

OFFICE OF THE OSCE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE AND CO-ORDINATOR FOR COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

2018 REPORT UPDATE

Human trafficking is the world's largest form of organized crime that uses people as the product. And because it feeds off vulnerability – in particular, gender, racial and economic inequality – trafficking is a symptom of “unhealth” in our society. Where trafficking goes unchecked and impunity reigns, the rule of law is undermined and the security and safety of all citizens, especially the most vulnerable, is threatened. For this reason, combating human trafficking is not just a law enforcement responsibility; it is a human, societal and security imperative and an urgent priority for the OSCE.

It is with great pleasure that we present this review of the OSR/CTHB activities in 2018, one of the most productive and impactful years in our twelve-year history. We hope you will enjoy a short overview of our core values and unique methodology, a recap of our projects and activities in 2018 and a preview of where we are headed in 2019.

Partnership oriented, innovative, focused. From Policy to Practice.

The OSR/CTHB's mandate at its core is to help all 57 OSCE participating States to combat – and ultimately to end – human trafficking. Our methodology is to identify and research persistent and emerging issues

in the field of human trafficking, develop sound policy responses, and facilitate practical implementation of that policy on the ground. In short, the OSR/CTHB covers anti-trafficking “from policy to practice.”

We implement this approach through awareness raising, building political will, technical assistance and research, capacity building and co-ordination. Throughout our work, we ensure a victim-centred and

human rights-based approach that addresses prevention, prosecution, protection and partnerships.

2018 | A YEAR IN REVIEW

This year, the OSR/CTHB engaged on a broad spectrum of interventions:

Research and Publications:

- The role of civil society in combating trafficking
- Child trafficking and child protection systems
- Identifying human trafficking victims in migration flows
- The intersection of technology and trafficking
- Exploitation in the context of the tourism and hospitality industry
- Model guidelines on exploitation-free public procurement



OSCE Acting Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, **Mr. Valiant Richey**, visiting the reception centre for asylum seekers in Kofinou during a country visit to Cyprus in September 2018. (OSCE/Claudio Formisano)

Awareness raising and technical assistance through country visits:

- Austria
- Cyprus
- Uzbekistan
- Mongolia (report)

Capacity Building

- Three simulation-based training exercises including the first-ever in Russian
- Trainings on technology and trafficking in Albania and Ukraine
- Labour exploitation training in Ukraine

Partnerships and Co-ordination

- OSR/CTHB became a member of ICAT
- Joined the Advisory Council of Tech Against Trafficking
- Convened meetings of National Anti-trafficking Co-ordinators, Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons and its experts co-ordination groups

In 2018, the OSR/CTHB further developed core programmes around areas of greatest need and potential impact, including: trafficking in migration flows, public procurement and supply chains, technology and trafficking, and child trafficking.

1. Human trafficking in migration flows

Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in migration flows continue to face grave risks of human trafficking and exploitation. The OSR/CTHB works to help tackle these vulnerabilities through a combination of policy development and pioneering capacity-building activities.

This year, the OSR/CTHB:

a. Conducted three simulation training exercises, including one for Italian practitioners, the first-ever Russian language exercise, and an English language exercise for practitioners across the OSCE.

Over the course of the project and in concert with 10 donors and over 30 partners, the OSR/CTHB has trained representatives from 55 countries including:



Following a raid by criminal investigators, a simulated arrest of criminals involved in trafficking of migrant victims takes place during a simulation-based training on combating human trafficking along migration routes, CoESPU, Vicenza, 8 June 2017. (Carabinieri)

- Financial investigators
- Criminal investigators
- Labour inspectors
- Prosecutors
- NGOs
- Public/Municipal Social Service Providers
- Lawyers
- Cultural Mediators
- Journalists

This project builds expertise among anti-trafficking practitioners, develops powerful and practical networks across borders and disciplines, and stands as an enduring example of collaboration in the OSCE.

“I think it is one of the most effective methods not only to make training really impactful and action oriented, but also to have long-lasting effects on the work in the field in a right-based and multi-agency perspective.”

Marco Bufo,
civil society expert



Participants of the workshop for the identification of victims of trafficking amongst mixed migration flows, Catania, 11 October 2018. (OSCE)

b. Uniform guidelines for identifying victims

The Office researched and developed uniform guidelines to help improve identification of victims of human trafficking by first responders in migration and reception centres across the OSCE region.

