



Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting

Vienna Austria, 18 - 19 July 2022

SCHEDULE AND OVERVIEW

OF SIDE EVENTS

as submitted by the organizers

The Helsinki Document of 1992 (Chapter IV) called for increasing the openness of OSCE activities and expanding the role of NGOs. In particular, in paragraph (15) of Chapter IV the participating States decided to facilitate during CSCE meetings informal discussion meetings between representatives of participating States and of NGOs, and to provide encouragement to NGOs organizing seminars on CSCE-related issues. In line with this decision, governments, civil society and other participants are encouraged to organize side meetings at the Review Conference on relevant issues of their choice.

The side events below have been exclusively organized and scheduled exclusively at the request of participants of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. The below descriptions have been provided by the organizers. They have been lightly edited by ODIHR for language but not for content. Responsibility for the content remains with the organizers. Neither the text below nor the events themselves necessarily reflect the views of the OSCE.

Monday, 18 July

Time: **16:30-17:30**
Venue: **533**
Title: Protection of victims of trafficking, especially women and children, in Central Asia
Convenor: The Legal Center for Women's Initiatives "Sana Sezim"
Working language: Russian

Summary: Protection of victims of trafficking, especially women and children, in Central Asia – practice of International Network of NGOs “Partnership-in-Action”.

Time: **16:30-17:30**
Venue: **Bibliotheksaal**
Title: Are countries making progress on combating trafficking in human beings? Findings of the 2021 Survey Report
Convenor: OSCE Secretariat; Office of the Special Representative/Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Working language: English

Summary:

Over the last 20 years since the adoption of the first internationally-recognized definition of trafficking in human beings and the first OSCE anti-trafficking commitments, OSCE participating States have been combating trafficking in human beings. But are they making progress? Are countries adopting new laws to combat trafficking? What areas of the field have seen the most progress? What are countries doing to combat labour exploitation or technology-facilitated trafficking? Do countries require cooperation with police from victims before giving them services? What progress is being made on combating child trafficking? Measuring such efforts and identifying areas for further improvement is crucial to ensure that collectively and individually countries of the OSCE region are moving toward achieving the common objective – ending trafficking in human beings.

In 2020, the Office of Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) launched a follow-up survey of OSCE participating States and NGOs to assess progress made in the OSCE region toward implementing the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments. The 2020 survey was developed for the purpose of tracking progress made towards the implementation of anti-trafficking commitments since the previous survey in 2015, with specific emphasis on recent Ministerial Council Decisions adopted during the interim. In line with these commitments, the survey features new sections on vulnerability reduction, awareness-raising, and addressing demand, as well as the role of technology in facilitating and combating human trafficking and online sexual exploitation of children. It also presents recommendations, including on emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in responding to the complex, cross-dimensional, and evolving crime of trafficking in human beings. This side event will present the findings of the expansive survey of OSCE participating States and NGOs, including analysis of how countries are progressing since the last survey in 2015/16. It will also provide an opportunity to discuss the survey findings and recommendations for participating States and the broader anti-trafficking community.

Tuesday, 19 July

Time: 09:00-10:00
Venue: 532
Title: Ukrainian Women's NGOs' Response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine
Convenor: Democracy Development Center
Working language: English

Summary:

The event includes a 30-minute presentation of the Ukrainian Women's NGOs' experience of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and organizing and running response to its consequences for different target groups of the WPS agenda, and a 30-minute Q&A session. Special attention will be paid to the experiences of groups most vulnerable to trafficking in human beings and to sexual violence and exploitation.

Time: 09:00-10:00
Venue: Bibliotheksaal
Title: A closer look at how the human rights of trafficked persons are negatively affected by the Dublin III Regulation
Convenor: The Justice Project e.V. (Germany)
Working language: English

Summary:

The focus of this side event is to highlight the vulnerability of third-country national victims of human trafficking (VoTs) who are left unprotected and at risk of further exploitation resulting from the Dublin Regulation actively implemented across the EU.

In particular, West African VoTs being forcibly returned to Italy from other EU Member States as a result of the Dublin procedure are at risk of being relocated to Italian cities where their exploitation took place or where their traffickers may still reside. In addition, the lack of implementation of Transnational Referral Mechanisms in the context of Dublin returns and delays in processing information on Dublin returnees between EU Member States has led to increased vulnerability for transnational homelessness, re-trafficking, and further traumatisation of this vulnerable group of people. The lack of basic provision and active/ongoing protection once deportation authorities have completed successful border crossings are contributing factors that leave VoTs at risk for various forms of exploitation.

This side event will include a short presentation of the Transnational Dublin-Return Assistance Network (T-DAN), an initiative co-funded by the European Commission aimed to assist VoTs, which was recently launched by 5 Civil Society organisations working in collaboration in Germany, Italy and Spain. In addition, unique challenges facing West African VoTs in the asylum-seeking process as observed in the context of Germany will be touched on with an aim to explore promising practices to effectively minimize these obstacles.

Speaker: Ms. Rawan Shrum, Executive Director, The Justice Project e.V.

Refreshments will be provided

Time: 13:15-14:15
Venue: Bibliotheksaal
Title: Combating human trafficking in conflict situations: the role of frontline workers and National Referral Mechanisms
Convenor: OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Working language: English, Russian

Summary:

The OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) has been active in preventing and combating trafficking in human beings since 1999. In line with its mandate to assist States in establishing National Referral Mechanisms, as well as technical assistance in their development, monitoring and reporting on the implementation of NRMs in the OSCE participating States, OSCE ODIHR will organize an event where frontline responders from countries neighboring Ukraine can share their experience on effective response systems to combat human trafficking of women and children. Women and children in situations of armed conflict and individuals forcibly displaced by armed conflict can be especially vulnerable to trafficking in human beings. Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Ukraine on 24 February, more than three million people – mostly women and children – have fled the country. An increasing number of reports warn of traffickers targeting women and children at the borders as well as upon their arrival in transit and destination countries, such as Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Moldova. While governments and civil society in Ukraine and neighboring countries have been working to address the immediate risks and protect refugees, there is a need to address to ensure that effective responses, including functioning National Referral Mechanisms in conflict situations, are in place to prevent and combat the trafficking in women and children in countries of transit.

The event will be hosted by ODIHR, together with frontline responders from transit countries, who will discuss the following elements focused on promoting effective responses to combating trafficking in human beings during the armed conflict in Ukraine:

- What are current challenges to ensure identification and protection of women, children and unaccompanied minors fleeing from the armed conflict in Ukraine within transit countries?
- How are survivor and victim-centred, trauma-informed, gender- and child-sensitive approaches incorporated in protection strategies to combat trafficking of persons fleeing armed conflict, including but not limited to border crossings, reception facilities and similar interim protection centres?
- Which multi-disciplinary frameworks exist at the local level, especially at border crossings, reception facilities and other interim protection centres, to ensure gender-sensitive and child-sensitive strategies?

Time: **13:15-14:15**

Venue: **532**

Title: Displacement of Ukrainian citizens as a result of Russian aggression: refugees and deportation of adults and children.

Convenor: Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union; Center for Civil Liberties

Working language: English, Ukraine

Summary:

The full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has led to an active influx of refugees into European countries and the forced relocation of residents of the occupied territories, including more than 100,000 children, to the territory of the Russian Federation. What is the humanitarian and legal status of these people? What obstacles and difficulties do they face? Representatives of the “Tribunal for Putin” initiative will tell about it.