

24TH

CONFERENCE OF THE
ALLIANCE AGAINST
TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

BEYOND AWARENESS-RAISING:

**RESHAPING
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION**

15-16 APRIL 2024

#cthb24



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Wallnerstrasse 6, 1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel: + 43 1 51436 6664
Fax: + 43 1 51436 6299
Email: info-cthb@osce.org

© 2025 OSCE/Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Design: Tina Feiertag
Photos: OSCE

Copyright: All rights reserved. The contents of this publication may be freely used and copied for educational and other non-commercial purposes, provided that any such reproduction is accompanied by an acknowledgement of the OSCE/Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings as the source.

Cite as: 24th Alliance Conference against Trafficking in Persons
Beyond Awareness-Raising: Reshaping Human Trafficking Prevention
Hofburg, Vienna, Austria, 15-16 April 2024

Disclaimer

The materials in this publication are for general information purposes only, provided on an “as is” basis, without warranties of any kind, including fitness for any particular purpose. The OSCE, specifically, does not make any warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the information in this publication. The views, findings, interpretations and conclusions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official position of the OSCE, Missions and/or its participating States. To the extent permitted by law, the OSCE does not accept any liability for any loss, damage, liability or expense incurred or suffered, which may arise as a result of, or in connection with, the use of information contained in this publication. This publication does not address questions of responsibility, legal or otherwise, for acts or omissions on the part of any person. The use of particular designations of countries or territories does not imply any judgement by the publisher, the OSCE, as to the legal status of such countries or territories, of their authorities and institutions or of the delimitation of their boundaries.

Acknowledgements

The present publication was developed by the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) under the guidance of Tarana Baghirova, Programme Officer.

The report is based on the findings of the 24th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, which took place in Vienna and online on 15-16 April 2024, on the topic of the effective approaches to preventing human trafficking. OSR/THB would like to thank all the survivors, practitioners, experts, representatives and others who participated in the Conference and provided insights that made this report possible.

More information can be found on our website <https://www.osce.org/cthb>

4	Foreword
5	Defining Moment to Review Trafficking Prevention Approaches
6	Message by Dr. Kari Johnstone
10	Opening Session and Panel 1
14	Panel 2
18	Moderator-Led Talk
23	Panel 3
26	The 2024 OSCE Alliance Conference on Twitter
28	Additional OSCE Resources

FOREWORD



Trafficking in human beings remains a heinous crime of our time that can affect everyone, in all societies and nations in the OSCE. We often think of slavery as a relic of the past, a chapter closed in history. However, we live in a world where women and men, boys and girls, are still treated and traded as commodities; either for their labour or their bodies, only for the economic benefit of their traffickers. We cannot stand by while these atrocities continue.

Trafficking thrives on inequalities, poverty, and discrimination. No single state can tackle this issue alone. The digital age has further complicated the often cross-border nature of this crime, and the increasing impunity for perpetrators comes at a significant social cost.

Addressing this grave threat to our security begins with the political will necessary to build robust systems to both prevent and fight human trafficking. We must strive for a world free from the pain and suffering inflicted by trafficking. The 24th Conference of the Alliance called for collective effort to develop more effective prevention methods tailored to address the vulnerabilities that traffickers target.

This conference's focus deeply aligned with the OSCE Chairmanship's motto for 2024 "strengthening resilience, enhancing security." Preventing trafficking before it occurs is pivotal to ensure safety for all and avoid human suffering.



"The OSCE's unique comprehensive approach to security equips us with necessary tools to address human trafficking across all three dimensions."

Ian Borg

OSCE Chair-in-Office Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta

The 24th Alliance Conference focused on understanding a range of vulnerabilities traffickers target, bridging gaps between factual data and effective action. In our rapidly changing world, we must quickly adapt and respond to new trafficking threats. It is time to review which measures are effective and which are not. We must be flexible and open to learn from each other's successes and mistakes. Only then, can we collectively move forward and implement effective prevention measures.

Over two days, the Conference provided a tremendous opportunity and inspired all anti-trafficking actors to develop innovative strategies to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings. It assessed the true impact of current policies in the OSCE area and pushed for our collective strength to develop innovative solutions and to generate the political will to prevent these atrocities. Together, we can take steps towards more strategic and targeted ways of ending human trafficking, once and for all.

DEFINING MOMENT TO REVIEW TRAFFICKING PREVENTION APPROACHES



As human trafficking continues to thrive and exceed the resources allocated to combating it, anti-trafficking actors must reflect on how to make their actions more impactful and cost-effective. Anti-trafficking prevention efforts remain prominent in national strategies and account for a large proportion of the investment in anti-trafficking agendas. To date, however, there has been limited analysis and research assessing the effectiveness and impact of these efforts.

The OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) 2021's survey findings revealed that participating States appear highly active in implementing awareness and educational campaigns. However, despite the high levels of awareness-raising activities, countries have limited data on the actual existing levels of awareness about THB among the general population.* Similarly, the report highlighted that such awareness-raising interventions are often implemented in the absence of systematic research and assessments of whether the campaigns themselves are successful in raising awareness and leading to action that helps prevent trafficking. Information regarding the effectiveness and impact of prevention activities, and to what extent such activities have improved the capacity of anti-trafficking stakeholders to identify, prevent, and respond to THB, remain nascent.

While it is widely acknowledged that the most vulnerable populations include women, children, persons belonging to minority groups, people on the move, and persons with disabilities, the specific needs of these groups are often overlooked within anti-trafficking initiatives and measures. This is exacerbated by emerging trafficking trends, such as trafficking for the purpose of exploitation



in criminal activities whereby traffickers increasingly target and abuse the position of vulnerability, be it inherent or circumstantial.

Emerging trafficking patterns and the intersectionality of vulnerabilities underscore the urgent need for multifaceted anti-trafficking strategies, including a nuanced and strategic approach to proactive prevention programmes that go beyond awareness campaigns. By recognizing and understanding these evolving dynamics and the unique risks faced by individuals in situations of vulnerability and by implementing prevention efforts informed with data and research, human trafficking can be better prevented by more effective risk mitigation and empowerment of vulnerable populations.

The 24th Alliance Conference catalysed action for a paradigm shift in the approach to human trafficking prevention by exploring innovative strategies that go beyond traditional awareness-raising interventions. It delved into situations of vulnerabilities and root causes of exploitation, as well as emerging trafficking trends and recommended a set of actions to ensure prevention efforts are strategic and targeted.

*For example, only 37% of the respondents reported having information on whether their population knows how to protect themselves from THB, and 48% on whether their population knows how to identify and report cases of THB.

MESSAGE BY DR. KARI JOHNSTONE, OSCE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



The latest estimates of the illegal profits from human trafficking have increased by at least 37 percent over the past 10 years, reaching 236 billion US dollars annually. This staggering amount is higher than the national economies of 35 OSCE participating States, and it exceeds 17 States' economies combined.

The profits generated from the exploitation of each victim have also risen significantly – by 21 percent – now reaching an alarming 10,000 US dollars per victim.

Moreover, the total illegal profits are highest in Europe and Central Asia. Human trafficking is primarily a financially motivated crime. Traffickers choose to exploit victims because they can generate vast amounts of money from their abuse, and they focus on the OSCE region because the economic gains are highest here. While traffickers are the main perpetrators, it is the demand from end-users that drives and incentivizes them. Addressing the demand that attracts traffickers in our region goes beyond reducing the reward and increasing the cost for traffickers – it seeks to prevent the immense harm suffered by victims.

Our overall efforts to combat and eventually end human trafficking are not only just insufficient, but increasingly ineffective. The scale of the crime has expanded, its nature has evolved, and our ability to adjust and respond accordingly is lagging behind. This is why in 2024 we focused on critically rethinking and reshaping our prevention strategies, and developing solutions to move beyond awareness-raising.

To achieve this, the 24th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons focused on mobilizing the necessary will and collective action. It took stock of what has worked – engaging with and listening to experts and survivors with lived experience – to help us more effectively address new and overlooked forms of trafficking. The Conference thoroughly analyzed the vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit to ensure our prevention efforts are targeted and tailored to specific risks.

