



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

Highlights of the
18th *ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS* Conference

“Everyone Has a Role: How to Make a Difference Together”



Vienna, Hofburg
23 - 24 April 2018

Introduction

Fifteen years since the adoption of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* conference continues to be a broad international forum addressing emerging trends of human trafficking and promoting urgent actions by developing concrete recommendations and effective joint strategies.

The 18th *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* conference entitled [Everyone Has a Role: How to Make a Difference Together](#) 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 conference advocated for a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach in line with the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later (PC.DEC/1107/Corr.1) which introduced a new chapter on partnerships. The chapter calls for co-operation at all levels that could be based either on shared values and strategic goals, or on more focused and targeted tasks, addressing specific forms of exploitation and thus involving specific agencies and actors. This concept was further developed from 2013 to date, including through the adoption of two 2017 Ministerial Council Decisions, namely “Strengthening Efforts to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings” (MC.DEC/6/17) and “Strengthening Efforts to Combat All Forms of Child Trafficking, Including for Sexual Exploitation, as well as Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation of Children” (MC.DEC/7/17).

The two intensive days of 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 had learned of a number of pioneering projects, national experiences and promising practices across the OSCE region. The panellists included representatives of municipalities, parliamentary committees, financial investigators, workers’ rights and religious organizations as well as survivors themselves, who shared examples of successful partnership models that broaden the scope and outreach of multi-disciplinary and multi-agency programmes.

Representing all of the 57 OSCE participating States and the 11 Partners for Co-operation, this high-level event brought together a total number of 351 participants, including 71 NGO representatives, nearly 200 governmental officials, 30 members of international and regional organizations, 20 academic and business experts as well as colleagues from OSCE institutions, structures and field operations. The proceedings were live-streamed and watched by thousands of viewers from across the globe, and had contributed to the discussion of human trafficking in social media.

The conference concluded with a set of concrete recommendations stemming from the conference discussions, summarized and presented by the panel rapporteurs. All presentations are available in the Resources section of the [conference webpage](#).

A record number of seven side events were held on the margins of the *Alliance* conference:

1. **Enhancing Access to Compensation for Victims of Crime** co-organized with La Strada International.
2. **Human Rights, Gender and Trafficking in Human Beings** organized by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Strategic Police Matters Unit of the Transnational Threats Department (SPMU).
3. **Taking stock: The Global Agenda in the Fight against Trafficking in Persons** co-organized with the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE.
4. **Untapped Resource? Leveraging the Travel Industry to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings** organized by the OSCE Office of the OSCE Special Representatives and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.
5. **The Critical Role of Civil Society to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings** organized by the Office of the OSCE Special Representatives and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.
6. **Care for Minors: the Complementarity between NGOs and Public Services** co-organized by France, Greece and Belgium.
7. **The Role of the Media in the Fight against Trafficking** organized by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Opening and Welcoming Remarks

Vincenzo Amendola, Italian Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; **Paul Bekkers**, Director of the OSCE Office of the Secretary General; **Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir**, Director of the OSCE/ODIHR, **Yannick Glemarec**, Deputy Executive Director of the UN Women via video address; **John Brandolino**, UNODC Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs; **Afshan Khan**, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia; **Vincent Cochetel**, UNHCR Special Envoy for the Central Mediterranean Route and the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings **Madina Jarbussynova** opened and welcomed the 2018 *Alliance* conference participants.

The high-level speakers unanimously acknowledged the timely topic of this year's Alliance conference and the necessity to work jointly in a more effective way. They emphasized that States should be willing and able to talk to each other in order to develop the sustainable capacity to address the human trafficking crime. Multi-disciplinary bodies led by national coordinators or other equivalent mechanisms should not only effectively function at the national level but also have access to their counterparts across the OSCE region and beyond. Sharing of practical experiences across borders should be regularized and become a norm. Special attention was drawn to the need for an unreserved engagement of civil society actors in the policy making and strategy setting processes, as well as the added value of the private sector's involvement in prevention efforts including tackling the demand.

