La Strada International

European NGO Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings

European Strategic Exchange Forum 2026

18-20 November, 2026, Prague, Czech Republic

Programme

Location: Hotel Olšanka Prague, Czechia

Arrival Day – Tuesday 17 November 2026

14.00 – 17.00 Board meeting
Participants arrival (all day): Note registration is scheduled for the morning of 18 November.

16.00 – 17.30 Newcomers & exchange session
For those participating for the first time and those who want to exchange informally with other LSI members. Note Dinner is not organised for this event. In the info sheet you will find the options for dinner.

DAY I Wednesday 18 November 2026

09.00 – 10.30 – Opening of the NGO Platform by host LS Czechia and LSI board
Moderation by Mona Chamass.

- Welcome & checking in; introduction of new members and representatives
- Adoption minutes; agenda and introduction of voting procedures
- Update on LSI board decisions by LSI board
- LSI's annual and financial report 2025/2026 and progress made in the implementation of LSI's 2026-2030 strategy plan by Suzanne Hoff
- Launch and introduction to LSI's Intranet services by Bruna Franco

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee Break

11.00 – 17.00 Workshop I on Access to Compensation & Back Wages
See Annex 01 for the workshop description. This session takes place in the plenary room.
11.00 – 13.00 Workshops II, III
See annex 01 for all workshop descriptions

- **Workshop II on engaging people with lived experience in anti-trafficking work**
  Moderation by MIST and Bruna Franco, LSI.

- **Workshop III on Access to Residence – Protection Access to Residence**
  Moderation by Kamena Dorling, Helen Bamber Foundation, and Eleanora/ASI.

13.00 – 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 16.15 Parallel Workshops (Part of the group continues workshop on compensation)

- ***Workshop IV on Digital Rights***
  Moderation by Eleanore de Wilde, CCEM, Mona Chamass and Sarah de Hovre, LSI board. *See description annex 1.*
- ***Workshop V on victims of trafficking subject to EU Migration Pact and transfers under the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR).***
  Moderation by Carmen Martinez Raposo Soria, ACCEM. *See description annex 1.*

16.15 Coffee Break

16.45 - 17.30 Joint session on Compensation Workshop & recommendations

19.30 Dinner in Prague centre – *see info sheet*

DAY II Thursday 19 November 2026

Plenary session II

Note that 8.15 – 8.30 we will be leaving the hotel for the parliament by local transport (LSCZ representatives will collect and take the group there. All should bring their passport to enter the parliament. Please be on time.

9:00 – 9.30 *Registration and beginning of the plenary*

09.30 – 11.30 Plenary session on the 4th CoE/GRETA evaluation round & 5th upcoming round
Moderation by board member Doro Winkler

The plenary will build on earlier online discussions, shadow reports submitted by LSI members to GRETA, and a short survey among LSI members (October - November) reflecting on their experiences with the 4th GRETA monitoring round.

It will explore the NGO consultation process, the extent to which GRETA's assessments reflected the situation on the ground, the impact of its recommendations, as well as common challenges, lessons learned and remaining gaps across countries.

Looking ahead to the 5th monitoring round, the discussion will take into account the focus and priorities already identified by GRETA; **Cooperation, Coordination and Partnerships.**

Based on these priorities and the lessons from the 4th round, participants will identify key questions and areas to be reflected in the questionnaire for the 5th monitoring round, with the outcomes feeding into a joint NGO contribution to inform GRETA's work. GRETA secretariat will launch a survey for input for the 5th monitoring round.