The Conference kicked off with an opening session with keynote addresses by a participating State, survivor leader, and international partner. The three distinct panels and one innovative *moderator-led talk* featured a wide range of speakers representing national authorities, academic, international organizations, and experts with lived experiences.

Panel 1

Targeting vulnerabilities and overlooked forms of human trafficking delved deeper into the nature of the problem – a piece often missing in many states' policies and actions – by providing a comprehensive understanding of the diverse vulnerabilities traffickers target and exploit, which we might have overlooked or underestimated in our prevention efforts. This comprehensive understanding is crucial to implement effective, impactful, and targeted prevention strategies to address both existing and emerging forms of this crime. This discussion also recognized the intersectionality of gender, racial, social, and economic inequalities that could increase the risk of vulnerability to trafficking.

Panel 2

Bridging gaps for more impactful prevention explored ways to meld data and action by offering solutions that address gaps in quantitative and qualitative data to inform prevention strategies and measures.

A Moderator-led talk

Up close on prevention critically examined the challenges in tackling emerging forms of trafficking and their effects on current anti-trafficking responses, particularly prevention efforts.

Panel 3

Beyond awareness-raising: Reshaping prevention for the future focused on solutions and recommendations. It called on us to go beyond awareness-raising and reshape our methods and approaches to prevention. This concluding panel showcased examples of legislative actions as prevention tools, the power of multi-agency collaboration and coordination, and the impact that media can have in ramping up anti-trafficking prevention.



“We have reached a defining moment in the global fight against human trafficking. It is imperative that we adopt a fresh strategic vision and invigorate our efforts to fulfil the promise of effectively preventing trafficking.”

Dr. Kari Johnstone,
OSCE Special Representative and Co-Ordinator
for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

24TH CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFIKING IN PERSONS



Video clips are available at <https://www.osce.org/cthb>

OPENING SESSION

HIGH-LEVEL OPENING

Formal opening	Dr. Kari Johnstone , OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
Welcoming remarks	Helga Maria Schmid , OSCE Secretary General Ian Borg, OSCE Chair-in-Office , Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade of Malta (online) Matteo Mecacci , Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights
Keynote addresses	Dominique Hasler , Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sports, the Principality of Liechtenstein Ugochi Daniels , Deputy Director General, International Organization for Migration Rafael Bautista , Member of the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking

PANEL 1

TARGETING VULNERABILITIES AND OVERLOOKED FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Speaker	Sofia Voultepsi , Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Greece Elizabeth Tan , Director, Division of International Protection, UNHCR Heba Hagrass , UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz , Researcher, Centre for Migration Research Warsaw University, Foundation Jaw Dikh, Poland Samir Rizvo , National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Moderator	Malaika Oringo , Founder and CEO of Footprint to Freedom

Main Takeaways from Opening Session and Panel 1



“It is important that we listen to survivors. They will help us immensely in comprehensively assessing the various vulnerabilities, new forms of trafficking as well as gaps in our prevention measures. We truly need a “whole-of-society” approach to prevention, which should be embedded in partnerships.”

Dominique Hasler,
Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education and Sports, Principality of Liechtenstein

In order to effectively implement targeted and impactful prevention strategies against human trafficking, it is imperative to have a comprehensive understanding of the diverse vulnerabilities within the human trafficking landscape, particularly those that are often overlooked in anti-trafficking responses. This includes recognizing the intersectionality of gender, social, and economic inequalities that contribute to trafficking crimes; understanding how traffickers exploit these vulnerabilities; and acknowledging the prevalence of underreported forms of trafficking.

Expert panellists at the 24th OSCE Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons Conference in April 2024, concurred that, to effectively stop this cycle of exploitation from occurring and prevent vulnerable persons from becoming trafficked, methods of prevention must shift towards specific and targeted actions that are ahead of the trafficking curb. Delivering her key-note address, IOM’s Deputy Director **Ugochi Daniels** highlighted that while public awareness increases peoples’ ability to identify what trafficking is, it does not necessarily prevent it. Hence knowing one’s rights does not necessarily translate into the rights being realized. For rights to be realized we often have to address intersecting vulnerabilities and power imbalances.

Central to this concept is reducing the factors of vulnerabilities by empowering at-risk groups, tackling the demand for goods and services produced by or extracted from trafficking victims, and address the root causes that traffickers target and exploit, be they conflicts, economic deprivation or social inequalities. Being ahead of the curb also means being able to use technology – working with technology companies to prevent its use for nefarious purposes and identify trafficking victims, particularly with the increasing form of forced criminality.

An analysis of 2000 victim records collected by IOM reveals that two-thirds of victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, while one-third are trafficked for forced labour. Recent trafficking patterns also evinced an alarming increase in trafficking of vulnerable adults into criminal activities. Stressing the need to address this form of exploitation, experts showcased examples of exploitation in online scamming operations, such as the severity of means used in a case described by IOM – a story of Ahmad, a man deceived by promises of a job only to be

exploited in online scamming operations, where he faced severe abuse, including beatings and electrocution, if he did not comply. The experts raised the concern on increasing online scam operations as an emerging new form of trafficking.

Expert panellists highlighted forced migration and displacement as one of the key risk factors to trafficking compounding existing vulnerabilities of people forced flee. Director of UNHCR’s International Protection Division, **Elizabeth Tan** emphasized 2023 as a year that marked record displacement worldwide as 110 million people were forcibly displaced worldwide. In the context of restrictive border and asylum policies and in the absence of safe routes for admission to seek protection, trafficking vulnerabilities are further exacerbated.



As Tan noted, where refugees do not find protection, where they do not find access to education, livelihoods or a dignified way of life, they may move on. This is where trafficking risks are high. The staggering statistics presented by Greek Deputy Minister for Migration and Asylum, **Sofia Voultepsi** showed that 95 percent of registered trafficking victims in Greece belonged to the refugee and immigrant community, with half of the total number being children of foreign origin. It is essential to take an intersectional approach as not all victims are the same. Victimization and targets for trafficking cut across different sections of the community, including various ages, genders, and diversity characteristics. The approach must consider the individual situations and agency of people.

According to the Centre for Migration Research Warsaw University, Foundation Jaw Dikh, **Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtowicz**, 48 per cent of victims identified in Roma communities in Romania were children, highlighting that double discrimination based on ethnicity and gender as well as age against women and children adds to their vulnerability to THB. The level of poverty and social exclusion among Roma, which constitute the single largest

ethnic minority group in Europe with an estimated population of 10-12 million, remains high across the OSCE region, resulting in higher vulnerability. Roma children are often overlooked by law enforcement and social services. Roma women living with disabilities, along with the elderly and young, encounter significant barriers in finding shelter and accessing essential services. This group has continued experiencing multiple layers of discrimination and violence, and its members are particularly vulnerable to human trafficking, including sex and labour trafficking, especially in the context of the conflict in Ukraine. The authorities mistakenly dismiss such instances as “traditional cultural practices and customs.” This misinterpretation often leads to a significant underreporting and under-investigation of potential trafficking scenarios, effectively leaving these vulnerable children without the protection and support they desperately need.

Nevertheless, panellists also described how some countries across the OSCE observe cultural or societal changes in perception of forced begging and forced criminality, which were previously seen as a cultural “norm” for some minority groups and more and more seen as suspicious and exploitative activity that results in increasing public reports of possible trafficking cases.

UNSR on the rights of persons with disabilities **Heba Hagrass** drew attention to the urgent need to address THB risks for women with disabilities and online violence through tailored prevention strategies and accessible awareness campaigns nationwide. She also stressed states must consider a diverse range of disabilities to ensure no individual is overlooked or marginalised in these efforts. Tailored support needs to be put in place, recognising their unique needs and ensuring their comprehensive protection. It is crucial to ensure that the voices of women and children with disabilities are heard. Hagrass called on states to consider a diverse range of disabilities, whether visible or not, to ensure no individual is overlooked or marginalized and tailored support is provided through recognition of their unique needs and ensure comprehensive protection.

