



## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

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

---

18<sup>th</sup> *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* conference

### Everyone Has a Role: How to Make a Difference Together

23–24 April 2018

Hofburg (Neuer Saal), Vienna

#### CONCEPT NOTE

#### FOCUS

The focus of this year's high-level conference is to promote the importance of inclusive partnerships to further enhance the coherence of anti-trafficking efforts and strengthen co-operation at the local, national, regional and international level.

The conference will examine existing, more traditional anti-trafficking partnerships, along with the benefits of innovative co-operation modalities which often remain 'invisible' in formalized multi-disciplinary frameworks. A special emphasis will also be placed on new actors whose engagement would bring added value to anti-trafficking responses.

#### THE ALLIANCE

The *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* is an informal **platform for advocacy and co-operation** that includes international and civil society organizations. The *Alliance* was launched in 2004 to combine and co-ordinate the efforts of all its partners behind the common goal of preventing and combating human trafficking. Acting as a framework to improve synergy, the *Alliance* also supports the OSCE participating States in establishing a harmonized approach to combating this heinous crime which violates human rights and undermines the rule of law, human security and good migration governance throughout the region.

The 18th *Alliance* conference will be attended by **representatives of the 57 OSCE participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation**, major **international organizations** and NGOs which are partners in the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons*, as well as academia, civil society, the media, trade unions, and think-tanks. Active participation during the discussion sessions and via Twitter - @osce\_cthb, #cthb18 - is highly encouraged.

**More information** can be found at: <https://www.osce.org/event/alliance18>

## BACKGROUND

The recommendations of the 2003 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings<sup>1</sup> and the provisions on co-operation found in the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments from 2000 to 2011<sup>2</sup> were further enhanced with the adoption of the 2013 Addendum to the Action Plan,<sup>3</sup> which introduced a new chapter on partnerships. It calls for co-operation at all levels that could be based either on shared values and strategic goals, or on more focused and targeted tasks, addressing specific forms of exploitation and thus involving specific agencies and actors. This concept was further developed from 2013 to date, including through the adoption of two 2017 Ministerial Council Decisions, namely “Strengthening Efforts to Prevent Trafficking in Human Beings” (MC.DEC/6/17) and “Strengthening Efforts to Combat All Forms of Child Trafficking, Including for Sexual Exploitation, as well as Other Forms of Sexual Exploitation of Children” (MC.DEC/7/17).

Similarly, as reaffirmed in the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons<sup>4</sup>, the UN Member States encourage “effective co-operation and co-ordination of efforts at the national, bi-lateral, sub-regional, regional and international level” and to “take advantage of the networks provided by relevant organisations to share best practices in capacity-building for responding to and combating trafficking in persons”. States are also called upon to intensify such co-operation and technical assistance for countries of origin, transit and destination.

In practical terms, the implementation of these commitments requires broadening the scope of partnerships by engaging key, yet often omitted actors, such as medical practitioners, teachers, labour inspectors, police units (e.g. community or cyber police, financial investigators), businesses, municipalities, media, community and religious organizations. A multi-disciplinary approach is indeed crucial to preventing, detecting and disrupting the crime of trafficking in human beings, as well as identifying potential and presumed trafficked cases and ensuring proper referral and assistance. At the same time, due to the nature of human trafficking, partnership frameworks such as inter-ministerial co-ordination bodies, multi-agency working groups, governmental task forces or law enforcement co-operation schemes should be based on established standards, clearly assigned roles and shared responsibility and objectives, as well as trust. Partnership frameworks should also allow for flexibility to facilitate an inclusive environment for everyone who has a role. Importantly, anti-trafficking policies can also be strengthened by establishing strategic partnerships, increasing awareness of each actor’s role and recognizing the importance of the voice of victims. Moreover, regional and international partnerships should cater for the adoption of all-inclusive approaches in order to step up prevention, prosecution and protection efforts in a more meaningful and harmonized manner. Finally, it is critical to regularly review existing partnership frameworks so as to adapt and expand them, as well as draw upon new experiences, and, wherever feasible, ensure the complementarity of efforts.

Against this backdrop and in line with the recently adopted 2017 OSCE Ministerial Decisions, the 18<sup>th</sup> *Alliance* conference will analyse case studies and good practices to further promote dialogue and co-operation among governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, including businesses, workers and employers organizations.

---

<sup>1</sup> OSCE, Permanent Council Decision No.557 OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, 24 July 2003.

<sup>2</sup> See Annex 1 to “The Commentary to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (PC.DEC/557), the 2005 Addendum Addressing Special Needs of Child Victims of Trafficking for Protection and Assistance (PC.DEC/557/Rev.1) and the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later (PC.DEC/1107/Corr.1)”, December 2015.

<sup>3</sup> OSCE, Permanent Council Decision No.1107/Corr.1 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: One Decade Later, 6 December 2013.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, United Nations Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, UN General Assembly Resolution A/64/L.64, 30 July 2010.