11.30 – 12.30 Excursion – **tour visit of the Chamber of Deputies building**

12.30 – 13.30/14.00 Lunch at parliament canteen

13.30 – 14.30 *Coffee break, arrival of participants of the parliament event*

14.30 – 17.00/17.30 Session at the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic

Parliamentary Discussion on Access to Compensation for Victims of Human Trafficking in Czechia

Moderation Ms Irena Konecna, Czech Parliament, and Ms Marketa Hronkova, Director La Strada Czechia

Background

Victims of human trafficking in Czechia continue to face barriers to obtaining compensation, despite existing legal mechanisms. Claims are referred to lengthy civil proceedings, and compensation awards are rarely enforced in practice. Furthermore, although state financial assistance is available to eligible victims, GRETA reported that no victims of trafficking had received it. Data on compensation claims and their outcomes are also lacking. In its 2024 evaluation report, GRETA urged the Czech authorities to strengthen evidence collection on victims' harm and perpetrators' financial gains, ensure timely compensation through criminal proceedings, and review eligibility criteria for state assistance to guarantee access regardless of victims' nationality or residence status.

Against this background, La Strada Czechia and Irena Ferčíková Konečná, Member of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Committee on European Affairs, the Subcommittee on Migration and Asylum Policy and the Subcommittee on Victims and Violence Issues, will organise a parliamentary discussion to assess progress, identify persistent barriers and explore practical measures to improve victims' access to compensation.

The event will bring together Czech parliamentarians and policymakers, law enforcement authorities, labour inspectors, legal professionals, academics, researchers and members of La Strada International, who will discuss the issue of compensation during two panel discussions.

Programme

Time: 14.30 – 17.00 CET
Venue: Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of the Czech Republic

14.30 – 14.40 | Welcome and opening remarks
Welcome by Ms Irena Konecna, Member of Chamber of Deputies, Ms Markéta Hronková, Director of La Strada Czechia.

14.40 – 15.25 | Panel 1: Access to compensation in practice — challenges and gaps
Discussion of barriers to compensation, including criminal and civil proceedings, access to legal aid, evidence collection, enforcement of compensation awards and state financial assistance.

15.25 – 15.35 | Coffee break

15.35–16.20 | Panel 2: From recommendations to action — strengthening access to compensation
Discussion of GRETA's recommendations and the reforms needed to improve financial investigations, recovery of perpetrators' assets, specialised legal assistance, access to state compensation and data collection.

16:50–17:00 | Conclusions and closing remarks
Summary of key recommendations and next steps.

16:50–17:00 | Glass of wine and informal networking

18.30 – 20.00 Surprise

20.00 Dinner in the city

DAY III Friday 20 November 2026

09.00 – 11.00 Second round of workshops (3 parallel workshops) – workshop are still subject to change. Workshops VI, VII, and VIII.

- **Workshop VI on NRMs, focal points and European Cross border Referral**
  Moderation by Sophia Wirsching and Vinda Celebi of KOK. *See description annex 1.*
- **Workshop VII on the Non-Punishment and the Removal of Fines and Sanctions**
  Moderation by Bruna Franco, LSI and Michele Mildwater, HopeNow. *See description annex 1.*
- **Workshop VIII on Assistance – Shelters and Awareness**
  Moderation by Nadia Kozhouharova, Animus, and Jasmina Dimishkovska – Rajkovska. *See description annex 1.*

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee break
11.20 – 12.00 Proposed action from working group rounds

12.00 - 12.30 Session on Ukraine, with update by Olga Dunebabina and Q & A
Moderated by Olga Dunebabina

As Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine continues, people displaced from and within Ukraine remain at risk of human trafficking, exploitation and abuse, with children facing particular risks. While the extension of Temporary Protection provides an important safeguard, protection gaps, uncertain legal status, weak labour oversight and unregulated recruitment practices continue to increase vulnerabilities. This session will give La Strada Ukraine space to share the situation as they see it. It will also discuss current human trafficking and exploitation risks, gaps in protection and support, and the need for a more sustainable and coherent EU-wide approach that secures legal status and continued access to housing, healthcare, education, decent work and psychosocial support for people displaced from Ukraine.