The gender dimension of trafficking is often overlooked in public discourse and government agendas. **Rafael Bautista**, Chair of the US Advisory Council of Human Trafficking, described how cultural toxic masculinities created a bias that men are only perceived as perpetrators and hence marginalized by societies. He called for the creation of equity in anti-trafficking work to ensure male victims are recognized and supported and assistance services are tailored to their needs. As the rate of labour exploitation is on the rise, increasingly men are being targeted and exploited in construction, agriculture, and fishing industries that are at high risk for exploitation

The panel concluded that the commitment and recognition that prevention in a global context where demand and push factors are at unprecedented levels require coming up with solutions that provide better options for people and where victims trust governments more than traffickers.



“Cultural norms push men to certain types of jobs only. We need to unlearn the practices that cause harm to men. Harm is harm. We need to create equity in anti-trafficking work, movement, engage survivors, compensate them properly, learn from each other, and respect each other.”

Rafael Bautista,
Chair of the US Advisory Council of Human Trafficking

PANEL 2

BRIDGING GAPS FOR MORE IMPACTFUL PREVENTION

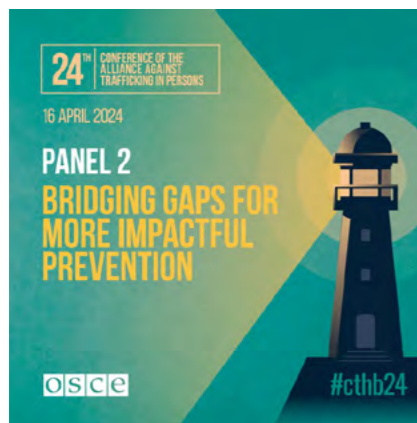
Speaker **Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman**, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees and Member of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Contemporary Forms of Slavery and Trafficking, United States

Valentin Vătăjelu, State Counsellor, Chancellery of the Prime Minister, President of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Strategic Intersectoral Coordination of the Fight against Trafficking in Persons, Romania

Cathy Zimmerman, Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK

Anu Leps, National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Estonia

Moderator **Ilias Chatzis**, Head of Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, UNODC



Main Takeaways from Panel 2



Prevention strategies require a data-driven approach that guides collective action across national authorities, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Several comprehensive efforts have been taken by various disciplines that prompt both operational and conceptual enhancements in prevention approaches, including through promoting evidence-based strategies, wide-ranging safety measures in the digital space, pro-active responses to new trends, and targeting financial flows.

The panellist experts explored ways to reduce divergences between data and action for more impactful prevention of all forms of trafficking through offering solutions that address gaps in collecting quantitative and qualitative data to inform prevention strategies and measures.

UNODC’s global data have consistently shown for more than 15 years that one out of every three victims of human trafficking is a child. However, this data did not result in heightened efforts to halt this violence against children. As noted by the panellist **Suamhirs Piraino-Guzman** (Chair of the UN Voluntary Fund), there is a significant gap between data and actions in addressing human trafficking. Bureaucracy, lack of funding, and the challenges of the digital age all contribute to this issue. Cyber platforms, while often used for recruitment by traffickers, can also be powerful tools for raising awareness, prevention, and monitoring financial flows. He underlined that by leveraging digital platforms, law enforcement can analyze financial transactions and prosecute traffickers effectively. It is crucial to adopt a forward-looking approach and innovative strategies. Data collection methods need updating, and preventive measures must be targeted. Data alone is not enough; it must be utilized for impactful actions. Combining expertise across disciplines should be a priority to effectively combat human trafficking.

Romania’s State Counsellor **Valentin Vatajelu** drew attention to the challenges encountered in collecting comprehensive data that captures both quantitative and qualitative aspects. Addressing this difficulty requires a multifaceted approach – that combines technological innovation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a deep understanding of the complexities surrounding trafficking.

“Our interventions should also aim to reduce the most harmful aspects or the aspects that are priorities of those suffering these exploitative conditions.”

Cathy Zimmerman,
Professor, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

He highlighted the importance of quantitative data, such as statistics on the number of trafficking cases or convictions, which provide valuable insights into the scale and scope of trafficking. However, these figures often underestimate the true prevalence of the crime. Experts concurred that to enhance quantitative data collection, States should invest in improved reporting mechanisms and enhance data-sharing initiatives between agencies and across borders.

Qualitative insights are equally essential for understanding the nuances of trafficking dynamics. Qualitative data, such as victim narratives, case studies, and ethnographic research, offers valuable context and helps uncover hidden aspects of trafficking, including the root causes, recruitment tactics, and experiences of victims.

Professor Cathy Zimmerman spoke about a study conducted using a modelling technique (Bayesian network analysis) to look at risk factors among returnee women migrant domestic workers. Delving into lessons learned from prevention work conducted during pre-departure awareness and information sharing with women, Professor Zimmerman highlighted the need to focus on where the exploitation occurs instead of on solely on pre-departure activities like awareness-raising with the premise.

The European Union's Digital Services Act (DSA) outlined a series of rules and regulations for online platforms that aim at creating digital space for all users where fundamental rights are respected and protected. It also provides premises for robust collaboration between the Digital Services Co-ordinators and other relevant authorities involved in combating illicit activities occurring in cyber space. The Act represents a significant step towards regulating online platforms and ensuring their accountability in preventing the misuse of technology for criminal activities.

Panellists highlighted that in addressing labour issues, there are several key approaches to consider:

- ✓ **First**, destination placement agencies should formalize recruitment processes to ensure fair and safe job placements, and assist workers in escaping exploitative situations and recovering lost wages.
- ✓ **Second**, despite some progress in civil cases against corporations, global federal prosecutions have declined, and compensation for victims remains inadequate, particularly for ongoing disabilities and mental distress.
- ✓ **Third**, health outreach and mobile clinics are also a very strategic way to access, assist, and undertake harm reduction among harder to reach populations.
- ✓ **Fourth**, labour inspectors should be deployed to both formal and informal workplaces to address occupational health and safety as well as employment terms. Brazil's prosecutor's office is using innovative techniques, such as satellite imaging, to detect forced labour.
- ✓ **Fifth**, efforts to detect forced labour in supply chains are being undertaken by journalists and organizations, with studies showing persistent issues for women but improved awareness among employers.
- ✓ **Lastly**, engaging workers in the development of solutions is crucial, emphasizing the need for better practices to involve them in interventions and acknowledging the importance of 'survivor voices.'

The participants of the Conference agreed that it is important to develop sector-targeted strategies, given that the interventions for fishing are very likely to be different than those for domestic work, although it is likely that a solution that cuts across most sectors and, in most contexts, can be found.

