



Report of the OSCE Special
Representative and Co-ordinator for

Combating Trafficking in Human Beings: New Challenges and New Opportunities

2018-2019

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is a pan-European security body whose 57 participating States span the geographical area from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Recognized as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE is a primary instrument for early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in its area. Its approach to security is unique in being both comprehensive and co-operative: comprehensive in that it deals with three dimensions of security – the human, the politico-military and the economic/environmental. It therefore addresses a wide range of security-related concerns, including human rights, arms control, confidence- and security-building measures, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism and economic and environmental activities.

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Acronyms

AECT	Alliance Expert Co-ordination Team	OSR/CTHB	Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
ATU	Autonomous Territorial Unit	OSCE PA	OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	PCU	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine
CoESPU	Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units	POiD	OSCE Program Office in Dushanabe
CoE	Council of Europe	PCUz	OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan
CTHB	Combating Trafficking in Human Beings	SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
GRETA	Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings	SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization	SMM	OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
ICAT	Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons	SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
ICT	Information and Communication Technology	SR/CTHB	Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development	TAT	Tech against Trafficking
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons	THB	Trafficking in Human Beings
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization	THB/LE	Trafficking in Human Beings for the purposes of Labour Exploitation
IO	International Organization	TNTD	Transnational Threats Department
IOM	International Organization for Migration	TNTD/SPMU	Transnational Threats Department/Strategic Police Matters Unit
HDIM	Human Dimension Implementation Meeting	ToT	Training of Trainers
MC	Ministerial Council	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
NRM	National Referral Mechanism	UN OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
ODIHR	Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights	UNSC	United Nations Security Council
OMIK	OSCE Mission in Kosovo		

Foreword

Ambassador Thomas Greminger

OSCE Secretary General

Combating human trafficking remains a priority area for the OSCE. I am happy to endorse this report which highlights the work of the OSCE, and in particular, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, over the last two years.

I wish to welcome the recent appointment of Valiant Richey as OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and to thank him for overseeing the Office as the Acting Co-ordinator in 2018-2019. This report will showcase some of the fresh ideas and ground-breaking work the Office has undertaken during his leadership.

I also wish to express my warm gratitude to Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova of Kazakhstan for her four years of service as the Special Representative and Co-ordinator between 2014 and 2018. Under her leadership the Office expanded its activities and flourished in many respects.



EDA

The sad truth is that human trafficking continues to affect all OSCE participating States. Notwithstanding, and based on broad support among OSCE participating States, the OSCE has demonstrated that it is well-equipped to respond in its efforts to combat human trafficking. The OSCE's goals of fostering security and protecting human rights are well-suited to ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and victims are protected. As a regional security organization stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, the OSCE helps bridge human trafficking responses from the global to the local level. The OSCE's comprehensive approach to security also allows the Organization to address the various dimensions of human trafficking, including the political, social-economic and human dimensions. Moreover, the OSCE's institutions and field operations help implement the Office's policy-to-practice approach.

With these distinguishing features, I am confident that the OSCE can continue to make a valuable contribution to anti-trafficking efforts and to bring safety, justice and hope to victims across the region.



📷 Teresa Gil Ricol

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Italian and Slovak OSCE Chairmanship teams for their firm support to the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings throughout 2018-2019. I also wish to thank the participating States and Partners for Co-operation for providing the political and financial backing necessary to effectively combat human trafficking. My thanks also go to relevant units within the OSCE Secretariat, OSCE structures, and to the Field Operations, for their support and co-operation.

My warmest thanks likewise go to each and every colleague in the Office, both past and present, who contributed to the rich outputs over the last biennium, including: Alberto Andreani, Tarana Baghirova, Radu Cucos, Claudio Formisano, Oleksandr Kyrylenko, Szilvia Okolicsanyi, Ruth Pojman, Pedro PintoTeixeira, Anne-Lise Robin, Lilia Rotoloni, Tetiana Rudenko, Julia Rutz, Jeyran Shafiyeva, Katharina Thon, and Georgina Vaz Cabral, as well as our extraordinary short-term assistants, JPOs and interns who worked with us during different periods: Daniel Andersen, Jamie Bergin, Maisie Biggs, Jan Cuchran, Ildar Daminov, Diana Huber, Nestani Kapanadze, Daria Kulmukhametova, Richard Murphy, Caroline Nash, Frans Peltonen, Teresa Gil Ricol, Anzhela Tsaturian, Lucia Carmona Vazquez, Alessia Vedano and Dmytro Zhuravlyov.

The conceptualization and preparation of this report was overseen by Lilia Rotoloni, my Associate Public Information Officer, with the assistance of our intern Jamie Bergin, and supported by input from the entire team. I am delighted to see the considerable efforts of the OSR/CTHB in the last two years being captured in such a comprehensive and captivating presentation.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all our donors, in particular the governments of Andorra, Austria, Belarus, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Monaco and Switzerland. A special thanks also to Italy, Germany and the United States of America for seconding staff to my Office: your support is very much appreciated and reflected in the efforts documented in the following pages.

Valiant Richey

Introduction

Valiant Richey

OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

The period of 2018-2019 witnessed numerous advances, transitions and successes in the OSCE's efforts to combat trafficking in human beings. First of all, allow me to express my gratitude for the leadership of Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, my predecessor as Special Representative and Co-ordinator. Her tenure paved the way for many of the innovative portfolios we are still advancing today.

Since joining the Office in June 2018, it has been my great privilege to oversee a highly and diversely-skilled team. Reviewing the range of programmes we have implemented, what stands out is the sheer scope of engagement across various topics and regions. We have successfully held two Alliance Conferences, conducted five simulation-based trainings in Russian, English and Italian, carried out seven country and follow-up visits, as well as issued numerous policy-oriented publications and delivered multiple workshops on implementation. We have also proposed systematic responses to child trafficking, pioneered new efforts in ethical public procurement, raised the profile of challenges related to technology, and produced concrete guidance for addressing trafficking in migration flows. The broad scope of our efforts reflects not only the hard work of our team, but also shows that our services are in high demand.

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) confronts human trafficking concretely and comprehensively, paying particular attention to its cross-dimensional nature and the OSCE's focus on the intersection of security and human rights. Trafficking in human beings is not only a human rights violation but also a grave security concern. It generates cross-border and internal instability when the rule of law and human security are undermined through the exploitation of vulnerable people. Security and



OSCE/Ghada Hazim

human rights in the OSCE region are threatened as long as the scourge of human trafficking persists.

This Biennial Report aims to foster an increased awareness and understanding of human trafficking itself, as well as of some of the challenges and opportunities currently facing the anti-trafficking community. Following an outcome-focused approach, it delineates why and how we do our work, and demonstrates that in the past two years, we have carefully targeted our actions to maximize resources and impact on the ground. My Office has endorsed and promoted a policy-to-practice methodology wherein we respond to a human trafficking issue by researching the nature of the challenge, recommending effective policy responses, and then supporting implementation of that policy into practice on the ground. We also engage with practitioners in the field, re-incorporating their experiences and needs into future policy development, so that practice also informs policy.

None of the achievements presented in this report would have been possible without our partners – the OSCE field operations and executive structures – and we are proud to showcase their contributions here as well. I would also like to highlight the fruitful co-operation between my Office and the Italian and Slovakian Chairmanships, in 2018 and 2019 respectively, for which we are immensely grateful.

Within everything we have set out to accomplish over the past two years, the interests of victims have stood at the forefront. The ultimate goal is to end human trafficking and I confidently believe that the OSR/CTHB can profoundly contribute to this goal and serve as one of the world's foremost anti-trafficking forces. We invite you to join us in this endeavor in 2020 and beyond.

Statement by Melanie Thompson

Advocate against sex trafficking and survivor of trafficking for sexual exploitation

Melanie Thompson, a vocal advocate against commercial sexual exploitation and child sex trafficking, was hosted at the 19th Alliance Conference to deliver a powerful message. The OSR/CTHB stands in solidarity with Melanie Thompson and all other victims of trafficking. Their voices are critical to policy development on combating THB.

Survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation have endured horrendous trauma at the hands of traffickers, pimps, sex buyers and other exploiters. We have suffered great physical, psychological, financial and emotional abuse which has left lifelong impacts on our lives.

Some of these effects include post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, sexually transmitted diseases, infertility, broken bones, Stockholm syndrome, etc. Trafficking for sexual exploitation is not a victimless crime and is an enterprise that will continue to thrive as long as there is a demand for it. If we want to eradicate, or at the very least minimize trafficking for sexual exploitation, then it is imperative that we address the demand for the trafficking for sexual exploitation. Without the demand, there would be no supply. If there were no people who wanted to purchase us for sex, then traffickers wouldn't feel like they can sell and exploit us. Society needs to wake up and actually listen to survivor voices. It is crucial to have survivors included in all discussions on policy regarding trafficking for sexual exploitation, as we are the true experts on the issue.



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Granted lawyers, doctors, delegates, social workers, consultants, researchers, etc. may be very well educated and have knowledge on the issue, but collaborating with survivors is the only way to truly know the effects of trafficking for sexual exploitation and how traffickers operate. We know first-hand the harms of trafficking for sexual exploitation – we've lived through it. We have been beaten, exploited repeatedly for the purposes of sex, and have had to find ways to survive. Survivors need to be supported after they've exited the life. We need long-term support and resources like housing, gainful employment, and health-care, in order to rebuild and maintain sustainable lives. Our voices need to be incorporated and we deserve a seat at the table. It is the only way to effectively combat this issue.

Slovak Chairmanship 2019

Interview with Ambassador Radomír Boháč, Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council and Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe



Valiant Richey, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, and Ambassador Radomír Boháč, Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the OSCE and Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, Vienna, 3 October 2019.

OSCE/Ghada Hazim

Q How have the Chair's priorities been advanced in the OSCE's anti-trafficking efforts undertaken over the past year?

A When Slovakia formulated its three priorities for the 2019 OSCE Chairmanship, it was with the aim of focusing on people on the ground. We are happy to see this people-focus reflected in the OSCE's efforts to combat human trafficking. Take, for example, our first priority on preventing, mediating and resolving conflict, and mitigating its impact on people. This is aligned to the victim-centred approach the OSCE adopts in all its anti-trafficking work. This complementarity can also be seen through our second priority on providing for a safer future, which was deeply embedded in the 19th OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference. This conference focused on the role of technology in human trafficking and was an opportunity for various Slovak Ministries to share case studies and best practices with partners from the OSCE area. And we cannot forget our third priority on strengthening effective multilateralism, which is also key to the OSCE's anti-trafficking work. The OSCE works closely with its multilateral partners and in 2019 even co-chaired the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT). So, it is in this way that Slovakia does not only issue bland statements of "strong support" for the OSCE's anti-trafficking work, but can instead make a real difference in advancing the OSCE's work.

Q What is the comparative advantage of the OSCE in combating human trafficking?

A We are living in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, wherein the challenges we face cannot be solved by one country alone. This applies to cyber security, terrorism and human trafficking alike. The OSCE, as the biggest regional security organization, offers a comprehensive approach to these challenges; it uses tailor-made niche expertise to find regional, practical and result-oriented solutions. It is an organization that provides participating States with a platform to co-ordinate anti-trafficking efforts across borders. For example, it facilitates a diverse but dependable network of anti-trafficking focal points, expanding its reach all across the region. Moreover, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is key in supporting participating States through enhancing anti-trafficking expertise and capacity-building. Since creating space for dialogue with all stakeholders is high on the agenda of the Slovak Chair, we gladly hosted the 2019 annual OSCE–Council of Europe meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators in Bratislava, which highlighted the value that co-operation and inclusion of civil society can bring to our efforts to combat human trafficking, particularly in assistance to victims.



H.E. Igli Hasani (r), Ambassador of Albania, with OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, Vienna, 9 February 2018.

OSCE/Ghada Hazim

Incoming Albanian Chairmanship 2020

Interview with Ambassador Igli Hasani, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Albania to the International Organizations in Vienna

Q Albania will chair the OSCE in 2020: what will be the strategic priorities of your Chairmanship in addressing human trafficking?

A As highlighted by Acting Foreign Minister Gent Cakaj in his address to the Permanent Council last July, the Albanian Chairmanship will promote throughout 2020 the OSCE's role in the framework of global efforts to counter all forms of trafficking. In an increasingly digitalized world, international actors need to carefully address the impact of new technologies when formulating effective policies. That is why the Albanian Chairmanship will firstly aim to tackle the intersection between technology and human trafficking – seizing new opportunities as they arise, but also preparing to face new challenges. Secondly, in terms of trafficking in human beings, South Eastern Europe is simultaneously a region of origin, of transit, and of destination. It is therefore our common responsibility to reinforce OSCE's contribution in countering trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls. This will complement the broader efforts of the Albanian Chairmanship to combat violence against women – within the OSCE region, as well as globally – leading towards the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5.2.

Q What is the comparative advantage of the OSCE in combating trafficking?

A Three key strengths immediately come to my mind. Firstly, the OSCE's comprehensive approach, which enables us to address human trafficking both from a law enforcement as well as from a human rights perspective. Our commitments on countering human trafficking are the embodiment of this comparative advantage of the OSCE. Secondly, the expertise of OSCE staff and the broad network of OSCE field operations. If the OSCE has been able to develop a reputation as a significant actor in the global fight against THB, we owe this to its staff, working tirelessly both at the headquarters and in the field. The OSCE is also one of the few organizations that has deployed a dedicated Special Representative on countering human trafficking, a tangible sign of political commitment on behalf of all 57 participating States. Thirdly, the value of the OSCE as a platform for dialogue. Being able to collect and disseminate best practices among 57 states has, of course, immense value. But, as current Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group, I cannot but think of the exceptional potential of the Mediterranean Partnership of the OSCE in framing a common response to trafficking in human beings between the southern and northern shores of the Mediterranean. An initial, encouraging result has been the ever-growing participation of representatives of Mediterranean partners in the flagship OSCE training project to combat human trafficking along migration routes at the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units – CoESPU – in Vicenza, Italy. Such projects put in practice the three comparative advantages outlined above. Rest assured, in 2020 we will spare no efforts to advance and promote them further.

Recent Anti-Trafficking Commitments Adopted by the Ministerial Council

In the last two years, the OSCE participating States adopted three Ministerial Council Decisions on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings:

- **Decision No. 6/17:** strengthening efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings (8 December 2017);
- **Decision No. 7/17:** strengthening efforts to combat all forms of child trafficking, including for sexual exploitation, as well as other forms of sexual exploitation of children (8 December 2017);
- **Decision No. 6/18:** strengthening efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking, including of unaccompanied minors (7 December 2018).



OSCE Ministerial Council family photo, Milan, 6 December 2018.
© OSCE/Marco Piraccini

In sum, their adoption demonstrates the consensus across OSCE participating States regarding trafficking in human beings in several key areas, including child trafficking, labour exploitation and supply chains, technology, and partnerships among governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations. The Decisions also unanimously reaffirmed the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2003), its 2005 and 2013 Addenda, and all existing OSCE commitments in the field of combating human trafficking.

In line with supporting the participating States in the implementation of commitments contained in the above-listed MC Decisions, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings published the *Compendium of Anti-Trafficking Commitments Adopted by the Ministerial Council* in October 2019.

Outcome: The *Compendium* is designed to highlight the individual provisions of the Decisions and to highlight OSCE produced resources that can support adoption and implementation of the specific provisions contained in the Decisions. The interactive document is available on the OSCE's website. Following the publication of the compendium, a survey in 2020 (an update of the 2016 Survey Report) will take stock of the status of participating States' implementation of Ministerial Council Decisions No. 6/17, No. 7/17 and No. 6/18.

MC
DECISIONS
COVERED:

1. MC DECISION 6/18, VIENNA 2018
2. MC DECISION 7/17, VIENNA 2017
3. MC DECISION 6/17, VIENNA 2017

COMPENDIUM Of Anti-Trafficking Commitments Adopted By The Ministerial Council

SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

Overview of the OSR/CTHB's strategic approach in 2018-2019

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Country Visits and Official Visits

Recommendations

Technical Assistance

#TechnicalAssistance
#GoodPractices

Why does the OSR/CTHB carry out country visits?

Country visits stand at the core of the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator's mandate. They serve to establish a direct and constructive dialogue with participating States on anti-trafficking policy and to raise the profile of anti-trafficking efforts in the OSCE region.

Country Visits

September 2018	Cyprus
November 2018 and January 2019	Austria
June 2019	Georgia
September 2019	Croatia

Technical Assistance Visit

July 2019	Turkmenistan
September 2019	Iceland

Follow-up Visits

March 2018	Uzbekistan
October 2019	Tajikistan
November 2019	Romania



The OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Valiant Richey, visits the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Traiskirchen (Erstaufnahmestelle Ost/Reception Centre East) during the country visit to Austria in November 2018.

OSCE

Through consultations with government authorities, parliamentarians, law enforcement, judiciary and civil society, country visits enable the Special Representative to identify good practices, to share knowledge and lessons learned with OSCE participating States, and to provide technical assistance where support is needed. After each visit, the Special Representative writes a country visit report, underlining the promising practices of the country in question, existing challenges, and areas where anti-trafficking policies and practices could be enhanced.

Reports Published

January 2018	Denmark
February 2018	Russian Federation
June 2018	Mongolia
June 2018	follow up recommendations presented to Uzbekistan
June 2019	Cyprus
August 2019	Austria
November 2019	follow up recommendations presented to Tajikistan
December 2019	Georgia



The Special Representative speaks with staff during a visit to a reception center for asylum seekers in Zagreb.

Tetiana Rudenko

The reports contain concrete and focused recommendations to support the country in increasing the implementation of OSCE anti-trafficking commitments. The reports are published on the OSCE website, together with a response, if provided, from the participating State concerned.

What have been

the results of the OSR/CTHB's country visits over the past two years?

Examples of Good Practices

The visits have also served as a good opportunity to identify and collect promising practices existing in the visited States with regard to combating THB. Some of these include:

Cyprus

- The Reception and Accommodation Centre for International Protection in Kofinou initiated collaboration with private companies to facilitate the employment of asylum seekers to prevent trafficking and empower vulnerable groups.



The Special Representative facilitating roundtable discussions with members of Iceland's National Committee on Action Against Human Trafficking and Other Forms of Exploitation.

© Tarana Baghirova

- In June 2019, the House of Representatives of the Cypriot parliament augmented Article 17 of the Cypriot Anti-Trafficking Law to also criminalize the users of services of trafficked persons, advancing the country's effort to end impunity of offenders involved in the exploitation of human beings.

Austria

- Austria's Task Force on Combating Human Trafficking is chaired by a National Co-ordinator, who is a high-level official of the Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs. The Task Force meets regularly to co-ordinate the Government's anti-trafficking action and provide guidance in current and emerging issues related to tackling and preventing trafficking in human beings. To advance the work related to key priorities, the Task Force also includes three sub-groups: child trafficking, prostitution, and trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.
- The Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service publishes annual public reports on trafficking in human beings. The reports keep abreast of the annual statistics of investigation and prosecutions, and also provide a detailed analysis of THB trends and patterns in the country.

Croatia

- Article 106 of the Croatian Criminal Code provides a broad definition of THB. It is exemplary in including trafficking for the purpose of exploitation in pornography. Such a broad definition enables the country to identify and prosecute trafficking offenders who use technology to recruit, exploit and control both adults and children for the purpose of pornography as a form of sexual exploitation.

Georgia

- The approach to identifying victims in the Georgian Anti-Trafficking law serves as a good example of how trafficked persons can be identified either by law enforcement or social service agencies, regardless of these persons' co-operation with any criminal proceedings. The mechanism led Georgia's Permanent Group, which includes civil society and international organizations, allows the awarding of victim status to persons who have been identified by mobile teams as potentially trafficked for exploitative purposes.



The Special Representative and OSR/CTHB officers visiting a shelter for human trafficking victims during the country visit to Georgia in June 2019.