- Update from La Strada Ukraine: their work and team, and the trafficking and exploitation context in Ukraine.
- Strengthening cooperation: how organisations across Europe can build stronger and lasting connections with Ukrainian civil society, how this cooperation can help people from Ukraine, and why it matters for prevention. What can LSI members do to support?
- Support from the Platform: what would be most useful to La Strada Ukraine, as defined by La Strada Ukraine.
- Open discussion and Q & A with all LSI members

Resources: CoE published a Thematic Paper | Temporary protection and beyond: a human rights assessment of current and future European policies for displaced persons from Ukraine

12.30 – 13.00 Concluding session

- **Introduction & adoption LSI action plan 2027**, update on proposed actions for 2027.
- **Proposals for date and location** for next NGO Platform meeting & fundraising
- Any other business and last announcements (EU Civil Society Platform gathering 1 Dec)
- Short evaluation of the meeting

13.00 End of meeting & departure participants
Joint lunch at the hotel

This meeting was co-funded by the Council of Europe, PICUM and the Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic, whose support we gratefully acknowledge.

Annex 01: Workshops

All workshops last two hours

Workshop II: Meaningful Engagement of People with Lived Experience in Anti-Trafficking Work

Moderation by Bruna Franco, LSI & Flora Enifo, MIST

Meaningfully engaging people with lived experience of human trafficking is essential to ensuring that anti-trafficking policies, programmes and services reflect the realities, needs and priorities of those directly affected. Their knowledge and perspectives can help identify gaps in existing responses, improve support and protection, strengthen advocacy, and ensure that policies are grounded in lived realities. However, engagement must go beyond consultation or sharing personal experiences. It requires creating opportunities for people with lived experience to influence decision-making, while ensuring that their participation is voluntary, safe, inclusive, accessible and adequately supported and compensated. Their privacy, autonomy and right to choose how they participate must be respected, and their involvement should never require them to disclose traumatic experiences.

This two-hour workshop will provide La Strada International (LSI) members with an opportunity to explore practical approaches of long-term and medium-term meaningful involvement of people with lived experience in their programmes, advocacy and organisational work and/or to strengthen their practices on engaging people with lived experience.

Questions to be discussed:

- What principles underpin meaningful and ethical engagement with people with lived experience, and how can organisations ensure informed consent, safety, confidentiality, accessibility, fair compensation, and appropriate safeguarding while minimising the risk of retraumatisation?
- What practical approaches and lessons can be learned from survivor-led initiatives to ensure meaningful, non-tokenistic participation of people with lived experience in anti-trafficking work? When and how is it most appropriate to engage people with lived experience in anti-trafficking work
- How can we ensure meaningful, non-tokenistic participation of people with lived experience in anti-trafficking work, from developing action plans to shaping service design and delivery, advocacy, research, training, policy consultations, and organisational decision-making?
- When and where should people with lived experience be involved in anti-trafficking work, and what enables them to meaningfully influence policies and decision-makers? How do we ensure representation of a diversity of experiences, rather than relying on a small number of voices?
- What challenges are faced when trying to engage people with lived experience?
- What organisational changes are needed to embed lived experience leadership, and how can organisations assess their engagement practices and ensure the safeguards, support, and resources necessary for ethical, safe, and inclusive participation?

- Key takeaways and next steps - What practical commitments and next steps can LSI members take to strengthen the meaningful participation of people with lived experience in their work, including exploring the creation of a shared pool of lived experience experts?

Resources;

- https://cdn.osce.org/sites/default/files/f/documents/d/4/541269_0.pdf (2023) https://odihr.osce.org/odihr/573983 (2024); https://odihr.osce.org/odihr/666467 (2026)
- https://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/media/c0zjpzdy/business-case-survivor-advisory-council-9-aug-2024-003.pdf (2024) and report on promising practices; https://files.modernslaverypec.org/production/assets/downloads/Engagement-lived-experience-research-summary.pdf

Workshop III - Access to Residence for Victims of Human Trafficking
Moderators: Kamena Dorling, Helen Bamber Foundation and Eleanora Fais, Anti-Slavery International

GRETA's Guidance Note on Residence Permits for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings (THB-GRETA(2026)05, 2026) recommends that States ensure timely access to residence permits based on victims' personal circumstances or their cooperation with criminal proceedings. Permits should be of sufficient duration and renewable where necessary, with access to essential rights and support, effective legal remedies and protection against removal. States should apply a non-discriminatory, individualised approach, prioritise children's best interests and ensure that residence procedures do not obstruct access to asylum or violate non-refoulement obligations.

