



Newsletter

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With this quarterly newsletter, La Strada International wants to inform and update about developments in the field of trafficking in human beings and on the activities of La Strada International and the La Strada member organisations. We welcome reactions to this initiative and contributions for next issues. The next deadline is **1 December 2008**. Please [mail us](#) if you have news, information about your organisation, a new report or documentary or an outspoken opinion on (inter)national developments.

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La Strada joins EU Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings

In a [decision of 22 July 2008](#), the European Commission has appointed 21 members of the Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings. La Strada International is very pleased that one of the new members is Stana Buchowska, national coordinator of [La Strada Poland](#). Bärbel Uhl, member of La Strada International's Advisory Board, has been re-elected and extended her membership. According to the [decision of the Commission](#) of 17 October 2007 to set up a new EU Expert Group, the group is expected to advise the Commission, taking into account current developments at the European, national and international level. In particular, it should assist the Commission in the implementation and development of actions envisaged in the EU plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings of December 2005, while paying special attention to the area of labour exploitation.

The new EU Expert group will continue the tasks of the first Expert group, which was established in 2004. This Expert group has been influential by issuing various [reports](#) and [opinions](#) that contained critical analyses of (proposed) anti-trafficking policies. La Strada International has benefited largely from the work of the first expert group and expects the new EU Expert group to be as critical and constructive in its reports and recommendations and that it will focus on a human rights-based approach to trafficking in human beings and the rights of trafficked persons.



LSI co-organises consultation on compensation for trafficked persons

For many years now, La Strada International, together with many other NGOs and experts in the field of counter-trafficking, has been advocating for more possibilities for compensation for trafficked persons. [Recent research](#) by GAATW, Anti-Slavery International and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) concluded that despite the fact that trafficked persons have an established right to compensation and various compensation mechanisms are in place, in practice, trafficked persons rarely receive compensation payments. Although most European countries have legal provisions for victims of crime to claim compensation for material and non-material damages, compensation remains one of the weakest rights of trafficked persons in terms of accessibility.

This is why La Strada International (LSI) and [Anti-Slavery International](#) (ASI) are currently developing a three-year project on compensation for trafficked persons. The project concept includes research, development of guidance manuals, trainings, test cases and international advocacy in 15 European countries. The goal of this project is to mainstream legal redress into national anti-trafficking measures and into the international anti-trafficking debate, as well as to develop tools and instruments for the implementation of these measures, ensuring access for trafficked persons to compensation as an integral part of legal redress. In order to reach this goal, the project aims to form a 'European Coalition', consisting of various stakeholders, i.e. NGOs that offer direct assistance to trafficked persons, organisations of trafficked persons, members of the legal community, trade unions, migrant rights' organisations and academics.



In early September, LSI, ASI and [KOK](#) organised a consultation meeting in Berlin where the first draft of the compensation project plans were discussed with the future 'members' of the European Coalition. The result of this initial meeting was an agreement between participants that compensation is an issue that needs joint commitment from different stakeholders, states, intergovernmental organisations and civil society. All participants expressed their commitment to the project. Furthermore, ASI and LSI were provided with substantial input to the project proposal, which will be submitted later this year. Any developments relating to this project will be reported in this newsletter.

La Strada Netherlands issues recommendations to Council of Europe

On the occasion of a 4-day visit to the Netherlands between 21 and 24 September by Council of Europe (CoE) human rights commissioner Thomas Hammarberg, La Strada International, La Strada Netherlands ([CoMensha](#)), [BLinN](#) and [Ecpat](#) took part in an NGO consultation meeting and made recommendations. The visit was made in accordance with the Commissioner's mandate to assess the implementation of human rights commitments by all CoE member states. Trafficking in human beings was one of the topics addressed. Next to meeting with governmental representatives, parliamentarians and civil society representatives, Mr Hammarberg also visited a shelter for trafficked women in Amsterdam, as well as the office of the Dutch National Rapporteur on trafficking in human beings in The Hague.



