

Conclusions from the 22nd Conference
of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

PROTECTION

UPHOLDING
VICTIMS' RIGHTS AND
STRENGTHENING
ASSISTANCE

4-6 April 2022
Vienna, Austria



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

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Wallnerstrasse 6, 1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel: + 43 1 51436 6664
Fax: + 43 1 51436 6299
Email: info-cthb@osce.org

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The report is based on the findings of the 22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, which took place in Vienna and online on 4-6 April 2022, on the topic of protecting and assisting victims of trafficking in human beings, and upholding their rights. OSR/THB would like to thank all the survivors, practitioners, experts, representatives and others who participated in the Conference and provided insights that made this report possible.

More information can be found on our website <https://www.osce.org/cthb>

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FOREWORD

by the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

There are about 25 million victims of trafficking in human beings worldwide¹. Despite this enormous and shameful figure, estimates suggest that less than 1% of victims of trafficking are ever identified², leaving millions of victims without the protection and support they need to recover and access to justice for the harm they have suffered.

To address challenges persisting in the area of victim protection and assistance, the 22nd Alliance against Trafficking in Persons conference focused on the importance of putting the human rights and needs of victims at the centre of all anti-trafficking policies and responses.

The reality is that our current protection efforts tend to focus on selected vulnerabilities and often lack flexibility to offer non-discriminatory, targeted, and needs-based assistance that is sensitive to individual circumstances.

Protection systems can only be effective if they ensure access to assistance for all trafficked persons, irrespective of their age, gender, citizenship, and social, economic, cultural, ethnic or religious background. No victim should be left behind.

People on the move – including those seeking refuge from crises and conflicts – national minorities, and people with disabilities are among those who are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking. Earlier migration crises have shown that criminal groups and individuals take advantage of large flows of people to exploit the most vulnerable among them.

One such vulnerable group is children. Trafficking in children continues to be on the rise – in 2018, about one third of the overall detected victims were children and the number of identified child victims has tripled in the last 15 years³.

In light of the humanitarian crisis caused by the war against Ukraine, the urgency of protecting vulnerable persons has grown more acute.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, over 7.1 million people remain displaced by the war within Ukraine and 15.7 million people are estimated to require urgent humanitarian assistance and protection⁴. The risks that these people face are very real, and that is another reason why combating trafficking in human beings remains a top priority for the OSCE.

1. https://twitter.com/osce_cthb/status/1380478603440295940

2. <https://www.osce.org/cthb/515186>

3. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>

4. UNHCR update of 10 June 2022,
<https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/93519>

5. <https://www.osce.org/cthb/513784>



As people began to flee the war against Ukraine, the OSCE issued recommendations⁵ to assist participating States in mitigating risks and preventing the evolution of this humanitarian crisis into a human trafficking crisis. These practical recommendations were designed to be implemented as promptly as possible to address those vulnerabilities that traffickers would otherwise try to exploit. We also launched a website – helpforukrainians.info – together with Thomson Reuters to make safety information publicly and readily accessible in multiple languages. These were important first steps, but there is a lot more to do.

Identifying and protecting victims of trafficking is a legal obligation under international law, a political commitment of all OSCE participating States, and a moral responsibility which the OSCE unequivocally supports.

States need to renew their focus on enhancing anti-trafficking responses and on strengthening their identification and protection systems.

Every single one of us can and should play a role in this work. Together we can make a tangible difference in helping the people who need our support and assistance.

Helga Maria Schmid
OSCE Secretary General

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

INTRODUCTION

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

Victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) cannot regain safety, agency and stability without their rights being restored and their needs being met. With this in mind, unconditional implementation of a victim-centred, human rights-based approach is crucial to ensuring that no victim is left behind and that no form of trafficking is unaddressed.

The 22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons focused on applying such approach in protecting and assisting victims of trafficking in human beings and upholding their rights.

The programme of the conference encouraged the participants to discuss protection of victims of trafficking in human beings by examining current State identification and assistance measures and the application of victim-centred, trauma-informed, gender-sensitive and human rights-based approaches. The high-level event had the following goals:

- ✓ to take stock of existing protection systems and their capacity to provide comprehensive assistance to all victims of human trafficking;
- ✓ to improve understanding of the myriad vulnerabilities that need to be addressed to ensure State protection efforts are inclusive and effective;
- ✓ to outline gaps in State identification and assistance mechanisms; and
- ✓ to propose potential solutions for filling these gaps.

With these goals in mind, the conference offered the opening session with keynote addresses and four distinct panels which featured a wide range of speakers representing national authorities of OSCE participating States, civil society organizations, survivors, academia and international organisations.

Panel 1

Building effective protection systems

looked at current efforts to protect victims of THB by analysing existing protection systems in the OSCE region, with a view to identifying good practices and opportunities for improvement.