Kamena of the Helen Bamber Foundation will contribute insights from its research and advocacy on trafficking survivors' access to secure residence in the UK. Its work, including Road to Nowhere (2025, with ATLEU and ECPAT UK), highlights how insecure immigration status can undermine victims' recovery, access to support and protection from re-trafficking. The UK experience illustrates the gap between identifying trafficking victims and ensuring effective access to residence permits.

During this two-hour workshop, participants will exchange experiences and discuss current practices across Europe, focusing on legal and practical barriers to residence permits and their impact on victims. Drawing on GRETA's recommendations, the UK experience and other relevant European practices, participants will identify promising approaches and gaps, and discuss practical steps to strengthen victims' access to secure residence and protection across Europe.

Proposed programme:

- Insights from the UK: the Helen Bamber Foundation's research, advocacy and experience.
- Introduction to GRETA's guidance and key challenges in accessing residence permits.
- Exchange of national practices and identification of legal and practical barriers.

- Group discussion on translating recommendations into practice and identifying priorities

Possible questions to be discussed:

- How do victims of trafficking currently qualify for residence permits, across European countries? What is needed to establish eligibility; are requirements realistic?
- What are the main legal and practical barriers preventing victims from obtaining residence?
- Can victims obtain residence permits based on their individual circumstances and protection needs, independently of their cooperation with the police or prosecution? In practice, to what extent is cooperation with criminal proceedings required, either formally or informally, as a condition for obtaining or renewing a residence permit?
- What strategies can NGOs use to advocate for survivor-centred residence procedures that protect victims' rights and do not make their access to lawful residence dependent on their ability or willingness to secure a criminal conviction?
- How often are victims formally identified but subsequently left without secure immigration status?
- How long does the process take, and what happens to victims while they wait for a decision?
- Are there significant differences in access to residence depending on nationality, gender, age, type of exploitation, or immigration status?

Reference: Council of Europe, GRETA, Guidance Note on Residence Permits for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, THB-GRETA(2026)05 (2026). https://rm.coe.int/guidance-note-on-residence-permits-for-victims-of-trafficking-in-human/48802c8bed - see also resources by Helen Bamber Foundation https://www.helenbamber.org/index.php/resources/reportsbriefings/immigration-and-asylum-bill

Workshop IV – Addressing Digital Barriers in Access to Rights and Support for Victims of Human Trafficking

Moderation by Eleanore de Wilde, CCEM, Mona Chamass and Sarah de Hovre, LSI board.

Background and rationale

Digitalisation increasingly shapes access to essential services, including healthcare, housing, social protection, legal assistance, employment and immigration procedures. While digital tools can improve efficiency and accessibility, they may also create barriers for victims of human trafficking and other vulnerable groups. Limited digital literacy, language difficulties, lack of internet access, inaccessible platforms and digital identification requirements can hinder access to essential services. Trauma, privacy concerns and fear of surveillance may further discourage their use. When services become primarily or exclusively digital, these barriers can prevent victims from accessing their rights, protection and assistance, increasing the risk of exclusion and

further exploitation. Digital services should therefore complement, rather than replace, accessible in-person support and offline alternatives.

The workshop will explore how digitalisation creates barriers to accessing rights and support for victims of human trafficking and other vulnerable groups across Europe. Drawing on experiences from CCEM and PAG-Asa, participants will share national examples, identify those most affected and discuss promising practices to tackle digital exclusion. The workshop will conclude with practical solutions and policy recommendations to ensure digital services are accessible, safe and inclusive, while maintaining offline alternatives and direct support.