In her keynote address, **Monique Villa**, Chief Executive Officer of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, dwelled on the power of partnerships and how and why the Thomson Reuter Foundation could be regarded as a successful example of achieving impact through its connections with key partners. She emphasized the importance of ensuring adequate media coverage of human trafficking cases as a powerful driving force in mobilizing a coherent anti-trafficking response that should be led and co-ordinated by governments with the engagement of all relevant actors. She also reminded the audience of the sheer scale of contemporary slavery and human trafficking around the globe, and the need to clean today's supply chains of any manifestations of forced labour.

Panel 1: Review of Current Co-operation Mechanisms in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Panel 1 was moderated by **Heracles Moskoff**, National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Greece, with the Rapporteur being **Martijn Pluim**, Director of Migration Dialogues and Co-operation, ICMPD. **Frédéric Kurz**, Deputy General Prosecutor of Belgium; **Luvсан Erdenechuluun**, President of the Human Security Policy Studies Centre, Mongolia, **Jeroen Beirnaert**, Director of Human and Trade Union Rights of the International Trade Union Confederation; and **Mons. mr. sc. Tomo Knežević**, Director, Caritas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, featured as panel speakers.

The discussion focused on the review of the existing state-led national co-ordination mechanisms for combating trafficking in human beings. It raised several questions about the effectiveness of current partnerships and called for a change of mindsets in order to keep these partnerships sustainable. The panel emphasized the importance of contributions from specialized agencies, NGOs, trade unions and religious organizations, as well as the comparative advantage of each anti-trafficking actor at the political and operational level. Speakers also highlighted the need for a trust-based and respectful co-operation at all stages of the anti-trafficking response encompassing prevention, protection and prosecution.

The key recommendations of the panel include:

- Effective implementation of anti-trafficking policies and measures requires meaningful and inclusive partnerships that hinge on multi-disciplinary co-operation, full engagement of and across-the-board co-ordination among all the actors.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships should be broad and flexible enough to respond to international, national and local needs as well as provide expert-led platforms, be sufficiently resourced and eventually have a dedicated support structure.
- Co-operation mechanisms and partnerships should be driven by political will or vision, and an ambition shared by all parties. At operational level, they should be further supported by the technical expertise to achieve the objectives of co-operation as well as trust, resources and time. The adoption of a legal co-operation framework will facilitate the organizational process and clarify roles and tasks of each partner involved.

- The appointment of reference magistrates for trafficking in human beings at the level of the public prosecutor is recommended as a good practice to ensure a coherent implementation of the criminal policy. Likewise, local partnerships can be supported by the appointment of a reference magistrate at the local level.
- Co-operation and co-ordination requires regular consultations and dedicated meetings which would summon all the relevant actors involved in the design and implementation of anti-trafficking policies and measures.
- Regular review and monitoring of partnerships should be an integral part of the co-operation and co-ordination modalities, thus creating more trust and confidence among partners, in particular vis-à-vis new challenges and tasks.
- The role of civil society in combating trafficking in human beings including trade unions and religious organizations should be fully acknowledged and recognized in compliance with the OSCE commitments and relevant international obligations.
- Regular and sufficient funding should be provided to civil society organizations wherever participating States choose to delegate to NGOs the provision of support and assistance to victims and the management of shelters.
- Trade unions should have the capacity and the mandate to interfere whenever there is a risk of exploitation, and prevent workers from falling victim to trafficking or forced labour.
- Due to the nature of their humanitarian and educational activities, religious leaders and organizations should be encouraged to act as multipliers and reach out to local communities and schools through working with teachers of different confessions. This would ensure access to such vulnerable groups as children, adolescents, unemployed and socially-deprived persons, as well as undocumented migrant workers.
- Pre-service and in-service training for teachers and school staff should be ensured to increase their understanding of the human trafficking crime and its impact on children.