Panel 2

Ensuring protection to all victims

discussed the need to strengthen existing protection mechanisms and approaches through developing assistance that responds to vulnerabilities that remain overlooked or are not sufficiently addressed by victim protection efforts.

Panel 3

Protecting the most vulnerable: developing durable solutions for child victims of trafficking

drew particular attention to the epidemic of child exploitation and examined available functions, tools and procedures for the development of durable solutions in the best interests of trafficked children.

Panel 4

The way forward: towards inclusive and comprehensive protection

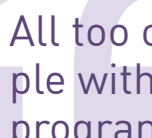
proposed measures that should be implemented to fully integrate a victim-centred and human rights-based approach into modern-day anti-trafficking action and ensure that victims come first in policies and in practice.



It is time to grant victims their rights, it is time to give victims the support they need, it is time to listen to victims.

Valiant Richey, the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

BUILDING EFFECTIVE PROTECTION SYSTEMS



All too often I have seen people with lived experience design programs, operate programs that are running well and meeting the needs of people, only to be removed when they question a policy or procedure that doesn't fit for the population. Leadership positions must be created for people with lived experience, because without them, programs will not have the richness they deserve.

Jennifer Richardson, Director, Community and Indigenous Supports Branch, Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (Canada)

The 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (PC.DEC/557) addresses protection and assistance as part of the OSCE's multidimensional and comprehensive response to trafficking in human beings. Importantly, it proposes a number of actions that go beyond the assistance and protection of witnesses and victims in the criminal justice system. By recommending the adoption of relevant laws and the establishment of National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs)

to protect and promote the human rights of THB victims, the Action Plan calls for accurate identification and appropriate treatment of victims in ways that respect their views and dignity. It stresses that such efforts will only have an impact when co-operation between law enforcement practitioners and social service providers is established and strengthened.

Expert panellists stressed that victims of trafficking in human beings still face the problem of not having their status confirmed by relevant actors, and this effectively favours perpetrators while discouraging victims from coming forward. As a consequence, prosecutions continue to plummet, with traffickers enjoying even greater impunity.

States should implement vigorous identification measures; assign agencies responsible for the formal recognition of human trafficking victims outside the criminal justice system; ensure full implementation of the non-punishment principle; and provide identified victims with access to long-term assistance. Formalized State-led NRMs remain a necessary multi-agency framework that creates an operational environment for the implementation of the above. Conference speakers emphasized the importance of ensuring that comprehensive assistance should be unconditional and aim for a durable solution leading to the victim's full recovery and (re)integration.



14:00 – 14:45 **WELCOMING REMARKS**

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

Helga Maria Schmid, OSCE Secretary General

OPENING REMARKS

Zbigniew Rau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

Matteo Mecacci, Director, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

14:45 – 15:30 **KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

Jennifer Richardson, Director, Community and Indigenous Supports Branch, Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (Canada)

Kelly Clements, Deputy High Commissioner, UNHCR

Dr. Najat Maala M'jid, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence against Children

16:00 – 17:30 **PANEL 1 – BUILDING EFFECTIVE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

The panel will look at the current efforts to protect victims of trafficking in human beings (THB) by analysing existing protection systems and the application of victim-centred approaches in the OSCE region. With a view to identify good practices and opportunities for improvement, it will discuss standards and types of assistance, and consider whether systems are adequately resourced, ensure equal treatment for domestic and foreign victims, and offer space for victims' participation and feedback. Special attention will be devoted to detaching victim identification and assistance from victims' participation in criminal proceedings.

Moderator **Petya Nestorova**, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Head of the Anti-trafficking Division of the Council of Europe

Speakers **Kevin Hyland** OBE, Member of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)

Venla Roth, National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Ministry of Justice (Finland)

Suzanne Hoff, International Co-ordinator, La Strada International

Dina Dominitz, National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Ministry of Justice (Israel)

MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE OPENING SESSION AND PANEL 1

State leadership and responsibility

- ✓ The State is responsible for the overall protection of victims of trafficking, and should guarantee specialized assistance measures and allocate resources at the central level if the services provided at the municipal level are not sufficient to meet victims' individual needs.
- ✓ Action Plans and policies to combat human trafficking should fully implement provisions of international legally-binding instruments such as, for instance, the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (2008).
- ✓ Parliaments, together with independent national rapporteurs, can play an important role in requiring governments to analyse and address potential weaknesses as a result of the persisting link between victim assistance and criminal proceedings.

Non-punishment principle

- ✓ Trafficked persons are often wrongly detained, prosecuted and punished for offences they have been compelled to commit in the course, or as a result, of having been trafficked, which indicates gaps in the implementation of the non-punishment principle.