📷 LELP State Fund



During the country visit to Croatia, the Special Representative holds a meeting with the Municipal Criminal court of Zagreb, discussing court practices in handling THB cases.

📷 Tarana Baghirova

Overlapping Recommendations

- While commending the solid legal frameworks for combating trafficking in human beings in the visited participating States, the Special Representative is concerned about the lack of enforcement of relevant statutes in identifying and prosecuting trafficking offences, especially where States prosecute trafficking crimes on the basis of more lenient offences.
- Gathering data and knowledge regarding the scale and scope of various forms of trafficking remains a key concern throughout the OSCE region.
- Although at the forefront of recent Ministerial Council discussions and Decisions, trafficking in children continues to pose a serious problem in the OSCE region.
- Participating States with large flows of migrants face challenges in identifying trafficking patterns among mixed migration flows and in referring trafficked persons to assistance and support programmes.
- Prosecutions often rely upon the co-operation of victims without exploring other avenues for collecting evidence to support the case. Insufficient information provided by traumatised victims and a lack of evidence result in lenient convictions thus contributing to impunity for traffickers.
- A focus on the financial aspects of trafficking is lacking, thus contributing to the absence of financial investigations in trafficking cases.
- For the prevention of trafficking, more attention is needed from all of the visited States on the aspect of demand, since demand fosters all forms of exploitation.

Technology and Trafficking in Human Beings

Policy Development

Research on the role of ICT for THB

Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/17

The 19th Alliance Conference

Into Practice

Capacity-building workshops for CTHB and cyber practitioners

Public-private partnerships towards tech solutions

20

#TurningALiabilityIntoAnAsset
#PartnershipWithPrivateSector

Why does technology form part of the OSR/CTHB's work?

Although the basic framework for defining a trafficking in human beings (THB) offense has remained the same since the adoption of the Palermo Protocol in 2000, the modalities of committing this grave crime have evolved constantly. For this reason, the increasing global usage of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) has shifted technology from being a niche subject to a central challenge in the anti-trafficking field.

Like all tools, technology can and is being used for both negative and positive purposes. Perpetrators of THB use ICT to facilitate the recruitment of victims, facilitate the financial transactions that make THB so profitable, and expand the means by which victims may be exploited and controlled. Furthermore ICT helps to increase the anonymity of those committing the crime. One of the most alarming consequences has been how ICT helps traffickers to engage in transactions with users, enter new marketplaces and expand criminal operations to immense scale. The worldwide increase in access to the Internet also means an increase in the risk of Internet platforms being used for THB purposes by perpetrators.



Conversely technology is also increasingly being used to prevent exploitation, protect victims and assist in holding traffickers accountable. From cutting-edge facial recognition and signal -detection technologies being used to identify suspects and potential victims, to data management technology which can enable unprecedented levels of co-ordination between anti-trafficking actors, the opportunities are numerous. The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) seeks to support participating States in responding to the dual nature of technology as it relates to trafficking in human beings and shift its future development toward more preventative uses.

The OSR/CTHB derives its mandate to tackle technology and THB through a number of OSCE strategic documents, such as the 2013 *Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings* (PC.DEC/1107/Corr.1) and Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/17, which states that OSCE participating States should “take measures, where appropriate, to enhance capacities for monitoring, detecting, investigating and disrupting all forms of trafficking in human beings facilitated by ICTs, in particular by the Internet.”

How has the OSR/CTHB addressed technology in the past two years?

The Alliance Conference

- Each year the OSR/CTHB hosts the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on a different thematic topic. The theme of the **2019 Alliance Conference** held 8–9 April was “Using Technology to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: Turning a Liability into an Asset”. More than 400 practitioners from across the OSCE’s 57 participating States and the 11 Partners for Co-operation took part and keynote addresses were delivered by Princess Eugenie of York and United States Ambassador to Combat Human Trafficking John Richmond. The conference was the number one trending topic on Twitter in Austria across these two days, underlining the tremendous interest in the topic. Four expert-based panels were convened, addressing *inter alia* the misuse of technology to facilitate trafficking, the use of technology as a tool for preventative and victim-protection measures, and current and future strategic approaches to technology and THB.



The third panel of the Alliance Conference was titled “The power of technology to assist in the identification of victims, investigation of cases, and prosecution of perpetrators of human trafficking” and was moderated by Ambassador Alena Kupchyna, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE.

📷 Lucia Carmona Vazquez

Outcome: Over the two days, the conference laid the foundation for concrete action regarding technology and THB for participating States across the OSCE region. It created new networks and partnerships between technology firms, civil society, law enforcement agencies and international organizations. The message that technology provides tools which can be harnessed against THB was clearly emphasized and heard. Most importantly, the urgent need to adopt policies to disrupt ICT-facilitated THB was also a major focus of the conference, since technology tools on their own are not a panacea. A report on the 19th Alliance Conference collected the main findings of the discussions, and was published and circulated later in the year

- An important feature of the Alliance Conference is the side events, which showcase more specialized aspects of the main theme. During the 19th Alliance Conference, the side events touched on, among other things, countering trafficking of children in the digital age, the use of ICT tools to improve proactive identification of victims of trafficking in human beings, and the OSCE’s innovative mapping of technology and use of new tools.



On the margins of the 19th Alliance Conference, participants see with their own eyes how cutting-edge technology can be used to combat human trafficking.

📷 Lucia Carmona Vazquez

Outcome: The side events provided a place for interactions on more specialized aspects of technology and trafficking. They helped highlight the practical use of ICT tools in improving the proactive identification of victims of trafficking, preventing child trafficking via the Internet, the potential of block chains in identifying risks in supply chains, and the role data visualization and data analysis tools can play in highlighting THB risks.

Research

The OSR/CTHB strives to stay at the forefront of anti-THB efforts through research and policy development on contemporary issues in the field, including the intersection of technology and trafficking.

- In November 2019 the OSR/CTHB published and circulated a paper on the role of ICT in trafficking in human beings. The paper provides insight into the impact of technology on THB, both in terms of how technology is being misused by traffickers and how it can be leveraged by those fighting THB.

Outcome: The uniqueness of the paper compared to previous such research is that it lists over 200 technology initiatives which have been developed around the world to prevent and combat THB, as well as assist victims.

This analysis will help both policymakers and practitioners in the OSCE region, including law enforcement and civil society, to better understand how technology can address different aspects of day-to-day anti-trafficking work and aid to guide investment in better responses.

Capacity-building

The rapidity with which technology transformed the THB field left many anti-THB actors unprepared. In response, the OSR/CTHB is working to bring practitioners from the law enforcement and judicial sectors up to speed with the latest developments and equip them with the skills necessary for an emphatic response.

- During 2018 and 2019, the OSR/CTHB supported a series of regional roundtables, workshops and seminars organized by the OSCE field operations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine. Aimed at enhancing investigation, prosecution and prevention of ICT-facilitated human trafficking and exploitation, well as promoting technology-based solutions in response to trafficking along migration routes, these events featured the participation of law enforcement, prosecutors and judges.
- In July 2019, in co-operation with the OSCE Transnational Threats Department, the OSR/CTHB held a regional workshop in Minsk on means for combating THB for sexual exploitation through effective investigative techniques facilitated by new technologies. Participating in the workshop were senior prosecutors and law enforcement representatives specialized in countering trafficking and cybercrimes from Belarus, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Outcome: The events organized or supported by the OSR/CTHB contributed to raising awareness about latest trends in the use of technology for THB, increased the capacity of different stakeholders to investigate ICT-facilitated THB in line with international best practices, and developed regional and international communities of practice in order to foster co-operation and exchange of knowledge.

Partnership and Co-ordination

Technology is such a cross-cutting phenomenon that co-ordination between all partners is needed in order to confront the issue of technology and THB in a holistic manner. In addition to the Alliance, the OSR/CTHB has undertaken proactive measures to form and maintain partnerships across different sectors.

- The OSR/CTHB co-operates closely with other OSCE executive structures. This included representation at the 2018 OSCE Annual Police Experts Meeting and at the 2019 Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) Conference on Crime in the Digital Age.

Outcome: The OSR/CTHB not only engages on a regular basis with other OSCE executive structures in order to avoid duplication, but also to exchange expertise. Furthermore, with such co-operation, the position of the OSR/CTHB on technology and THB can be clearly communicated across the OSCE.

- Co-operation with our international partners has also been a high priority. This has included participation in: the International Roundtable on Human Trafficking in the Digital Age, co-ordinated by the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe and held in September 2018; in a UNODC event on improving capacities and co-operation in addressing trafficking in persons facilitated through abuse of internet-based technologies in South Eastern Europe, held in Sofia in November 2018; in the side event The Role of Technology in Facilitating and Addressing Sex Trafficking held on 22 May 2019 during the 28th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) of the UNODC; and the roundtable on a human rights-centred approach to technology and security at the OSCE's Security Days, held in Vienna in November 2019.

Outcome: Partnerships with other international organizations and actors flourished and different areas of expertise were highlighted and shared.

- The OSR/CTHB engages with civil society organizations on a regular basis. In September 2019, within the framework of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting held in Warsaw, the Office helped organize a side event on how NGOs could leverage technology to fight THB.



Radu Cucos

OSR/CTHB Associate Officer

“The scale of the human trafficking problem in the OSCE region and in the world in general is one of the major issues that the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings is trying to address. When the estimates developed by different international organizations tell us that there are millions of human trafficking victims around the world, many of them being trafficked in the OSCE area, we realized that we need innovative approaches and solutions to tackle this enormous scale. I am extremely thankful to have the opportunity to work on programmes focusing on addressing the challenge of scale. One of these programs is how to leverage technology to fight human trafficking and use it as a force multiplier in global efforts to end this heinous crime.”

Outcome: The best practices and knowledge acquired at high-level events such as the Alliance Conference have been shared with NGOs to inspire the broader use of technology in their anti-trafficking efforts.

Partnership with global technology platforms

- Because almost all human trafficking crimes have an ICT element and perpetrators use the services and platforms of private technology companies, preventing and combating THB cannot be conceived without strong partnership with these companies. The OSR/CTHB has shown strong leadership in this regard, and over the last two years has been collaborating closely with the Tech Against Trafficking Initiative. **Tech Against Trafficking** (TAT) is a coalition of technology

companies working with global experts, including the OSCE, to combat trafficking. TAT member organizations include Amazon, AT&T, BT, Microsoft, Nokia, Salesforce.org and Vodafone. The OSR/CTHB was invited to serve on the Advisory Board of TAT and in January 2019 hosted the TAT Advisory Group In-Person Meeting, which was opened by the OSCE Secretary General in Vienna.

Interview with:



Eric Anderson

Head of the Modern Slavery Programme at BT, and co-founding member of Tech Against Trafficking



Hannah Darnton

Program Manager of Ethics, Technology, and Human Rights at BSR (Business for Social Responsibility)

Q What are the most promising technology-based solutions you have mapped out so far?

EA: We conducted an initial landscape mapping of technology tools being used to combat human trafficking which identified 305 tools deployed around the world. There's a broad variety of tools and technologies that are being used and some of them span multiple areas of impact. For example, one of the tools that we developed at BT is a smartphone app which extends the UK's Modern Slavery Helpline into peoples' pockets, giving users an easy reference guide to spot the signs and report concerns. Concerns raised to the Helpline since it launched in October 2016 have indicated over 15,000 potential victims.

HD: We invited the Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative to participate in our first Accelerator program, and we'd love to highlight their work. The Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC), an initiative of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), is a global human trafficking data hub, publishing harmonized data from counter-trafficking organizations around the world. The goal is to reduce barriers to information-sharing and provide a mechanism for organizations to get data to public and policy audiences.

Q You alluded to the fact that more than 300 tools are presently in use or are ready to be used to combat THB. Nevertheless THB is still a grave problem. What, if any, are the obstacles you have met in trying to promote the usage of these tools?

EA: Tech tools are not a silver bullet to THB. Creating these tools to help eradicate human trafficking, though challenging, is not the really hard part of our task. The really hard part is creating and maintaining the right conditions for organizations to successfully adopt these tech solutions so they can be truly effective. There is also a huge missed opportunity if we don't get ourselves aligned in how anti-slavery efforts collaborate and partner with each other on using technology more fully and in an aligned way. The lack of awareness that these tools exist is a part of the issue, but the far bigger part involves meeting the needs for unwavering, long-term commitment to funding, developing and aligning – not just the tech but the people using these tools – around a coherent strategy.

HD: Yes, exactly, one of the biggest issues is that many of the civil society organizations developing and deploying these tools have limited capacity, resources, and personnel, which creates barriers and challenges to developing and maintaining effective technology and scaling it. The maintenance of such tools is particularly important. Organizations often receive funding to develop the technology, however, without ongoing resources and support, they often have difficulties keeping the technology up to date and operational, or to iterate/customize it to be more effective.

Q Organized criminal networks know how to take advantage of and keep up to date with ICTs for the purposes of human trafficking. Is this a losing race?

HD: No, this is not a losing race. However, we need to be more proactive, agile, collaborative, and intentional with our technology solutions. We need to support effective, scalable solutions at the right time to tackle the problem. Currently, there are a number of disparate technology tools, many of which are attempting to address similar problems without working together or building off of each other's work. Rather than create new tools for every scenario, we can "lift and shift" effective technologies, and learn from previously developed technologies.

EA: Nevertheless, we have to catch up in our efforts. We need to adopt and use the best of tech to overtake and disrupt those who misuse technology to entrap and exploit people. Organized criminal networks seem to be swift and more adaptive in using technology than the anti-slavery networks are. We need to flip that equation by building capacity, skills and capability to use tech better.

Q Everyone knows data privacy is a huge concern these days. Do you believe that anti-trafficking efforts which rely on data-sharing can co-exist with respect for privacy rights?

HD: Absolutely. Tech Against Trafficking's member companies are at the frontlines of these discussions as they relate to their respective products and services, and many of their employees include some of the world's experts on data-sharing and privacy. We look forward to continuing to explore these issues through our work.

EA: For example, TAT is working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to accelerate the Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative, the anti-slavery tech tool whose value relies heavily on being able to share THB data in a way which doesn't allow data related to individuals to be identified or shared. There are different ways to protect the privacy and anonymity of individuals; it's not one size fits all.

Q How have you collaborated with the OSCE and what has been the value of the partnership?

HD: The OSCE has been an amazing partner in promoting the potential use of technology to combat this issue and highlighting collaborative efforts that streamline support and resources within this space.

EA: There's a shared sense of urgency to get to grips with the challenges. The OSCE recognizes that close collaboration is essential and has placed a strong focus on raising awareness with member states of the critical role of technology to combat THB. It is unrivalled in our partnerships in reaching national policymakers with this message.

Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains

Policy

Ministerial Council Decision 6/17

Model Guidelines

Compendium

Harmonized policy development with international partners

Practice

Capacity building for governmental CTHB and procurement experts

Adoption of OSCE policies and measures

Co-operation with IOs

OSCE Procurement Practices

26

#LeadingByExample

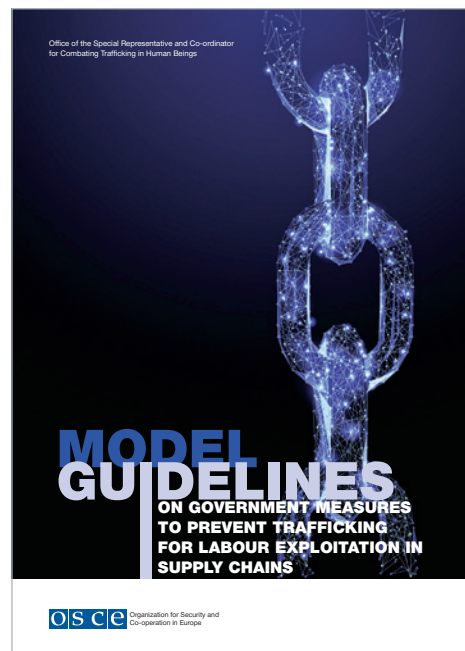
#HarmonisedProcurementPractices

Why does “Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains” form part of the OSR/CTHB’s work?

The advent of a globalized economy has precipitated the emergence of complex, international supply chains of goods and services. Both materials and labour are now regularly sourced from all corners of the globe. Accompanying this opportunity is a grave risk that can be difficult to detect – namely that these services are provided by, or these materials are produced by, victims of trafficking.

Trafficking for labour exploitation is one of the most prevalent forms of trafficking in human beings across the world but amongst the least addressed. In order to address this disparity, strategies which target the demand aspect of labour trafficking have been promulgated. If an entity can detect and remove the risk of labour trafficking within their supply chains, labour trafficking will gradually become less profitable, and therefore less widespread.

This is by no means an easy task. In both the public and private sectors, procuring goods and services commonly happens through subcontractors, who use additional layers of suppliers, which in turn complicates the supply chains significantly.



Nevertheless, international standards have recognized the duty of both businesses and governments to undertake due diligence in all their sourcing activities. For instance, the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production calls for the implementation of sustainable public procurement policies and action plans.

OSCE participating States are linked to risks of labour exploitation both through their own procurement practices and through the actions of businesses integrated in their economies. Within this link arises a responsibility to act.



OSR/CTHB Senior Adviser Julia Rutz delivers a two-day course in May 2019 on the prevention of THB in supply chains to master's students at the University of Innsbruck. Pictured here with Prof. Belachew Gebrewold, department head at the Management Center Innsbruck.
 © Universität Innsbruck



Senior Adviser Julia Rutz presenting the link between THB and procurement at the Managing and Mitigating Trafficking of Human Beings Risks in Procurement Workshop in Belgrade.

© OSCE/Teresa Gil Ricol

OSCE Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/17 calls on participating States, OSCE executive structures, and the private sector to adopt and implement measures to prevent trafficking in their supply chains.

How has the OSR/CTHB dealt with the topic of supply chains in the past two years?

The OSR/CTHB supports participating States in this effort by providing practical tools to enact concrete measures to prevent THB in supply chains of both public and private entities, as well as to build capacity to implement these measures. This project has been implemented with the generous support of Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The work put in over the past two years at the OSR/CTHB has resulted in the following initiatives and outcomes:

Research

- In order to assist policymakers in locating relevant, previously published materials on this subject, in March 2018 the OSR/CTHB published the *Compendium of relevant reference materials and resources on ethical sourcing and prevention of trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in supply chains*. It was updated in autumn 2019 to reflect the continuous development in this area.

Outcome: A comprehensive directory of resources is now available to policymakers; it includes examples of international and national legislation, civil society initiatives, reports and analysis produced by think tanks and academia, corporate policies and standards from the private sector, traceability tools, guidelines on policy implementation, and monitoring mechanisms.

- With the aim to form a concrete toolbox for participating States, the *Model Guidelines on Government Measures to Prevent Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains* were developed and published in six languages.

Outcome: The publication highlights how States can enact, implement and monitor legislation and policies that promote transparency to ensure that public supply chains are free from trafficked labour, including through fair and ethical recruitment of workers. The *Model Guidelines* also provide a solid basis for capacity-building exercises.

- In autumn 2019 the *Analysis of Procurement Data for the Risk of Trafficking in Human Beings* was finalized. This pilot project conducted with the OSCE Mission to Serbia by the University of Nottingham forms part of the initiative of the OSR/CTHB to support efforts toward eliminating trafficking risks in the OSCE's own supply chains.



Valiant Richey, then OSCE Acting Co-ordinator, delivers a speech at the CBSS Forum on Corporate Responsibility of Businesses held in Riga.

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The study provides several key findings and lists recommendations on managing and mitigating the risks identified that will help the OSCE to lead by example in addressing its own supply chains.

Capacity-building

In order to strengthen capacities at the national level to prevent THB in supply chains, a number of regional workshops on prevention of trafficking in human beings in supply chains through government practices and measures were organized. A special emphasis was put on the practical application of the *Model Guidelines*.