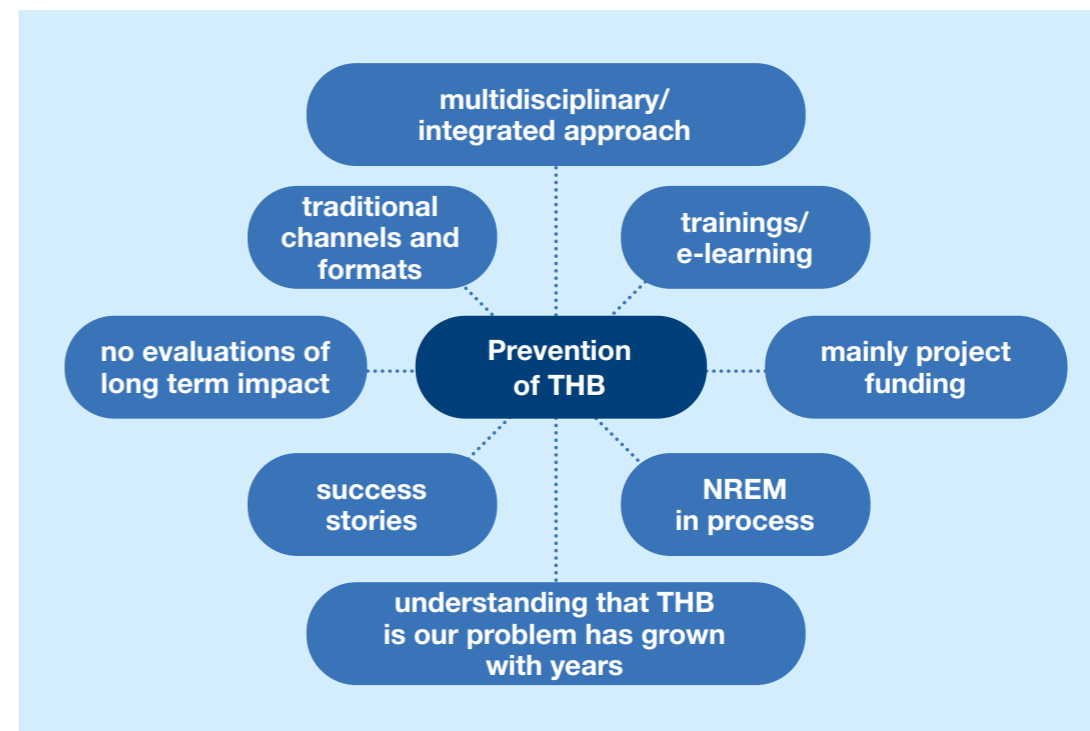
As panellist Zimmerman stated, the investment in solutions should target strategic investment rather than in large-scale "good guesses" to gather evidence that involves co-production with the people who are most affected and are the targets of our intervention efforts.

It is imperative that strategies are informed by qualitative and quantitative data and to validate this data with survivors. Gaps between data collection and actionable insights remain a significant challenge as often data exist in silos, unshared and unutilized due to bureaucracy, lack of resources, and over concerns of privacy protection. We must promote stronger collaboration across sectors across governments with academia and the private sector.

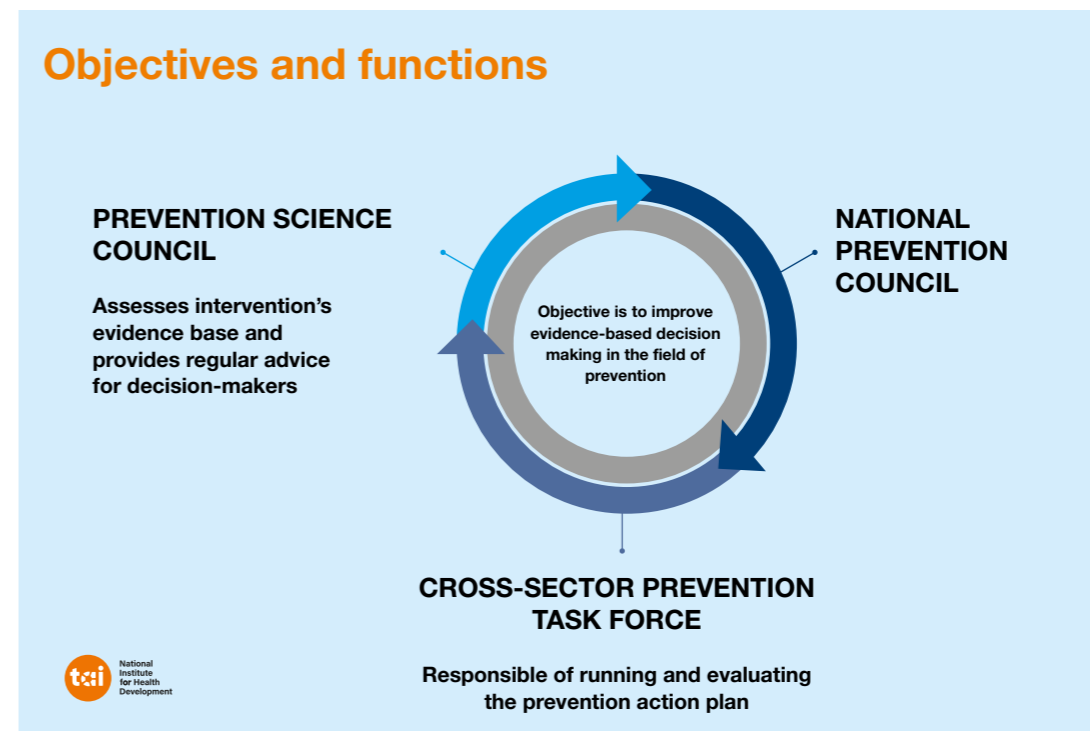
Looking at solutions, the panel noted that by targeting the financial flows, we can target the infrastructure that supports and perpetrates human trafficking. Financial institutions and collaboration with law-enforcement can leverage data analytics to identify human trafficking and hence disrupt the operational capacity of trafficking and put perpetrators in heightened risk of detention and prosecution. Proactive responses to emerging trends of trafficking require a forward-looking and adaptive approach.

Piraino-Guzman highlighted the need to continuously update our data collection methods and analytical models to anticipate human trafficking trends, rather than currently reactive ones. Pre-emptive analytics can locate human trafficking risks before new patterns take roots. The private sector has a key role to play in guaranteeing labour rights and ensuring reporting tools and mechanisms are in place to improve the conditions and prevent violation and abuse.

**Presentation by Anu Leps,
National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator, Estonia**



Estonia's Prevention chart



MODERATOR-LED TALK: UP CLOSE ON PREVENTION

Speaker	<p>Sandra Norak, Founder of GE-STAC, Germany</p> <p>Katherine Chon, Director of Trafficking in Persons Office, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services</p> <p>Nick Hobbs, Head of Advice and Investigations, Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland, UK</p> <p>William Legge, Programme Co-ordinator, Policy, Partnerships & Capacity Development, Regional Support Office, The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime</p>
Moderator	<p>Ambassador Hatun Demirer, Permanent Representative of Türkiye to the OSCE</p>



Key Takeaways from the Moderator-Led Talk

Convergence of human trafficking with other crimes has been gaining momentum amid the emergence of new forms of human trafficking that blur the lines between victims and perpetrators. Moderated by Türkiye's Ambassador to the OSCE, **Hatun Demirer**, panellists critically examined challenges related to identifying and addressing emerging forms of human trafficking and what this means for current anti-trafficking responses, particularly for prevention efforts. The panellists discussed lessons learned from existing strategies and policies aimed at addressing violent crimes and importance of adopting a public health approach to better understand the complex links between individual and relational vulnerabilities. Particular focus should examine the policies and practices that aim to bolster prevention efforts at different levels to stop human trafficking before it occurs and mitigate its lasting effects.

The panellists elaborated on the following key challenges and opportunities:

Tackling the rising pattern of trafficking for criminal exploitation (forced criminality)

Trafficking of children and youth for criminal exploitation has been on the rise, particularly in drug-related offences across the OSCE. Scotland's Children and Young People's Commissioner's Office drew the focus into two groups of children who are targeted by traffickers based on the data of the Commissioner's office and Children and Young People's Centre for Justice recently published review. According to **Nick Hobbs**, the first group of concern are the children exploited internally in the UK through the so-called "county lines" model where children are used in the riskiest criminal activity for organized crime gangs, which entails distributing drugs and weapons across the country and collecting drug debts. The second cohort of children that are targeted by traffickers are unaccompanied asylum-seeking children who are dispersed to Scotland via the National Transfer Scheme after arriving elsewhere in the UK or directly arrive in Scotland.

The data has been the key challenge in identifying this pattern of exploitation since there is a lack of a universal definition of criminal exploitation in law or policy. This gap has led to inconsistent and insufficient recording of this form of exploitation. Although there is some data available from the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and from the Police Scotland, these data sets do not align. Therefore, the scale of children and youth exploited in criminal activities remains unknown.