Victim identification and assistance

- ✓ States must ensure proactive identification of victims, their unconditional access to support, and develop national plans and strategies that place human trafficking at the core of their "business as usual".
- ✓ A state-led NRM remains an important framework in combating trafficking in human beings and every State should consider its adoption as a priority.
- ✓ Obtaining victim certification from relevant State agencies is a persisting problem. This discourages victims from coming forward, leaves them unprotected, and plays into the hands of perpetrators.
- ✓ A victim's access to assistance is often aborted when/if the criminal investigation process related to human trafficking is concluded, or no charges are brought, or there is no verdict confirming a THB case.
- ✓ Granting victims a residence status would significantly increase their incentives to co-operate with the authorities, thus reducing the chances of re-victimization and re-trafficking.
- ✓ Compensation for victims serves as both an instrument of restorative justice and prevention of further exploitation. It is also a recognition of the violation of the victim's rights.

Survivor engagement

- ✓ States should create and support leadership opportunities for survivors. Survivors are best positioned to make decisions about policies, programmes, and initiatives for survivors. This can include setting up dedicated positions for survivors in governance structures, as well as supporting survivors to hold decision-making roles and supervisory roles.

Protecting child victims of trafficking in human beings

- ✓ Vigorous efforts should be made to ensure protection of children who are at risk of being exploited or have already become victims of trafficking in human beings.
- ✓ The ongoing forced displacement and humanitarian crisis has revealed gaps in national child protection systems to rapidly and effectively respond to the specific needs and vulnerabilities of children seeking refuge.
- ✓ Spending on integrated, cross-sectoral child- and gender-sensitive violence prevention and protection services is a sound investment with a high return for all.
- ✓ States should consider embedding child sexual exploitation in their relevant legislation as a child protection issue. In so doing, any circumstances of child sexual exploitation should warrant child welfare involvement and help to better support intervention for children who are exploited in trafficking situations.
- ✓ Child protection actions should be informed and shaped by children's lived experiences.

A real human rights-based approach detaches victims' identification and assistance from participation in criminal proceedings and places their interests and the protection of their rights at the centre, and as the point of departure for providing support.

Suzanne Hoff, International Co-ordinator,
La Strada International

ENSURING PROTECTION TO ALL VICTIMS

Effective protection of THB victims should be based on the principle of non-discrimination and ensure assistance for all trafficked persons irrespective of their age, gender, citizenship, and social, economic, cultural, ethnic or religious background.

In reality, protection approaches are often influenced by the concept of the ‘ideal victim’ based on the perception that typical victims are women and girls usually trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation while men are coerced into forced labour and children are exploited in begging. This stereotypical victim narrative undermines efforts to combat human trafficking as it hinders the identification and protection of many victims.

Panel experts explored opportunities to strengthen protection mechanisms and approaches, and develop assistance that meets individual needs and responds to specific vulnerabilities. They drew attention to the needs of victims who remain overlooked or to whom the protection response has yet to be offered. Such vulnerable categories include people who are forced to be on the move often seeking refuge from armed conflicts; members of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; and people with disabilities.


14:00 – 15:30 **PANEL 2 – ENSURING PROTECTION TO ALL VICTIMS**

5 APRIL 2022

Effective protection of THB victims is based on the fundamental principle of non-discrimination. It ensures access to remedies for all trafficked persons irrespective of their age, gender, citizenship, and social, economic, cultural, ethnic or religious background. In practice, protection efforts tend to be undermined by the concept of the ‘ideal victim’ that aligns with established identification patterns and frequently detected forms of THB. Panel 2 will look into opportunities to strengthen our protection mechanisms and approaches, and develop assistance that meets individual needs and specific vulnerabilities. It will focus on the needs of the victims who often remain overlooked or for whom the protection response still needs to be developed, including national minorities, people on the move, including those seeking refuge from armed conflicts, people with disabilities, as well as take into account gender-specific vulnerabilities.

Moderator **Katarina Lughofer**, Migration and Asylum Programme, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Speakers **Heather Komenda**, Senior Regional Thematic Specialist for Migrant Protection and Assistance, IOM
Liliana Palihovici, Special Representative on Gender of the OSCE Chairpersonship
Fernand de Varennes, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Shakhnoza Khassanova, Director, Legal Centre for Women’s Initiative “Sana Sezim” (Kazakhstan)




Times of conflict can at times serve as lenses that magnify some of the darker sides of our humanity, yet it is during these periods that more needs to be done to better protect those most vulnerable and in need of protection.