Possible questions to be discussed;

- Which services for trafficked and exploited persons require digital access across Europe; is offline access sufficiently guaranteed?
- What digital barriers/requirements do victims of human trafficking face to obtain information, or when accessing essential services, including online access and appointments related to healthcare, housing, social protection, legal assistance, asylum and residence procedures and compensation?
- How does digitalisation, prevent their access to support and what risks arise when support services become increasingly digitalised? What happens when victims lack identity documents or their accounts and documents are controlled by traffickers or exploitative employers? What risks arise when victims must use shared devices, disclose personal information online or rely on others to access services?
- Which groups of victims are most affected by digital exclusion, and why? For example, victims with limited digital literacy, language barriers, disabilities, insecure immigration status or no access to a phone, internet connection, inappropriate devices, or digital identification.
- How do digitalisation, privacy concerns and fear of surveillance affect victims' safety and willingness to seek help?
- What minimum safeguards should public authorities and service providers maintain to ensure that no victim is excluded from essential services because of digital barriers?
- What practical solutions have NGOs developed to remove barriers, help victims overcome digital barriers and ensure that essential in-person support services remain? Which approaches have proved effective. Which recommendations should be prioritised?

The workshop will deepen understanding of digital exclusion as a barrier to victims' rights and protection, encourage the exchange of promising practices across Europe, and develop recommendations to improve access to services. It will also support LSI members in advocating for in person services, and digital services that are inclusive, accessible, safe and responsive to victims.

Workshop V - A workshop on victims of trafficking that fall under the EU Migration Pact and or are subject to transfers under the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR)

– *formerly 'Dublin returns'*
Moderation by Carmen Martinez Raposo, ACCEM.

This workshop focuses on challenges related to the identification and assistance to TCN persons that fall under the EU Migration and Asylum Pact, and are dependent on its effective vulnerability screening, to be recognised as presumed victims of human trafficking. ACCEM has been assisting vulnerable migrants and refugees and will share the challenges and lessons learnt, including in relation with the situation in Ceuta. The workshop will further discuss the application on of the Asylum and Migration Management Regulation (AMMR) the risk that victims whose exploitation occurred in another EU Member State may be transferred without being identified or receiving appropriate protection and support.

The workshop will examine how to uphold the reasonable-grounds principle, under which potential victims should receive assistance and support as soon as there are reasonable grounds to believe they may have been trafficked, regardless of where the exploitation occurred or whether criminal proceedings have been initiated or concluded. It will identify practical solutions to address protection gaps following AMMR transfers and strengthen national actors' responsibility to identify and protect potential victims.

Possible questions:

- How can we ensure vulnerable groups/potential victims of trafficking are screened properly, to ensure people are identified as presumed victims, and receive specialised support. How to work with authorities here - best practices available yet?
- Should NGOs have access to screening facilities, and which NGOs, do anti-trafficking NGOs have the capacity?
- How are victims - who have been exploited in third countries - being treated during triage or, more generally, under the policies of the Pact?
- How to legally challenge mis-assessment in case of severe vulnerability of presumed victims.
- How can NGOs ensure continuity of care and prevent victims from falling out of sight during and after a AMMR transfer?
- How can the victim-centred approach be incorporated into the various regulations of the Pact (not only in relation to the AMMR framework)?

Resources:

- LSI statement 18 October https://documentation.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/3682-Anti-TraffickingDay2026.pdf
- Publication EUAA https://www.euaa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/publications/2024-08/2024_victims_human_trafficking_EN_0.pdf and https://www.euaa.europa.eu/publications/identifying-and-supporting-victims-human-trafficking-asylum-procedure-situational-update-no-17
- Publication ECRE https://ecre.org/ecre-policy-note-a-gender-sensitive-approach-to-combating-human-trafficking-and-support-asylum-seeking-survivors-in-the-eu/

- See also reports on the Pact, by European Commission https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/pact-migration-and-asylum/implementing-pact-migration-and-asylum_en and by the FRA

Workshop VI - A workshop on NRMs, focal points and European Cross border Referral
Moderation by Sophia Wirsching and Vinda Celebi, KOK

This workshop examines the establishment and operation of national focal points under the revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive (2024). It will highlight German practices, including the focal point's mandate, cooperation between KOK and the Federal Police, and remaining questions. Drawing on LSI's NRM Working Group, research by the EU anti-trafficking hub, and developments across Europe, the workshop will also discuss challenges in other European countries, cross-border referrals, the role of NGOs in ensuring a human rights-based approach, and the potential for a European Referral Mechanism. With infringement procedures initiated against 20 EU Member States, pressure to meet the 25 November deadline risks undermining existing victim protection structures and sidelining civil society.