- In November 2018 a workshop was held in Tashkent for experts from OSCE participating States in Central Asia/South Caucasus.
- In January 2019 Athens played host to a regional workshop for the South-Eastern Europe.
- In November 2019 the Netherlands hosted a regional workshop for Central Europe and North America.

Outcome: 59 experts from participating States were trained on implementing the guidelines. Significant concrete measures resulted from these workshops, as for example, the mayor of Athens, Yiorgos Kaminis, announced a pilot program to develop policies and implement practices aimed at ensuring that the City of Athens does not purchase products or contract services provided by victims of THB.

The OSR/CTHB wants to lead by example and for this reason undertook activities developing the capacities of OSCE executive structures to prevent trafficking in human beings in OSCE procurement activities:

- In September 2019 the OSCE-wide workshop Managing and Mitigating Trafficking of Human Beings Risks in Procurement was organized with the participation of procurement experts from all OSCE executive structures.

Outcome: The workshop raised awareness within the OSCE procurement community about the risks of human trafficking in OSCE supply chains; the recommendations provided at the event will be taken into account in the development of guidelines for OSCE public procurement experts on how to manage and mitigate THB risks when procuring goods and services for the OSCE.

- In late 2019 two study visits for OSCE staff from the OSR/CTHB and from the OSCE procurement section were carried out to the United States and Sweden; the purpose of the visits was to learn about good practices to leverage public procurement to prevent THB.

Outcome: The knowledge gained during these study visits helped to develop further the capacities of the OSCE executive structures to prevent THB in the OSCE's procurement practices.

Partnership and Co-ordination

A priority on the OSR/CTHB's agenda is the prevention of THB in the supply chains of international organizations. Using the knowledge and expertise it has acquired so far, the OSR/CTHB aims to raise awareness about the need to prevent THB in supply chains by establishing an alliance of international organizations and introducing harmonized procurement measures. To achieve this goal, the following activities were initiated:

- Procurement measures to prevent THB were incorporated into the work plan of the UN's Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking (ICAT) during the OSCE's co-chairmanship in 2019.
- Raising awareness on this topic during the UN's 25th High Level Committee on Management Procurement Network Meeting held in March 2019.
- Based on this initiative, the Task Force for Development of Joint Approach in Combating Trafficking of Human Beings in Supply Chains within the UN's procurement network was set up. The objective of the

Task Force is to bring together procurement and policy/programme specialists to develop a joint approach in combating forced labour and human trafficking in supply chains. Several UN organizations have already joined the Task Force.

Outcome: Through these efforts, best practices and experiences are being shared with the international community, whereby the Task Force is aiming to operationalize procurement measures that help prevent THB.

The OSR/CTHB also contributed to other initiatives dedicated to the prevention of THB in supply chains. These include:

- Representatives from the OSR/CTHB participated in the 2018 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights; events organized in Brussels by the European Parliament’s Working Group of Business Conduct; the February 2019 OECD Forum on Due Diligence in the Garment and Footwear Sector; and the Alliance 8.7’s 2nd Global Workshop of the Supply Chains Action Group, held in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, which examined the subject under the lens of the UN Sustainable Development Goal 8.7.

Outcome: Through these efforts, not only was the OSR/CTHB able to initiate more partnerships, it was able to share the results of its research, most notably the recommendations in the *Model Guidelines*, across a wide range of fora.

- In March 2019 the OSCE, in co-operation with the Government of the United Kingdom and the Ethical Trading Initiative, organized the 2019 International Conference on Tackling Modern Slavery, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking in Public Sector Supply Chains. The conference built on the keynote speech given in October 2018 at the Ethical Trading Initiative’s 20th Anniversary Conference by Valiant Richey, then Acting OSCE Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The 2019 conference showcased the importance of leadership and good practice of local and regional administrations, as well as that of governments, multilateral organizations and public bodies, with a focus on high-risk sectors.

Outcome: The conference was a success, with expertise being shared and the forming of likely long lasting networks of policymakers and procurement practitioners. In June 2019 a report detailing the main outcomes of the conference was published.



Julia Rutz
OSR/CTHB Senior Adviser

“ Working on supply chains is exciting. Government expenditure through public procurement can be vast. To strive towards eliminating trafficking of human beings and labour exploitation in all the supply chains of an organization makes sense, since it disrupts the business of traffickers and criminals. If the demand for goods and services resulting from THB is reduced, then it follows that the supply, so to speak, of trafficked victims will also decrease. This trickle-down effect offers a renewed impetus in the global effort to end human trafficking.”

- In June 2019 officers from the OSR/CTHB travelled to Riga to participate in the Forum on Corporate Responsibility of Businesses: Prevention of Labour Exploitation, an event co-organized by the Secretariat of the Council of Baltic Sea States (CBSS) and the Nordic Council of Ministers’ Office in Latvia. The OSCE convened a panel on how public procurement practices can be leveraged to combat THB in supply chains.

Outcome: During the panel, co-operative interaction between the public and private sectors in this regard was discussed and encouraged.



Interview with Cindy Berman, Head of Modern Slavery Strategy, Ethical Trading Initiative

Q Labour trafficking is one of the most prevalent forms of human trafficking across the world. What are some of the obstacles faced when countering it?

A Labour trafficking is largely hidden. It often is to be found in workplaces that operate in the informal economy where workers tend to be contracted on temporary or precarious terms – sometimes in their own homes. Most often their employers are not formally registered. This means they are unlikely to be on the radar of labour inspectors or police investigating THB crimes. Migrant workers are even more susceptible to trafficking because of the exorbitant recruitment fees they often must pay to secure a job, as the recruitment industry is rife with corruption and abuse of power due to such workers' vulnerability. Many migrant workers cannot read or write, do not speak the language of the places they are working, or do not have the necessary paperwork to prove the criminality of their employers. On the other hand, employers often have access to lawyers and other resources, sometimes using bribery to avoid being prosecuted. Whilst prosecution is important and valuable, is unlikely to be the most effective deterrent for abusive employers, nor a means for reducing the negligence of governments.

Q What role does the Ethical Trade Initiative play in the prevention of THB in supply chains?

A The Ethical Trade Initiative (ETI) provides expertise and advice to companies on how to conduct human rights due diligence in their supply chains, and supports them to develop policies, governance and monitoring systems to identify risks, as well as to take pre-emptive action before sourcing from suppliers that do not safeguard the rights of workers. ETI is unique in that it convenes safe spaces that bring together diverse stakeholders – companies, trade unions and civil so-

ciety organizations – to improve workers' rights and tackle labour exploitation and abuse in company supply chains.

Q In recent decades, the onus of reducing costs has led to the increase of subcontractors. They have become crucial suppliers not only for industrial sectors, but also in public procurement. Is that a part of the problem?

A Subcontracting is a huge problem. Complex supply chains involving multiple subcontractors in the making of a single product makes the visibility of the supply chain difficult. This also makes it hugely challenging to identify who is accountable for what when abuse and exploitation occur. Public bodies have a critical responsibility to use their leverage by changing their tendering and procurement practices to ensure more transparency in the system. Tenders should include the cost of labour. More responsible companies that have streamlined their supply chains and demonstrated better treatment of workers should be rewarded with bonus points when contracts are awarded.

Q The OSCE itself is trying to address this problem, starting with its procurement methods and supply chain procedures. How does an organization such as the OSCE play a role?

A The OSCE is an important body that has shown leadership amongst states in convening forums for promoting appropriate forms of legislation, sharing learning, providing guidance and modelling good practice to tackle THB in supply chains. That has triggered important global public commitments on public procurement, supply chains and partnerships.

What is the OSCE Procurement Unit doing to prevent the risk of THB in internal supply chains?



Balazs Fule

Procurement And Contracting Officer, OSCE

“What if the seafood served in the cafeteria at your organization was actually caught and processed as a result of trafficked labour occurring on the other side of the world? This is just one of many questions which arise when considering the issue of trafficking in human beings in supply chains. It is an area to which the OSCE attributes paramount importance. Being an organization with large purchasing power that operates cross-regionally, it is crucial that our purchasing process, on both the policy and operative levels, strongly supports social responsibility and commits to implement all the safeguards needed to prevent trafficking in human beings for labour exploitation in the OSCE supply chain. This will make an impact for the greater good.

The Procurement and Contracting Unit started a collaboration in 2014 with the OSR/CTHB to assess the OSCE's procurement and commercial contracting-related regulative framework. Together we have worked out an implementation plan to best address CTHB concerns, and, at the same time, to modernize our processes to be more responsive to the changing environment.

Since 2014, the entire procurement and contract related regulative framework of the OSCE has been reviewed, with CTHB regulations updated or implemented at all of its layers. Additionally, the OSCE Supplier Code of Conduct was introduced to promote and strengthen the ethical conduct of OSCE suppliers.

At the operative level, the OSCE Procurement and Contracting Unit, in collaboration with the OSCE Mission to Serbia and the OSR/CTHB, conducted a pioneer project aimed at obtaining a better picture of the OSCE supply chain. It assessed CTHB risks amongst OSCE vendors to gain a comprehensive overview of what services may be more prone to such risks.”



Trafficking of Minors, including Unaccompanied and Separated Children

Policy

Ministerial Council Decisions 7/17 and Decision 6/18

Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Occasional Paper Child Trafficking And Child Protection

Practice

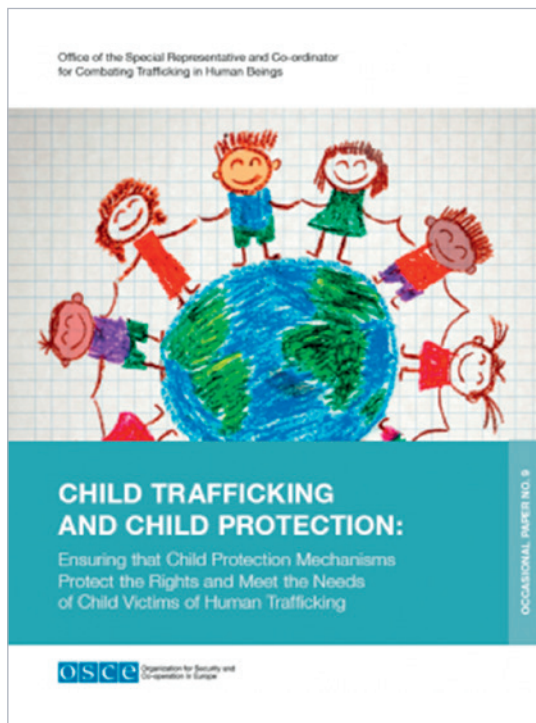
Alliance Side Events

Roundtable Event on implementation

#Protection

#PartnershipWithCivilSociety

Why is child trafficking a focus in the OSR/CTHB's work?



Children across the OSCE region are highly vulnerable to trafficking. According to UNICEF and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT), children make up almost a third of all victims of trafficking worldwide. Different factors heighten the vulnerability of children: for example, within mixed migration flows unaccompanied and separated children face an additional range of risks in comparison to adults.

The wider anti-trafficking community needs to develop specialized policy responses to address this challenge. This should include: conducting research on the different dimensions of child trafficking; updating existing mechanisms to recognize the interests and respond to the needs of the child victims of trafficking and those at risk; and reaching greater levels of engagement with relevant civil society and first-line responder partners whose access to children at risk is imperative.

These actions, as well as the incorporation of a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach, can support a more comprehensive child protection framework and contribute to the end of this heinous crime.

How has the OSR/CTHB helped combat child trafficking in the past two years?

Ministerial Council Decisions 7/17 and 6/18, as well as the 17th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, held in 2017 and titled “Trafficking in Children and the Best Interests of the Child”, have provided a roadmap for the OSR/CTHB in its initiatives over the past two years. These initiatives and their outcomes include:

Research

- The occasional paper *Child Trafficking and Child Protection: Ensuring that Child Protection Mechanisms Protect the Rights and Meet the Needs of Child Victims of Human Trafficking* was published and circulated among key stakeholders in December 2018.

Outcome: The paper highlights a number of policy recommendations. In particular, it focuses on how state-run child protection agencies should make and implement decisions on comprehensive, secure and sustainable solutions that are in the best interests of child victims of trafficking.

Co-ordination of Partners

- During the 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons a side event was held in Vienna, titled “Care for Minors: the Complementarity between NGOs and Public Services” and co-organized by the Permanent Representations of France, Greece and Belgium to the OSCE. The panellists focused on the actual needs of unaccompanied foreign minors, as well as their adequate protection and rehabilitation.

Outcome: the panellists highlighted that civil society actors provide a crucial link between state authorities and children at risk. The high presence of such actors at the Alliance Conference facilitated this important dialogue.

- A Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting was convened in May 2018 titled Child Trafficking – From Prevention to Protection. Its organization was led by the Italian OSCE Chairmanship with the support of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human



2018 Alliance Conference Side Event Care for Minors: the Complementarity between NGOs and Public Services.

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Rights (ODIHR) and the OSR/CTHB. The meeting brought together 135 participants from a wide range of OSCE participating States and institutions. A series of panel sessions and side-events captured the multi-faceted nature of child trafficking.

Outcome: recommendations were delivered to participating States, OSCE institutions and relevant civil society partners regarding preventative measures against child trafficking and improving the protection of the child during all procedures.

- In May 2019, the OSR/CTHB co-organized a [round-table event](#) with the international network End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT) titled Child Trafficking and Child Protection: Ensuring Sustainable Solutions in the Child’s Best Interests. The aim of the discussion was to develop a concrete plan of action to better promote the recommendations of the occasional paper *Child Trafficking and Child Protection*.

Outcome: With over thirty ECPAT members participating, a diverse range of state-level and civil society actors was represented, actors who will engage in the practical implementation across the OSCE region of the recommendations put forward in the above paper.



The 30 ECPAT members following the fruitful roundtable event in May 2019, at which they adopted a concrete plan of action to disseminate the recommendations of the OSCE occasional paper Child Trafficking and Child Protection.

OSCE/ Lucia Carmona Vazquez



Mike Dottridge

Consultant on Human Rights and Children Rights,
Former Director of Anti-Slavery International

“ Here are my six priority actions to protect trafficked children:

1. Involve child protection specialists rather than non-specialist immigration or police officials;
2. Develop the know-how to identify children who are being exploited or most likely to be trafficked in the future;
3. Listen carefully to what a trafficked child has to say;
4. End the influence of whomever has trafficked them—removing them from the control of traffickers, while addressing invisible pressures, such as the need to repay debts;
5. Assist children until they have fully recovered;
6. Co-ordinate the contributions of the various agencies and organizations involved.

Trafficking in Human Beings Along Migration Routes

Policy

Ministerial Council Decisions
3/16, 7/17, 6/18

Report
*From Reception to Recognition:
Identifying and Protecting
Human Trafficking Victims
in Mixed Migration Flows*

Practice

Implementation workshops for policy-makers and practitioners

Co-ordination of Partners

Uniform Guidelines

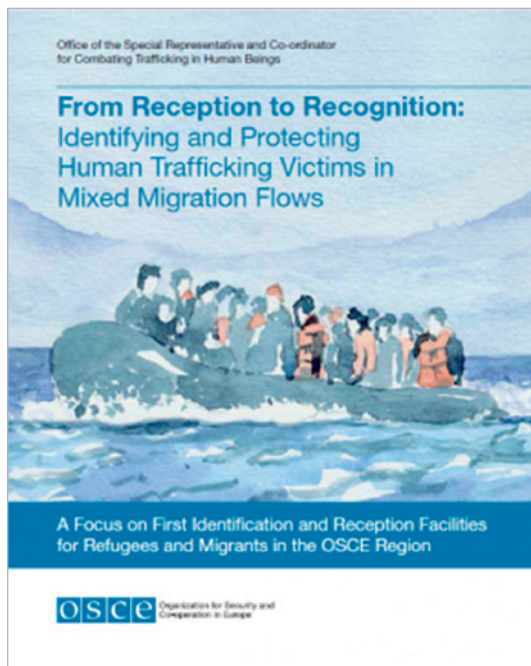
#IdentifyAndProtect

#Multi-agencyPartnership

35

Why is trafficking in human beings along migration routes a focus in the OSR/CTHB's work?

The topic of migration is hardly an obscure one in the current political climate. Unfortunately, where migrants and asylum-seekers face uncertainty and peril, traffickers see opportunities for exploiting their vulnerability.



While undertaking what are often life-threatening journeys, people in migration flows can be exposed to ransom, kidnapping, sexual exploitation and labour exploitation. These threats persist when migrants have reached the destination where their papers or application for asylum are processed. Risks emerge along all migration routes regardless of the situation; for this reason the line between smuggling of migrants and trafficking of migrants often becomes blurred.

While the influx of migrants into Europe is reportedly slowing down, addressing their vulnerabilities remains a priority for all relevant actors. Practitioners must be vigilant to the fact that this is a highly dynamic area, with not only migration routes changing rapidly, but also the tactics of traffickers.

Nevertheless there is often a lack of efficient co-operation between OSCE participating States, as well as divergent legislative responses, something that can lead to failures to protect migrants from traffickers. To prevent trafficking, the OSR/CTHB seeks to improve policy responses that better protect victims and potential victims.



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How has the work of OSR/CTHB addressed trafficking in human beings along migration routes in the past two years?

The OSR/CTHB's work is informed by the 2016 Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/16 on the OSCE's role in the governance of large movements of migrants and refugees. The Office has adopted a holistic approach to equipping front-line actors on how to mitigate the risks of THB. This includes support in identifying victims as well as facilitating the exchange of best practices across the OSCE region.

This has been accomplished in the following steps:

- Drawing upon almost two years of fact-finding field missions and ad-hoc expert research carried out at the grass-roots level, in January 2018 the OSR/CTHB published *From Reception to Recognition: Identifying and Protecting Human Trafficking Victims in Mixed Migration Flows*. The report focuses on challenges and opportunities in the full spectrum of anti-trafficking responses at reception facilities for migrants and refugees in the OSCE region.

Outcome: The report promotes the argument that a harmonized and co-ordinated multi-agency architecture is necessary to address the needs of trafficking victims as well as to mitigate the risk of THB faced by migrant and refugee populations, irrespective of their status or claims. The report informs on the programme of three workshops held in 2018.

- In March 2019 the OSR/CTHB published a follow-up document entitled *Uniform Guidelines for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Human Trafficking within the Migrant and Refugee Reception Framework in the OSCE Region*. This was developed after consultation with relevant stakeholders from those participating States most affected by the influx of migrants, within the framework of the three 2018 workshops, and with the OSCE Field Operations in South-Eastern Europe. These Guidelines strive to facilitate co-ordinated, harmonized and victim-centred identification of THB cases within mixed migration flows across the OSCE region.

Outcome: Since the Guidelines have been derived from on-the-ground experience and deliver recommendations that can be adapted to the respective legislative and operational frameworks of OSCE participating States, they can be readily applied to any new migration routes or hotspots which may develop.



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Capacity-building

The OSR/CTHB views capacity-building exercises as an opportunity to support the implementation of its research findings and publications through direct communication. Such exercises are also an opportunity to fine-tune the Office's recommendations based on feedback from training participants.

During 2018, workshops were carried out in three sub-regions affected by increased migration flows.

- The first workshop was held in March 2018 in Skopje and involved an explication of the *From Reception to Recognition report*, with a view to translating the recommendations into practice. For this reason, many of the workshop participants were practitioners whose professional duties require daily interaction with migrants and asylum seekers.

Outcome: The discussions centred on the reception stage of a migrant's journey, from first contact with the authorities to the point when a decision is taken on a migrant's status. Emphasized was the importance of remaining vigilant to the different indicators of THB that can apply within each of these steps. The workshop also highlighted the need to include the so called transit route paradigm (p. 26 of the report) as a separate referral scenario. Moreover, collected information was used for developing the *Uniform Guidelines*.