Fernand de Varennes, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues

Main Takeaways from Panel 2

Gender-sensitive protection

- ✓ The structural barriers that facilitate gender-based discrimination generate a steady increase in the number of people being trafficked.
- ✓ To be ahead of traffickers, all relevant stakeholders should strengthen protection mechanisms and diversify their approaches in analysing cases of trafficking in human beings beyond the outdated profile of the “ideal victim”⁶.
- ✓ Developing a comprehensive, gender-sensitive prevention, protection, and prosecution strategy is crucial to ensuring that no victim is left behind and that no form of trafficking is unaddressed.
- ✓ Women living in conflict-affected areas are more susceptible to the risks of human trafficking.



Developing comprehensive gender-sensitive prevention, protection and prosecution strategies is of paramount importance to ensure that no victim is left behind, and that no form of trafficking is unaddressed.

Liliana Palihovici, Special Representative on Gender of the OSCE Chairpersonship

Attention to minorities

- ✓ Individuals from minority groups are often at a higher risk of being trafficked due to a combination of factors including poverty, lack of employment, discrimination, racism, and gender discrimination.
- ✓ Members of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may be particularly vulnerable to trafficking due to linguistic barriers or lack of a legal status and identification papers.

Protecting victims in migration flows

- ✓ Everyone seeking refuge should receive equal protection regardless of their gender, ethnicity, or country of origin or habitual residence.
- ✓ Assistance to vulnerable migrants requires involving a range of actors and specific interventions at each level: psychological support for at-risk individuals; cash-based interventions for at-risk families; community stabilization for at-risk communities; and upholding the rule of law in affected countries.
- ✓ States should consider allocating additional funds to non-profit organizations that work to provide safe solutions for the stay and transit of people seeking refuge.

Tailored assistance for persons with disabilities

- ✓ Stigma and discrimination against persons with disabilities remains a serious problem that increases the risk of them falling victim to trafficking in human beings.
- ✓ Victims with disabilities require tailored approaches with regard to their identification, recovery, and rehabilitation. They are in need of targeted assistance within State social welfare and protection systems.

6. See OSR/CTHB publication on Applying Gender-Sensitive Approaches in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. Available at: <https://www.osce.org/cthb/486700>

PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE:

DEVELOPING DURABLE SOLUTIONS FOR CHILD VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

When examining best practices that allow for preventing and responding to child trafficking, what matters most is the richness and strength of the protection system around each child.

Guillaume Landry,
Executive Director of ECPAT International

The scale of child trafficking remains a serious global concern, as children account for nearly one-third of all identified victims. Child victims of trafficking are entitled to special protection measures, both as children and as victims, in accordance with their rights and needs, and regardless of a child's age, gender, origin, or any other status. Safety, protection and assistance are fundamental for the fulfilment and enjoyment of children's rights, and vigorous measures should be taken against all forms of child exploitation offline and online.

The panel drew particular attention to the issues of child sexual exploitation and its crossover with online child sexual abuse material (CSAM). While images and videos depicting child sexual abuse are being sold online, the same child can be sold to sex buyers in the local community allowing the trafficker to make even more money from the child's exploitation.

Another prevailing problem touched upon by the panel is ineffective identification and referral of victims of trafficking who are children on the move. In many countries immigration and border control authorities, who are the first point of contact for such children, do not necessarily exchange information and co-operate with child protection agencies. As a result, such children fail to receive protection and are often exposed to double victimization.

Conference speakers also examined available functions, tools and procedures for the development of durable solutions in the best interest of trafficked children. They emphasized the importance of ensuring that critical actors in the provision of services to children – police officers, judges, social workers, teachers, and medical practitioners – should have necessary skills and know how to respond to the needs of child victims of trafficking. Such competencies should be ensured through sustainable State-run pre-service and in-service training programmes.

Throughout the discussion, the panellists highlighted the critical role of State child protection agencies in addressing the needs of trafficked children and how this role can be strengthened through better cross-border co-operation to ensure that children do not go missing while on the move, including when displaced or seeking refuge from armed conflicts.

Child victims of trafficking are entitled to special protection measures, both as children and as victims, in accordance with their rights and needs, and regardless of a child's age, gender, origin, or any other status. Safety, protection and assistance are fundamental for the fulfilment and enjoyment of children's rights, and vigorous measures should be taken against all forms of child exploitation offline and online. Panel 3 will examine available functions, tools and procedures for the development of durable solutions in the best interests of trafficked children. It will reinforce the role of State child protection agencies in national anti-trafficking responses and discuss how this role can be strengthened through better cross-border co-operation, including by ensuring that children do not go missing while on the move, including when displaced or seeking refuge from armed conflicts.