Panel 2: Towards More Inclusive Partnerships

Panel 2 was moderated by **Larysa Belskaya**, Head of the General Department for Multilateral Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belarus, and its proceedings were reported on by **Sara Pennicino**, Adjunct Professor of International Human Rights, Johns Hopkins SAIS Europe, Italy. The Panel included **Angel Tilvar**, Member of Parliament, Parliamentary Group for the Fight against Human Trafficking, Romania; **Vineta Polatside**, Head of the Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings, Council of the Baltic Sea States; **Svein Dahle**, Co-ordinator of the Measures against Human Trafficking at the Oslo Municipality, Norway; **Flor Molina**, Member of the U.S. Advisory Council on Human Trafficking, United States of America; **Barry MacKillop**, Deputy Director of the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada; **Linda Latham**, Manager of the Anti-Human Trafficking Team and Women's Health Service, Health Service Executive, Ireland; **Livia Wagner**, Coordinator of the Global Initiative Network, Private Sector Advisor, Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime.

Presenting examples of good and innovative co-operation mechanisms, the Panel demonstrated how institutions and agencies that may not be traditionally involved in combating trafficking in human beings could impact various aspects of the anti-trafficking agenda. The speakers elaborated on the role of parliaments in raising the profile of human trafficking, the necessity of engaging local authorities in the process of identifying and assisting trafficked persons, and the use of professional platforms and networks in the elimination of forced labour in supply chains. Canada's innovative practice of identifying victims and traffickers by bringing together financial institutions, private agencies and law enforcement to track suspicious financial transactions re-affirmed the added value of inclusive partnerships. The need to consider the voices of human trafficking survivors was reiterated by a representative of the US Advisory Council who showcased the work done by survivors at the policy level in the United States.

Stressing the importance of inclusive partnerships, the Panel presented the following recommendations:

- Parliamentarians should be regarded as core players not only in facilitating the adoption of relevant CTHB legislation in compliance with international standards and obligations but also as key players in raising the political profile of anti-trafficking action through fostering better synergies between the legislature and the executive in the fight against the crime.
- While local authorities can often be the first to come into contact with both victims of trafficking and the perpetrators of the crime, they often lack sufficient expertise and resources for an adequate and timely response. Efforts should be undertaken in adopting such legislative frameworks that would formally recognize and regulate the role of municipalities and other local government entities in national referral mechanisms or their equivalents, in particular in the areas of prevention and protection of trafficked persons.
- Pre- and in-service training for medical practitioners in the identification and referral of trafficked persons should be institutionalized at the national level. Doctors and nurses play a pivotal role in the implementation of individual rehabilitation programmes and are often among those professionals who evoke victims' trust and belief. Similarly to local authorities, health services should be formally included into national anti-trafficking multi-disciplinary co-ordination mechanisms wherever and whenever this is not yet the case.
- Public-private partnerships are of paramount importance in the effective fight against trafficking in human beings. Best practices in eliminating human trafficking and forced labour in supply chains should be disseminated to businesses through professional platforms and networks. Such practices and measures should be reflected in respective regulations at the normative level.

- Partnerships between financial investigation authorities and banks and other financial service providers should be further promoted through the development and adoption of actionable indicators that would help detect potential trafficking-related transactions, thus contributing not only to evidence gathering and building viable human trafficking cases, but also to identification of trafficked persons.
- Anti-trafficking policies should be developed with the involvement of survivors of human trafficking. Such mechanisms should be formalized and institutionalized at the highest level to ensure its impact on designing the anti-trafficking agenda and strategy. The format of advisory councils or other similar bodies can serve as a good example of reflecting the voice and the role of survivors in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings.

Panel 3 – Looking forward: Recommendations for Policy Implementation

The Rapporteurs of the previous panels featured as speakers in Panel 3 which was moderated by **Rasa Ostrauskaite**, the OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats. They presented the recommendations of the previous panel discussions and offered their concluding thoughts on the importance of establishing inclusive and meaningful partnerships and how current co-operation mechanisms for combating human trafficking can further be strengthened.

Two participants of the OSCE simulation-based training project “Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes”, **Thomas Laigaard**, Social Consultant of the Danish Centre against Human Trafficking, The National Board of Social Services, 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 training experiences and discussed the potential of such exercises to foster multi-disciplinary responses and promote more effective multi-agency co-ordination.

To conclude the conference deliberations, the floor was given to the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ambassador **Madina Jarbussynova**. The Special Representative reiterated that her Office would continue working tirelessly with partners, the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to strengthen synergies among a wide range of actors, from national authorities to civil society organizations, towards a truly multi-disciplinary and co-ordinated anti-trafficking response.