Oleksandr Kyrylenko

OSR/CTHB Programme Officer

“ Large movements of migrants and refugees across the OSCE region are putting the existing anti-trafficking frameworks and capacities to the test. However, this test should be seen as an opportunity to change approaches and diversify practices, while always placing the human being at the centre of everything we do, always aiming to assist and protect.”

- The Skopje workshop was then used as a basis for two similar workshops, one held in June 2018 in Athens, Greece, and another in October 2018 in Catania, Italy. Once again the findings of the *From Reception to Recognition report* were presented, with the practical implementation of the recommendations progressing in a cumulative fashion. These workshops would not have been successful without the support of the 2018 Italian OSCE Chairmanship as well as the participation of various experts, including the Italian prosecutor Lina Trovato, and Heracles Moskoff, the National Anti-trafficking Rapporteur of Greece.

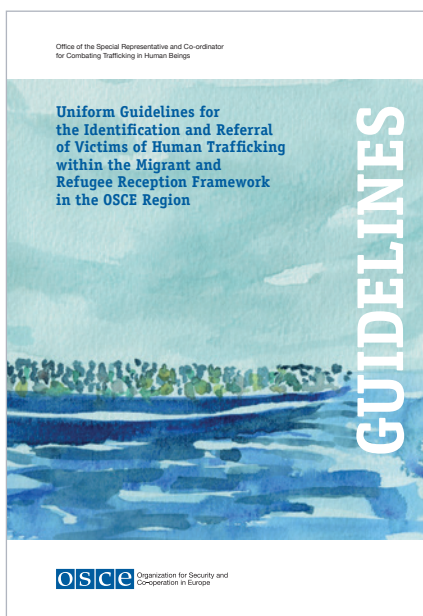


Participants of the workshop held in Catania, finish a long day of interactions and exercises focusing on the identification of victims of trafficking amongst mixed migration flows

OSCE

Outcome: The decision to structure the workshops holistically was a success, since they allowed best practices to be exchanged between three participating States that are being highly affected by increases in migration. The deliberations carried out in these workshops helped form the basis of the aforementioned *Uniform Guidelines*, then published in 2019.

- The *Uniform Guidelines* provided a basis for further discussions with national stakeholders that were held in 2019. In Sarajevo a workshop on identifying victims of



The OSR/CTHB contributed to a roundtable on human trafficking in the context of border management organized by the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe.

Pedro Teixeira

trafficking in migration flows along the Western Balkan route was offered in July 2019, with more than 40 practitioners from 6 countries of the region participating.

Outcome: The workshop was tailored so that participants could discuss how the *Guidelines* might be adapted to national legislation and operational modalities in their respective countries.

Partnerships and Co-ordination

By participating in common fora in the past two years, the OSR/CTHB has ensured that existing partnerships have been maintained and new ones forged.

- Co-operation with other OSCE executive structures and decision-making bodies has been strongly promoted. This included participation in the Roundtable on Human Trafficking in the Context of Border Management organized by the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe in June 2019, and contributions to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Ad Hoc Committee, where the From Reception to Recognition report was presented.

Outcome: Synergies and coherence across the OSCE executive structures increased with respect to the OSR/CTHB's work on THB along migration routes.

- The Office has also sought to develop relations with partners outside the immediate OSCE structure. Steps in this direction were taken by proactive participation in a border security and management workshop held by the Marshall Center in Dushanbe.

Outcome: Not only were findings of OSR/CTHB research promoted, but networks with international partners were also established.



Korina Hatzinikolaou
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece



Heracles Moskoff
Office of the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

“Our contribution to the development of the Uniform Guidelines for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Human Trafficking within the migrant and refugee framework was based on the cumulative knowledge and experience that both professionals and the Greek State gained when managing large numbers of vulnerable persons on the move. The experience of further developing and formalizing the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Victims of Human Trafficking was also invaluable, and also included specific SOPs for the identification and referral of victims in the context of the First Reception and Identification Centres (RICs) situated on five Aegean islands.

Many recommendations included in the Uniform Guidelines have been already applied, either through the NRM’s SOPs or through the reforms of the Operational Procedures of the RICs, among others. A good mapping of already existing local capacities and expertise and their carefully thought-out use for the purpose of identifying and referring victims of human trafficking at the local level has been paramount for the quick and effective implementation of the *Guidelines*.”

Further Dimensions of Human Trafficking

Financial Investigations

Adopting a gender-sensitive approach to combating THB

The Intersection between Trafficking in Human Beings and Terrorism

Engaging the Tourism and Hospitality Sector

Policy

Ministerial Council Decisions 6/17, 7/17 and 6/18

Paper on Financial Investigations in THB cases

Paper on Intersection between THB and Terrorism

Paper on the Travel Sector

Practice

Expert meetings and workshop with policy-makers and practitioners

Alliance and HDIM side-events

Research

#Gender-SensitiveApproach

#FollowTheMoney

1. Financial Investigations

Why are financial investigations an important part of the anti-trafficking toolkit?

Trafficking in human beings is principally a financially motivated crime. Nevertheless one of the areas least explored and understood in the trafficking process is the profit generated by THB and the financial investments of traffickers. Financial investigations, which bring together private and public sector actors, constitute one of the most promising anti-trafficking tools, both in supporting investigations and prosecutions and undermining the perception among criminal actors that THB is a high profit/low risk endeavour.

Not only can financial evidence be used to identify victims and perpetrators, but seizing illegal profits can be used towards reparation and compensation for trafficking victims, and can also discourage the profit motive for THB-related activities.



Tarana Baghirova

Associate Country Visit Officer, OSR/CTHB

“Tracking, identifying and seizing the funds generated by trafficking of persons are key challenges across the OSCE region. The financial investigation project focuses on these challenges and demonstrates how to build effective frameworks for financial investigations so that law enforcement can hit traffickers where it hurts most: their illicitly obtained money. I look forward to working together with our participating States in advancing this toolkit to a point where financial investigations become an effective and main-streamed tool for tackling human trafficking and empowering victims.”

How has the OSR/CTHB promoted financial investigations?

The OSCE *Action Plan on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings* recommendation III.2.5 (“Enhancing co-operation between law enforcement investigating bodies in order to establish the possibly criminal, trafficking-related origins of suspicious assets”) marked a new milestone in countering THB by addressing THB-related money laundering. Taking into account the significance of linking financial investigations and human trafficking investigations in order to dismantle trafficking networks, the participating States agreed, in point 2.1 of the 2013 *Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan*, to recommend “promoting the use of financial investigations linked with trafficking-related offences.” With this guidance, the OSR/CTHB has worked to address this tool.

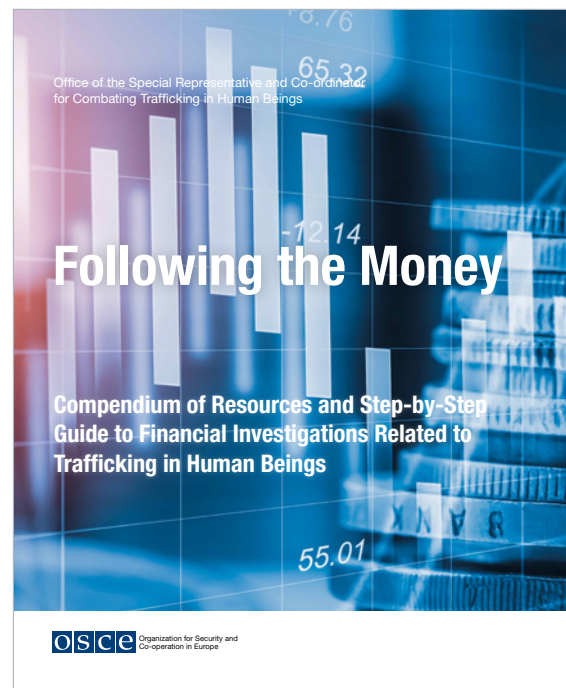
- In November 2019, the OSR/CTHB, in co-operation with the Secretariat to the Liechtenstein Initiative’s Financial Sector Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, housed at the United Nations University Centre for Policy Research, published the paper *Following the Money: Compendium of Resources and Step-by-step Guide to Financial Investigations Into Trafficking in Human Beings*. The paper is divided into a compendium of useful resources for financial investigations, and a step-by-step guide to financial investigations related to THB. The compendium analyses and summarizes over 20 financial investigation tools and resources that have been published on 5 continents, and provides a comprehensive list of THB indicators that have been distilled from these many resources. The guide provides a framework broken down into 11 individual steps to help practitioners in both the public and private sector to develop systems for effective financial investigations into THB.

Outcome: The paper provides practitioners with a single-source publication of various resources available on financial flows of THB and provides a roadmap for different kinds of actors to create a holistic framework for financial investigations pertaining to THB. The paper was launched at an event organized by the OSR/CTHB in November 2019 in Vienna. Experts from OSCE participating States, international organizations, and public and private agencies discussed the recommendations as well as next steps in this project, and elaborated on both challenges and promising practices related to investigating the finances of traffickers and their accomplices.



OSR/CTHB Associate Country Visit Officer Tarana Baghirova meets with Stuart Davis, Global Head of Financial Crimes Risk Management at Scotiabank, and Joseph Mari, Director of External Partnerships at Scotiabank, at the launch of the Financial Sector Commission’s Blueprint, 27 September 2019, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

📷 Larissa Maxwell, Director, Anti-Human Trafficking Programs, The Salvation Army



2. Adopting Gender-sensitive Approaches to Combating THB

Why is it necessary to adopt gender-sensitive approaches to combat THB?

Men, women, boys and girls are all victims of THB. However, gender factors in various ways into a victim's vulnerability to be exploited. Moreover, the various forms of trafficking affect victims differently. Females represent the overwhelming majority of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation, whereas males represent the majority of those trafficked for forced labour and organ removal. From the perspective of prevention efforts or protection and assistance programs, it is essential to understand how external factors, such as gender inequality and gender-based violence, shape the crime of THB. A lack of a gender-sensitive approach to the crime of trafficking disregards the experiences of both men and women, and undermines the relevance of anti-trafficking efforts.

Gender-sensitive approaches are, however, not only about victims' gendered needs, but also involve the gender dynamics of perpetrators, of the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking, and of anti-trafficking practitioners themselves. Gender dynamics have an impact on the effectiveness of actions to end and prevent THB.

How has the OSR/CTHB promoted adopting gender-sensitive approaches to combat THB?

Over the past two years, participating States have repeatedly highlighted the need for a gender-sensitive approach to THB, as seen in the Ministerial Council Decisions 6/17, 7/17 and 6/18. In all of its activities, the OSR/CTHB has promoted this approach as a cross-cutting factor (including when making decisions about topics, speakers and participants for OSR/CTHB events). It has also implemented some targeted interventions:

- In September 2018, a side event was organized in co-operation between the OSR/CTHB and ODIHR for the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) in Warsaw. The event was titled Gender Dynamics of Trafficking in Human Beings: lessons learned, promising practices and challenges for women, men, girls and boys.



Anne Lise Robin

Programme Officer, OSR/CTHB

“Our research programmes strive to unveil and address gaps between policy and the reality on the ground. For example, when OSCE participating States explicitly endorsed a gender-sensitive approach to trafficking in human beings, this was a significant political commitment, but it is meaningless if it is not fully translated into practice. Our Office's vision is uniquely comprehensive, since we reach out and assist all anti-trafficking actors, from grassroots practitioners to high-level decision-makers. Our work follows through the full circle by connecting the dots between policy and practice. It elevates the voices not only of those who are involved in combating trafficking in human beings, but also of those who are directly affected.”

Outcome: The event was an opportunity to highlight the need to better integrate the special needs of men and women, as well as boys and girls, into responses to THB, from the prevention of gender-specific harm to the provision of gender-tailored recovery processes. It also shed light on gender biases, prejudices and stereotypes that hinder the timely identification of male victims.

- In 2018–2019, the OSR/CTHB contributed to the drafting of the General Recommendation on *Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration within the framework of the provisions of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, led by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The OSR/CTHB will continue to support the CEDAW towards the adoption of the *General Recommendation*, scheduled for 2020.

- In March 2019, the Special Representative chaired a side event on the margins of the 63rd UN session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63). The side event, co-hosted with ODIHR, was titled Preventing the Trafficking of Women and Girls for Sexual Exploitation: Understanding States' Obligations to Address Demand Under the Palermo Protocol. The OSR/CTHB contributed further to this discussion by participating in other fora, including the global conference Centering Women and Girls in Ending Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation: The Architecture of the 5.2 Global Partnership, held in Madrid in February 2019, and the May 2019 meeting Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, co-organized by the OSCE Gender Unit and the Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine.

Outcome: Participation and contributions such as these enabled the OSR/CTHB to share good practices from the OSCE region regarding the adoption of gendered approaches, to learn about good practices of others, and to foster a greater awareness for the need to adopt such measures.

- Based on these preliminary observations, the OSR/CTHB has embarked on a research project to examine the gendered dynamics of THB. The findings of this research, including good practices and lessons learned, will be compiled in a forthcoming occasional paper. The paper will seek to inform the implementation of the participating States' commitment to adopt a gender-sensitive approach to combating THB in line with recent Ministerial Council Decisions.

3. The Intersection between Trafficking in Human Beings and Terrorism

Why has the OSR/CTHB addressed the potential intersection between Trafficking in Human Beings and Terrorism?

In recent years there have been increasing reports and cases studies coming from media sources, civil society

and anecdotal evidence pointing to a potential intersection between terrorism and THB. They suggest that the recruitment techniques of terrorist and violent extremist organizations can resemble those of organized criminal groups engaged in trafficking. Already in 2002 the OSCE Charter On Preventing And Combating Terrorism adopted in Porto noted with concern the links between terrorism and trafficking in human beings. Numerous United Nations Security Council Resolutions -2253 (2015), 2331 (2016), 2368 (2017), 2388 (2017), and 2482(2019) – have expressed similar concerns. The OSR/CTHB has undertaken research to study this intersection, to analyse it from a legal perspective and to enhance national responses to the threats of both terrorism and THB. Other international organizations have joined the OSR/CTHB in addressing the intersection.

How has the OSR/CTHB addressed the potential intersection between Trafficking in Human Beings and Terrorism?

- In February 2018, experts from various organizations gathered in London to analyse patterns and discuss case examples collected throughout the OSCE region for the purposes of studying the potential links between terrorist activities and trafficking.

Outcome: The meeting succeeded in drawing the attention of anti-trafficking experts across the United Kingdom to the increasingly widespread phenomenon of deceptive and forced recruitment of adults and children across the OSCE region for terrorism-related exploitative practices. It gave an increased impetus to OSCE research in this area.

- In June 2018, the OSR/CTHB presented at an international conference in Tashkent on the role of youth in preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

Outcome: This event served as a platform to present first-hand preliminary findings of research on the intersection between terrorism and THB, and to call for an enhanced role of youth in preventing the deceitful recruitment of youth for terrorist activities.

- In May 2018, the OSR/CTHB organized a side event on the margins of the OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference in Rome entitled Preventing Trafficking In Human Beings For The Purpose Of Terrorist Activities: A Practical Case Study Analysis.

Outcome: Panellists from the OSR/CTHB and the UNODC, as well as an expert from Uzbekistan, spoke about increases in possible cases of forced and deceitful recruitment of adults and children by terrorist and violent groups, and called for more nuanced assessments of persons involved in terrorist and violent extremist groups, evaluating them from the perspective of both terrorism and THB.

- In December 2018, the OSR/CTHB contributed to the UNODC-led Regional Expert Group Meeting for Central Asian Countries on Prevention and Responses to Child Recruitment and Exploitation by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups. The event brought together 46 representatives of prosecutorial, judicial, child protection and child rights sectors from four Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Outcome: The meeting facilitated an important discussion regarding the alleged recruitment of children by terrorist and violent extremist groups, and highlighted experiences in Central Asian countries.

- The OSR/CTHB published a paper in December 2019 on the intersection between THB and terrorism, based on year-long desk research and consultations with various stakeholders.

Outcome: The paper provides a comparative analysis of where these two crimes merge, as well as of how human trafficking techniques have been used to sustain terrorist activities, including the deceptive recruitment of men and women for various exploitative roles.

It gives an in-depth review of legal and policy regimes, and compares the modus operandi of organized criminal trafficking groups with that of terrorist groups in grooming, recruiting, harbouring and exploiting adults and children.

- In December 2019, the OSR/CTHB organized a roundtable discussion in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on its research findings, and brought together agencies from participating States and civil society organizations in Central Asia and Caucasus that are involved in the two fields of anti-trafficking and anti-terrorism. Also presented was recent data compiled by other international organizations that has attempted to identify links between human trafficking and terrorist and violent extremist groups, the role of gender in these links, and the responses of criminal justice systems.

4. Engaging the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality Sector

Why is the OSR/CTHB interested in engaging the travel, tourism and hospitality sector?

Trafficking in human beings has the potential to affect a number of economic sectors including the travel, tourism and hospitality sector. In MC Decision 7/17 OSCE participating States recognized the important role this sector has to play in combating THB: “prevent all forms of child trafficking and sexual exploitation of children, including in tourist destinations.” The infrastructure provided by this sector can be misappropriated by traffickers for exploitative purposes. For example, victims of trafficking may be subjected to sexual exploitation or exploitative begging at tourist hotspots. They may also be subjected to exploitative labour in restaurants or hotels.

Furthermore victims are often transited through services provided by related industries, for example the aviation industry. Engaging the tourism and hospitality sector can be therefore a critical response to preventing trafficking in human beings. For example, employees within the sector are at the frontline and can be empowered to help prevent THB or identify it when it intersects with this industry.

How is the OSR/CTHB engaging the travel, tourism and hospitality sector?

- On the margins of the 2018 Alliance Conference, a side event was organized by the OSR/CTHB titled *Untapped Resource? Leveraging the Travel Industry to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings*. The objective of the side event was to familiarize the audience with practices existing in different OSCE participating States on leveraging the travel industry to prevent THB, and to launch a discussion on additional steps that state institutions and the travel industry can undertake to better identify victims of trafficking and bring traffickers to justice.

Outcome: Speakers informed the audience about their work on developing guidelines for airlines operators to train cabin crews in identifying and reporting trafficked individuals, as well as initiatives within the travel sector to promote partnership and co-ordination in this area. These discussions will serve as a basis for a forthcoming background paper to be published by the OSR/CTHB on this topic.

- In May 2018, the OSR/CTHB contributed to discussions at a forum organized in Geneva regarding the *Guidelines for Training Cabin Crew on Identification and Response to Trafficking in Persons* of the International Civil Aviation Organization and United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (ICAO–UN OHCHR).

Outcome: The purpose of the forum was to co-ordinate future steps in this direction by relevant international stakeholders, and to examine how this tool developed by the ICAO and the UN OHCHR can be used by other organizations in their anti-trafficking work.

- In June 2018, the OSR/CTHB participated in an international roundtable meeting on how aviation can contribute to combating THB, organized by the IOM in Zurich in co-operation with Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. The event brought together state, interstate and non-state stakeholders involved in counter-trafficking in Switzerland, as well as representatives of the aviation industry and airport border police.



Innovative actions were discussed at the 2018 Alliance Conference side event organized by the OSR/CTHB: *Untapped Resource? Leveraging the Travel Industry to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings*.

OSR/CTHB

Outcome: The meeting facilitated the exchange of knowledge and expertise to feed into the development of standardized procedures for THB identification and reporting at airports.

- In December 2019, the OSR/CTHB organized a round table in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, on the prevention of THB in travel and hospitality industries. The event brought together representatives from state agencies regulating tourism, hospitality, hotel and transport sectors from Central Asia. It focused on governmental policies and partnerships with the private sector that could have an impact on reducing exploitation in the mentioned sectors.

Outcome: Participants at the round table exchanged information on the current status quo related to efforts to combat human trafficking in the tourism, hospitality, hotel and transport sectors, and discussed possible solutions to reduce the risk of THB in these industries.