Looking at the scale, Hobbs highlighted that in 2023, there were almost 7500 referrals made in relation to children, of which 300 were from the Scotland. The most common reason for referral, 42 percent, was criminal exploitation. The average age of affected children was 15 years old, but there are also children of primary age (between 5-10 years old) affected. The majority of these children are boys from black and minority communities, who are over represented in the statistics. Factors such as being in institutional care, exclusion from education, and poverty are some of the main overlapping and intersecting vulnerabilities. Trafficking techniques include those similar to child sexual exploitation such as grooming, romantic befriending, financial bonding, and an imbalance of power. Disconnection of children from education and exclusion for poor behaviour in schools, which can be caused by developmental issue, are significant factors targeted by traffickers. All these vulnerabilities are compounded when immigration law and policy place children in detention and fail to protect children in institutional care centres, such as the 400 children missing in the UK care facilities.

Hobbs recommended that states adopt a human rights-based approach to treat children as children and right holders as per the CRC and children under the age of 18. Secondly, it is imperative to recognize and treat children of criminal exploitation as a form of child abuse, which places the obligation on the state for protection of children from harm. It is important to learn from how other efforts historically tackled other abuse, such as CSAM. He raised the issues around power imbalances and grooming techniques and the importance of not blaming children for making bad choices. He emphasized the urgency of not seeing monetary or other inducement as benefits but part of the grooming process. He also stressed the importance of remembering that just because a child does not think they were in exploitation does not mean the exploitation did not take place. As law and policy is being aligned and child protection is cross-cutting and it is important to ensure that law and policy doesn't undermine the fight against THB. These considerations should also include education and socio-economic policies, care and justice system, and adherence to non-punishment system.



“The voices of these children show a culture of disbelief that permeates the system as a disbelief in the status of children, status of refugees and asylum-seekers, and a disbelief as a trafficking victim.”

Nick Hobbs, Scottish Children and Youth Commissioners Office

COVID brought the world to in standstill and criminal groups were left with a large number of empty casinos in South East Asia in the golden triangle. By way of example, casinos played an important role in generating large profits from gambling and laundering of proceeds from various illicit activities. However, as people were forced to work and socialize online and organized criminal groups took advantage of these vulnerabilities and used them as opportunities to scale up cyber scam operations, which were much smaller before COVID.

In his intervention **Willian Legge** (Bali Process) described the pervasive operations of cyber scam centres, which are vastly located in South East Asia (Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Philippines) and run by organized criminal groups primarily from China and Taiwan, which have been facilitating and profiting from human trafficking for decades. According to the experts, these groups are highly experienced and skilled with an extensive network throughout the world that operate like businesses. The criminal component of their operations is decentralized, meaning the groups and individuals provide specialized services to enable these centres to operate and be profitable. This also makes it incredibly hard to disrupt. Services include recruitment and cyber scam enabling services such as developing the scripts for scamming individuals that can be shared through established and active social media accounts and money laundering services. These services are not only provided for trafficking but also for a full range of criminality demonstrating the poly criminality of the group. Inside the scam centres,

the scam is divided in two main groups: “quick kills,” which takes hours and days to scam victims and results in illicit profit of 100s and 1000s of USD. Examples include sporting bidding, merchandize, and sextortion. The second group is called “calculated conversations,” which include crypto-currency and investment scams, romance scams (“pig butchering” scams) that requires a longer-term relationship and can result in thousands and millions of dollars in losses for scammed victims. Requisite IT skills required by the scam operators shifted the new victim profile where victims are often well educated, from better economic circumstances, and came from stable families and backgrounds. Legge called for diligence to differentiate between trafficking techniques and tools that enable trafficking operations and make this crime more profitable. According to him, the techniques have not changed and can be recognized across different forms (e.g., recruitment, debt bondage, physical threats), but the growth of this new form of criminality show traffickers have adapted the tools they use – bringing social media, communication apps, money laundering services, and crypto currencies to identify new trafficking victims and exploit them at an unprecedented scale. It is estimated that at least 100,000 persons from 60 countries were trafficked into scam centres in South East Asia alone. Recruitment is initiated online but also initiated by people who were trafficked into scam centres through fake misleading job ads in the social media.

Describing the modus operandi of traffickers, Legge described the prevalence of threats and violence in the centres, and there have been reports of people being killed. Trafficking networks need to maintain a strong supply of workers and people are traded by skill sets. Alarmingly, the Bali Process has also observed evidence of people advertising themselves, even their willingness to accept confinement, to support their families financially. Moreover, artificial intelligence is being used in all aspects of scamming operations, particularly large language models that enable translation capabilities to develop targeted recruitment messages that appeals to specific population. This has reduced the need for multi-lingual staff engaged in recruitment process and makes recruitment more effective with less resources. This also makes the recruitment language more customized, which becomes more convincing for potential victims. Corruption is a key enabler in scamming centres and the growth of special economic generous tax incentives and exploitation of citizenship programmes, often referred to as “golden visas,” used regularly by senior organized crime groups and entities to avoid detection and set up criminal organization and allow greater movement with new passport and even new name.

Concluding, Legge recommended implementing measures that are making the business of trafficking unprofitable. These include conducting relevant campaigns in all affected countries, be they source, transit or destination country and breaking down national and regional silos to encourage globalize response to human trafficking that is sector-specific. The actions that can counter forced criminality should be distinct and should include all stakeholders including private sector.

Discouraging the demand that fuels human trafficking

Sandra Norak (GE-STAC) drew attention to the importance of discouraging the demand that fuels various forms of trafficking; however, it is a direct core driver in sex trafficking, particularly in prostitution, as there is no separation between the end user and exploited victim. Referring to the OSCE Paper, she noted that users cause acute harm to victims, both by incentivizing trafficking in the first place and through the sex act itself. This is why there should be a special focus on this form of demand, which was first called by the OSCE. She described various ways to achieve this, including legislative approaches where demand can be discouraged; criminalization of the knowing use of a trafficking victim, criminalization of the use of all trafficking victims (strict liability) or criminalizing all sex buying. In her reference to the legislation in Germany, attention was placed on the legislative provision that focuses on the knowing use of services of trafficking victim and the reckless use of trafficking victim. However, despite the legal obligation, there have been no convictions to date, and demand continues to prevail where flyers are prepared to encourage the demand.

Recalling her personal experience and observations, Norak stressed the challenges related to differing state practices of addressing the demand, particularly where buyers can switch between countries and there is no single law that can tackle it. This challenges also highlights the need to implement Article 9 of the Palermo Protocol, which calls for adoption of education, social, and cultural measures to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking. States must establish particularly educational and social measures that enlighten about the risk of trafficking in prostitution and provide for early warning for potential victims.

Norak also raised the alarm about the emergence of new forms of sex trafficking that have been on the rise in Germany. She described how online networks sell online courses for men that teach other men how to make women emotionally dependent on them. In 2023, this network that has been employing and teaching techniques for men on how to emotionally bond women, which is another way of calling “lover-boys” technique in “Onlyfans” adult websites. Despite documentaries released with the testimonies of victims that described force and coercion in the production of videos in adult websites, the websites remain operational to date.

Trafficked in legal brothels, Sandra Norak described the process of vulnerabilities of persons in commercial sex that are often dismissed by law enforcement, and exploitation is not identified or noticed as often victims are registered and sometimes even pay taxes.

Norak called for the adoption of prevention measures to tackle demand as a core measure to prevent trafficking, including in ensuring Anti-Trafficking National Action Plans, and approaching demand as a driving factor for trafficking, raising awareness among young people in early ages, and continuous training for law enforcement on trafficking modus operandi, trauma bonding, and familial relationships to ensure vulnerabilities are identified from early stages.