Participants will collectively debate the following questions:

- SOPs & Standards: How can we establish, and enforce unified minimum European standards and SOPs for referrals and embed good practices and ensure continuity of cross-border support?
- **Role of Specialised NGOs:** What role should specialised NGOs play in focal points, including coordination, referrals, case information, monitoring outcomes, feedback from authorities and victim support? Should NGOs be authorised to formally identify victims independently of law enforcement? What conditions and procedures would enable their participation?
- **Mitigating Restrictive Formalization:** How can civil society prevent governments from using the formalization of NRMs to restrict access to protection and support for certain victim groups?
- What mechanisms and safeguards are needed to ensure that victims are not referred from one Member State to another without any authority assuming full responsibility for their protection, support and access to justice?
- Governance, Effectiveness and Funding: Which NRM and focal point governance models work best across Europe? What lessons can inform a European framework, and what conditions and resources are needed for effective implementation?
- **Referral Procedures and Cooperation:** What types of cases can be expected, and how can referrals work with or without authorities? How should we cooperate with focal points that are not trusted LSI partners? And how do focal points work with non- EU countries?
- AMMR and Victim Transfers: What challenges may arise under the AMMR, particularly regarding the transfer of recognised victims? How can we challenge the denial of assistance to potential victims and ensure access to protection based on initial indicators, without requiring formal criminal identification?

- **Recommendations and Call to Action**: What demands and recommendations should we address to the European Commission, EU Member States and other European governments? Should we launch a joint statement on 1 December at the EU Civil Society Platform?

Resources:

- See also the earlier statement by LSI https://documentation.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/3672-LSI_ST_NationalReferralMechanism.pdf
- NRM report EU THB hub https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/document/5d5684f8-c54a-4543-89c3-f6f0d69209a8_en

Workshop VII: Non-Punishment and the Removal of Fines and Sanctions

Moderation by Bruna Franco, Michele Mildwater, Hope Now

Victims of human trafficking may be prosecuted for criminal offences, or sanctioned for administrative, tax-related or other offences they were compelled to commit during their exploitation. They may face substantial fines, imprisonment for non-payment, or debts arising from contracts and other costs incurred in their name. These consequences can persist long after exploitation has ended, undermining recovery and financial independence. The workshop will explore the current legal and policy situation on non-punishment and the practical application of the non-punishment principle, identifying progress, remaining gaps and opportunities for reform. Special attention will be given to how existing fines, debts and sanctions can be cancelled or reversed and who should be responsible for removing these consequences. Participants will exchange on national developments and experiences and develop recommendations to ensure that victims do not bear the lasting legal and financial consequences of their exploitation.

Possible questions for discussion:

- To what extent does national legislation apply the non-punishment principle to administrative, and other non-criminal offences? What changes have been introduced during the transposing process of the EU THB Directive, what gaps remain?
- How can the principle be more effectively and consistently applied by all relevant stakeholders and what promising practices exists for early identification?
- *Fines & sanctions* - How can NGOs/authorities identify victims' fines, debts and other financial liabilities? How can such sanctions be cancelled, reversed and victims remedied, including in cases of proceedings or imprisonment? What is the role of authorities, lawyers and NGOs to remove sanctions and apply the NP provision?
- What processes currently exist for reviewing past convictions linked to trafficking and exploitation? Should there be automatic review mechanisms for convictions where trafficking indicators are identified after the event?
- What legislative, policy and practical changes are needed at national/European level & what joint should we take up to promote the (application of) the non-punishment principle, e.g. collection and further assessment of cases? How have the LSI guidance documents and assessment report been used?