- Following all of the initiatives of 2019, the OSR/CTHB developed a background study on policies and practices existing in the OSCE area as well as in other countries regarding the travel and hospitality industry and combating THB. The recommendations and conclusions of the study will serve as a basis for further action in the implementation of OSCE commitments in this area.



Capacity-building

Policy

OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and its Addenda (2003, 2005, 2013)

OSCE CTHB commitments, incl. Ministerial Council Decision 6/17, 7/17, 6/18

Practice

Simulation-based trainings in Vicenza and Nur-Sultan

THB-Related Risks and Conflict Situations

Various workshops on migration, technology and the judiciary

46 **#PolicyToPracticeApproach**
#Multi-agency

Why is capacity-building important to the OSR/CTHB's work?

Capacity-building is fundamentally about improving effectiveness. It is not a single event but a continuous improvement strategy for an individual or organization. Capacity-building is the exemplification of the policy to practice approach, which brings developed anti-trafficking policies to the practitioners on the ground who ultimately implement these policies.

Moreover, since combating trafficking in human beings is a dynamic field that is constantly transformed by emerging challenges, each and every OSCE participating States can benefit from capacity-building. The OSR/CTHB strives to bring innovative forms of capacity-building to different actors across the OSCE region. Our capacity-building activities serve to instill practitioners with the principles and concepts captured in the MC Decisions and subsequent work of the OSR/CTHB.

How has the OSR/CTHB implemented capacity-building in the past two years?

Simulation-based training

The OSR/CTHB has been a pioneer in developing anti-trafficking simulation-based trainings. The training framework brings together law enforcement officers, financial investigators, labour inspectors, prosecutors, migration and asylum authorities, NGOs, social service providers, lawyers and border security practitioners to tackle simulated cases of THB in a live-action, multi-agency setting; that is, to work in case-based real-life scenarios and respond to possible trafficking situations in real time. The simulation-based trainings accomplish three goals: building the skills and knowledge of practitioners; disseminating OSCE principles and concepts throughout the participating States; and building networks of practitioners that have led to the solving of real cases.

The simulation-based trainings have constantly evolved and been adapted to individual national, regional and international contexts. Between 2018 and 2019, week-long simulation-based training were implemented on five occasions (*see Table 1*).



OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger is welcomed to the Carabinieri Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units on the occasion of the closing ceremony of the simulation-based training.

OSCE/Carabinieri/CoESPU



Simulated arrest of the perpetrators as part of the Russian-language simulation-based training held in September 2018.

OSCE

Table 1. Simulation-based training conducted by OSR/CTHB in 2018-2019

Simulation-based trainings	National level exercise for Italian stakeholders	International Russian-language exercise	International English-language exercise	International Russian-language exercise	International English-language exercise with focus on Mediterranean region
Dates	January 2018	September 2018	December 2018	June 2019	September 2019
Venue	Carabinieri Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vicenza, Italy	Regional Hub for Countering Global Threats within the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies under the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Astana (now Nur-Sultan), Kazakhstan	Carabinieri Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vicenza, Italy	Regional Hub for Countering Global Threats within the Academy of Law Enforcement Agencies under the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan	Carabinieri Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU) in Vicenza, Italy
# and profile of participants	59 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, labour inspectors, lawyers, financial investigators, public social services providers and NGOs	58 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, migration practitioners, labour inspectors, lawyers, financial investigators, public social services providers and NGOs	75 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, asylum practitioners, labour inspectors, lawyers, financial investigators, public social services providers, NGOs and media	74 law enforcement and border security officers, prosecutors, migration practitioners, labour inspectors, lawyers, financial investigators, public social services providers and NGOs	71 law enforcement and border security officers, prosecutors, asylum practitioners, labour inspectors, lawyers, financial investigators, public social services providers and NGOs
# of pS and PFC participating	1	14	31	17	38



Participants in the Russian Language simulation-based training work on granting residence permit to foreign victims of trafficking as part of the simulated THB scenario.

OSCE

- In September 2019, the OSR/CTHB conducted its first training tailored specifically for practitioners across the Mediterranean region. The training was hosted by and carried out with the core support of the Carabinieri Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units (CoESPU). It included, among others, participants from six OSCE Partners for Co operation as well as ten participants from six African countries whose participation was sponsored by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC).

The UNHCR also contributed with funding for different purposes. This partnership with the UN in bringing together practitioners from countries of origin, transit and destination along Mediterranean migration routes proved to be beneficial in developing joint responses to common challenges.

- The simulation-based trainings consolidated and expanded on already existent working partnerships. They benefited from the expertise and support of thirty active partners, including local authorities, national agencies, educational institutions, civil society networks, partner international organizations, and OSCE field operations. The Governments of Andorra, Austria, Belarus, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Monaco and Switzerland provided the resources needed to bring this innovative approach to reality.

Outcome: Not only did the exercises familiarize participants with positive practices in responding to new THB-related challenges, but they also provided a secure training environment to apply their knowledge and build on their capacity, in both an individual and a collective multi-agency sense, to address THB.

The exercises resulted in continuing co-operation among the participants at both the national and international level. This has brought tangible results, with actual trafficking cases having been identified and investigated, and prompt assistance brought to victims of this crime in real life. This was precisely the effective multi-stakeholder approach envisaged by the OSCE when it launched this simulation-based training project.

In addition, being inspired by the methodology and innovative approach of this type of anti-trafficking training, a number of OSCE participating States have requested further assistance from the OSR/CTHB and respective field operations to conduct national simulation-based trainings from 2019 onwards.

- In March 2019, the [Practical Handbook on How to Conduct Simulation-based Training Exercises to Combat Human Trafficking](#) was published by the OSR/CTHB. It describes the practical steps needed for carrying out this ground-breaking training methodology, especially at the national level.

Outcome: The handbook provides guidance on how to reproduce this cutting-edge means of capacity-building. It collects the best practices and lessons learned from all of the simulation-based trainings that have been carried out by the OSR/CTHB, thus facilitating the conducting of effective and fine-tuned simulations in the future, especially at the national level.

See also: Video of the 2018 Simulation-based Training in Russian, produced with the support of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan



English version

Русский

Қазақша



Rodica Moraru-Kilimar

Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking, Moldova



Botagoz Buralkieva

Major, Assistant Professor, Law Enforcement Academy under the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Nur-Sultan, 2019 – “It was the first time for all of us to participate in such a simulation and we all experienced what team spirit actually means, both between participants and institutions. This is the main lesson we learned and what we will be carrying back home. Also, I want to add what I already told my colleagues: that in real life I'm the head of a shelter too. Thanks to the simulation, now I know really well how my shelter will operate in extreme situations.”

Nur-Sultan, 2019 - “Last year's event has paid off literally in 2 to 3 months. A group from Uzbekistan, trapped in labour exploitation, was rescued and helped to reach home, thanks to the well-co-ordinated work of all the participants. This is only one of the many success stories, but after this training I am sure that there will be even more success stories.”

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Faustine Douillard

Technical Adviser on child trafficking and migration from France



Baboye Diagiourada Saida

Police Commander from Mali

Vicenza, 2019 - “The best idea I have taken away is the need to reinforce co-ordination between stakeholders in order to provide a more victim-centred approach.”

Vicenza, 2019 - “I appreciated the training. I would like to bring back the same idea to Africa. I'm also a police school teacher. I will suggest carrying out the same activity in Mali, inviting practitioners from Nigeria and Benin, or other nearby African countries, since we also have a lot of human trafficking in our region.”



More testimonies from simulation-based training participants on our twitter page [@osce_cthb](https://twitter.com/osce_cthb)



OSR/CTHB colleagues piloting a Training of Trainers module to support staff at the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine identify and be aware of THB: Lviv, 21–22 March, 2019; Kramatorsk, 26–27 March 2019.

© Oleksandr Kyrylenko

Capacity-building for THB-Related Risks and Conflict Situations

- Over the last two years, the OSR/CTHB has engaged with the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) to strengthen the capacity of OSCE monitors to identify THB trends and report on alleged cases.

In March 2019, a Training of Trainers module was delivered by the OSR/CTHB to the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM), raising awareness of the THB risks in the context of the crisis in and around Ukraine.

Outcome: The trainings enhanced the capacity of the Mission members to identify, report and refer cases of THB, as well as identify vulnerable groups. As of now, about 400 SMM staff members have been briefed in 12 locations across the country. As a result of these briefings, monitors have become better equipped in spotting THB trends and cases. This was reflected in the recent thematic report Gender Dimensions of SMM's Monitoring, which has a dedicated conflict-related THB chapter. The Training of Trainers module furthermore means that the benefits of the module can be passed onto other SMM officials in later trainings.



Simulation-based training in Nur-Sultan, 2018.

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Capacity-building of Judicial Actors

- Judges play a crucial role in upholding the rights of human trafficking victims as well as in determining the guilt and punishment of perpetrators. MC Decision 6/17 recognises this role and urges co-operation between the judiciary and law enforcement. In this spirit, in November 2019, the OSR/CTHB, the Supreme Court of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan in co-operation with other OSCE field operations organized an international conference for judges.

The conference gathered judges of the highest supreme or cassation level, criminal courts of OSCE participating States, OSCE Partners for Co-operation, and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States to discuss the role of judiciary in combating THB, focusing on current challenges and positive practices in the region.



Props used in the 2018 simulation-based training in Nur-Sultan.

OSCE

Outcome: The discussion underlined the multifaceted nature of THB as a crime, and the challenges that must be addressed by judges in the adjudication of such cases. This includes the need to consider that THB chains can be complex and involve diverse criminal groups and multiple victims, that unique dynamics can exist between victims and perpetrators, and that a variety of forms of exploitation need to be taken into account. Also how domestic and international law and evidentiary issues are evolving must be taken into consideration.

The discussion also examined the effective application of victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches, the non-punishment principle, the abuse of a position of vulnerability, consent of victims, and other challenging and emerging anti-trafficking concepts.

A special emphasis was placed on the role of supreme courts in promoting the effective application of these approaches by local courts and courts of appeal, as well as other criminal justice practitioners, including police and prosecutors. In a sense, supreme court judges are the policy-making leaders of the judiciary. They have a leading role in setting procedural rules and training requirements.



Katharina Thon

Programme and Capacity-Building Officer,
OSR/CTHB

“ We need to overcome the notion that capacity-building solely means delivering training to individuals and organizing workshops. Capacity-building is a long-term process that has the potential to lead to changes in behaviour, knowledge and motivation. Thus capacity-building should look – in all cases – at the individual, organizational and institutional levels, including the creation and development of legislative frameworks and policies. To make capacity building meaningful and relevant it is crucial that it responds to actual needs and gaps, builds on partnerships with key stakeholders and promotes local ownership. It is only then that sustainable change can be achieved.”



Partnership and Co-ordination

Policy

18th Alliance Conference

Alliance Expert
Co-ordination Team

Ministerial Council
Decision No. 6/17

ICAT Chairmanship

Practice

Meetings of National
Co-ordinators and
Rapporteurs

The Critical Role
of Civil Society

#InteragencyCo-operation

Why is partnership important to the OSR/CTHB's work?

It is hard to overestimate the importance of partnerships to any meaningful intervention to address the challenges of THB. The 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later (PC.DEC/1107/Corr.1) introduced a new chapter on partnerships which calls for co-operation at all levels.

Such co-operation can be based either on shared values and strategic goals, or on more focused and targeted tasks that address specific forms of exploitation and thus involve specific agencies and actors.

Partnership not only helps to build synergies and avoid duplication between actors, it also ensures that any initiative undertaken by a single actor has a multiplier effect across the entire partnership network.

Partnership is key to everything the OSR/CTHB undertakes; without partnership large-scale initiatives like the simulation-based trainings simply cannot succeed. Therefore the OSR/CTHB believes in facilitating and maintaining partnerships both between and within participating States across the OSCE region and beyond.

How has the OSR/CTHB built partnerships in the past two years?

The OSR/CTHB implements a range of tried and tested—but also creative—initiatives to build lasting and results-oriented partnerships.

The Alliance Conference

- The theme of the [18th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, held in April 2018](#), was ["Everyone has a Role: How to make a Difference Together."](#) The event was attended by 351 participants from across the 57 OSCE participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation, including representatives of major international organizations, NGOs, academia, civil society, trade unions, think-tanks and the media, all interested in improving responses to all aspects of THB. Three expert-level panels discussed current co-operation mechanisms, examined new examples of more inclusive partnerships, and provided recommendations for policy implementation.



Two participants of the OSCE simulation-based training project, Thomas Laigaard, Social Consultant of the Danish Centre against Human Trafficking, and Alexandra Malangone, Senior Lawyer at the Slovak Human Rights League and the former member of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings at the Council of Europe, shared their experiences and discussed the potential of such exercises to foster multi-disciplinary responses.

© Mickey Kroll/OSCE

Outcome: Over the two days it was held, the conference promoted the importance of inclusive partnerships to further enhance the coherence of anti-trafficking efforts and strengthen co-operation at the local, national, regional and international level. The discussion demonstrated the crucial value of complementarity and co-ordination mechanisms in detecting the crime, protecting victims, and ensuring their referral, compensation and reintegration. A special emphasis was placed on new actors whose engagement would bring added value to anti-trafficking responses.

The audience learned about a number of pioneering projects, national experiences and promising practices across the OSCE region. The panelists included representatives of municipalities, parliamentary committees, financial investigators, workers' rights and religious organizations, as well as survivors. All shared examples of successful partnership models that broaden the scope and outreach of multi-disciplinary and multi-agency programmes.

- The Alliance always features a number of side events, which showcase more specialized aspects of the greater theme. Indeed, in keeping with this approach, each of these events were themselves organized in a highly collaborative fashion.

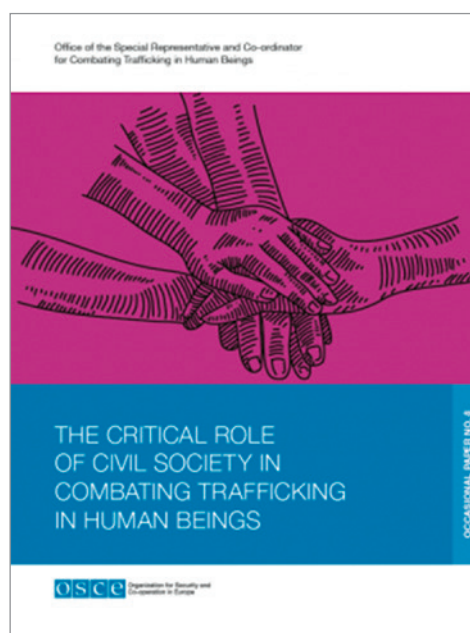


Former OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator Madina Jarbussynova opens the 18th Alliance Conference.

© Claudio Formisano

For example the side event The Role of the Media in the Fight against Trafficking was co-organized with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, and the event Enhancing Access to Compensation for Victims of Crime was co-organized with La Strada International.

Outcome: Each side event delivered insights and recommendations regarding specialized aspects of partnerships in anti-trafficking efforts. These were also published in the Alliance highlights.





Monique Villa

Chief Executive Officer of the Thomson Reuters Foundation (2008-2019)

“The fight against slavery entails working together and combining forces. Prosecutors, governments, law enforcement, lawyers, NGOs on the ground and - of course - survivors must co-ordinate better. To build these partnerships, we need the full participation of organizations such as the OSCE and this year’s Alliance gathering was clearly a step in the right direction in this regard.”

National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms

- In line with its mandate to provide assistance to participating States to combat THB, the OSR/CTHB is tasked to “co-operate with national co-ordinators, national rapporteurs or other national mechanisms established by participating States for co-ordinating and monitoring the anti-trafficking activities” and “assume responsibility within the OSCE for hosting and facilitating meetings for the exchange of information and experience between national co-ordinators”, or equivalent relevant actors. To operationalize this exchange, the OSR/CTHB organizes annual meetings of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs from the OSCE region.

Starting in 2018, such annual meetings have been organized jointly by the OSR/CTHB and the Council of Europe. In May 2018 in Strasbourg, participants from 41 OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation exchanged information about current trends and challenges related to THB and discussed ways to improve co-ordination and monitoring of anti-trafficking efforts at the national level as related to their respective mandates.

- In October 2019, the OSCE Slovak Chairmanship hosted a meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs in Bratislava with a view to discuss particular aspects of anti-trafficking responses, including technology, assistance to child victims of trafficking, measures to address demand and trafficking in supply chains, and ways to enhance partnership with civil society.

Outcome: These meetings served as a high-level expert platform to identify joint actions in addressing current THB-related challenges in the OSCE region and promote the implementation of relevant OSCE commitments and recommendations by leveraging the convening power of the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs. This allows for OSCE-developed policies to filter down to the national level.

Civil Society

- The inclusion of civil society is a pre-requisite for any viable anti-trafficking strategy. Existing legal and political instruments are explicit about the importance of co-operation between State actors and civil society organizations in ensuring a coherent and meaningful anti-trafficking response, which should be reflected on the ground. Based on the results of consultation meetings organized by the OSR/CTHB in 2016–2017 with a wide range of anti-trafficking NGOs working within the OSCE area, in December 2018 the OSR/CTHB published the occasional paper entitled *The Critical Role of Civil Society in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*.

Outcome: This publication outlines how that the inclusion of civil society is essential for the implementation of any viable strategy to combat THB. It serves as a useful source of good practices and as a reminder of the added value that civil society brings into joint efforts to combat THB.



Tetiana Rudenko,
Senior Co-Ordination Adviser, OSR/CTHB

“One can hardly name all of the actors who need to be on board for effective anti-trafficking actions at both the policy and practice level. From international anti-trafficking commitments, via solid national legislation and established anti-trafficking systems, down to everybody who might be in contact with potential or presumed victims of trafficking – this is the scope of co-operation and partnerships we need to build, maintain and develop to help people on the ground. By doing this, we will secure communities, states and the OSCE region as a whole. Working with a broad range of dedicated partners from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, international organizations, civil society and the private sector is highly rewarding and gives us confidence that we can end human trafficking together.”

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)

ICAT is a policy forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to improve co-ordination among UN agencies and other relevant organizations in preventing and combating trafficking in persons. The OSCE is part of the ICAT Working Group along with nine other partners. In 2019, in partnership with UN Women, the OSCE served as the



Ilias Chatzis
Chief of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

“As the UN’s leading co-ordination vehicle against trafficking in persons, ICAT has welcomed the membership of regional organizations with a strong anti-trafficking mandate such as the OSCE. The 2019 ICAT co-chairmanship between the OSCE and UN Women has given a new impetus to our collective efforts to address the crime and an important focus on issues such as the misuse of technology and preventing trafficking in supply chains.”

first non-UN entity to co-chair ICAT. This ground-breaking arrangement reflects the inclusiveness and interagency co-operation that ICAT stands for. The progress which ICAT made in 2018 and 2019, including under the OSCE co-chairmanship, has been marked by the following:

- ICAT periodically publishes Issue Briefs, which are clear, digestible overviews of specific issues relating to THB. Most recently, these have included: the *Issue Brief on Trafficking in Children*, circulated in June 2018, and the *Issue Brief on Human Trafficking and Technology: Trends, Challenges And Opportunities*, circulated in July 2019. Briefs on forced labour and non-punishment are projected to be published by the end of 2019.



The ICAT roundtable event held in September 2019 on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City.

📷 Claudio Formisano



Valiant Richey, the Special Representative and Co-ordinator speaks at an ICAT event in New York

📷 Claudio Formisano

Outcome: These briefs not only provide valuable introductions to thematic issues, they also identify opportunities and sustainable solutions. They were presented at the Meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms in Bratislava.

