

FOREWORD

Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is a transnational threat to all OSCE participating States which shows no signs of diminishing. Modern slavery in the 21st century continues to be a challenge to the international community despite our best efforts to eradicate this crime against humanity, to guarantee the safety and well-being of women, men and children and ensure that they are free from exploitation and torture. It is our common responsibility and our mission to achieve this goal of a secure society free from products and services produced through exploitation.

THB is a gross violation of human rights. The OSCE has reiterated that: it is an abhorrent human rights abuse (OSCE Ministerial Decision MC(8).DEC/1); an abhorrent violation of the dignity and rights of human beings (MC(10).JOUR/2); it violates human dignity and undermines the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (MC.DEC/13/05; MC.DEC/14/06). In January 2010, this notion of human trafficking was confirmed by the European Court on Human Rights, which recognized THB, in line with Article 4 of the European Convention on Human Rights, as a form of slavery and forced labour.

The OSCE addresses human trafficking as part and parcel of our efforts to ensure common and comprehensive security, as an issue encompassing all three OSCE dimensions – even though, protecting the rights of trafficked persons, their interests, their rehabilitation and reintegration have always been at the centre of our activities and our ongoing dialogue with the participating States. The OSCE has provided the participating States with advanced and comprehensive recommendations on what can (and should) be done to ensure adequate protection and assistance to the victims of this horrendous crime.

Still, another critical side of tackling human trafficking is not adequately studied, the criminal component. This lacuna of knowledge has posed a serious challenge to the effective identification of trafficking cases and equally to efficient prosecution. In comparison with the huge amount of persons estimated to be trafficked annually across borders, which amount to more than 500,000, as well as those trafficked internally, the 5,000 cases of actual prosecutions make a mockery of the plight of the victims, their broken destinies, and hinder the process of recovery from their suffering and trauma, as well as the restoration of their dignity.

This is why the OSCE proposed to implement an Expert Group Initiative under the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking and undertook an exploratory research “Analysing the Business Model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better Prevent the Crime” – an innovative study carried out by a team of internationally recognized experts, Ms. Alexis Aronowitz (the main author/consultant), Mag. Gerda Theuermann (consultant, international expert on migration and THB issues), and Dr. Elena Tyuryukanova (consultant, Director of Centre for Migration Studies). Led by Ms. Aronowitz, known in the anti-trafficking community for her book “Human Trafficking. Human Misery. The Global Trade in Human Beings”, the team produced evidence-based research revealing criminal gangs and their modus operandi, thus helping to confront and dismantle the criminal business. The expression “Trafficking pays!” is an apt statement of the *raison d’être* behind all criminal networks and those facilitating this heinous crime. How can one undermine this profit motive along with the seemingly zero risk of the undertaking? The study provides some possible answers for serious consideration. It is a timely and significant step forward in the joint efforts of the international community to stamp out THB – a crime and a violation of the whole spectrum of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

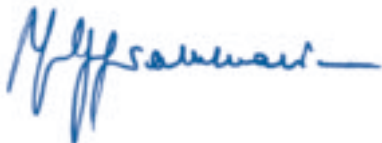
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This study is the result of the dedicated work of many people. First and foremost, the main author of the research, Ms. Alexis Aronowitz and her team, consultants Gerda Theuermann and Elena Tyuryukanova. They have done their utmost to collect reliable data, to validate theoretical frameworks, and to share their conclusions with practitioners and researchers, while overcoming technical obstacles, time constraints, language barriers with inspired professionalism. We must also extend our sincere gratitude to Dr. Louise Shelley, an anti-trafficking expert of global level and a reviewer, whose advice and guidance were of great help and value for the team. We would like to sincerely commend Mr. Joachim Delventhal whose dedication and tremendous support enabled the team to achieve this meaningful result.

This publication is a true reflection of the significant contributions provided to the authors by a large group of experts from the OSCE participating States, including state officials and NGOs from Austria, Netherlands, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Belgium, and Tajikistan. Some initial ideas for the outline for this research were provided by Prof. Nikos Passas (USA), known for his Anomie Theory and publications on criminology. The list of experts (Appendix 3) who contributed to this research is hard to complete – we are gladly adding the names of Dr. John Picarelli (International Center, National Institute of Justice, USA), Ms. Sheila Coutts, Ms. Narue Shiki and Ms. Albina Yabukova (UNODC), Ms. Regina Rusz (National Co-ordinator on THB, Austria), Mr. Gerhard Joszt (Colonel, Bundeskriminalamt, Austria), Mr. Stef Janssens (Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism, Belgium), Mr. Hannes Snijder (Bureau of National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Netherlands), Ms. Katie Rogers and Mr. Pier Rossi-Longhi (IOM-Vienna), Ms. Elisabeth Duban (independent expert, United Kingdom), as well as the OSCE colleagues – Mr. Dimitar Jalnev (Anti-Terrorism Unit) and Ms. Freya Von Groote (Adviser on Gender Issues).

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