2. Ending labor trafficking through clean public procurement

In February 2018, the OSR/CTHB published its innovative “Model Guidelines on Government Measures to Prevent Trafficking For Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains”. Building on extensive research and collaboration with leading international practitioners in this field, the publication provides practical guidance to participating States to ensure that fair labour recruitment and transparency practices are implemented in public procurement. Following the publication, the Office engaged participating States through workshops to promote practical guidance for achieving ethical public procurement.



3. Technology and trafficking: turning a liability into an asset

From victims recruited via social media to traffickers exploiting victims on websites to illicit flows of cryptocurrency, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is now at the heart of the human trafficking business model. The OSR/CTHB has been at the forefront of turning technology from a liability into an asset by conducting research into the interlinkages between technology and trafficking, identifying over 200 promising technology initiatives to combat human trafficking, and building ground-breaking partnerships between the public and private sectors in the field of technology.



OSCE Acting Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, **Mr. Valiant Richey**, speaking at the Thomson Reuters Foundation's Trust Conference in London on the importance of utilizing technology to fight trafficking, London 14 November 2018. (Thomson Reuters Foundation)

4. Child victims of trafficking

Children are especially vulnerable to human trafficking, whether it be child labour, sexual exploitation, early (forced) marriage, organ removal, begging and forced criminality such as drug carrying. Taking stock of the 2017 Alliance conference on child trafficking, in 2018 the OSR/CTHB continued its strong emphasis on combating trafficking of children by:

- Conducting research into the sexual exploitation of children in the context of tourism
- Publishing a research paper on protecting child victims of trafficking through national child protection mechanisms
- Ensuring a focus on child exploitation in its simulation-based training exercises

In 2019, the OSR/CTHB will capitalize on the tremendous success of 2018 by transforming the research and policy development conducted this year into practical and impactful activities on the ground. It will also leverage new and emerging partnerships at the global and regional levels, and across international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector. Below are some of the priority areas for 2019.

1. OSR/CTHB and ICAT: bridging the anti-trafficking effort from global to local

In 2019 the OSCE will become the first-ever non-UN agency to chair the Inter-Agency Coordination Group Against Trafficking when it co-chairs the network with UN Women. ICAT represents a unique opportunity to build bridges from the global response to trafficking to the regional and local response. Through inter-agency co-ordination, exchange of expertise, and pooling of resources, we will:

- Usher in a future of collaboration from global to regional
- Help ICAT grow in size and impact
- Incorporate OSCE values including human rights and gender equality

2. Engaging Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation

Together with our ongoing project on “Combating Human Trafficking along Migration Routes”, in 2019 the Office will conduct a ground-breaking collaborative simulation exercise for practitioners around the Mediterranean region, bringing together participating States from southern Europe and Partners for Co-operation from northern Africa. This capacity building project will confront the realities of migration and trafficking in the Mediterranean region and demonstrate the value of practical partnerships within the OSCE and beyond.

3. Technology

In early 2019, the OSR/CTHB will publish its research on the intersection of technology and trafficking and the promising tech initiatives to counter trafficking. The OSR/CTHB will aim to leverage that research by driving impactful partnerships in the new coalition Technology Against Trafficking. And, to raise awareness and develop joint strategies for the future, the OSR/CTHB will devote its 2019 Alliance High-Level Conference to the topic of technology and trafficking. The conference will look at the role of technology both as a liability and as an asset to combat trafficking in human beings in relation to all four key pillars of the OSCE’s anti-trafficking commitments: prevention, prosecution, protection and partnerships.

4. Supply chains and public procurement

Finally, in 2019 the OSR/CTHB will continue to lead efforts to address labour exploitation through responsible public procurement. Building on the success of its standard-setting guidelines on supply chains, the OSR/CTHB will conduct workshops to strengthen the capacities of practitioners from the OSCE participating States to prevent human trafficking in supply chains. It will also apply the recommended principles to the OSCE through mapping of the OSCE supply chain to prevent trafficking in the OSCE’s own procurement practices.

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OSCE Secretariat
Office of the Special Representative
and Co-ordinator for Combating
Trafficking in Human Beings
Wallnerstrasse 6
1010 Vienna, Austria
Office: +43 1 514 36 6257

Email: info-cthb@osce.org