Side events

The recommendations elaborated during the side events complemented those of the main conference programme.

1. Enhancing Access to Compensation for Victims of Crime

This side event was organized and moderated by La Strada International (moderator **Suzanne Hoff**, International Co-ordinator) in the framework of the Justice at last – European action for compensation project, funded by the European Commission. The opening remarks were delivered by **Madina Jarbussynova**, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, who stressed the OSCE's long-standing commitment to promote the right to compensation in practice.

Three speakers, **Herman Bolhaar**, the new Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Violence against Children, Netherlands; **Evelyn Probst**, Director of LEFO-IBF Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women, Austria; and **Klara Skrivankova**, Europe Programme and Advocacy Coordinator Anti-Slavery International, United Kingdom, elaborated on the need and major obstacles to ensure compensation in practice for victims of crime, in particular for trafficked persons. The speakers reflected on existing legal procedures and alternative mechanisms and highlighted remaining bottlenecks and recommendations for change. All agreed that more should be done to ensure that compensation is more often awarded, as this would not only be an adequate instrument of restorative justice and prevention of re-trafficking, but also serve as recognition by the states of the violation of victims' rights and the damages they have suffered.

Key recommendations of the side event discussions include:

- More awareness on compensation is needed; anyone who provides assistance to trafficked persons, including public authorities, service providers, and legal representatives, should be aware of the right to compensation and how compensation can be sought. Victims should be informed about their rights to compensation in a timely and appropriate manner.
- The right to compensation for victims of crime should be translated into practice by ensuring full use of all mechanisms in place, along with the implementation of ancillary rights for all victims, including the right to safe reporting, information, legal aid and ability to remain in the country during proceedings.
- It should be ensured that compensation payments become less dependent on prosecution of offenders; more access to (free) legal support for victims is needed to start civil and alternative procedures and the high threshold for victims to start a procedure should be reduced.
- More priority should be put on confiscation of assets of perpetrators, with confiscated proceeds of trafficking used for the benefit of the victims. Additionally, sustainable funding mechanisms should be ensured for special compensation funds to be established.
- All stakeholders should work together to ensure compensation being granted, in particular providing for portable justice in the case of international referrals.

- More data should be collected on submitted compensation claims and compensation awards.

2. Human Rights, Gender and Trafficking in Human Beings

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the Strategic Police Matters Unit/Transnational Threats Department (TNTD/SPMU) jointly organized a side event entitled Human Rights, Gender and the Trafficking in Human Beings. This event brought together perspectives from a survivor of trafficking in human beings, a government representative, law enforcement officials and mental health service practitioners to highlight the need for the development of an in-depth understanding and a multi-disciplinary, human rights sensitive, and victim-centered approach to the gender aspects of trafficking in human beings. The panel provided a forum for discussion of gender, socio-economic and cultural dynamics, which result in vulnerability to trafficking in women and girls, as well as the impact of effective prosecution and protection efforts in the OSCE region.

The recommendations of the side event highlight the need for:

- Inclusion of survivor voices in the development of policy to combat trafficking in human beings;
- Training of law enforcement in trauma-informed and gender and culturally sensitive approaches;
- Implementation by OSCE participating States of mental health guidelines for first responders on trauma-informed interactions with survivors of trafficking in human beings post-rescue, which are being developed as part of the update of ODIHR's National Referral Mechanism Handbook;
- Ensuring the availability of adequate mental health service provisions to survivors of trafficking in human beings;
- Reassessment of policies in the OSCE participating States, which may result in the generation of demand for trafficking in women and girls;
- Taking into account perspectives and concerns of countries of origin, transit and destination in the framework of the international CTHB co-operation;
- Specific training in interview techniques for law enforcement representatives in charge of interviewing victims of trafficking in human beings.

3. Taking stock: The Global Agenda in the Fight against Trafficking in Persons

The side event was co-organized by the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE and the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The aim of the event was to examine the recent appraisal of the UN Global Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons (September 2017) and its practical implementation, notably towards the protection of vulnerable groups such as children. It was also an opportunity to discuss the concrete actions which must be taken to effectively and efficiently implement the recommendations of the Action Plan, taking into

consideration the contribution of all relevant stakeholders in the process. The OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ambassador **Madina Jarbussynova** opened the side event. **Andrei Lozovik**, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE moderated the debate, and the speakers included **Larysa Belskaya**, Head of the General Department for Multilateral Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Belarus; **Ilias Chatzis**, Chief, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC; **Sacha Chan Kam**, Senior Regional Migrant Assistance Specialist, IOM.