LSI, CoMensha and partner NGOs presented their recommendations on anti-trafficking measures in the Netherlands to the Commissioner, whose assessment report with relevant recommendations will be presented and published in early 2009. The recommendations include, amongst others, the following:

- Assistance and support for trafficked persons should be unconditional to cooperation with the authorities.
- Identification as trafficked person should automatically lead to a temporary residence permit.
- The government should conduct an individual risk assessment prior to return (voluntary or forced) of trafficked persons. And
- More focus should be given to trafficking in sectors other than the sex industry.

The full list of recommendations is available on the [LSI website](#).

La Strada Ukraine takes part in campaign to end domestic violence

On 16-17 October this year, La Strada Ukraine, together with partner NGOs as well as the Ukrainian Ministry for Family, Youth and Sport and the Ministry of Interior, will organise a national forum to counteract violence against women and children, including domestic violence. The National Forum "Stop Violence!" takes place in the framework of the UNDP equal opportunities programme. There will be a related campaign with the aim of raising awareness and stimulating action targeting the problem of violence as a human rights violation. The forum will discuss a diverse set of themes such as legislation, mechanism of cooperation in aid provision to victims of violence, and models for work with abusers. It is also planned to develop an effective Action Plan and a series of events on violence prevention. For more information, contact [La Strada Ukraine](#).

What's going on ?

New UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

The UN General Assembly has confirmed the appointment of Navanethem (Navi) Pillay, of South Africa, to succeed Louise Arbour as High Commissioner for Human Rights - the leading UN human rights official. Ms Pillay's four-year term started on 1 September 2008.

Louise Arbour is recognised by Human Rights NGOs for her contribution to the creation of the new Human Rights Commission Council at the UN, and she managed to enlarge the budget of the UN's human rights programme. Her successor Navi Pillay, is a former judge at the International Criminal Tribunal in Rwanda and a former defence attorney for political prisoners during apartheid. Ms Pillay has a strong background in women's rights, having helped to understand rape as a means of perpetrating genocide during her time at the Tribunal. As a member of the Women's National Coalition of South Africa she also worked to include an equality clause in the Constitution.



Ms Pillay gave her first address to the Human Rights Council at the 9th Session on 8 September, speaking strongly of the need for more universal ratification of human rights conventions and implementation of its principles. La Strada International wishes Ms Navi Pillay success in taking on her new position and is looking forward to a good cooperation for the promotion of human rights as a leading principle in any anti-trafficking policy.

Netherlands institutes new Anti-Trafficking Task Force

The Dutch government has established a special Task Force, under the Ministry of Justice, to address the issue of trafficking in human beings. The Task Force consists of the Public Prosecution, police and border police, departments of different ministries, and the Dutch National Rapporteur. So far, NGOs are not represented in this new body, but La Strada Netherlands is updated by the Task Force, which aims to discuss and propose policy measures to address trafficking in human beings in the Netherlands. Several priorities have been defined to be tackled by the Task Force including improvement of information exchange at local, national and international level, as well as further cooperation with certain important source countries, strengthening of the control in the prostitution sector, more attention for the position of trafficked persons and better and specialised shelter provisions for trafficked persons. For more information, see the [Ministry of Justice press release](#).

Israeli Hotline for Migrant Workers receives National Anti-Trafficking Prize

La Strada International congratulates the Israeli [Hotline for Migrant Workers](#) for being awarded the National Prize for Combating Trafficking in Persons by the Israeli government. This recognition is particularly significant as it is the first year of the prize's establishment. The organisation will receive the honour by the President of the State of Israel, Shimon Peres, in the presence of the Prime Minister and Justice Minister on 2 December 2008. By awarding the hotline for migrant workers an important anti-trafficking prize, the Israeli government recognises the close connection between migrant workers' rights and trafficking, and acknowledges that protection of migrant workers' rights is an important instrument in the fight against trafficking in human beings.

New Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery launches her first report

In September 2007, the UN created the position of Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, its causes and consequences. On 10 September 2008, the first rapporteur for this position, Ms Gulnara Shahinian of Armenia, presented [her first report to the Human Rights Council](#). Eleanor Taylor from GAATW was present and reports:

Ms Shahinian noted the importance of the post and outlined the themes she will focus on for the next 3 years, namely, *Forced Labour*, *Child Labour*, and *Domestic Work*. Her reasons for choosing these themes were their global nature and that they are specific to her mandate. She noted the importance of a gender perspective and also said that her role was very complex because slavery overlaps with so many other human rights violations.