- Should we prioritise preventing sanctions, removing them afterwards, or both? How to advocate for deletion of criminal records, unpaid fines and immigration sanctions for VoTs forced to commit offences?

Expected outcomes: Participants will compare national approaches and identify gaps in the application of non-punishment, and develop practical recommendations for removing existing fines and debts, clarifying institutional responsibilities and strengthening joint advocacy.

Resources:

- *LSI documents and assessment study* https://documentation.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/3636-LSI_Non%20Punishment%20Report2025.pdf
- Refer also to report on Dutch Rapporteur's https://documentation.lastradainternational.org/lsidocs/3683-Expert%20meeting%20on%20the%20non-punishment%20principle.pdf

Workshop VIII - Workshop on Assistance – Shelters and Crisis Shelters
Nadia Kozhouharova, Animus and Jasmina Dismiskovka, Open Gate

Safe and appropriate accommodation is a key element of protection and recovery for victims of trafficking, particularly in situations of immediate risk or crisis. Shelters and crisis accommodation provide safety, stability, and access to specialised assistance, while facilitating identification, referral, and access to other essential services. Often, they are run by NGOs.

The workshop will discuss the availability and adequacy of shelters and crisis accommodation, the challenges of providing safe and specialised support, and the growing financial pressures faced by NGOs. It will explore how sustainable funding and support can be ensured so that NGOs can maintain shelters, remain operational and continue providing essential protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, as well as what other requirements, standards and resources are needed to ensure adequate, safe and sustainable (crisis) shelter services.

- Which shelters are available for victims of trafficking across Europe, are shelters mostly specialised and only for victims of human trafficking or rather for mixed groups, are there contra-indications to place someone?
- Are there sufficient shelters services for trafficked persons, are these organised centralized or decentralized? Governments have they own shelters, sometimes delegated to NGOs. How autonomous are these shelters; are shelters run entirely by NGOs alternative to the state shelters?
- In case you receive refusals from victims to stay in shelters, what are the reasons why victims don't want to stay there?
- What reintegration support is offered to stop further re-exploitation.
- How to ensure unconditional long-term shelter for undocumented victims and mothers of children?
- What are the main challenges faced when providing shelter services, including challenges related to services to new groups (e.g. more people from the Middle East, Asia and Affrica who do not speak English or national languages) and funding.

- How can shelters provide flexible, long-term, and individually tailored support when public funding is based on limited capacity, fixed tariffs and short periods of assistance? What funding models guarantee shelters independent from cooperation with authorities?
- Are there needs for joint advocacy or other actions to address the challenges?

Annex 02: Compensation Workshop

18 November

11.00 – 17.00 Parallel Workshop on Access to Compensation & Back Wages

A workshop on access to compensation and back wages, focusing on practical ways to overcome legal and structural barriers faced by undocumented migrants and victims of exploitation and trafficking. Through the review of concrete cases, including unsuccessful or partly successful claims, and exchange with legal experts, participants will identify alternative legal and advocacy strategies, good practices and systemic gaps.

Even when compensation is awarded, trafficked persons rarely have the financial resources, legal assistance, or time needed to enforce court decisions, particularly when perpetrators conceal assets or declare insolvency.

Through the *Justice at Last* project consortium coordinated by La Strada International, we concluded that **only two thirds of claims resulted in an award**. Worryingly, only a quarter of them received the awarded compensation amount. More recently, La Strada International has also published a comparative study "**Advancing Access to Compensation for Victims of Human Trafficking", which examines how EU legislation adopted in 2024, particularly the CSDDD, the Forced Labour Regulation and the Asset Recovery and Confiscation Directive, alongside earlier legal instruments, may enhance access to compensation, with a focus on France, Germany, and Spain.