The recommendations of the side event can be summarized as follows:

- In addition to strengthening the traditional partnerships of states, international and non-governmental organizations, it is important to attract new partners, primarily businesses, to co-operate in combating trafficking in human beings, since most of the cases of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation take place in the business domain;
- The capacity to collect data on trafficking in persons should be strengthened and a methodology developed to measure progress in this area, including in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- There is a need to further develop the partnership between the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and States, as provided for in the Political Declaration on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

4. **Untapped Resource? Leveraging the Travel Industry to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings**

The side event was organized by the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The objective of the side event was to familiarize the audience with practices existing in different OSCE participating States on the leveraging of the travel industry to prevent trafficking in human beings and generate a debate on the additional steps that state institutions and the travel industry could undertake to better identify victims of trafficking in persons and bring criminals to justice. **Youla Haddadin**, Advisor on Trafficking in Persons, Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR, moderated the side event. Speakers at the side event included **Nicole L. Bambas** from the Office of International Transportation and Trade, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT); **Alda Hrönn Jóhannsdóttir**, Deputy Chief of the Sudurnes Police District, Head of Prosecutors unit in the Sudurnes District, Iceland and **Jon Bush**, Prevent Unit, Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, UK Home Office.

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 such forward-looking initiatives as the Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking, the Blue Lightning Initiative, the U.S. DOT Advisory Committee on Human Trafficking and

recent DOT related legislation on human trafficking. Attention was paid to the approach of law enforcement authorities to preventing human trafficking in the travel industry, spotting human trafficking at airports, successful and unsuccessful practical cases of victims' identification, challenges to identifying human trafficking cases at airports and the way forward. In addition, a presentation was given on a combating human trafficking learning module implemented by international airlines as part of the training requirements offered to crew and other airport ground staff.

The recommendations of the side event can be summarized as follows:

- Partnerships with public and private stakeholders should be promoted to empower transportation employees and passengers to recognize and report possible instances of human trafficking;
- State authorities should increase and formalize co-operation with domestic carriers, including through training of cabin personnel and ground staff and implementation of "Don't regret – report!" policy to ensure that the smallest suspicion does not go unnoticed;
- International co-operation needs to be increased, Europol being a positive example in this regard;
- Flexible digital programs, including artificial intelligence and machine learning have to be put in place to increase the capacity to analyse big data sets;
- Awareness campaigns have to be conducted to educate employees of the travel industry and the general public about the indicators of human trafficking;
- "Suspicious" individuals and cases at national and international levels should be registered and shared within relevant professional networks;
- OSCE participating States should explore the possibility of developing policies to promote outreach and educational programs to support recognition, prevention, and reporting of human trafficking, disqualification for individuals who use commercial motor vehicles in committing a felony involving trafficking of people, as well as require that air carriers should train flight attendants to recognize and report suspected instances of human trafficking.

5. The Critical Role of Civil Society to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings

This side event was organized by the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR-CTHB) and moderated by its Senior Co-ordination Adviser **Tetiana Rudenko**. The opening remarks delivered by **Ambassador Claude Wild**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE, the United Nations and to the International Organizations in Vienna, were followed by an exchange of expert opinions between **Waltraud Heller**, Programme Manager Cooperation with Civil Society, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) and **Klara Skrivankova**, Europe Programme and Advocacy Coordinator, Anti-Slavery International.

The event aimed to further enrich the topical discussion with anti-trafficking NGOs from the OSCE region, initiated by the OSR-CTHB in 2016-2017. The discussion centred on the role and challenges faced by these NGOs in their daily work vis-à-vis their advocacy efforts, policy making engagement, funding and sustainability prospects, service provision, and networking and co-operation arrangements. The speakers agreed that the role of NGOs should not be reduced to merely that of contracted service-providers and re-affirmed the need to first and foremost regard them as human rights defenders whose constructive criticism is vital for democratic processes and crucial for progress. In the times of the shrinking space for civil society and the “non-intended side effects” of tightening security policies, participating States need to be conscious of the added value and the complementarity that the co-operation with NGOs is bringing to the effective response to trafficking in human beings.