Moderator **Dame Sara Thornton**, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (United Kingdom)

Speakers **Guillaume Landry**, Executive Director, ECPAT International

Staca Shehan, Vice President, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (United States)

Nihal Eminoğlu, Assistant Professor, Çanakkale 18 March University (Türkiye)

Romina Kuko, Deputy Minister of Interior (Albania)

Main Takeaways from Panel 3

- ✓ It is critical to implement truly effective durable solutions for trafficked children that are in their best interests and developed through a multi-agency discussion.
- ✓ It is crucial to integrate unaccompanied minors into host societies to prevent them from going missing and reducing the risks of them being exploited. To facilitate this, States should further strengthen and enhance their guardianship mechanisms.
- ✓ State child protection agencies should develop uniform and co-ordinated procedures to exchange information on children in transit to ensure that every child is tracked and accounted for.
- ✓ An effective, reliable and human rights-based mechanism for assessing the age of a child is an important measure to secure that children can benefit of the specific measures designed to protect their rights.
- ✓ To reflect the constantly evolving trends in child trafficking, including exploitation of children in begging and domestic work, and online sexual exploitation, States should revise their child protection legislation to ensure synergies with existing anti-trafficking laws and procedures.

It is very clear that children are a particularly vulnerable group of migrants and asylum seekers and are, therefore, in need of special protection against multiple dangers they face along their journey.

Nihal Eminoğlu, Assistant Professor,
Çanakkale 18 March University (Türkiye)

THE WAY FORWARD:

TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION

One of the basic lessons I learned when I started working in this field was that the THB victims are not some invisible and nameless persons, somewhere far away from us. It was difficult for me to realise that they are not invisible, but we are not able to see them. Now it is completely clear for me that our moral and legal responsibility is bigger than their invisibility. This obligation is personal to each and every one of us as individuals, even more, it is a collective obligation and task of each country.

Magdalena Nestorovska, National Co-ordinator of the National Commission on Fight against Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration (North Macedonia)

Despite the efforts undertaken across the OSCE region to provide for better protection of human trafficking victims, many of them still lack access to long-term assistance and tailor-made programmes of recovery and (re)integration. Victim support is still fragmented and is often undermined by a lack of co-ordination among service providers.

Protection of THB victims is a commitment to be upheld by the State. The successful implementation of this commitment requires effective partnerships between state agencies, civil society, the private sector and survivor-led groups.

State-funded services hold the key to well-being, justice, recovery, (re)integration and prevention of future victimization.

Delivery of assistance should encourage and build upon victim/survivor participation, respect individual self-determination, and, in the case of children, ensure the best interests of the child.

Ensuring the inclusion of survivors in every step of the decision-making processes, while hearing their voices and respecting their agency, has the potential to empower every survivor to be the agent of their recovery.

The war in Ukraine caused a massive human displacement leading to the fastest growing refugee crisis since the Second World War. Mass migration flows increase the risks of human trafficking and gender-based violence for people, mostly women and children, seeking refuge from armed violence. Against this unfolding crisis, anti-trafficking action needs to be fully mainstreamed into the humanitarian response efforts from the very outset of the design and implementation of a humanitarian operation, and resources must be scaled to the size of the challenge. While currently the need to implement the anti-trafficking prevention measures should be a priority, State protection systems should be ready to offer subsequent assistance to those in need.

15:00 – 16:30

**PANEL 4 – THE WAY FORWARD:
TOWARDS INCLUSIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE PROTECTION**

6 APRIL 2022

Protection of THB victims is a commitment to be upheld by the State. The successful implementation of this commitment often requires effective partnerships between state agencies, civil society, the private sector and survivor-led groups. To improve the capacity of State-led identification and assistance systems to absorb and respond to the needs of all victims of THB, this concluding panel will present views of policy makers, government representatives, international organisations, NGO leaders and victim groups on the way forward. They will outline measures that should be implemented to fully integrate a victim-centred and human rights-based approach into modern-day anti-trafficking action and ensure that victims come first in policies and in practice.

Moderator **Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam**, Head of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE

Speakers **Congressman Christopher Smith**, OSCE PA Special Representative on Human Trafficking Issues (United States)

Magdalena Nestorovska, National Co-ordinator of the National Commission on Fight against Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration (North Macedonia)

Christoph Bierwirth, Head, Liaison Office to the OSCE and Vienna-based UN Agencies, UNHCR

Geneviève Colas, Co-ordinator of the NGO network “Together against Trafficking in Human Beings” for Secours Catholique – Caritas France

Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman, Member of ODIHR International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC) and UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Trafficking (United States)

17:00 – 17:30

CLOSING REMARKS

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

CONCLUSIONS FROM PANEL 4 AND CLOSING REMARKS

Strengthening and diversifying partnerships

- ✓ The OSCE in general, and the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons in particular, remain a valuable platform to co-ordinate efforts to protect the most vulnerable.
- ✓ Co-operation among governmental, international and civil society actors should be based on comprehensive, well-adjusted, multi-stakeholder and cross-dimensional efforts, with mutual respect for different mandates and areas of expertise.
- ✓ It is important to create new forms of co-operation with the business community to prevent trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation and strengthen the capacity of businesses to remove presumed victims from exploitative situations and refer them to appropriate services.