In discussions between GAATW and the Special Rapporteur (SR), and in her presentation of the report to the HRC, Ms Shahinian stated that she will coordinate with other mandate holders such as the SR on trafficking in persons; the SR on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; and the SR on violence against women. She also said that she intended to consult regularly with National Human Rights Institutions, civil society and intergovernmental organisations.

The majority of governments at the 9th session of the HRC offered their support and welcomed Ms Shahinian's report. Other governments expressed concern – notably Egypt, on behalf of the Africa Group, and Pakistan, on behalf of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference – that Ms Shahinian's plans do not include reporting on prostitution during her mandate. They said she is failing to follow on from the work of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which her post was designed to replace, especially its consideration of "forced prostitution and its human rights dimensions". Ms Shahinian is independent and does not take instructions from States, but she might expect criticism from these governments in future if she sticks to her plans.

In discussions with Ms Shahinian, GAATW noted that NGOs have many hopes for this mandate, and are in support of the three thematic areas that she has outlined, especially domestic workers. We hope that she will look at the impact of anti-slavery and anti-trafficking policies on individuals, as well as bring attention to emerging issues.



UN Committee: make residency independent from cooperation in prosecution

In its [concluding remarks](#) to the 93rd session, monitoring the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by Ireland, the [UN Human Rights Committee](#) has expressed the view that victims of trafficking should be given residency independent from their possible cooperation of victims in the prosecution of alleged traffickers. In Concluding remark no 16 the Committee says:

"While the Committee takes note of the positive measures adopted concerning trafficking in human beings, such as the establishment of an Anti-Human Trafficking Unit and the provision of training to border guards, immigration officers, and trainees in these fields, the Committee is concerned about the lack of recognition of the rights and interests of trafficking victims. It is particularly concerned about lesser protection for victims not willing to cooperate with authorities under the criminal law (human trafficking) bill 2007. (arts. 3, 8, 24, 26) [...] the State party should ensure that permission to remain in the State party is not dependent on the cooperation of victims in the prosecution of alleged traffickers."

Colm O'Gorman, executive director of [Amnesty International Ireland](#), also [said](#) protection for victims remains "conditional and falls short of our international commitments under the European Convention on Action Against Trafficking. I am calling on the Government to accept the UN's recommendation to allow trafficking victims to remain in the state even if they do not cooperate with the Gardai in prosecuting alleged traffickers. This would be an important step for the Government in meeting the minimum standards for the protection of these women who have been subjected to horrific abuses."

The Human Rights Committee took up major concerns outlined by an [NGO Shadow Report](#) which was launched on 14 July 2008 by the [Irish Council for Civil Liberties](#) and partner NGOs.

Migration policy developments in the EU

Several developments have taken place at EU level these past few months with regard to EU migration policy. Since our last newsletter, which highlighted the EU Returns Directive and debates in EU parliament on forced prostitution and trafficking of women as well as child trafficking, the French presidency has published a '[European Pact on Immigration and Asylum](#)', which was controversially received by civil society. A great concern for migrants and support groups is the proposed plan to put an end to large-scale regularisation programmes for undocumented migrants. The anti-regularisation plans come shortly after the Council of Europe published a [report on regularisation programmes](#), urging its Member States to consider regularisation as a sensible and humane response to the existence and exploitation of undocumented migrants in Europe. The Pact is expected to be agreed at the Council meeting on 16 October in Brussels.



On 16 July, a [public hearing](#) took place at the Civil Liberties Committee of the European Parliament to examine the Commission's proposed directive on sanctions for employers of irregularly resident third country nationals ([EU Employers' Sanctions Directive](#)). The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM) earlier published a [common position](#) in which it notes some positive and negative aspects of the Directive. Amongst others, PICUM notes that the focus on migration control as the primary goal in the proposal will have the effect of increasing and entrenching undeclared work and will make it harder, not easier, to effectively

address the problems associated with irregular migration. Unfortunately, MEPs shared the Commission's view and were generally in favour of the directive even if some of them were concerned it was too harsh. MEPs will be considering the Commission's proposal under the co-decision procedure in the autumn.