- ICAT organizes events and discussions in various fora. On the margins of the 2019 Alliance Conference, a side event was held titled Harnessing Collaboration in Eradicating Human Trafficking: The Role Of ICAT from Global to Local, and included presentations from Ambassador John Richmond, the United States Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, and Ambassador Neil Bush, Head of the United Kingdom Delegation to the OSCE. Furthermore, in July 2019 an ICAT side event took place at the 41st Session of the Human Rights Council to facilitate a policy discussion on the intersections between technology and trafficking in persons.



See a video of the Special Representative's introduction [here](#)

- In September 2019, ICAT facilitated a roundtable event held on the margins of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. This event discussed ways to strengthen the fight against impunity of traffickers and featured a photography exhibition entitled "From the frontlines of human trafficking". ICAT also organized a high-level panel discussion on multi-stakeholder partnerships against THB with the participation of OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger, as well as the UNDOC Executive Director Yuri Fedotov.

Outcome: These events provided the opportunity for a wide range of international partners to engage with each other, underlining the strategic value of multi-stakeholder panels to advance topics of mutual interest. They also raised the profile of the anti-trafficking agenda and demonstrated the value of international co-ordination.

- Under the OSCE co-chairmanship trafficking in supply chains was one of the main items on the ICAT agenda. A briefing on Tackling Trafficking in Persons in Supply Chains was delivered in Vienna on the margins of the Ninth Session of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons in September 2019. The briefing explained how ICAT members are exploring measures to prevent trafficking in their own supply chains, as for example through partnership with the UN Procurement Network.



Claudio Formisano

Former Executive Programme Officer
at the OSR/CTHB

“ At the heart of the innovative programmes we developed at the OSR/CTHB there was always the conviction that solid, effective partnerships with a multitude of dedicated stakeholders are vital for producing a long-lasting impact. Most inspiring were our meetings with hard-working prosecutors, law enforcement, NGO workers, state officials, and partner agencies across the region, people who daily walk the extra mile to prevent and respond to the crime of THB. Despite the efforts needed to maintain regular co-operation with such a broad spectrum of actors, a multi-agency approach is the most effective strategy to succeed in this fight.”

Outcome: This project has ensured that ICAT members are leading by example in adopting measures to remove the risk of THB from their supply chains.

- On a regular basis throughout 2018 and 2019, ICAT held Working Group Meetings. These meetings helped to ensure ongoing policy co-ordination between the various UN agencies and the other organizations comprising ICAT.



The National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs and representatives of equivalent mechanism taking part in a workshop during the meeting in Bratislava

© Lilia Rotolini

Outcome: The Working Group Meetings were crucial to ensuring that synergies were created and duplication was avoided between the different programmes of the ICAT members. They also helped to facilitate a review of the 2019 ICAT co-chairmanship and the identification of priorities for 2020.

Other partnerships

- Building regional partnerships is also a priority of the OSR/CTHB. In December 2019, a conference was held on enhancing anti-trafficking response in the Black Sea region, organized in co-operation with the Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece.

Outcome: The conference gathered anti-trafficking practitioners from twelve Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) Member States to discuss a wide range of issues, including building more effective frameworks to identify and assist trafficked victims; prevention of THB in supply chains through public procurement; and the power of technology in combating THB.



Field Operations



SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

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OSCE Presence in Albania

Capacity-building

Capacity-building is at the heart of the [OSCE Presence in Albania](#)'s anti-trafficking efforts. In September 2018, training for 18 officers of the Albanian State Police on the use of the Internet and other technologies in human trafficking was offered for the first time by the Presence in co-operation with the OSR/CTHB and the U.S. Homeland Security Department. Presentations were delivered on how to investigate cases of THB involving technology while at the same time providing protection to victims of the crime.

Following criminal law amendments in Albania in 2017 that changed jurisdiction on human trafficking cases from the Serious Crimes Court to district courts, the Presence, in co-operation with the Albanian School of Magistrates, published the Manual for the Rights of Victims of Trafficking in the Judicial Process and trained around 100 district level judges and prosecutors on the new anti-trafficking legislation. In 2019, the Presence initiated the development of guidelines for protecting the best interests of child victims of trafficking during criminal proceedings, which will be followed by tailored training for judges, prosecutors and victims' advocates.



The September 2018 training of the Albanian State Police on the investigation and prevention of ICT-facilitated human trafficking and exploitation. (Ministry of Interior in Albania)

© OSCE/Carabinieri/CoESPU

Research

Recognizing the importance of the role of labour inspectors in identifying child trafficking in the formal sector, in 2019 the Presence supported the Albanian State Labour Inspectorate in developing a methodology for the inspection of children's work, to be followed by training for labour inspectors.

Furthermore, in co-operation with the UNHCR, the Presence provided technical expertise for the revision of pre-screening procedures for irregular migrants, especially with regard to strengthening the anti-trafficking and social protection aspects of these procedures. The revision is expected to be approved by the relevant ministries within 2019.

Partnership and Co-ordination

With technical support from the Presence and financial support from the Governments of Italy, Germany and France, a comprehensive National Strategy to identify children in labour exploitation was developed. In April 2019, the Presence hosted the first ever co-ordination meeting between law enforcement officers and central level officers for social protection, child protection and anti-trafficking on the issues of identification, referral and protection of child victims of trafficking.

Co-ordination with the OSR/CTHB enabled the Presence to boost capacity-building for law enforcement officers in priority areas, such as the use of technology in anti-trafficking efforts. The participation of Albanian representatives in an innovative OSCE simulation-based training exercise was especially noteworthy in this respect.

The Presence addressed anti-trafficking issues together with locally-based partners. Through a co-operation agreement signed by the Presence with UNICEF, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes, and World Vision in May 2018, child trafficking issues are being addressed in a co-ordinated child protection framework that is facilitating joint training activities, advocacy, and awareness-raising. Within the framework of Alliance 8.7, the Presence also hosted a national event together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) calling for Albanian institutions to accelerate progress in addressing THB and child labour.

OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Capacity-building

The [OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) delivers capacity-building to a number of relevant actors, most notably those within the judicial sector. The Mission continued to support the activities of the Judicial and Prosecutorial Training Centres of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This co-operation led to a number of training events through which more than 50 judges and prosecutors strengthened their capacities to work on cases of THB involving gender-based violence and sexual exploitation, and trafficking for the purpose of forced begging, and also increased their knowledge on the use of technology to combat THB.

Such training has had concrete results. For example, in February 2019 the Banja Luka District Court issued its first judgment in which the compensation filed for a victim of trafficking was awarded in full.

Furthermore, the Mission provided Tuzla Canton law enforcement forces with a practical tool – a leaflet containing a short description of elements of the crime and indicators of THB – so as to improve their capacity to identify victims of trafficking and investigate cases. As a result, in 2018 the police in Tuzla Canton ultimately identified two alleged perpetrators and five presumed child victims of trafficking for the purpose of forced begging.

Research

Throughout 2018 and 2019, the Mission paid particular attention to migration-related challenges. It translated relevant OSR/CTHB publications and disseminated them widely. Since the numbers of migrants and refugees entering Bosnia and Herzegovina has begun to rise steadily, the Mission produced an assessment of the refugee and migrant situation. It contains specific recommendations for different relevant actors, calling for clearer communication,



A co-ordination workshop on addressing child trafficking within the child protection framework was held in April 2019, bringing together a wide range of stakeholders to tackle this pressing issue.

© OSCE Presence in Albania

the dissemination of clear guidelines, and training for law enforcement officers with a particular focus on identifying victims of trafficking among the migrant and refugee population.

Awareness-raising

In order to raise public awareness about THB and the rights of victims, as well as to highlight the tools available that can assist state authorities to effectively address THB, the Mission organized social media campaigns in Bosnia and Herzegovina to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons as well as the European Anti-Trafficking Day. With the Mission's support, the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator of Bosnia and Herzegovina issues a biannual bulletin to increase the visibility of national anti-trafficking efforts.

Partnership and Co-ordination

Partnership is crucial for tackling the complex set of issues caused by THB. The Mission organized a number of events with partners, as for example, a regional workshop on identifying victims of THB within migration flows together with the OSR/CTHB and other OSCE field operations in South-Eastern Europe. The Mission, together with the IOM, supported efforts aimed at updating the guidelines on the work of anti-trafficking regional monitoring teams.



Sarajevo faces the problem of widespread child-begging. In response, the Mission assisted local authorities and institutions in developing the country's first-ever Protocol defining steps for authorities to take in cases involving child victims of crimes and other illegal actions, and provided support to other local authorities in their efforts to create similar protocols.

A regional workshop on identifying victims of THB in migration flows was held in Sarajevo in July 2019, organized jointly by the OSR/CTHB and the OSCE's field operations in South-Eastern Europe.

OSCE

“We have to be the light, the voice, and the hope for the victims. They need us. Perhaps we cannot save everyone, but we have to do everything to save as many as possible.”



OSCE

Amela Efendić, from the NGO IFS Emmaus, is an activist in the field of combating human trafficking who took part in an awareness-raising campaign led by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Capacity-building

In March 2018, the [OSCE Mission in Kosovo](#)¹ concluded the third specialized module of training of trainers (ToT) on THB, delivered to 25 Kosovo Police (KP) women officers. This training introduced the participants to current local and regional trends in THB, based on real case studies and best practices.

Following this, in April the Mission organized a workshop on the practical implementation of the list of indicators for early identification of victims of trafficking as had been adopted by the Kosovo Government in November 2017.

In the same month, the Mission also provided training to 20 KP officers on contemporary trends and best practices on cases of child pornography and Internet recruiting. The training focused on identifying cases of child pornography and methods of recruiting victims of trafficking through fake online advertisements involving sexual and other forms of exploitation.

Then in September 2018, the Mission organized advanced training for 20 KP officers on organized crime networks for smuggling migrants through the Western Balkans route. The training course covered topics such the modus operandi of organized crime networks and the identification of victims of trafficking among migrants.

¹ All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

The same month, the Mission delivered specialized training to 10 KP officers on carrying out surveillance of persons suspected of engaging in THB, as well as on victims and other people involved in the investigation of THB cases. The training focused on the practical application of covert measures in accordance with human rights norms.

In April 2019, the Mission delivered inter-institutional training on the practical application of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for trafficked persons to investigators of the KP Directorate for Investigation of THB at the central and regional levels.

Later, in October 2019, training was held for Kosovo journalists and ministerial level public relation officials aimed at increasing their understanding of THB and ability to report on it.

Awareness-raising

Over 2018, the Mission, the KP Directorate for Investigation of THB, and the International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) facilitated a joint awareness-raising campaign to mark the European Union Anti-Trafficking Day. The target audience for these campaign meetings consisted of around six hundred students from universities and secondary schools in seven Kosovo municipalities. During the meetings, students were provided with informative brochures; additionally, brief lectures on the topic were delivered and a short film on THB was presented. Students also had an opportunity to talk about issues related to THB in open discussions.

Partnership and Co-ordination

In February 2018, the Mission organized a workshop to undertake the second annual revision and amendment of the Mission's Action Plan. The event brought together 30 participants representing all relevant local institutions in Kosovo, as well as international organizations working in the field of THB. They were provided an opportunity to offer feedback on the implementation status of the activities listed in the Action Plan. In September 2019 the Mission organized a multi-agency workshop to draft the Mission's Action Plan against THB for 2020–2024.

In April 2019, the Mission delivered a training course on strengthening the inter-sectorial co-operation of relevant institutions on THB in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë North. The training was attended by representatives from the KP, the Kosovo Public Prosecutor's Office, Basic Court, and Victim Advocacy and Assistance Office, as well as NGOs.

Research

In September 2018, the Mission organized a workshop to present the findings of the research draft report "Children on the Move between Prishtinë/Priština, Tirana and Skopje for the Purpose of Labour and Sexual Exploitation (2014–2017)". The event gathered 25 representatives from



Training on contemporary trends and best practices in cases of child pornography and Internet recruiting held by the Mission in Kosovo in April 2018. Participants showed particular interest in software tools and investigation methods for child pornography cases.

© OSCE Mission in Kosovo

relevant Kosovo institutions working in the field of tackling THB, as well as the anti-trafficking focal points from the OSCE Presence in Albania and the OSCE Mission to Skopje. The report was highly praised by all participants.

In June 2019, the Mission carried out local research on the effectiveness of institutional measures in Kosovo for the identification of victims of trafficking. As a result of this research, a thematic report will be produced and shared with Kosovo's Anti-trafficking National Co-ordinator and the KP, with the aim of it serving as a tool for designing effective policies to improve institutional mechanisms for identifying potential victims of trafficking.

OSCE Mission to Montenegro

Capacity-building

As part of the ongoing efforts of the [OSCE Mission to Montenegro](#) to support the Government to protect, identify, and/or assist potential victims of THB, a series of workshops on countering THB in four municipalities in all regions of Montenegro were organized during October and November 2018. Some 50 representatives from the Montenegrin Prosecutor's Office, Police Directorate and judiciary strengthened their capacity to protect the rights of victims of trafficking by examining a number of relevant case studies and mechanisms useful in identifying victims and investigating cases.



Members of the Mission to Montenegro provided workshops on assisting and protecting victims of THB to relevant Montenegrin stakeholders in October and November 2018.

© OSCE Mission to Montenegro

In 2018 the Mission worked in co-ordination with the Montenegrin Ministry of the Interior's National Office for the Fight against Trafficking in Human Beings as well as the OSR/CTHB on developing Guidelines on General Principles Regarding Non-punishment Provisions for Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings, which in December were presented to Montenegrin police officers, state prosecutors and judges. The Guidelines have been designed to assist authorities in ensuring that the human rights of trafficked victims are fully respected. In response to recommendations outlined in the Guidelines, in September 2019 the Mission, in co-operation with the Montenegrin Anti-trafficking National Co-ordinator's Office and the Judicial Training Centre of Montenegro, organized a two-day training on the implementation of non-punishment procedures for victims of THB for judges, prosecutors, and representatives of the Montenegrin Police Directorate, held in Podgorica. This workshop ensured that the principles in the Guidelines will trickle down and be implemented in practice.

Partnership and Co-ordination

The Mission has worked with a number of Montenegrin partners to implement CTHB measures. For example, a regular symbiotic relationship with the Montenegrin National Co-ordinator's Office (NCO) has contributed to the success of many projects. The Mission supported the development of the Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings 2019–2024, and in June 2018, organized two three-day workshops with international experts to support a national working group in this regard. The Montenegrin Government adopted the Strategy in February 2019 and the Mission supported the design, layout, printing and dis-

semination of the final document. Along with the NCO, the Mission shared responsibility for reporting on the Strategy's implementation.

Furthermore, the Mission continued to support regional meetings focusing on strengthening cross-border co-operation in combating THB between the respective NCOs of Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The desired outcome of these regional meetings was for the participating countries to sign co-operation protocols on the issue of THB. The protocol with North Macedonia was signed at the bilateral ministerial level in June 2018.

The Mission supported the networking of partners by facilitating the participation of Montenegrin participants in the OSCE's 18th and 19th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conferences held in Vienna. Their participation at the conferences allowed for an exchange of experiences, especially with respect to emerging ICT developments and co-ordination practices.

The Mission has seen the fruits of the enhanced inter-agency co-operation, with significant results having been achieved in the prosecution of THB crimes. For example, although two persons were prosecuted in 2018, there were no verdicts issued under article 444 of the Criminal Code of Montenegro. In contrast, in 2019 first-instance verdicts were issued against two persons for the criminal offense of THB and sexual exploitation of a minor.

OSCE Mission to Serbia

Capacity-building

The [OSCE Mission to Serbia](#) organized a study visit during May 2018 for four representatives from the Centre for Protection of THB Victims, all of whom were women, to Zagreb, Croatia. During the visit, the representatives from the Centre learned about the activities of the Child and Youth Protection Centre of the City of Zagreb – an institution specialized in providing effective and systematic support to traumatized children and their families. They also learned about the experiences of prosecutors and judges dealing with THB cases involving child victims.

In December 2018, the Mission organized a training seminar in Belgrade on techniques for interviewing sexually abused children for employees of the Centre for Protection of THB Victims, local centres for social care and two NGOs. The 15 participants (13 women and 2 men) all conduct interviews with child victims in their daily work. The Mission then facilitated similar training for forensic specialists and police forces on interviewing children victims of violent criminal offences in March 2019. The training was delivered by the renowned psychologist Gordana Buljan Flander and attended by 18 participants.

In February 2019, the Mission supported the Centre for Protection of THB Victims to organize training on the application of indicators for the initial identification of THB victims. It was attended by total of 16 participants, of whom 15 were women. The training was organized as a part of continuing education for social workers seeking licensing to work in the area of social protection. It was supported by the Serbian Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy.

Awareness-raising

The Mission, together with the Centre for Protection of THB Victims, supported the organization of a roundtable discussion and an awareness raising event to mark the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The roundtable addressed co-operation between different stakeholders in protecting the rights of THB victims and was attended by 30 participants – representatives of relevant Serbian ministries, prosecution offices and courts, NGOs and respective international organizations. The awareness-raising event took place in one of the most popular recreational parts of Belgrade. Its aim was to draw the public's attention to the problem of THB and inform citizens about the relevant institutions they can contact for help and support. The Centre, together with the Serbian Red Cross, showed a movie on the risks of THB and its elements, and also distributed informative leaflets to approximately 80 citizens.

Partnership and Co-ordination

In line with the Mission's wider efforts to help Serbia's authorities strengthen regional co-operation, in May 2018 the Mission enabled six representatives from Serbia's newly formed Department for Combating THB and Human Smuggling within the Ministry of Interior to visit the Joint Operation Office of the Austrian Federal Police for combating THB and migrant smuggling. The purpose of the visit was to exchange experiences and explore opportunities for future co-operation between the police services of Serbia and Austria in this important area.

In order to enhance the capacities of Serbian civil society to combat THB, at the beginning of November 2018 the Mission supported the NGO ASTRA in organizing a four-day training event about working on SOS hotlines for victims of trafficking and about exploitation of human beings. The event gathered 23 participants from different cities in Serbia, all students of law and the humanities. Some of the participants were then offered internships with ASTRA to work with individual mentors from ASTRA's SOS hotline.

In July 2019, the Mission supported the participation of Serbia's National Co-ordinator for Combating THB, a representative from the Centre for Protection of THB Victims, and one representative of the NGO ASTRA, as well as the Mission's own THB focal point, in a regional workshop on combating THB held in Jahorina, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Training on interviewing child victims of sexual abuse, December 2019.

© Milan Obradovic/OSCE Mission to Serbia

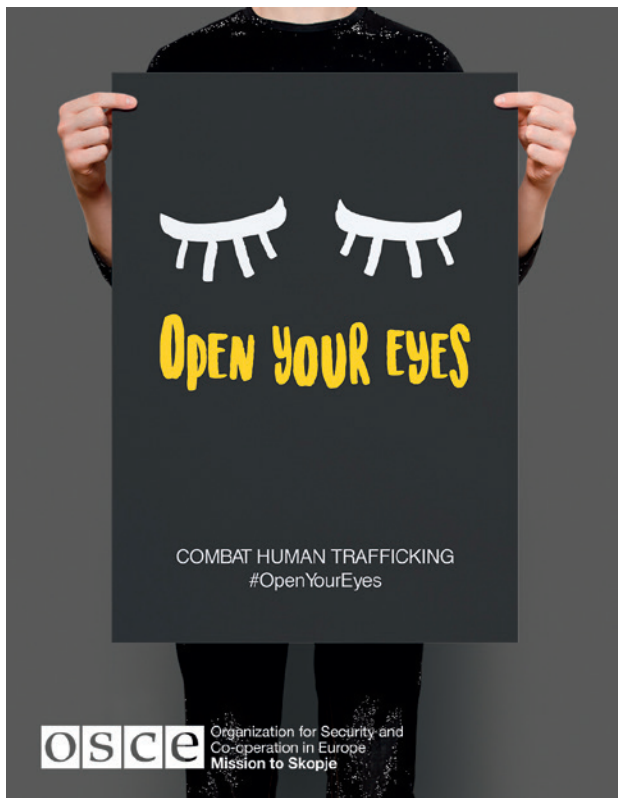
65

The workshop promoted regional co-operation and served as a platform for discussion on how best to apply the Uniform Guidelines for the Identification and Referral of Victims of Human Trafficking within the Migrant and Refugee Reception Framework in the OSCE Region in the regional context.