Creating rigorous protection frameworks


- ✓ There is a need for laws and measures across the OSCE region that meet victims' needs and ensure that survivors play a key role in informing policy-making.
- ✓ Holistic assistance should be available, accessible and appropriate to every victim/survivor so the latter becomes the agent of their own recovery.
- ✓ States need to allocate resources to existing protection mechanisms, including NGO-based services, to facilitate prompt identification of victims and allow for immediate access to specialised services.
- ✓ Not only should States create compensation mechanisms for victims of human trafficking but they should also monitor their effective implementation, adopt respective bylaws and conduct training to strengthen the capacity of judges, public prosecutors and victims' legal representatives to effectively ensure the right of compensation.

Addressing crisis-related THB

- ✓ Armed violence and displacement exacerbate the exposure to risks, threats, abuse, and exploitation, including trafficking in human beings.
- ✓ States should adopt strong humanitarian policies and immigration regulations that offer a path to citizenship for victim/survivors of human trafficking.
- ✓ The mobility of the displaced amid the humanitarian crisis related to the war in Ukraine will require stronger cross-border co-operation, with a view to better monitor developments and to prevent persons at risk “disappearing” from the protection radar.
- ✓ It is key to ensure that first line responders who work in reception centres are sensitised to the basic concepts of combating trafficking in human beings and are in a position to provide counsel to the people seeking refuge.
- ✓ Anti-trafficking and gender-based violence hotlines should be further strengthened and promoted, with advice available in languages understood by clients.

Combating online exploitation

- ✓ States should adopt measures to ensure the accountability of online platforms to monitor and report the virtual content which endangers people at risk, especially women and children, as well as raise public awareness of such dangers.



The key to a full, healthy recovery and reintegration is holistic assistance provided immediately after the identification of the exploitation/human trafficking case, and throughout the years.

Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman, Member of ODIHR International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC) and UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Trafficking (United States)

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"Once crossed the border, [#refugees](#) risk becoming victims of [#humantrafficking](#). Crucial to provide comprehensive assistance," Zbigniew Rau, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland and @OSCE Chairperson-in-Office speaking at the [#CTHB22](#)



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Helga Maria Schmid
@HelgaSchmid_SG

With millions of Ukrainians forced from their homes, mostly [#women](#) and [#children](#), today's reality is a sobering reminder that we need to do more.

The @osce_cthb continues to protect the rights of the most vulnerable. Together we can make a real difference. [#CTHB22](#)



OSCE Anti-Trafficking und OSCE

7:17 nachm. · 4. Apr. 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

← Tweet

OSCE Anti-Trafficking
@osce_cthb

[#CTHB22](#) → Staca Shehan, Vice President, @MissingKids-USA, "[#Child](#) sexual [#exploitation](#) is happening every day. In 2021 we received 29 million reports that contained 85 million images and videos of child abuse material. This is an omnipresent issue that is spread across the globe"



22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

In 2021 we received 29 million reports that contained 85 million images and videos of child abuse material. This is an omnipresent issue that is spread across the globe.

Staca Shehan
Vice President, National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (United States)

OSCE

5:23 nachm. · 5. Apr. 2022 · Twitter Web App

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OSCE Anti-Trafficking
@osce_cthb

[#CTHB22](#) [#TIPHero](#) Shakhnoza Khassanova, Director of the 🇰🇿 Legal Centre for Women's Initiative 'Sana Sezim': Stigma and discrimination towards people with disabilities remain a major source of additional vulnerability. Protection systems rarely take into account disabilities."



22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

Protection systems rarely take into account disabilities. Too often, State protection agencies lack expertise and capacity to offer adequate legal, psychological and medical assistance.

Shakhnoza Khassanova
Director, Legal Centre for Women's Initiative 'Sana Sezim' (Kazakhstan)

OSCE

OSCE und 3 weitere Personen

3:13 nachm. · 5. Apr. 2022 · Twitter Web App

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 **OSCE Anti-Trafficking**
@osce_cthb

"Too often, assistance to [#humantrafficking](#) victims is conditional to cooperation with criminal justice processes" Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the [#CoE](#) Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings and Head of [@CoE_Trafficking](#) at [#CTHB22](#)



4:21 nachm. · 4. Apr. 2022 · Twitter Web App

← **Tweet**

 **OSCE Anti-Trafficking**
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"Minorities, people on the move including from armed conflicts, people with disabilities... We are missing too many victims." Katarina Lughofer, ad interim Head of Asylum and Migration sector/[#EU](#) Agency for Fundamental Rights.