On 18 October, the second EU anti-trafficking day, La Strada will issue a statement highlighting its concerns about these restrictive migration policy developments and their impact on the human rights of trafficked persons.

United Nations experts express concern about EU Returns Directive

In the last issue of its newsletter, La Strada reported about the severe criticism NGOs and leaders of the global south have voiced against the EU Returns Directive. Only a few weeks later, ten independent human rights experts of the Special Procedures of the United Nations Human Rights Council (so-called rapporteurs) have expressed, in a letter to the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (France), their [concerns regarding the proposal](#), now an adopted text: "One principal concern relates to the detention regime pending removal procedures for irregular immigrants. The Directive envisages detention periods of up to 18 months, which appear to be excessive."

The Directive will allow Member States to detain unaccompanied children, victims of human trafficking, and other vulnerable groups. In this regard, the mandate-holders recalled "that irregular immigrants are not criminals. As a rule they should not be subjected to detention at all. Member States are obliged to explore the availability of alternatives to detention and detention must only be for the shortest possible period of time."

Furthermore, the rapporteurs also raised their concern "regarding the possible length of entry bans of up to five years. We are afraid of the potential impact especially for vulnerable groups, such as victims of human trafficking. We believe that existing safeguards in the proposed text should also be reinforced with a view to facilitate full compliance with the principle of *non-refoulement*. In our letter we also suggested that Member States enhance the protection of victims of rape and other forms of gender-based violence and sought clarification to what extent Member States will take the right to education of children into account."

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GAATW recommendations to the US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report

In the last issue of this newsletter, La Strada reported on the latest US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report and expressed some concerns and remarks to the report. The Global Alliance Against traffic in Women (GAATW), of which LSI is a member, has gathered comments from all their members and sent in a [letter](#) to Condoleezza Rice, US Secretary of State, expressing the following criticism:

- Lack of human rights impact assessment of anti-trafficking measures hinders full understanding of the trafficking situation;
- Conflation of trafficking with prostitution leads to harmful anti-trafficking policies; and
- Lack of proper reference or citation for research and statistics undermines the credibility of the TIP Report.

GAATW is more optimistic about the US government's desire to focus more on exploitation than the movement of persons into trafficking. This development will hopefully shift the anti-trafficking discourse away from punitive border control measures towards the eradication of exploitative working conditions. The letter strongly urged the US not to use this as a means to equate all sex work with trafficking and recommended that they distinguish between forced and voluntary sex work in their definition of trafficking. Additionally, the letter offered concrete recommendations, such as the need to incorporate into the report:

- An impact assessment of anti-trafficking policies and practices as part of the criteria for the TIP Report, including inter alia:
- the impact of policies and practices, especially on the rights of migrants and sex workers.
- the ineffectiveness of conditional assistance;
- the quality of services provided and if they comply with human rights standards.
- the impact of punitive migration policies.
- An evidence-based approach when assessing anti-trafficking measures.
- A reassessment of the US government's position on the links between prostitution and trafficking.
- An examination of the adverse affects the zero-tolerance prostitution policy is having upon those most vulnerable to trafficking.

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Italian MEP: criminalising prostitution will benefit human traffickers

Vittorio Agnoletto, Member of the European Parliament, describes an Italian Cabinet's approval of a measure to outlaw street prostitution in an effort to dismantle prostitution rackets as “a gift to the traffickers of human beings”. Prostitution is currently legal in Italy, although the exploitation of prostitutes is a crime. Brothels were outlawed 50 years ago, pushing prostitutes onto the streets. The bill, approved by Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi's Cabinet, would outlaw prostitution in public places, like streets and parks, but does not include a ban on prostitutes operating behind closed doors. Oliviero Forti, head of the immigration office at the Catholic charity Caritas said the measure “moves the problem from the streets to the homes [...] To keep these people hidden means that operators like us or even police cannot intercept and help them anymore.” This is also the opinion of Vittorio Agnoletto of the Confederal Group of the European United Left in the European Parliament who issued a press release:

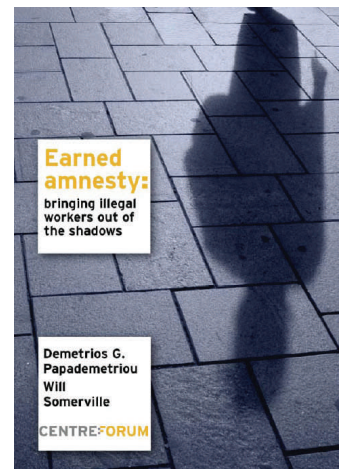
“The women who have denounced their predators and have escaped have been able to do this because of having been contacted on the street by the mobile units of social workers. Now the girls will try to hide themselves and it will become very difficult to contact them. Concerning prostitution there are not shortcuts: strengthen the fight against the trafficking of human beings by widening the avenues for coming out of slavery, a more rigid verification concerning the complacency of our embassies, increase the controls for the recycling of money from an illegal source; the possibility, for those who freely want to continue to prostitute themselves to organise themselves in co-operatives, with relevant rights and duties”

The bill needs final approval by Parliament to take effect.



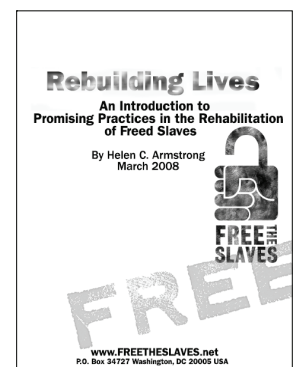
Social and economic arguments for regularising undocumented migrants

At a time when EU governments are trying to categorically rule out general amnesties whilst a large number of undocumented migrants living and working in the EU are facing severe human rights abuses and exploitation, there is clearly an urgent need for putting forward compelling arguments in favour of regularisation. The Centre Forum report [“Earned amnesty - Bringing illegal workers out of the shadows”](#) by Demetrios Papademetriou and Will Somerville is therefore not only an interesting but a necessary contribution to the issue. The authors concede that the idea of a regularisation for the estimated 500.000 undocumented migrants in the UK is controversial but give persuasive reasons why governments should introduce an ‘earned’ regularisation programme. The report unfortunately lays the burden of regularisation onto migrants rather than arguing that states have an obligation to protect the human rights of undocumented migrants within their jurisdiction, whereby regularisation is a necessary instrument for achieving this protection rather than a favour granted by states. However, the report does provide a practical policy proposal for a time-limited regularisation programme, during which migrants contribute a total fee of £5.000 over 5 years and demonstrate their commitment to the UK.



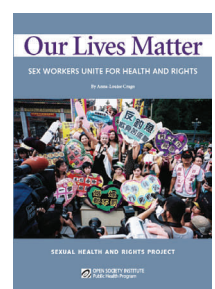
Manual for practitioners: rehabilitating freed slaves

[Rebuilding Lives. An Introduction to Promising Practices in the Rehabilitation of Freed Slaves](#), written by Helen Armstrong and published by Free the Slaves, is a manual with practical suggestions for frontline anti-slavery workers. It is intended for people who want to start new programmes, improve their existing services, or encourage donors to provide stronger support. It provides definitions for relevant terminology such as vulnerable, prosecution, and depression and provides suggestions that are practical where human and money resources are limited. Through discussing each of the 14 chapters, rehabilitation staff will be helped to find what will work best for them and their clients of any age as they come out of any form of slavery.



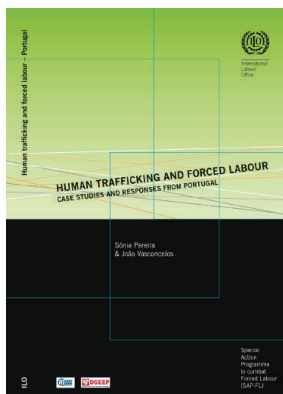
Sex Workers organise to defend their health and human rights

[Our Lives Matter: Sex Workers Unite for Health and Rights](#), written by Anna-Louise Crago and published by the Public Health Program of the Open Society Institute, highlights the creative ways in which sex workers in eight countries have organised to defend their human rights and health. The book describes how these groups have challenged unfair incarceration, violence, extortion, eviction, and humiliation; fought for equal access to health care services; and called for sex work to be officially recognised as work.