Key recommendations of the side event discussions include:

- Truly effective anti-trafficking responses should benefit from the exchange of thoughts and ideas between all forms of civil society, including social movements, self-organising groups, specialised NGOs, academia and trade unions;
- The engagement of civil society in anti-trafficking work needs to be understood within a broader process of strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law, including the right to free speech;
- Specialized NGOs should be admitted as full-fledged members into national co-ordination mechanisms for combating trafficking in human beings;
- Where participating States delegate to NGOs the provision of support and assistance to trafficked persons, regular and sufficient funding should be provided to ensure compliance with relevant international obligations and standards;
Being flexible and mobile in their modus operandi, NGOs should be regarded as valuable resources for identifying new human trafficking trends and be consulted accordingly in the development of adequate responses.

6. Care for Minors: the Complementarity between NGOs and Public Services

This side event was organized by the Permanent Representations of France, Greece and Belgium to the OSCE. The opening remarks were delivered by the French Permanent Representative to the OSCE **Ambassador Veronique Roger-Lacan** and the Greek National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings **Heracles Moskoff**. The panellists Ambassador (Hon) **Marc Van Den Reeck**, Head of International Co-operation of “The Smile of the Child” NGO, Greece and **Marie-Pierre Penuad**, judicial protection for young people – in charge of the mission « unaccompanied minors » of France, focussed their interventions on the issues of actual needs of unaccompanied foreign minors and their adequate protection and rehabilitation. The presentations of the experiences of Greece and France were followed by the closing remarks delivered by **Ambassador Paul Huynen**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Belgium to the OSCE.

Some recommendations of the side event point out that:

- The inclusion of civil society organizations as NRM stakeholders is critical for ensuring the effective co-operation between state authorities and NGOs for combating trafficking in human beings;
- Education and raising awareness at schools and among children at risk are essential – in order to prevent and to combat human trafficking, younger generation and communities should be adequately informed;
- Since children at risk tend to have more trust in civil society organizations and local NGOs, the co-operation between civil society and state authorities is a pre-requisite for better identification and protection of presumed victims as well as the successful fight against the impunity of traffickers;
- Long-term quality solutions for unaccompanied children have to be sought, including beyond the scope of child protection systems, after these children come of age;
- While dealing with children, local NGOs should be given priority to and engaged at all stages to ensure the sustainability of the collaborative efforts between state authorities and civil society.

7. **The Role of the Media in the Fight against Trafficking**

This side event was organized by the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The opening remarks delivered by OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Ambassador **Madina Jarbussynova** were followed by the presentations of **Belinda Goldsmith**, Editor-in-Chief of the Thomson Reuters Foundation and **Nicolas Bellet**, Director, Journalism and Media Programmes at the Thomson Reuters Foundation. **Antonio Zappulla**, COO of the Thomson Reuters Foundation moderated the side event. The side event focussed on the role the media can play alongside international organisations and policy-makers to raise awareness about the way in which traffickers operate, to disrupt their methods and trace and punish those responsible and the challenges faced by journalists in shedding light on trafficking. The audience was able to hear from the experts leading the programmes the examples of how their work had achieved significant impact, and how these programmes work alongside the Foundation's other initiatives: free legal assistance to anti-slavery organisations, and the international human rights forum Trust Conference.

Key recommendations of the side event discussions include:

- Improving media reporting on established and emerging human trafficking cases in an accurate, non-sensationalist, human-rights and victim-centred approach will ensure that the general public receives more reliable information on the pervasive phenomenon affecting each and every country across the globe;
- Combining the power of policy-makers, activists, lawyers, businesses, thought leaders and philanthropists driven by action can serve as an example for effective partnerships in combating trafficking in human beings;
- The journalists and other media professionals require targeted training programmes and mentoring to avoid overly simplified narratives on human trafficking phenomenon and to contribute to fight one of the world's most devastating crimes.