Need for a public health approach to prevention of human trafficking

Adopting a public health approach to preventing human trafficking offers a comprehensive strategy that addresses the root causes and broad impacts of trafficking. This method prioritizes prevention by tackling social determinants of health such as poverty, education, and housing, thus reducing vulnerabilities that traffickers exploit. Additionally, it fosters multidisciplinary collaboration among various sectors including healthcare, education, and law enforcement, ensuring co-ordinated efforts. The approach also emphasizes victim-centered care, providing trauma-informed services crucial for survivors' recovery. These frameworks rely on data-driven interventions to identify trends and evaluate the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts. Community engagement is a key aspect, empowering local populations to recognize and respond to trafficking, thereby building resilience. By focusing on equity and inclusion, this approach ensures that interventions reach underserved and marginalized populations, who are often most at risk. Overall, adopting a public health approach creates a more robust and sustainable framework for preventing human trafficking, contributing to safer and healthier communities.

One example of such an approach is the National Human Trafficking Prevention Framework adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) presented by **Katherine Chon** during the panel. The framework emphasizes evidence-based strategies and multidisciplinary collaboration to strengthen efforts at federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local levels. The framework aims to promote self-efficacy, economic stability, and healthy family environments while fostering social connectedness and creating protective environments at the community level. Additionally, the public health approach involves increasing victim identification and help-seeking behaviour, connecting individuals who have experienced trafficking to trauma-informed services, and preventing re-victimization by targeting assistance to those at higher risk. By addressing social determinants of health such as housing stability and economic mobility, the approach aims to reduce the vulnerabilities that traffickers often exploit. This comprehensive strategy underscores the importance of collective impact and equity, ensuring that all individuals have access to the resources they need to lead safe and healthy lives. It is a proactive and preventative effort to combat human trafficking and support survivors in their recovery.

Treating trafficking as a public health challenge is pivotal to reduce the harm as human trafficking continues to damage the health of communities. Therefore, the interventions should also aim to reduce the most harmful aspects or the aspects that are priorities of those suffering these exploitative conditions—as it may be difficult for a single intervention to ensure all workers have the most desirable work conditions.

Chon called for strengthening the way we integrate human trafficking prevention into all other areas of engagement, education, and health to ensure any touchpoint showing overlapping risk factors, integration of approached for funding. She recommended ensuring that ministries of health are part of anti-trafficking discussions to ensure health impacts are part of the consideration.

Mainstreaming human trafficking prevention in crime prevention strategies

States should recognize the importance of aligning trafficking prevention efforts with other strategies aimed at preventing violent crimes. Integrating these efforts should aim to create a comprehensive approach that addresses the root causes and interconnected nature of these crimes. This alignment allows for the sharing of resources, intelligence, and best practices, ultimately enhancing the effectiveness of both trafficking prevention and violent crime reduction initiatives. By leveraging the expertise and capabilities of various stakeholders, including law enforcement, community organizations, and government agencies, the States can develop and implement more robust and coordinated strategies to combat these issues.

Furthermore, the alignment of trafficking prevention with other violent crime prevention strategies enables a more holistic approach to public safety. This approach recognizes that human trafficking often intersects with other forms of violence, such as domestic abuse, gang activity, and organized crime. By addressing these interconnected issues simultaneously, States can better protect vulnerable populations and disrupt criminal networks. Such a comprehensive strategy not only enhances the overall effectiveness of prevention efforts but also ensures that resources are used efficiently and that victims receive the support and protection they need.

PANEL 3

BEYOND AWARENESS-RAISING: RESHAPING PREVENTION FOR THE FUTURE

Speaker	<p>Marat Bashimov, Deputy of the Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan</p> <p>Pedro Assares Rodrigues, Head of Unit, Enforcement & Analysis, European Labour Authority (ELA)</p> <p>Mariaam Bhatti, Co-founder of the Great Care Co-op, Community development and social policy practitioner, member of OSCE/ODIHR ISTAC, Ireland</p> <p>Leif Coorlim, Executive Editor, The CNN Freedom Project</p>
Moderator	<p>Naile Tanış, Head, Independent National Rapporteur Mechanism on trafficking in human beings, Germany</p>



Main Takeaways from Panel 3

In this concluding panel, speakers offered actionable recommendations to shape impact-driven prevention policies and practices aimed at empowering vulnerable groups, fostering co-operation to tackle emerging trafficking forms, and building resilience. The panellists from Kazakhstan, Ireland, European Labour Authority, and the CNN's Freedom Project showcased the following targeted actions to effectively prevent human trafficking data-informed, evidence-based measures; impact journalism; and comprehensive policy and law development and independent oversight.

Importance of data-informed and evidence-based measures

Data-informed and evidence-based measures are instrumental in preventing human trafficking. By leveraging data and evidence, States can develop targeted and effective strategies to prevent trafficking and protect vulnerable populations. By utilizing data and evidence, labour inspectorates can identify sectors and workplaces that are at high risk of exploitation. This enables them to target their inspections more effectively and allocate resources where they are most needed. For instance, data-driven insights can reveal patterns of non-compliance, underpayment, or unsafe working conditions, allowing labour inspectors to intervene proactively. By focusing on high-risk areas, inspectorates can prevent exploitation before it occurs, ensuring better protection for workers.

Pedro Assares Rodrigues (ELA) spoke about how inspections present a privileged occasion to detect situations of potential labour exploitation and disrupt traffickers' business model of reducing costs to increase profit. They offer the possibility for a softer enforcement approach by interacting and interviewing workers to obtain information about the deduction of random fees that can create debt bondage, such as travel, accommodation, local transport, communications, food, and personal items. According to ELA, labour inspectors can request access to relevant documents, including written work contracts and records of worked time, and access workplaces and accommodation to check for violations of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) rules and housing standards. Additionally, they can check for social dumping and fraud by reviewing wages, working hours, tax, and social security payments, as well as document fraud related to non-EU workers' authorization to work, such as residence and work permits. Inspections are vital for detecting possible indicators of labour exploitation or violations of labour laws and workers' rights for profit.

The continuum of labour law violations and exploitation necessitates coordinated efforts and cooperation between various authorities with different competencies, including labour inspectors, police, immigration services, the judiciary, tax and social security authorities, as well as NGOs, social partners, and the private sector. This collaboration is crucial due to the complex nature of the phenomenon, which requires the exchange and access to information, a multi-disciplinary approach, the detection and prosecution of infringements, and the protection of victims. However, challenges such as a lack of structured cooperation, common legal definitions, high evidentiary requirements, limited resources, and differing objectives hinder these efforts.

The power of impact journalism

Media coverage is instrumental in shining a light on hidden injustices and mobilizing public support for anti-trafficking efforts. As a watchdog, the media plays a critical role in exposing the dark corners where human trafficking thrives. Initiatives like the CNN's Freedom Project presented by **Leif Coorlim** demonstrated the media's influence on public opinion, rallying support for anti-slavery campaigns and amplifying the voices of those who might otherwise remain unheard. Through persistent scrutiny and reporting, the media can pressure governments and corporations to take tangible steps to combat slavery, ensuring that they are held accountable for their actions or inaction.



“Journalists must balance the need to expose these atrocities with the ethical considerations of protecting survivors’ identities and avoiding sensationalism, ensuring that their reporting respects the dignity of victims”

Leif Coorlim, Executive Editor,
The CNN Freedom Project

However, the media faces significant challenges in covering such a complex issue. Human trafficking often operates in hidden sectors, making it difficult for journalists to gain access and uncover the truth. The complexity of the issue adds another layer of difficulty, as human trafficking manifests in diverse forms, including forced labour and sex trafficking, each requiring nuanced and sensitive reporting.

Journalists must balance the need to expose these atrocities with the ethical considerations of protecting survivors' identities and avoiding sensationalism, ensuring that their reporting respects the dignity of victims, Leif Coorlim, Executive Editor, The CNN Freedom Project.

To overcome these challenges and maximize the impact of media coverage, collaboration and innovative approaches are essential. Partnerships between the media, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and governments can amplify anti-trafficking efforts and create a united front against exploitation. Leveraging technology, such as digital platforms and data journalism, can enhance the reach and effectiveness of reporting on human trafficking. By advocating for increased support and protections for investigative journalists, raising consumer awareness, and urging policymakers to prioritize anti-trafficking measures, the media can inspire action and drive meaningful change in the fight against human trafficking.