UNICEF report on child trafficking in Europe

Within and across borders in Europe, children are trafficked into a variety of exploitative situations, violating their human rights and threatening their survival and development. The report [Child Trafficking in Europe: A Broad Vision to Put Children First](#), assesses the legal, policy and implementation frameworks in place to address child trafficking in the region. Covering more than 50 countries/entities, the report investigates the complexity of the trafficking phenomenon, and maps trafficking patterns and targeted legal and policy responses. Child trafficking is addressed in the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with a focus on prevention, protection and empowerment.



Forced labour and trafficking in and outside of Portugal

The objective of the [book Human Trafficking and Forced Labour: Case studies and responses from Portugal](#), published within the ILO's Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, is to study the phenomena of labour exploitation and forced labour to which immigrants and, in particular, victims of human trafficking are subjected to in Portugal. It also sheds light on the treatment of Portuguese emigrants in the Netherlands and Spain. It finds that temporary employment agencies and informal recruiters working for foreign agencies play a key role in leading Portuguese workers into labour exploitation and forced labour situations. It also finds that concerning the exploitation of immigrant labour in Portugal, physical coercion or abduction used to force migrants to stay in a place of work seem to have given ground to more subtle psychological coercion.



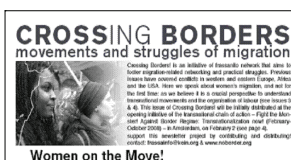
ILO action against trafficking in human beings

The report [ILO Action against Trafficking in Human Beings 2008](#) examines the dynamics between human trafficking and forced labour and outlines ILO conventions and national laws against human trafficking, national and regional strategies to combat trafficking and forced labour and gender mainstreaming in anti-trafficking programmes. Further, it outlines ILO's major areas of intervention, some lessons learned and further references. The report states that the ILO addresses trafficking from a labour market perspective, thereby seeking to eliminate root causes, such as poverty, lack of employment and inefficient labour migration systems. ILO led responses involve labour market institutions, such as public employment services, labour inspectors and labour ministries. Moreover, the ILO consults and involves workers' and employers' organisations in its work.



Trafficked women claiming asylum in the UK

The report ["Good Intentions. A review of the New Asylum Model and its impact on trafficked women claiming asylum"](#) was produced jointly by the Poppy Project and the Refugee Women's Resource Project at Asylum Aid. It considers all the asylum claims made by women who were trafficked into the UK and subsequently supported by the POPPY Project during 2007 and who went through the New Asylum Model process. Whilst improvements were found on procedural issues such as providing female case owners and interpreters, the rate of success at appeal showed that the quality of initial decision-making remains an issue.



Women on the Move! Migration, labour, gender and trafficking

This issue of the newsletter [Crossing Borders](#), entitled *Women on the Move!* and published by the frassanito network, analyses migration from a gender perspective. Articles look at the position of female migrant workers in the care industry, in factories and the agricultural sector. It also includes a column on trafficking into the sex industry, which calls for shifting the terms of analysis of trafficking from violence and organised crime to migration and labour, and a list of relevant and current labour struggles. The introductory analysis holds that "to speak of migration starting from the concrete experiences of migrant women is a strategic perspective that enables us to understand the general transformation of sexual and racialized labour relationships on a transnational scale."



Impression from the World Social Forum on Migration.

Madrid, 11-13 September 2008

Nerea Bilbatua is the Programme Coordinator for the Access to Justice Programme of the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women.

The World Social Forum on Migration (WSFM) was held for the third time in the municipality of Rivas Vaciamadrid (Madrid, Spain) between 11 and 13 September. Conceptualised as a thematic offspring of the WSF process after Porto Alegre, it provided a space for democratic debates on ideas, reflection, formulation of proposals as well as for the articulation of social movements, networks, NGOs, and other civil society organisations. This was the 2nd time that [Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women](#) (both, GAATW members and the International Secretariat) participated in the Forum.