2:27 nachm. · 5. Apr. 2022 · Twitter Web App

← **Tweet**

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@osce_cthb

Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman, Member of [@osce_odihr](#) /[#ISTAC](#), [@UN](#) Voluntary Fund for Victims of Contemporary Forms of Slavery/THB,(USA), "Children across the world at this very moment are being exploited. We cannot afford another generation of children to live a life of trauma."



4:44 PM · Apr 6, 2022 · Twitter Web App


← **Tweet**

 **OSCE Anti-Trafficking**
@osce_cthb

[#CTHB22](#) Dame Sara Thornton,  Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, "Two million Ukrainian children are separated from their parents. They are vulnerable to [#childtrafficking](#). Traffickers will target vulnerable persons in time of crisis."



4:43 nachm. · 5. Apr. 2022 · Twitter Web App

 For more information about our latest activities, follow us on Twitter:
https://twitter.com/osce_cthb

ANNEX I:

PROGRAMME OF 2022 ALLIANCE CONFERENCE ONLINE SIDE-EVENTS

MONDAY 4 APRIL

18:00-19:00

The Inclusion of survivors' voices to ensure a human rights-based and survivor-centred approach to combating human trafficking

Online side-event organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) (via Zoom)

TUESDAY 5 APRIL

9:30-11:00

Unconditional support and access to residence on personal grounds is needed to uphold victims' rights and their protection

Online side-event organized by LEFO, CoE, LSI and PICUM (via Zoom)

11:00-12:00

Gender-sensitive approaches to protection of victims of trafficking

Online side-event organized by the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (Hofburg, Ratsaal and via Zoom)

12:00-13:00

Hidden in plain sight: Giving a voice to the vulnerable and forgotten

Online side-event organized by the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (via Zoom)

18:00-19:30

Effective National Referral Mechanisms to protect and promote the rights of victims and survivors of trafficking, especially children

Online side-event organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) (via Zoom)

WEDNESDAY 6 APRIL

10:00-11:00

Partnership in Action: What NGOs can do together to protect victims of trafficking. International Network experience – 2018-2022

Online side-event organized by the International Network of NGOs against THB and Other Forms of Violence "Partnership in Action" in co-operation with the Eurasia Foundation (via Zoom)

11:00-12:00

Ensuring a child rights based approach in identifying and providing access to services and justice for child victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation

Online side-event organized by Child10 and The Council of the Baltic Sea States (via Zoom)

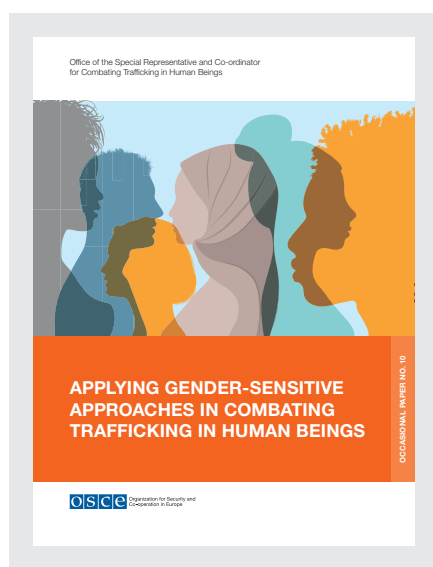
12:00-13:00

Promoting complementary legal pathways for the displaced to prevent smuggling, trafficking and exploitation

Online side-event organized by The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) (via Zoom)

ANNEX II:

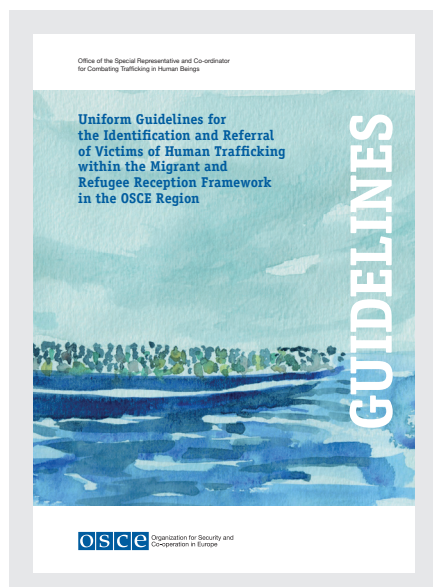
ADDITIONAL OSCE RESOURCES



Applying gender-sensitive approaches in combating trafficking in human beings

The paper offers a comprehensive account of gender aspects in trafficking in human beings, and provides options to apply gender-sensitive approaches in anti-trafficking efforts. It is based on findings of a research that included surveys, expert interviews, and expert group meetings with victims of trafficking, anti-trafficking experts, service providers, and law enforcement.

