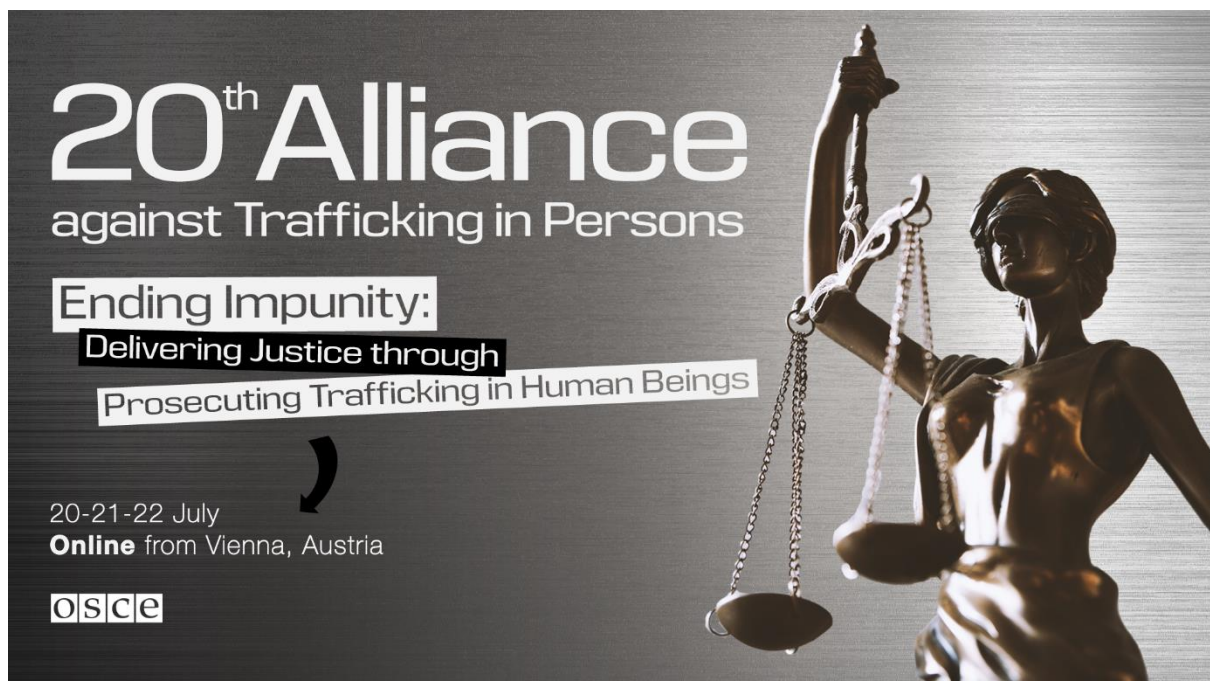




Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

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



20th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

Ending Impunity

Delivering justice through prosecuting trafficking in human beings

20-22 July 2020

Hofburg (Vienna, Austria) and via teleconference (upon registration)

DRAFT AGENDA

(Please note that the following schedule is based on Vienna time, GMT+2)

Day 1: Monday 20 July

14:00-14:45 Welcoming and opening remarks

14:45-15:30 Keynote Addresses

15:30-16:00 Break

16:00-17:30 **Panel 1 – The scope and nature of the problem**

In order to effectively counter impunity for human trafficking offenders across the OSCE region, the scope and nature of the problem must first be understood. This includes accepting the stark picture presented by the data, showing stagnated and in some places even declining rates of prosecution and conviction rates, as well as inadequate sentences, which pale in comparison to the severity of the crime and the number of identified victims. A multitude of factors contributes to this phenomenon, ranging from the existence of bottlenecks within the criminal justice system, to a fundamental lack of resources and limited political will. Often these factors coalesce to create a culture of impunity whereby it becomes a norm that traffickers go unprosecuted for THB offences. This panel will analyse the factors underlying impunity in the region and shed light on the obstacles to effective prosecutions.

Day 2: Tuesday 21 July

14:00-15:30 **Panel 2 – Working smarter to enhance investigations and prosecutions**

The complexity of obstacles contributing to low prosecution rates means that anti-trafficking actors have to adopt innovative measures in order to overcome them. This panel will introduce some of the existing best practices in this regard. This includes outlining: how investigations can avail of new technology tools and proactive methods to detect both offenders and victims; alternative avenues for identifying perpetrators, such as conducting financial investigations following the money trail left by traffickers; and how cooperation between law enforcement, prosecutors and judges, at both the national and international level can help resolve evidentiary and jurisdictional issues within a case, as well as maximise shared expertise.

15:30-16:00 Break

16:00-17:30 **Panel 3 – Victim-centred approaches to investigations and prosecutions**

The criminal justice process is important to hold offenders accountable but may not be the most important aspect of recovery to the victim. How do we conduct effective investigations and prosecutions while also supporting the victim and securing his/her rights? The panel will discuss the application of the victim-centred, trauma-informed approach to investigation and prosecution. Victims are often left traumatised through their experiences, and this can be

compounded by participation in difficult and lengthy criminal justice procedures, reducing the willingness of victims to report human trafficking. This panel will give an opportunity to discuss: the development of victimless prosecution strategies which do not rely upon victim testimony and minimize the negative impact on victims; how prosecutions can provide greater protection to victims by facilitating access to justice and remedies; the application of the non-punishment principle; and the provision of protection against intimidation and retaliation. The panel will also highlight ways to support victims in the criminal justice process.

Day 3: Wednesday 22 July

14:00-15:30

Panel 4 – Recommendations for the way forward

Prosecution of trafficking cases is highly specialized, labour-intensive, time-consuming and often under-resourced in comparison to other crimes. This panel will outline the practical ways in which laws and policies can be adapted to best contribute to increased and more effective prosecutions. This will include a discussion on investing in an environment that enables effective prosecution and strengthens the implementation of the Palermo Protocol and relevant OSCE commitments. Panellists will share forward-looking recommendations to address challenges presented in previous panels. The panel will also look at good policy practices, examining those addressing various forms of exploitation, and treating the users as offenders. Finally, the panel will discuss how national prosecution strategies can be more effectively tailored to provide enhanced prosecutions on the ground and draw greater investment from national authorities.

15:30-16:00

Break

16:00-16:30

Closing remarks