Compared with the 2006 edition, this year saw a broader diversity of participants with European organisations still being a majority but also with a strong presence from other regions, especially Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Africa and, to a much lesser extent, Asia.

Activities during the Forum were divided among five blocks that looked at globalisation and migrations, societies of origin and alternative development, borders and human rights (including human trafficking and slave trade), societies at destination and the situation of migrants, and asylum and displacement.

GAATW gave a presentation about its study Collateral Damage that looks at the human rights impact of anti-trafficking policies with a focus on the situation in Spain and the related campaign as well as on its follow-up campaign, Recognize Rights, and how it has been linked with the Argentinean civil society efforts against the EU Return Directive. It was a good venue to bring attention from a very mixed audience on trafficking as a human rights issue and its links with the right to migrate. MFA (Migrant Forum Asia) also organised a panel on the "Dialogue between Asia, Africa and Europe on circular migration" that looked at the preparations being held for the GFMD meeting in Manila in October this year and that tried, also, to provide a global perspective on circular migration. Jorge Bustamante, the Special Rapporteur on migrants' rights, made a brief visit to the Forum to participate in only one session on Globalisation and Migrations on the second day.

There was thus time to attend numerous seminars and workshops and especially interesting was the opportunity to learn more about two issues in particular: self-organisation among migrants in Europe (especially women from LAC, Africa and Eastern Europe organising in Western European countries, as well as trade unions supporting self-organisations of agricultural migrant workers in Spain) and the intersections between migration, globalisation and labour in Europe. Although trafficking was present at some other panels, including one presentation from Caritas Lebanon, a panel including ATTAC-Europe and Colectivo Hetaira (on rights and sex work) and one panel on "trafficking and smuggling", it did not appear at all at the initial draft of the Declaration.

On the last day, a Declaration was collectively prepared by the Assembly of Movements, calling on governments to look at migration and migrants from a human rights perspective (the declaration can be found in English [here](#)). The Forum ended with a demonstration in the streets of Madrid.

What's happening where ?

18 October. European anti-trafficking day. Various national activities will take place.

8-18 October. Vienna, Austria. [Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) (TOC). 13 October: LSI, Anti-Slavery International and GAATW side event on monitoring mechanisms.

21-22 October. Chisinau, Moldova. National Referral Mechanisms (NRM) for the assistance and protection of trafficked persons – theory and practice. This seminar is part of an assessment of developing NRMs for the assistance and protection of trafficked persons, with the aim to exchange experience among 5 European countries (Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Bulgaria and Romania).

22-23 October. Vienna, Austria. International symposium on the occasion of 10 years LEFÖ [Work – Migration – Rights. Strategies against women trafficking](#)

24-26 October. Vienna, Austria. European Regional Consultation by [GAATW](#) and Lefö.

27-30 October. Manila, Philippines. Global Forum on Migration and Development “Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development”, [Government Meeting](#) (28-29), [Civil Society Days](#) (27-28).

12-16 November . The Netherlands. La Strada Assembly meeting.

14-17 November. Cape Town, South Africa. [11th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development](#)

25-28 November. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. [World Congress III Against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents](#)

27-28 November. Hull, United Kingdom. Conference on Child Slavery, organised by Wise Institute, [Anti-Slavery International](#) and others.



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The International La Strada Association is a network of nine independent human rights NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) in [Belarus](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Bulgaria](#), the [Czech Republic](#), [Macedonia](#), [Moldova](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Poland](#) and [Ukraine](#).

It aims to prevent trafficking in human beings, with a focus on women in Central and Eastern Europe. The [primary goal](#) is to improve the position of women and to promote their universal rights, including the right to choose to emigrate and work abroad and to be protected from violence and abuse.

In 2008, La Strada International receives its main structural financial support from the Dutch Foundations DOEN, ICCO and CORDAID and the Sigrid Rausing Trust. La Strada members are supported by various other donors. We greatly appreciate financial support from private donors for our work. For more information on how you can contribute to La Strada's work, please [consult our website](#).

Visit us at: www.lastradainternational.org
