



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

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



22nd Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

*Protection: upholding victims' rights
and strengthening assistance*

FINAL AGENDA

4-6 April 2022
Hofburg, Vienna and via Zoom (upon registration)

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Day 1: Monday 4 April

14:00 – 14:45 Welcoming Remarks

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

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

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)

Discussion

18:00 – 19:30 Side events

Day 2: Tuesday 5 April

11:00 – 13:00 Side events

14:00 – 15:30 **Panel 2 – Ensuring protection to all victims**

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)

Discussion

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30

Panel 3 – Protecting the most vulnerable: developing durable solutions for child victims of trafficking

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 (Turkey)

Romina Kuko, Deputy Minister of Interior (Albania)

Discussion

18:00 – 19:30

Side events

Day 3: Wednesday 6 April

11:00 – 14:00 Side events

15:00 – 16:30 **Panel 4 – The way forward: towards inclusive and comprehensive protection**

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)

Discussion

16:30 – 17:00 *Coffee Break*

17:00 – 17:30 **Closing Remarks**

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