The pivotal role of comprehensive policy and law development and independent oversight

Adoption of a dedicated anti-trafficking law is long recommended by the international community, as it not only brings victim identification and referral to a legal footing, but also coalesces state action through setting up a system for effective coordination, enhances states obligation to protect victims, and ensures robust prevention mechanisms.

As presented by **Marat Bashimov** (Majilis or Parliament), Kazakhstan is working to update the current law on trafficking in human beings, which has limitations, particularly in prevention areas, alongside prosecution and protection gaps. The bill being passed in Parliament aims to better define the roles and responsibilities of different agencies and introduce new competences and bodies to counter THB, with an emphasis on data gathering and needs assessments. The updated law will provide clearer definitions of victims of trafficking and the various vulnerabilities that contribute to THB. It will include a separate chapter on protecting the rights of children, who are among the most vulnerable to THB. Additionally, the concept of exploitation will be expanded to align with international standards, and the law will grant



victims a 30-day period to decide whether to cooperate with law enforcement agencies. Employers who fail to provide legal working contracts will be liable to prosecution, and the new law will introduce a criminal offense for organizing sexual services online. The legislation aims to improve inter-agency cooperation among ministries, establish new institutions such as a National Anti-Trafficking Rapporteur (NAR) under the Human Rights Ombudsman to gather analysis on THB trends, and ultimately prevent THB while providing a strong legal foundation for future improvements.

Finally, recalling her experience as a victim of forced labour as a migrant of African descent, **Mariaam Bhatti** (The Great Care Co-op), highlighted several key areas where further action is needed to combat human trafficking effectively. These areas include improving access to health, including mental health services for survivors, and ensuring decent employment opportunities, particularly for minority groups like migrants, who often find themselves in low-paid jobs without other sources of income. Referring to the findings of the Fundamental Right Agency, Bhatti underscored that individual of African descent have the lowest access to the labour market and emphasized the need for states to implement positive measures under the non-discrimination principle. It is crucial to learn from other countries' positive practices, integrate labour migration, trafficking, and labour policies, and make information truly accessible to migrants.

The recommendations further stress the importance of fostering safe pathways for migration, recognizing migrants as valuable resources, and facilitating their mobility to prevent human trafficking. Technology should be leveraged to enable global employment opportunities without necessitating migration, promoting the concept of employment without borders. A collaborative approach involving various stakeholders is essential for tackling human trafficking effectively. Additionally, survivors should be granted access to unpaid wages, which is often more significant to them than the prosecution of their traffickers.

THE 2024 OSCE ALLIANCE CONFERENCE ON TWITTER

24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024




Dr. Kari Johnstone
OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
#cthb24

"Just as criminals' methods are evolving, we must also adapt and innovate our approach. By attending this conference, you have chosen to be part of this collective effort."




24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Helga Maria Schmid
OSCE Secretary General
#cthb24

"Human trafficking affects the whole of society and all of our societies. It is our shared responsibility to combat this problem which prays on the most vulnerable segments of society."



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024




Ian Borg
OSCE Chair-in-Office, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Malta
#cthb24

"Malta is proud to have made combating trafficking in persons a thematic priority for the OSCE this year."




24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Valentin Vătăjelu
State Counsellor, National Coordinator for THB for Romania
#cthb24

"Social prevention is very effective in the long term. We need to tackle the underlying factors that make people more vulnerable to trafficking. We also need to provide education, legal assistance, and social support services."



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Heba Hagrass
Special Rapporteur Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UN Human Rights Council
#cthb24

"We know that women and children with disabilities face the highest risk of human trafficking, especially in situations of armed conflict. What is more, persons with disabilities in conditions of poverty are also more vulnerable to begging and to human trafficking."



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Cathy Zimmerman
Professor
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom
#cthb24

"We thought empowerment would miraculously prevent human trafficking. However, we need the R&D process to improve those good guesses. We need specific investment in R&D on prevention."



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024




Elżbieta Mirga-Wójtciewicz
Researcher
Centre for Migration Research Warsaw University
Project Manager
Fundacja Jani Dżi, Poland
#cthb24

"The Roma community is at risk of human trafficking for two main reasons: firstly, it is isolated from the majority population through social exclusion and negative stereotyping; secondly, there is a lack of integration of anti-trafficking initiatives into broader social support services."




24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Ilias Chatzis
UN Chief on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
#cthb24

"In some cases, we might already have the data we need, but is this data being used adequately, and are we using it to improve our systems?"



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024




Pedro Assares Rodrigues
Head of Unit - Enforcement & Analysis
European Labour Authority (ELA)
#cthb24

"Businesses and workers have never been so mobile as they are today and vulnerability can affect everyone, even those who think they are not so exposed to it. This, together with the blurring of labour law violations and more serious forms of exploitation requires coordinated efforts and strong international cooperation between national authorities. A holistic, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency approach is key to effectively prevent and counter trafficking and exploitation."




24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Nick Hobbs
Head of Investigations
Children & Young People's Commissioner Scotland
#cthb24

"We need to hear the voices of trafficked asylum seekers, who denounce that there exists a culture of disbelief of their status as children, their status as refugees, and their status as trafficking victims."



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Marat Bashimov
Deputy of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan
#cthb24

"The comprehensive Anti-trafficking law currently considered by the Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan is very relevant and timely. The law and its structure will work to prevent trafficking in human beings and will clearly stipulate that the State has zero tolerance towards those who engage in human trafficking and defends the rights of victims."



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024




Leif Coorlim
Executive Editor
CNN Freedom Project
#cthb24

"Impact journalism initiatives like the CNN Freedom Project play a crucial role in addressing modern-day slavery by shining a light on this pervasive human rights issue. Through in-depth investigations and compelling storytelling, initiatives like the CNN Freedom Project not only expose the harsh realities of slavery but also empower audiences to take meaningful action. However, with this responsibility comes significant challenges for the media. Reporters face obstacles such as accessing sensitive locations, protecting vulnerable sources, and navigating legal complexities. Moreover, ethical considerations demand careful reporting to avoid re-traumatizing survivors or compromising ongoing investigations. Despite these challenges, the media's commitment to uncovering and reporting on modern-day slavery remains vital for holding perpetrators accountable and driving systemic change."




24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Hatun Demirer
Ambassador
as of 8 March 2021
Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE
#cthb24

"The 2021 OSCE Survey noted a significant increase in the rate of forced criminality, from 2% to 24%. This represents the urgent need to increase our prevention efforts."



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



Katherine Chon
Director of the Office on Trafficking in Persons
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
#cthb24

"We can be predictive of evolving ways of trafficking. We can know the where, the how, and the what, concretely by looking at the economic and market factors and the social norms that facilitate human trafficking. We should expand our analysis beyond individual and relational aspects to include societal factors."



24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024




Mariaam Bhatti
Co-founder
The Great Care Co-op
Community Development and Social Policy Practitioner
Member OSCE/ODIHR ISTAC
#cthb24

"While human mobility is vital for economic growth, it is important to remain vigilant about the need to protect migrant workers from exploitation and abuse. To be able to prevent human trafficking for labour exploitation, the States should place greater emphasis on integrating all relevant policies, ensuring easy access to information on migration and employment opportunities for those looking for jobs abroad, and disconnecting the widespread practice of linking work permits to a specific employer."




24th CONFERENCE OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS
15-16 APRIL 2024



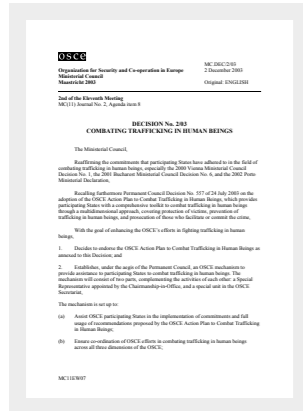
Rafael Bautista
Vicechair
United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking
#cthb24

"When we do nothing, we are perpetrating the same violence that was done to us in the past."