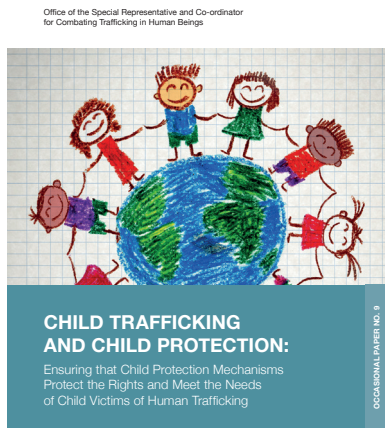
<https://www.osce.org/cthb/486700>



Uniform guidelines for the identification and referral of victims of human trafficking within the migrant and refugee reception framework in the OSCE region

The publication offers a set of practical measures designed to enhance the identification of victims of human trafficking by front-line professionals engaged in migrant and refugee reception procedures in the OSCE region.

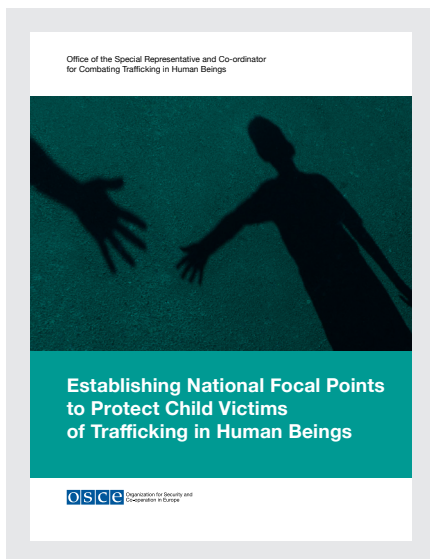
<https://www.osce.org/cthb/413123>



Child trafficking and child protection: ensuring that child protection mechanisms protect the rights and meet the needs of child victims of human trafficking

Following the recommendations of the 17th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, this publication analyses how the protection of child victims of trafficking should be addressed within broader child protection frameworks. In particular, it focuses on how state-run child protection agencies should make and implement decisions about comprehensive, secure and sustainable solutions in the best interests of a trafficked child.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/405095>



Establishing national focal points to protect child victims of trafficking in human beings

The publication describes the roles and responsibilities for national focal points for child victims of trafficking and provides an overview of prerequisites and essential conditions for such focal points to be effective in fostering information exchange between countries.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/472305>



Discouraging the demand that fosters trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation

The research highlights the importance of addressing the demand that fosters trafficking for sexual exploitation to prevent exploitation and harm to victims; it analyses the ways States have responded to international obligations to discourage demand; and offers recommendations on how to incorporate demand into anti-trafficking efforts.

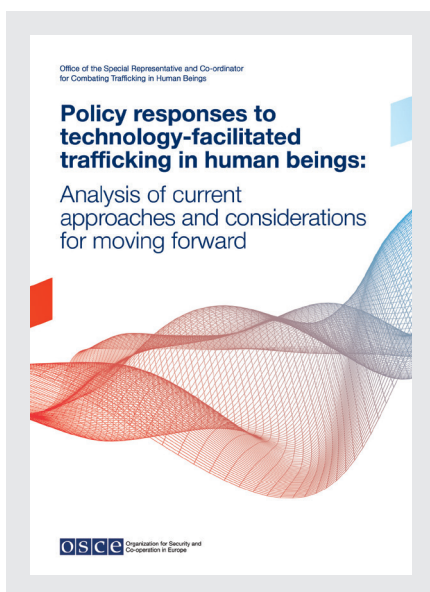
<https://www.osce.org/cthb/489388>



Leveraging innovation to fight trafficking in human beings: a comprehensive analysis of technology tools

The paper takes stock of technology tools developed to combat trafficking and analyses how law enforcement, civil society, businesses and academia can take advantage of technology to fight against it. It also examines the ways technology can be misused to facilitate human trafficking and offers recommendations to governments.

<https://www.osce.org/secretariat/455206>



Policy responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings

The report examines the practices adopted by the private sector and civil society organizations as well as the accelerating shift toward government-led responses. It also provides a set of recommendations for States on how to use policies and legislation to combat human trafficking while respecting other fundamental rights such as privacy and freedom of expression.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/514141>



Policy and legislative recommendations towards the effective implementation of the non-punishment provision with regard to victims of trafficking

The paper examines the principle of non-punishment with regard to victims of trafficking in international law. It explores the scope of its application and discusses the challenges in its practical implementation. It also provides guidance and policy recommendations towards its effective implementation.

<https://www.osce.org/secretariat/101002>

**Office of the Special
Representative and
Co-ordinator for
Combating Trafficking
in Human Beings**

OSCE Secretariat
Wallnerstrasse 6
A-1010 Vienna, Austria

@osce_cthb
info-cthb@osce.org
osce.org/cthb