co-director of LEFÖ-IBF** and **Ms Michele Mildwater, Director HopeNow**, will reflect on practical gaps and challenges related to applying the non-punishment principle in practice in Austria and Denmark.