



## **Training on the Identification and Protection of Victims of Trafficking Amid the War in Ukraine with a Focus on Children**

24-25 March 2025, 09:00-17:30

Warsaw, Poland

### **Concept Note**

As part of the “Supporting the Human Dimension of Security in Ukraine in Times of Crises” project, ODIHR, in cooperation with KIND, is organizing a training course on ‘Identification and Protection of Victims of Trafficking Amid the War in Ukraine with a Focus on Children.’

### **Background and Context**

Since 1999, ODIHR has been supporting participating States in implementing their OSCE commitments on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings, focusing on the promotion of international human rights standards, victim-centred, gender- and age-sensitive measures in response to this crime. As a result, ODIHR has developed expertise and plays a significant role in victim protection and promoting the rights of trafficked persons and groups who are at risk.

In 2025, the risk of human trafficking for displaced persons both within and outside Ukraine, remains a pressing concern, exacerbated by the ongoing war and its socio-economic repercussions. There are approximately 6.9 million Ukrainian refugees worldwide, with an estimated 3.6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Ukraine.<sup>1</sup> Women and children make up the majority of displaced Ukrainians (62% are women, 36% are children)<sup>2</sup>. Children are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation during times of war and displacement, due to several compounding factors, including interrupted education resulting in learning delays, separation from families, ongoing risk of violence, heightened physical dangers and significant psychological distress.

In response to the increased risk of trafficking associated with the war, ODIHR launched a number of initiatives following the Russian Federation's military attack in Ukraine in February 2022. Between 2022 and 2024, ODIHR organized nine training sessions for civil society organizations (CSOs) and frontline responders as part of the “Advancing the Human Dimension of Security in Ukraine” project, which led to the formation of a CSO and frontline responders’ network, with 300 members from 45 countries. Training

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Operational Data Portal, [Ukraine Refugee Situation](#).

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

participants were shown practical ways to tailor their responses to the particular vulnerabilities exacerbated by conflict, therefore improving their ability to identify and support victims of trafficking effectively.

### **Workshop Objectives**

This course aims to improve the capacity of professionals working with displaced people, including children, to identify cases of trafficking, apply trauma-informed approaches and mitigate the risks of child trafficking. The training will give participants practical tools and strategies for identifying and protecting victims of trafficking (VoTs) including child VoTs as well as practice in trauma-informed interaction with child VoTs.

In particular, participants will learn about:

- Standards for the identification and protection of VoTs, particularly children, in the context of National Referral Mechanisms
- Vulnerabilities to human trafficking of children in the context of the war in Ukraine;
- The effects of trauma on children escaping war and child VoTs;
- Trauma-informed approaches to adopt in interactions with child VoTs, including to ensure the 'do not harm' principle is used;
- Trauma-informed techniques for talking to child VoTs in interview settings and enabling disclosure.

### **Target beneficiaries**

- Civil society organizations working with VoTs, children displaced in Ukraine and child refugees from Ukraine
- Frontline responders
- Social service providers
- Child protection specialists

The training will be conducted in English without interpretation. ODIHR will cover the cost of the most economical transport to Warsaw, along with accommodation and meals during the workshop.

Participants must be available, in person, for the full two-day workshop from 09:00-17:30 both days.

To apply, please complete the [application form](#) by **28 February COB**. Successful applicants will receive confirmation of their participation by 5 March COB.

### **Contact**

For further information, please contact Tereza Borodenchyk at [Tereza.Borodenchyk@odihr.pl](mailto:Tereza.Borodenchyk@odihr.pl).

*The “Supporting the Human Dimension of Security in Ukraine in Times of Crises” project aims to enhance the human dimension of security in response to the war in Ukraine ensuring respect for human rights and adherence to democratic principles in line with OSCE commitments and international standards.*