All selected 3 cases beforehand and answer during the meeting:

1. **Short description of the case**
2. **What compensation was sought, and through which legal or procedural route?**
3. **What was the outcome — was compensation awarded and actually paid?**
4. **What were the main barriers or reasons for success or failure?**
   Also indicate if there is a national compensation fund and whether this could be used, whether fines were paid and or assets were recovered and whether these financial means were used to compensate victims.
5. **What alternative strategies, good practices or other avenues could improve/could have improved the outcome?**
6. **What lessons or recommendations should inform future casework, legal practice and advocacy, based on the 3 cases?**

The outcomes will inform ongoing casework and advocacy, be shared with LSI and PICUM members through practical guidance, and feed into the planned Rights & Remedies project.

The workshop will in particular explore the following questions:

- **How can civil law and labour tribunals be used more effectively** to claim unpaid wages and compensation?
- **What gaps and barriers remain in accessing compensation funds**, and how can these be addressed?
- **How can recovered assets – and or fines paid by employers - be more effectively used for back wages or to compensate victims of trafficking?** What are good practices?[1]

- **Where compensation has been awarded following successful criminal proceedings, how can execution be strengthened**, particularly when the victim has subsequently moved abroad? What are good practices?
- **What alternative legal or procedural avenues exist** where previous attempts to obtain compensation have been unsuccessful or only partly successful?

Parallel Programme

11.00 – 11.30 | Opening and introduction
Opening of the workshop, introduction of participants and presentation of the main questions and objectives to be addressed during the day.

11.30 – 13.00 | Presentation and discussion of cases
Presentation of the cases, followed by questions, feedback and exchange among participants and legal experts.

13.00 – 14.15 | Lunch

14.15 – 16.15 | Reflection and recommendations
Reflection on the morning's discussions, identification of recurring barriers and opportunities, and consolidation of recommendations emerging from the case discussions and based on focus questions above.

16.15 – 16.45 Coffee break and arrival other LSI members

16.45 – 17.30 Joint session on compensation workshop & recommendations | From cases to action: national and European-level responses (plenary session)

Discussion of the main focus questions and identification of concrete possibilities for addressing the remaining gaps and implementing the recommendations at national and European level.

Discuss template to provide more information on the cases for further assessment.

*We are also considering organising the **morning session in a hybrid format**, allowing additional legal experts to listen in, contribute their expertise and provide feedback and questions on the cases presented.*

Annex 3: Session on GRETA's 4th monitoring round and 5th upcoming round

GRETA, the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, reviews progress and challenges in implementing the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. For the 5th monitoring round, the overarching theme of **"Cooperation, Coordination and Partnerships"** is proposed. This likely aims to review how governments, law-enforcement agencies, civil society and international organisations work together to prevent trafficking, identify victims and ensure their protection. Effective cooperation is particularly important because trafficking often crosses national borders and involves multiple forms of exploitation.

We can focus in our proposal for questions, on the partnerships of both international organisations and national governments and other actors with civil society, and on the national and cross border cooperation to ensure effective access to assistance and support, including related to issues of data and information sharing, the cooperation within NRMs and focal points, and the cooperation across border to access justice and compensation and ensure non-punishment, as well as the cooperation across THB and International project/Asylum mechanisms.

The 15th GRETA general report provides for co-operation and building strategic partnerships with civil society, which can help governments fulfil their obligations under the Convention (Article 35). In its country reports, GRETA has emphasised the need to adopt an inclusive approach and develop formal and systematic consultation between governmental and non-governmental actors involved in anti-trafficking action. Civil society, including trade unions, should be involved in the development and implementation of anti-trafficking measures and their evaluation. Further, GRETA has called for the involvement of specialised NGOs in a multi-agency effort to identify and protect victims of trafficking.

See 15th General Report of GRETA — Council of Europe

- **LSI survey shared** **LSI 2026 Survey on NGO participation in GRETA.docx**
- **LSI questions proposed** **FIRST LIST OF SUGGESTIONS QUESTIONS FOR GRETA 5TH MONITORING ROUND.docx**

LSI members have been asked to react by 14 November 2026 on both the survey and LSI questions, that will be used to prepare for the session.