OSCE Mission to Skopje

Capacity-building

Over the past two years, the [OSCE Mission to Skopje](#) has enhanced the capacity of mobile anti-trafficking teams, the North Macedonian National Task Force, border police, social workers and prosecutors. These efforts have contributed to a fivefold increase in the number of identified victims between 2017 and 2018. Furthermore, the Mission supported the North Macedonian Government in drafting amendments to its Criminal Code, which entered into force in January 2019 and now include the provision of not punishing victims of trafficking. In order to put this provision into practice, the Mission developed specific guidelines and trained more than 70 professionals on the proper application of the non-punishment principle.



📷 New Moment

In March 2018, jointly with the OSR/CTHB, the Mission hosted what was the first workshop on preparing OSCE-wide guidelines for the identification of THB victims among migrants and refugees. Participants included representatives of law enforcement bodies, migration agencies,

public social services, civil society, international organizations and various representatives from OSCE participating States. A key portion of the workshop was devoted to discussing recommendations from the report published by the OSCE From Reception to Recognition and exchanging ideas on how these recommendations can be translated into practice.

Awareness-raising

The Mission strengthened youth awareness of the risks of THB through the #OpenYourEyes campaign, co-organized with the National Anti-Trafficking Commission, the Bureau for Development of Education, the Skopje-based NGO Open Gate – La Strada, and UNITAS Fund Serbia. It was ambitious in scope, reaching more than 1,000 students and trained around 40 teachers across the country. The campaign highlighted in particular the dangers of THB among young people through the use of new technologies.

Partnership

The Mission further bolstered regional synergies by supporting North Macedonia's bilateral negotiations with Bulgaria and Greece aiming to produce protocols on enhanced co-operation on countering THB. The co-operation protocol with Bulgaria was signed on 23 July 2019. In September 2019, the Mission jointly with the Southeast European Law Enforcement Center (SELEC) organized the 26th meeting of the Mirage Task Force on Countering Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration, with the participation of representatives from 11 countries. Such partnerships facilitate the transnational co-operation element that is crucial in combating human trafficking.



Magdalena Nestorovska

National Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration and State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of North Macedonia

“The fight against human trafficking, as a form of organized crime, is high on the Government's political agenda. Regional and cross-border co-operation is crucial in these efforts. Our country's authorities have signed bilateral co-operation protocols with counterparts in the region. I am very happy that we are opening a new chapter with our neighbours, Bulgaria and Greece. Their experiences as EU member states will be valuable on our path towards EU integration. And all this could have not happened without our partners and friends at the OSCE.”

EASTERN EUROPE



In November 2018, a workshop was held on the subject of joint investigation teams, delivered by Eurojust experts, who specialize in providing financial, legal and practical support to the operational activities of such teams.

OSCE/Iurie Foca

OSCE Mission to Moldova

Capacity-building

The [OSCE Mission to Moldova](#) implemented capacity-building activities for legal professionals on combating online child exploitation and cybercrimes. Approximately 130 district prosecutors and judges in Moldova refreshed their skills in investigating and prosecuting cybercrimes involving children by participating in training workshops organized by the Mission in co-operation with the Moldovan National Institute of Justice. During the sessions, participants were sensitized to the unique nature of children's online behaviour, the psychological profile of online abuse victims, as well as the behavioural disorders of potential abusers. Special sessions during the workshops were led by a psychologist who outlined the best practices of interviewing children.

In 2016, the Parliament of Moldova adopted a law on the rehabilitation of and compensation for victims of crimes, including of THB. The Mission organized a study visit to Portugal in December 2018 with the purpose of examining its system of compensation for victims of trafficking. The Moldovan delegation was comprised of state officials, judges and specialists involved in defining and implementing Moldova's rehabilitation and compensation mechanism. It is planned to disseminate the best practices collected in the Portuguese system to Moldovan legal specialists via the National Institute of Justice.

Awareness-raising

Awareness-raising programmes configured prominently in the Moldova's National Anti-Trafficking Strategy for 2018–2023, and the Mission is passionate about contributing to this. In partnership with the Tiraspol-based NGO Women's Initiatives, the Mission organized a series of workshops for specialists and service providers from Transdniestria, which focused on the identification of and assistance to victims of trafficking. In conjunction with these workshops, a series of awareness-raising events were organized for approximately 80 students and teachers from the left bank.

Partnership and Co-ordination

In early 2018 the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy for 2018–2023, the first national policy document of this kind, was developed; the Mission helped facilitate the conceptualization of its documents by organizing public, expert-based discussions. For the first time, civil society representatives from Transdniestria and civil servants from the Autonomous Territorial Unit (ATU) of Gagauzia participated in workshops on the protection of victims of



One hundred public servants and civil society representatives engaged in anti-trafficking activities on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River, including the territorial anti-trafficking commissions from 35 districts across Moldova.

© OSCE/Liubomir Turcanu

trafficking held on the right bank of the Dniester/Nistru River. Improved co-ordination at the local and national levels is an efficient tool to pave the way for a deeper engagement of the Autonomous Territorial Unit Gagauzia in the implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Strategy for 2018–2023. Moreover, these activities bring together the professional communities and local actors from both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River to strengthen their capacity to co-ordinate anti-trafficking activities and address issues of common concern throughout the country.

In November 2018, 15 prosecutors and police officers attended a three-day workshop on investigating transnational cases of THB. The workshop was organized jointly by the Mission. The best practices of setting up and managing joint investigation teams (JITs) were the focus of the hands-on course.

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine

Capacity-building

During August and September 2018, the [OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine](#) (PCU) helped in conducting training for regional social service providers. The training focused on combating child exploitation and establishing state-led assistance to victims of trafficking.

In November 2018, the PCU developed and opened for enrolment a four-module CTHB online course for teachers. In the following ten months nearly 7,000 teachers registered and around 5,000 have already completed the course. The course aims to provide teachers, professors and psychologists with the skills and knowledge they need to effectively explain to young people the risks of THB as well as safety measures which can counteract it.

Focusing on the investigation of labour trafficking cases, the PCU, in co-operation with the OSR/CTHB, conducted a training session in November 2018 for 25 CTHB police officers from all regions of Ukraine aiming to enhance co-operation between labour inspectors, law enforcement officials and prosecutors. As a follow up in June 2019, jointly with the Lviv University of Internal Affairs, the PCU conducted an international conference dealing with the legal aspects of combating labour exploitation, the specifics of investigating crimes related to labour exploitation, and the use of advanced technologies.

In July 2019 the PCU supported the first summer school for students (aimed at future social workers and psychologists), during which participants studied the relevant legislation, current trends in THB, improved techniques on how to interview victims. They actively contributed to CTHB efforts by producing their own social video clips on the risks of sexual and labour exploitation.

Using a self-developed, tailored training programme, the PCU organized two trainings for 48 prosecutors from all oblasts of Ukraine, to help them better combat the IT-aspects of the crime. Aiming to give this initiative its own wings, in October 2018 the PCU organized a three-day ToT for 20 professors and also distributed around 1,000 manuals on the identification and prosecution of IT-facilitated THB to assist trained professors in teaching this course. The PCU conducted three regional round tables at which 90 police officers, investigators, prosecutors and judges from 12 regions of Ukraine exchanged information the investigation, prevention, and prosecution of IT-facilitated THB crimes.



The beautiful products of a social enterprise employing survivors of THB, supported by the PCU, are put on display in Lviv.

📷 Ievgenii Maloletka/OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine



SMM Odessa facilitating discussion on CTHB (2019).

📷 Yurii Nizolenko

Awareness-raising

In July and again in October 2018, in joint co-operation with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (MSP), the IOM, the anti-trafficking organization A-21, as well as regional anti-trafficking NGOs, the PCU supported broad information campaigns devoted to the World and European Days Against Trafficking in Persons. These events involved more than 40,000 persons all over Ukraine. Municipal and regional authorities along with NGOs disseminated 50,000 information booklets on the risks of THB and preventative steps.

The PCU promoted social enterprises as a way of supporting counter-trafficking efforts. NGOs established sewing, crafts and bakery enterprises to provide employment and training for actual and potential victims. Overall 139 persons at risk of trafficking (40% youth) benefitted from economic opportunities created by social businesses. This experience was subsequently condensed into a practical toolkit on social entrepreneurship. This informed the development of the Concept for Developing Social Entrepreneurship in Ukraine which in May 2019 was submitted to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers for further consideration.

Partnership and Co-ordination

In November 2018 and May 2019, the PCU organized two study visits to Oslo and Ottawa for 20 officials representing the National Police of Ukraine, the General Prosecutor's Office, as well as judges of the Supreme Court. The agenda of the visit covered issues such as identifying, gathering and securing evidence in ICT-facilitated crimes during the investigation of transnational THB networks.

In co-operation with the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine (MSP) and the non-governmental sector, the PCU continued to support National Referral Mechanism capacity-building efforts in 12 oblasts and the city of Kyiv. In December 2018 and June 2019, the PCU organized co-ordination meetings for this purpose with the MSP and local NGOs to present the results of 2018 and to plan activities for 2019.

OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine

Capacity-building

In order to strengthen the skills and knowledge of the staff at the [OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine](#) (SMM) regarding the prevention of and responses to human trafficking, and to furthermore ensure that the Mission's activities do not contribute to any form of THB, several internal capacity-building activities were organized during 2018 and 2019. In March 2019, the OSR/CTHB, in collaboration with the SMM's Learning & Development Unit and Gender Unit, piloted two Training of Trainers (ToT) courses in Lviv and Kramatorsk. 23 Mission members participated in the module on combating THB with the objective to better equip them to deliver the training module to new OSCE monitors as part of their overall induction process.



Sievierodonetsk, SMM-facilitated discussions marking the UN World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (2018).

© Viktor Konopkin

Awareness-raising

Moreover, in 2018 and 2019, the SMM organized both internal and external outreach and awareness-raising events, especially in connection with the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. For example, in Odessa, on the occasion of the 2019 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the SMM facilitated a discussion with local stakeholders on issues related to THB risks, including among conflict-affected communities. Participants discussed anti-trafficking efforts in Ukraine, focusing on successes and existing challenges. In Sievierodonetsk, in July 2018, the Mission facilitated a similar exchange of information among local stakeholders.

Research

The SMM reported on trends identified through its standing reporting mechanisms, including in its Thematic Report on Gender Dimensions of SMM Monitoring, which has a

dedicated chapter on conflict-related trends in THB. After the publication of the report, in December 2018, the Mission conducted a range of presentations and roundtables in different regions of Ukraine to share and discuss its findings with local experts.

Partnership and Co-ordination

In line with its mandate to monitor the security situation and support the respect for human rights, the SMM holds regular meetings with relevant interlocutors, both governmental and non-governmental, in order to monitor and report on conflict-related risks and concerns in the sphere of THB.

Partnership facilitates on-the-ground results: for example, the Mission supports referrals through the Gender Focal Point Network. Based on the consent of the individual, and in line with “do no harm” principles, the Mission’s Gender Focal Points have been able to refer individuals seeking information and THB support services to expert organizations. Mission members out on patrols have also been approached by civilians enquiring about support networks in the case of labour exploitation.

The SMM’s efforts to uphold partnerships benefited from visits by the OSCE OSR/CTHB Madina Jarbussynova. In 2018, the Special Representative visited Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi, where she met with representatives of regional administrations, civil society, internally displaced persons, as well as representatives from international organizations. A range of developments including with regard to Ukraine’s National Referral Mechanism were discussed. The Special Representative and her team also delivered briefings to SMM staff members on best practices in monitoring and reporting. Subsequently, the OSR/CTHB, together with the SMM Head of Gender Unit, visited the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, where they engaged with relevant stakeholders and delivered briefings to SMM staff members. Particular attention was paid to risk factors impacting internally displaced persons and those facing economic hardship.

CENTRAL ASIA



Participants at the roundtable discussion event held in Ashgabat in July 2019, take part in group work exercises addressing the topic of assistance to victims of human trafficking

OSCE/Tetiana Rudenko

OSCE Centre in Ashgabat

Capacity-building

The [OSCE Centre in Ashgabat](#) has focused on building the capacities of national professionals engaged in addressing the phenomenon of THB. Through participation in OSCE-organized conferences, workshops and seminars, as well as information sharing, Turkmenistan state officials increased their expertise and skills, and learned more about the commitments of OSCE participating States.

In September 2018, the Centre took part in and facilitated the participation of four representatives from the NGOs Keyik Okara and Yenme, the Bar Association of Ashgabat and the State Migration Service of Turkmenistan in the simulation-based training exercise held in Nur-Sultan on how to identify and rescue THB victims. A total of 54 Russian-speaking practitioners from 14 countries exchanged their experiences in addressing CTHB. The participants found the experience very much to their benefit.

Therefore in June 2019, the Centre funded and facilitated the participation of five law enforcement officials representing the Turkmenistan Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Migration Service, the Ministry of National Security, the General's Office and the Presidential Administration of Turkmenistan in a second simulation-based THB exercise organized by the OSR/CTHB in Nur-Sultan.

Partnership and Co-ordination

The Centre strives to provide a network for different partners involved in anti-trafficking efforts. In April 2018, the Centre funded and facilitated the participation of representatives from the Turkmenistan Prosecutor General's Office and a local public organization that provides assistance to victims of trafficking in the 18th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, which took place in Vienna, Austria. Likewise, in 2019, the Centre facilitated and funded the participation of representatives from the Turkmenistan State Migration Service and Ministry of Interior in the 19th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, which also took place in Vienna.

In July 2019, the Centre organized a one-day roundtable discussion where the central topic was developing effective methods of providing assistance to victims of trafficking. Participating in the event were representatives from a number of relevant Turkmenistan ministries as well as public organizations, including the Mejlis, Prosecutor General's Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, State Migration Service, Supreme Court, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population, Ministry of Education, Ombudsperson's Office, the Institute of State, Law and Democracy, the Bar Association, and the Women's and Youth Unions, amongst

others. In total, 31 participants (13 women) took part in these roundtable discussions. The discussions were facilitated by two senior staff members from the OSR/CTHB. The principles of the OSCE's approach toward combating THB and practices in providing assistance to victims were presented prior to general discussions and group work exercises. The event also included a brief informative report by a representative of the Turkmenistan General Prosecutor's Office on the country's activities in the prevention and combating of THB.

OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek

Capacity-building

The [OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek](#) (POiB) facilitates a broad range of capacity-building activities for all relevant stakeholders involved in CTHB. In September 2018 the POiB participated in the first Russian-language simulation-based training Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes, held in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. Following positive results and feedback, in 2019 the POiB, in co-operation with the United States Embassy in Kyrgyzstan, supported the participation of a Kyrgyz delegation comprising 20 state officials (12 men and 8 women) in a second simulation-based training, once again held in Nur-Sultan. For 2020 POiB plans, in co-operation with the Kyrgyz Government, to carry out a similar national simulation-based training in Kyrgyzstan.

In 2018 and 2019, the POiB and the Criminal Police conducted CTHB trainings for customs and border police officers and for Kyrgyzstan's State Border Guard Service. In order to improve the quality of teaching and learning, the POiB has also supported the development of an easy and practical manual on CTHB.

Following the creation in 2018 of regional CTHB Co-ordination Councils, in 2019 the POiB conducted professional development training for Co-ordination Council members in the provinces of Batken, Osh, and Jalal-Abad. The training sessions were attended by a total of 75 persons, including 19 women.

In November 2018, training courses on CTHB for professionals in the field of education were delivered in co-operation with the Ministry of Education and Science; in addition, a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) was carried out in the province of Issyk-kul, where 30 participants discussed and analysed educational standards, training materials, outreach programmes and tools contained in the CTHB manual adopted by the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education



Intellectual quiz for youth (university and high school students) in Batken, 27 September 2019.

© Mirlan Kydyrmyshev / NGO International Protection Support Center

and Science. This co-operation was re-established in June 2019, when a three-day ToT was organized for university and secondary school teachers across the country. The 20 participating teachers included 15 women.

Awareness-raising

The Office supports actions to increase public awareness of and competence in THB prevention. In January 2018, the POiB supported the publishing of the book *Erkinay* to draw the attention of the Kyrgyz population, especially young girls and their parents, to the problem of bride kidnapping.

In May 2018, the POiB initiated awareness-raising activities on THB in two educational institutions in the province of Batken, informing a total of 50 high school students about THB.

As part of support provided to local administrations, in September 2019 the POiB supported an intellectual quiz on THB for 50 young residents ranging in age from 16 to 20 in the province of Batken.

In July 2018 the POiB, in co-operation with the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and Science, supported a roundtable discussion on the prevention of THB. The event gathered 25 representatives from academia and government institutions, including 17 women. On 30 July 2019, the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, the POiB in co-operation with the Kyrgyz State Migration Service, the UNODC, the ILO, and selected civil society organizations, supported a photo exhibition on Ala-Too Square in Bishkek, and a conference entitled "Stop human trafficking in Kyrgyzstan!"

Partnership and Co-ordination

In April 2019, the POiB assisted the Kyrgyz State Migration Service in the organization of the first Inter-Agency Platform for Action for the implementation of the Kyrgyz National Action Plan on CTHB. The first meeting gathered 29 participants from ministries, international organizations and civil society to review the proposed draft regulations on employment and marriage agencies. The POiB supported the organization of a second Inter-Agency Platform in October 2019 for improving co-operation, as well as discussing database testing, proper registration of victims of trafficking, personal data protection, means of accessing data, and other matters. In December 2019, another Inter-Agency Platform was organized in Osh, where the participants discussed, among other things, the gendered dimension of the National Action Plan on CTHB.

As part of its co-operation with regional administrations, in 2018 the POiB organized, together with the Osh Mayor's Office and the local Osh NGO Centre for Support of International Protection, a conference on the occasion of the UN's International Day for Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. The conference was attended by 50 participants from different Kyrgyz governmental structures and regional Co-ordination Councils. Co-operation and co-ordination with Kyrgyz regional departments of education was also strengthened: under the auspices of the Osh provincial administration, a conference on anti-trafficking issues for education institutions took place in mid-October 2019. Thirty university and school instructors from southern Kyrgyzstan took part in the conference.

OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe

Capacity-building

The [OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe](#) (POiD) acts as a key facilitator of capacity-building for Tajik actors by supporting the Tajik Inter-Ministerial Commission on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (IMCCTHB) and the participation of its members in international OSCE events related to CTHB. For example, the POiD supported the participation of the Secretary of the IMCCTHB in the meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Coordinators and Rapporteurs held in Strasbourg in May 2018.

Moreover, the POiD proactively supported the participation in 2018 of two members of the IMCCTHB (from the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs and the General Prosecutor's Office) and two civil society representatives in the simulation-based training on CTHB conducted in Nur-Sultan. Recognizing the concrete impact this made, the POiD



An expert panel addresses participants in training for the police and border guards held in Shymkent in April 2019.

© OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan

supported the participation of a further four members of the IMCCTHB (two representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, one representative from the General Prosecutor's Office, and one representative of the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population) in another simulation-based training on CTHB conducted in Nur-Sultan in June 2019.

In April 2019, the POiD facilitated the visit to the 19th Alliance against Trafficking Conference of a Tajik delegation led by the Secretary of the IMCCTHB and the Deputy Head of the Department for Combating Organized Crime of the Tajik Ministry of Internal Affairs. The delegation gained knowledge on the increasing use of ICT technologies to combat THB.

Awareness-raising

Different civil society actors were brought together to carry out a public awareness campaign devoted to the 2018 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This was implemented to great success at Dushanbe Airport, where informative flyers and T-shirts and caps with CTHB motifs were distributed. Between November and December 2018, the POiD conducted a series of awareness-raising trainings aimed at young people. Sixty participants (34 boys and 26 girls) assembled from three regions of Tajikistan to learn about the dangers of THB and preventative measures which can be taken against it.



Diana Digol

Deputy Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan

“The process of protecting victims of human trafficking requires early identification and a thorough knowledge of how traffickers operate, so that the involved authorities can best co-ordinate and detect organized criminal groups. As this crime can be very complex in nature, it is crucial to learn from other countries and international experts how their experience has helped them to combat this modern form of slavery.”

Research

The POiD engages in research to obtain knowledge on the ground in Tajikistan. Two surveys were carried out to this effect in late 2019: an assessment of the practical implications of Tajikistan’s National Referral Mechanism on CTHB; and an assessment of current situation with protection of rights of THB victims during court procedures in Tajikistan.

Partnership

In 2018, the POiD, together with civil society actors, organized a one-day roundtable event dedicated to the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The roundtable brought together Tajik government structures (ministries and agencies), international organizations, embassies and various civil society organizations.

Building on this success, the POiD held a conference dedicated to the next World Day Against Trafficking in Persons in July 2019. The conference focused on how joint efforts and co-ordination can strengthen the fight against THB. Key areas explored included criminal justice responses to THB in Tajikistan and the provision of support services for victims.

At the close of 2019, the POiD facilitated a platform for dialogue involving all relevant state and non-state actors in CTHB in Tajikistan. This platform allowed these actors to voice their ideas and concerns and helped to co-ordinate

the efforts in CTHB in Tajikistan to be implemented in the coming year.

OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan

Capacity-building

The [OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan](#) strives to equip relevant Kazakh actors with state-of-the art skills and knowledge. Strengthening co-operation between police and border guards in the identification and suppression of channels of illegal human trafficking from, to and via Kazakhstan was the focus of a two-day training seminar, which concluded in April 2019 in Shymkent, Kazakhstan. The event was jointly organized by the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the United States Embassy in Kazakhstan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan. Some 20 representatives of the police departments of the city of Shymkent, the Zhambyl, Kyzylorda and Turkestan regions, as well as officers of the “Ontustik” regional administration of the Border Service of Kazakhstan’s National Security Committee participated in the training seminar.



Jonibek Kholikzoda

Secretary of Tajikistan's Inter-Ministerial Commission on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

“It is important that close co-operation between state bodies and civil society exists at all levels of state management and civil activity, since CTHB becomes difficult without focused and agreed joint efforts of these two entities.”

They learned about the mechanisms of human trafficking, the specifics of investigating THB, as well as the applicable international and national anti-trafficking legislation. The curriculum also included techniques for in-depth psychological analysis of a suspect's verbal and non-verbal behaviour, as well as ways to identify specific risk indicators. A number of practical exercises provided the participants with the opportunity to apply their newly acquired knowledge.

Partnership and Co-ordination

The Office supported an international roundtable on exchanging experiences and best practices in combating human trafficking and illegal migration, held in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, in May 2018, otherwise known as the “Shymkent Platform”. Some 40 officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan representing governmental departments tasked with combating organized crime, border control, migration control and finance discussed and exchanged best practices in combating THB, as well as ways to promote co-operation. Border officials from Belarus and the United Kingdom presented best practices from their countries on ways of counteracting the role of organized crime networks in THB.



Roundtable dedicated to the 2018 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. The participants discussed the current situation regarding CTHB in Tajikistan and adopted some recommendations on future co-operation in this field.

📷 Jamshed Haydarov

The event furthermore aimed to increase the effectiveness of co-operation among law enforcement agencies from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the field of countering transnational organized crime, specifically THB and illegal migration, as well as identifying and seizing illicit proceeds from these crimes. Important networks were established in this regard.

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

Capacity-building

The [OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan](#) (PCUz) has responded to new and emerging issues in THB by bringing good practices to the attention of relevant actors. This has been implemented at both the national and local levels in Uzbekistan through the provision of national and local platforms respectively. These platforms were utilized to deliver capacity-building exercises to more than 110 investigators from all regions of Uzbekistan, whereby they acquired knowledge and skills regarding the link between THB and related crimes such as terrorism and money laundering, and also learned about the gender aspects of human trafficking and the importance of involving women in policing.

Under the leadership of OSR/CTHB, the PCUz contributed to the development and implementation of the first and second anti-trafficking simulation-based training in the Russian language.



To prevent human trafficking by targeting individual and community vulnerabilities, legal counselling is offered by the NGO Istiqbolli Avlod for women from vulnerable communities.

📷 Nodira Karimova, Director of Istiqbolli Avlod

Along with their partners from other Central Asian countries, the Uzbek experts were able to provide input and ensured that the developed scenarios used in the simulation-based training also reflected the Uzbek context.

In co-operation with ODIHR, the PCUz organized a study tour to Georgia and Spain for seven participants representing Uzbek governmental agencies and civil society organizations. The goal of the study tour was to share practices used in Georgia and Spain to successfully identify victims and investigate cases that involve THB, and to furthermore promote bilateral co-operation in anti-trafficking efforts.

Awareness-raising

In July 2019, the PCUz, in co-operation with ODIHR and the National Human Rights Centre of Uzbekistan, organized the presentation of the OSCE/ODIHR publication Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons in the Uzbek language, and followed this up with a briefing on the occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.



Examining the Nexus Between Human Trafficking & Terrorism: With a Focus on Investigative Techniques, Tashkent.

📷 Malika Urinboeva

The so-called “Return Guide” is an important tool to support the implementation of regulations and laws in Uzbekistan, and can ensure international legal protections for victims of trafficking in the process of return. The event gathered more than 70 representatives, including Uzbek government officials and members of the diplomatic community, academia, NGOs and the media. The event ended with the private screening of the film “Love Sonia”, which features a poignant story about a 17-year-old girl fighting against all odds to find her sister, who is entangled in the world of global sex trafficking.

Partnership

The PCUz reached an agreement with the Women’s Committee of Uzbekistan and the municipality of the Navoyi region to launch a social enterprise for the production of products from wool and felt, as well as the tailoring of national clothing. The social enterprise will employ at least 30 women from vulnerable groups of the population and aims to provide them with permanent jobs and a stable income. In addition, from proceeds of the OSCE Charity Ball, the PCUz supported 30 women survivors of human trafficking and young women at risk by providing a direct, effective and balanced means of reintegration. This has been accomplished through the provision of psychological support, legal advice, vocational training and employment assistance, in addition to the material provision of seasonal clothing. None of this could have been achieved without the role taken by the anti-trafficking NGO Istiqbolli Avlod.

OSCE Executive Structures and Decision-Making Bodies

The OSR/CTHB co-operates with various bodies across the greater OSCE framework to avail of the expert resources that are available. The work of some of our most frequent collaborators is described here.

Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

ODHIR is one of the most significant OSCE executive structures contributing to CTHB across the region. It ensures that human rights and survivor centred approaches are integral to all such efforts.

Capacity-building

In April 2019, ODIHR conducted a three-day training session in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, on the interlinkages between proactive identification and investigation in trafficking cases. The training was attended by 18 participants (3 female and 15 male), consisting of police officers, border guards, prosecutors, judges, and representatives of the Uzbek Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as from civil society organizations.

During the OSCE 19th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, also held in April 2019, ODIHR, jointly with TNTD/SPMU, organized the side event ICT Tools to Improve Proactive Identification of Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings. This side event aimed at providing a forum for discussing technology dimensions for proactively identifying trafficking victims. The side event, attended by approximately 45 people, generated a high level of interest from the participants and was very well received.

Building upon this success, ODIHR organized a side event on the margins of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting held in July 2019 in Vienna titled Countering Sexual Violence against Women and Girls in Cyber Space, Especially Trafficking for Purposes of Sexual Exploitation. The side event provided a forum for the discussion



Rasa Ostrauskaite, the former Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats at the OSCE, speaks at the Alliance Conference 2019.

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of the challenges and dangers for women and girls posed by the criminal usage of the Internet, in particular sexual exploitation and THB. It highlighted the approaches and promising practices being implemented to tackle vulnerabilities of women and, in particular, children in relation to cyberspace.

Awareness-raising

In order to raise awareness of THB and child trafficking, ODIHR organized the well-received screening of "Love Sonia" (2017) and Q&A in Vienna in May 2019, an event that was attended by approximately 130 guests, including high-level representatives from delegations of the OSCE participating States, other international organizations and civil society. Recognizing the positive impression the film made, the ODIHR Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, Tatiana Kotlyarenko, travelled to Tashkent to participate in a second film screening of "Love Sonia" in Tashkent, co-organized with the Uzbek National Centre for Human Rights and the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan. Additional film screenings and Q&As of "Love Sonia" took place in Warsaw on the margins of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, and in New York, co-organized with Columbia University and New York University in September 2019 on the margins of the UN General Assembly session.

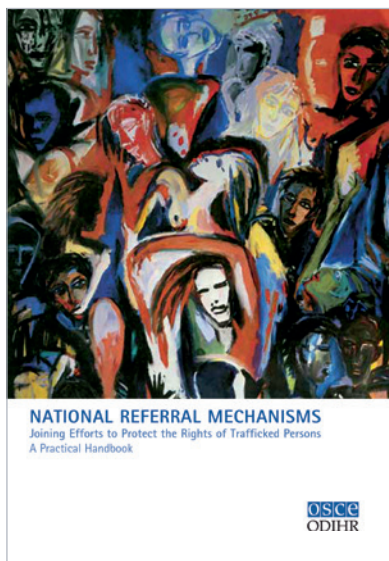


A conference was held in June 2019 in Athens to launch the Greek translation of the OSCE/ODIHR's "Return Guide"; with Maria Yannakaki, Secretary General, Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights; Dr. Heracles Moskoff, Greek National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gianluca Rocco, IOM Chief of Mission and Regional Response Coordinator in Greece; Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues

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Research

ODIHR seeks to share research relating to THB to all parts of the OSCE region. A conference was organized in June 2019 in Athens to launch the publication of the OSCE/ODIHR's Guiding Principles on Human Rights in the Return of Trafficked Persons ("The Return Guide") in Greek. The conference gathered high-level representatives of government agencies, civil society and international organizations, providing a forum for facilitating discussions about challenges and good practices in promoting a human rights-based approach in the return of trafficked persons.



The ODIHR Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues travelled to Tashkent to participate in the presentation of the Uzbek translation of the "Return Guide", which coincided with the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July 2019.

Partnership and Co-ordination

During 2018 and 2019, ODIHR's priority focus was on updating the handbook National Referral Mechanisms: Joining Efforts to Protect the Rights of Trafficked Persons ("The NRM Handbook"), published in 2004. For this reason, ODIHR conducted three more National Referral Mechanism (NRM) assessment visits in 2018 and 2019 to the United States, Spain and Uzbekistan, in addition to Poland, Georgia, Croatia and United Kingdom in 2017.

The visit in Uzbekistan was particularly revealing and fruitful. Meetings were conducted to collect further information in preparation for drafting recommendations for strengthening the NRM and standard operating procedures (SOPs) in Uzbekistan on addressing THB. ODIHR met with 39 interlocutors (13 female and 26 male) from a wide range of stakeholders from all relevant sectors. These meetings resulted in the production of ODIHR recommendations, which were in turn incorporated into the Presidential Decree 5775 on 30 July 2019.

ODIHR likewise developed and distributed an OSCE-wide survey to all NRM stakeholders in English and Russian, with responses received from 56 countries. ODIHR also developed a survey specifically designed for survivors of THB and translated it into ten languages to ensure that their voices are heard. This should support the development of survivor-centred and gender-sensitive guidance for national anti-trafficking frameworks for governments. Survivors from 37 countries participated in the survey.

In May 2019, ODIHR organized the 2nd NRM Advisory Group consultation meeting with the purpose of discussing the current status of the draft sections for the NRM Handbook, defining the underlying Principles and Required Standards as well as addressing questions. The 2nd NRM Advisory Group meeting was complemented by a one-day expert consultation meeting on 25 June 2019 in Geneva. The meeting gathered high-level representatives from the ILO, the IOM, the UN CEDAW Committee, the OSCE, as well as think tanks and civil society with the purpose to mainstream the topic of labour trafficking in the updated version of the NRM Handbook. Throughout the meeting, participants highlighted the inclusion of the private sector as a stakeholder in the NRM. ODIHR also presented the update process of the NRM Handbook to ICAT in New York in September 2019.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Combating THB remained a priority of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) in 2018–2019.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues Christopher Smith (United States) sponsored the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Act in the United States, which allocates \$430 million over four years to prosecute traffickers, rescue and assist victims, and prevent THB at home and abroad. In February 2019, Smith also introduced legislation in the United States to fight human trafficking in the hotel industry. Smith successfully introduced the resolution “Implementing Trafficking-Free Communities” at the 2018 PA Annual Session in Berlin. The resolution focused on promoting the training of relevant authorities, as well as other stakeholders who are likely to be in contact with victims.

At the 2019 PA Annual Session in Luxembourg, the OSCE PA unanimously adopted an anti-trafficking initiative authored by Smith to protect children by teaching them about the risks of THB. The initiative, titled “Educating Schoolchildren to Avoid Human Trafficking”, aims to ensure that school-aged children are educated in the classroom to recognize, resist and report any attempt to recruit or coerce them into the world of human trafficking. Smith also convened a side event on how trafficking perpetrators exploit online technologies.

Over the past two years, Smith has also held discussions with a wide variety of actors within the CTHB field, including UN Secretary-General António Guterres and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger. He has also engaged in dialogue with high-level officials in Poland; ambassadors to the United States from several countries; parliamentary representatives from Romania, Guatemala, and Nigeria; and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Mark Green.

Human trafficking arises as a vital issue in other thematic areas overseen by the OSCE PA. The OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues Hedy Fry visited Kyiv in July 2018, meeting with a number of Ukrainian Gov-



Christopher Smith

United States Congressman and OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues

“As the Parliamentary Assembly’s Special Representative on Human Trafficking, I’ve offered 20 resolutions over the years which the PA approved – each focusing on new and effective strategies to be merged with each nation’s ongoing work. Each of us, I believe, can and must do a better job protecting the weakest and most vulnerable from exploitation. The need to educate the children on human trafficking and how to avoid it is absolutely compelling.”

ernment officials, members of parliament, and NGOs. In meetings, Fry underlined how the crisis in Eastern Ukraine has exacerbated THB in the country, including trafficking of women for sexual and labour exploitation. She stressed the need for a greater focus on this issue and the promotion of equality between women and men to advance Ukraine’s reform agenda and conflict-resolution efforts.

In a visit to Turkmenistan in April 2019, the OSCE PA’s Special Representative on Central Asia, Austrian parliamentarian Roman Haider, met with officials, including Turkmenistan’s Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Deputy Chairperson of the Mejlis for discussions on challenges such as THB. Haider discussed implementation of action plans to address human rights, gender equality and THB.

The Transnational Threats Department's Strategic Police Matters Unit

The Transnational Threats Department's Strategic Police Matters Unit (TNTD/SPMU) co-operates closely with the OSR/CTHB on issues of mutual concern, in particular police-related matters. Some highlights of the TNTD/SPMU's work on combating THB over the past two years are outlined below.



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At the 2018 Alliance Conference, survivors' experiences are listened to by delegations at the side event "From the Survivor's Perspective: Human Rights, Gender and the Trafficking in Human Beings"

OSR/CTHB

The project "Anti-Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants Training in Ukraine" has been jointly implemented by the TNTD and INTERPOL since November 2018. The TNTD/SPMU organized a first co-ordination meeting with all relevant Ukrainian institutions and other stakeholders to present the activities envisaged under the initiative.

The project's objective is to support Ukraine, through the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine as the main beneficiary, in its efforts to conduct cross-border co-operation and effective investigations on combating THB and the smuggling of migrants in compliance with international standards and OSCE commitments. The project places its focus on the proactive screening and identification of THB victims, especially of vulnerable groups such as children and minors, and subsequently putting in motion appropriate actions to effectively investigate cases of THB and migrant smuggling. This endeavour is to be achieved through closer collaboration between national law enforcement agencies in Ukraine, as well as with other countries and INTERPOL.

The project was restructured after the Ukrainian authorities requested support in interviewing THB victims in order to achieve more successful prosecutions of perpetrators. Such improved interviewing techniques involve increased and improved information exchange, as well as using best practices in proactive investigations. This should enhance effective co-operation between law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders involved in the investigation of crimes related to THB and migrant smuggling, as well as the protection of rights of THB victims and smuggled migrants.

Finally, a handbook on international and national best practices in co-operation and co-ordination between law enforcement agencies and social services has been prepared to strengthen good practices regarding labour exploitation of trafficked persons. This handbook will be delivered to the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine and other Government authorities to be disseminated to all regions in the country.

In addition to this project, in co-ordination with the OSR/CTHB, the SPMU contributed to the 18th Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference, held in April 2018. On 23 April, on the margins of the conference, the TNTD/SPMU and ODIHR co-organized a side event in co-ordination with the OSR/CTHB on the topic "From the Survivor's Perspective: Human Rights, Gender and the Trafficking in Human Beings". The event gave the approximately 70 participants an insight into the experiences of THB survivors.

Priority Areas for 2020

As the 2018–2019 biennium draws to a close, it is worthwhile to turn an eye toward the future. The OSR/CTHB is fundamentally an Office which is always looking forward, both in terms of maintaining continuity and consistency in its work, and also in terms of remaining at the forefront of anti-trafficking areas across the OSCE.

Consistent with the Office’s “policy to practice” approach, 2020 will see several existing initiatives further developed and implemented, including in the areas of supply chains, technology, and child trafficking. It will also see a number of areas of new emphasis as the Office strives to address persistent and emerging challenges in the anti-trafficking field. Below is an outline of the Office’s planned work in 2020 as organized within the 4P framework:

Prevention

A central focus in the area of prevention will be to identify and promote practices which decrease the demand for goods and services that result from THB. This means building upon the success of the project Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains, with a view to promoting better procurement practices across the public and private sectors. It will also mean undertaking research on international standards and good practices designed to reduce and disrupt the demand that fosters trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Prosecution

The 2018 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons and the United States’ 2019 Trafficking in Persons Report identified that global conviction rates of perpetrators of THB remain inexcusably low. Failure to aggressively counter traffickers through the criminal justice system contributes to security threats from THB, undermines the rule of law, and exposes vulnerable populations to harm. In 2020, the OSR/CTHB will launch a series of initiatives to help participating States counter the impunity of perpetrators by enhancing prosecutions across the OSCE. This will include highlighting the urgency of the issue, collecting bet-



The OSR/CTHB team working on upcoming projects.

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ter data to understand gaps and opportunities, providing capacity-building, and assisting in addressing emerging issues such as the misuse of technology and the need for more financial investigations.

Protection

Identifying victims and ensuring their access to services is a core priority for the OSCE, including the promotion of trauma-informed and victim-centred approaches. The Office will work to increase the utilisation of simulation-based exercises, which have proven to be an effective capacity-building tool, to enhance the knowledge and expertise of practitioners in protecting victims. The Office will bring experts together to address the persistent challenge of organ trafficking. And the Office will continue to support participating States in safeguarding the specialized needs of child victims of THB, including by countering the phenomenon of missing children who are preyed upon by traffickers.

Partnership

A key takeaway from the past two years has been that no anti-trafficking effort can go very far without partnership. Therefore the OSR/CTHB will continue both to forge partnerships for its own work and promote partnerships across the OSCE region. This includes developing further collaboration with the technology sector, engaging the business sector on supply chains, and promoting the use of partnerships to undertake financial investigations. Lastly, following its highly successful co-chairmanship in 2019, the OSR/CTHB will continue to promote and contribute to the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) to foster harmonized policies among international organizations.

**Office of the Special
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