For more information about our latest activities, follow us on X:
https://x.com/osce_cthb

ADDITIONAL OSCE RESOURCES



Decision no. 2/03 Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Ministerial Council
Maastricht 2003
2nd of the Eleventh Meeting
MC(11) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8
MC.DEC/2/03
2 December 2003

<https://www.osce.org/files/f/documents/7/5/23866.pdf>



Discouraging the demand that fosters trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation

The research highlights the importance of addressing the demand that fosters trafficking for sexual exploitation to prevent exploitation and harm to victims; it analyses the ways States have responded to international obligations to discourage demand; and offers recommendations on how to incorporate demand into anti-trafficking efforts.

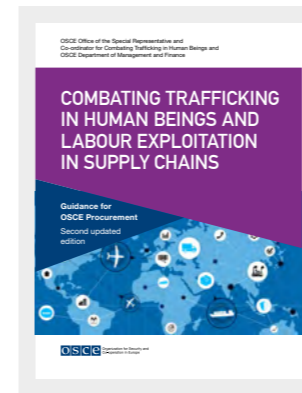
<https://www.osce.org/cthb/489388>



Following the Money: Compendium of Resources and Step-by-step Guide to Financial Investigations Into Trafficking in Human Beings

The paper aims to leverage off of the strengths and successes of established but disparate anti-THB financial investigatory practices, developed across the OSCE participating States, to raise awareness of the strategic value of financial investigations and the resources available, and to help create a more harmonised approach that can contribute to mainstreaming of financial investigations across the OSCE region.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/438323>



Combating trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation in supply chains - Guidance for OSCE Procurement - Second updated edition

This second revised edition of the procurement guidance is a key document facilitating the implementation of anti-trafficking measures in OSCE's own procurement across its executive structures and aligning the OSCE's mandates with its processes. The guidance aims to support procurement and anti-trafficking staff in the OSCE with the background knowledge to implement anti-trafficking measures in procurement activities alongside training workshops, procurement risk analyses, and local action plans. Preventing trafficking and labour exploitation in supply chains is no easy task. By following these steps, the OSCE is developing further expertise and is supporting OSCE participating States and the international community in their ongoing efforts to prevent trafficking for forced labour in their supply chains.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/536001>



Applying gender-sensitive approaches in combating trafficking in human beings

This occasional paper explores the increased risks of trafficking in human beings (THB) faced by persons belonging minorities, including national minorities. Poverty, social exclusion, previous experience of other forms of violence such as sexual abuse or domestic violence, prior involvement in the juvenile justice or child welfare system, lack of access to education, employment, and housing are factors of vulnerability that traffickers exploit. The report also highlights the impact of racial or ethnic discrimination on the response to THB itself, which leads to barriers to victim services and access to justice. The misconceived notion that non-discrimination requires everyone to be treated exactly the same can result in policies which fail to account for specific vulnerabilities, thereby hampering authorities' ability to identify and assist victims of trafficking belonging to minorities. It therefore provides a basis for discussion about potential methods and tools to address and mitigate these increased risks and identification and protection gaps. The report also emphasizes the need for greater attention and action to better protect minority victims of THB, encouraging a society- and system-wide approach.

<https://www.osce.org/secretariat/574475>



Out of the Shadows: Addressing the Dynamics of Trafficking in Persons Belonging to Minorities, including National Minorities

This occasional paper explores the increased risks of trafficking in human beings (THB) faced by persons belonging minorities, including national minorities. Poverty, social exclusion, previous experience of other forms of violence such as sexual abuse or domestic violence, prior involvement in the juvenile justice or child welfare system, lack of access to education, employment, and housing are factors of vulnerability that traffickers exploit. The report also highlights the impact of racial or ethnic discrimination on the response to THB itself, which leads to barriers to victim services and access to justice. The misconceived notion that non-discrimination requires everyone to be treated exactly the same can result in policies which fail to account for specific vulnerabilities, thereby hampering authorities' ability to identify and assist victims of trafficking belonging to minorities. It therefore provides a basis for discussion about potential methods and tools to address and mitigate these increased risks and identification and protection gaps. The report also emphasizes the need for greater attention and action to better protect minority victims of THB, encouraging a society- and system-wide approach.

<https://www.osce.org/secretariat/574475>



Policy responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings

The report examines the practices adopted by the private sector and civil society organizations as well as the accelerating shift toward government-led responses. It also provides a set of recommendations for States on how to use policies and legislation to combat human trafficking while respecting other fundamental rights such as privacy and freedom of expression.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/514141>



Issue Brief - The role of independent National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms in enhancing States' anti-trafficking responses

The Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, in co-operation with the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, conducted an expert meeting on the role of independent National Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms in enhancing States' anti-trafficking responses. The discussions from the meeting serve as a basis for this issue brief and recommendations to the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

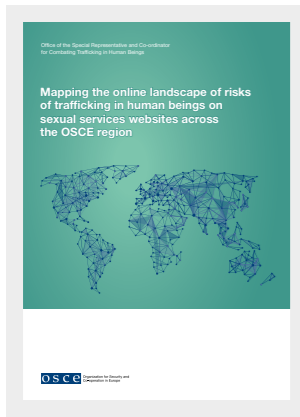
<https://www.osce.org/cthb/503920>



Putting victims first: The 'social path' to identification and assistance

This publication offers a discussion on why and how to adopt a 'social path' approach to identifying and assisting victims of trafficking in human beings, irrespective of their willingness to participate in criminal proceedings. Based on a review of international law, engagement between the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and the OSCE participating States, and a desk review of the information available about the emerging 'social path' practices, it is a reference and advocacy tool to support the introduction of the 'social' path framework at the national level.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/538452>



Mapping the online landscape of risks of trafficking in human beings on sexual services websites across the OSCE region

First of its kind, this report was designed to identify — in 40 OSCE participating States — the market-leading online sites and platforms for the explicit and non-explicit selling of sexual services where victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation could be advertised. The report's findings are based on the mapping and analysis of almost 2,900 sex services websites across the OSCE region, containing over 3 million advertisements. The study provides detailed information about how these websites operate. The research also lists information and data associated with the sites and, through an analysis based on trafficking indicators, examines whether they can be exposed to human trafficking's risks.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/555441>



Invisible victims: The nexus between disabilities and trafficking in human beings

This paper provides an overview of the existing links between disability and trafficking in human beings, how persons living with disability are affected by trafficking, and to what extent legal standards, policy frameworks, and anti-trafficking measures integrate concerns associated with disabilities. This analysis is approached from four distinct perspectives: disability as an enhanced vulnerability factor that traffickers target; disability as a feature of exploitation; disability as a result of trafficking and exploitation; and disability of trafficking survivors as a factor in accessing justice, protection, employment, health, and rehabilitation services. Finally, the paper presents a series of recommendations and potential strategies aimed at elevating awareness and prioritizing the disability dimension within efforts to combat human trafficking.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/568150>



Modernizing National Action Plans to Strengthen States' Anti-trafficking Efforts

Effectively combating trafficking in human beings requires a strategic, co-ordinated, and well-resourced national response, utilizing a whole-of-society approach that can protect victims, prosecute traffickers and prevent exploitation. National Action Plans (NAPs) are fundamental to successfully delivering such a response. Recognizing the importance of NAPs within national anti-trafficking systems, the Office of the OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings analyzed the NAPs that are currently in use within the OSCE region to examine their structure and thematic priorities against persistent challenges and emerging trafficking trends.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/545419>



The role of OSCE participating States in combating orphanage trafficking

This publication seeks to shed light on the role of OSCE participating States in combating orphanage trafficking—a pressing yet overlooked form of child trafficking. It highlights the pathways through which children are trafficked into institutions, analyses both the demand and supply side that fuels orphanage trafficking, examines the policies that perpetuate the institutionalization of children, and showcases best practices for reducing the exploitation and abuse fuelled by the orphanage industry.

<https://www.osce.org/cthb/588718>

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

OSCE Secretariat
Wallnerstrasse 6
A-1010 Vienna, Austria

@osce_cthb
info-cthb@osce.org
osce.org/cthb



Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe