

Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking
Improving National and Transnational Coordination and Cooperation in Preventing and Combating all Forms of Human Trafficking;
Developing and Strengthening National and Transnational Networks and Partnerships



Think-tank Event

International Expert Round Table

TIME TO GET REAL

Beyond Awareness Raising and Recommendations

**HOW TO REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF PEOPLE BEING
TRAFFICKED & EXPLOITED**



**Chamber of Labour, Vienna, Theresianumgasse 16-18, 4th District
6 October 2023, 9:30 – 17:00**

in Cooperation with



**MENSCHEN
RECHTSBÜRO**



supported by

 **Federal Chancellery**
Federal Minister for Women,
Families and Youth

 **Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria**
Social Affairs, Health, Care
and Consumer Protection



***The Round Table will be held in English - No interpretation. Attending the Round Table is free of charge.
Registration is obligatory and open from 20 September - 2 October 2023***

Participants are invited to take note that there may be photographs taken and videos recorded for documentation purposes, a selection of which might be published on our websites and/or social media channels later on. Participants' speeches and presentations will be recorded and published on image and sound carriers as well as internet (Livestream) and television broadcast, reproduced and used audio-visually. By registering for the above Round Table you agree that your personal data (name, function, company or institution) can be automatically processed by the 'Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking' for the indicated purpose. You may revoke your arrangement(s) any time by sending us an e-mail. If you don't agree that your e-mail address is used for information provision and invitations on activities (Round Tables, meetings, workshops, info sessions) of the 'Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking', please let us know via e-mail. We shall delete your e-mail address from the list(s).

AGENDA

9:30-10:00 Opening and Introduction

Welcome:

- **Eva Burger**, Head of Department Women and Family, on behalf of the President of the Chamber of Labour, Vienna, **Host**

- **Helga Konrad**, Head/Coordinator 'Regional Implementation Initiative on Preventing & Combating Human Trafficking:

Introduction & Moderation: **TIME TO GET REAL: How to Reduce the Likelihood of People Being Trafficked & Exploited**

10:00 – 11:00

I. Justice without Rights – Rights without Justice?

Rights and Justice are inherently linked and interdependent concepts. Rights provide the framework for justice, defining the standards by which individuals should be treated and protected. Justice, in turn, ensures that these rights are respected and enforced. To ensure consistency with human rights principles, it is important to have strong legal frameworks in place, as well as effective oversight and review mechanisms, such as independent monitoring. Unfortunately, a range of rights in the anti-trafficking processes are ignored, limited or denied, and transparency and accountability mechanisms are under-developed.

Experts will discuss (and offer solutions) on how to strengthen, enforce and uphold these rights.

Keynotes:

- **Helmut Sax**, Senior Researcher, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights, Austria:

Looking for the Missing Link(s) Between Ineffective Action and Accountability for Protecting Human Rights - The Case of Anti-Trafficking Monitoring at National and Local Levels

- **Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**, former UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, former OSCE Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, former EC Senior Advisor:

What Monitoring Mechanisms – if any - at International, National and EU Levels have led to Positive Change?

Debate about Data & Money:

- **Bärbel Uhl**, Independent Researcher, Germany:

What Interests are served by Amassing all Sorts of Data and what Risks are associated (and possibly exacerbated by AI) with this?

- **Kiril Sharapov**, Researcher, Associate Professor of Applied Social Sciences, Edinburgh Napier University, Scotland:

Who has the Money decides on the Agenda? How to promote Transparency and Accountability through Money Allocation

Q&A

11:00 – 12:30

II. Advancing Human Rights or 'Shaping the World as You Want it'

In recent years human rights have been increasingly jeopardized by authoritarianism, economic interests, discrimination and by ideologies that prioritize their own interests over the rights and freedoms of others. Some may view them as a Western or imperialistic concept incompatible with their own cultural or religious beliefs. Meanwhile the author Ferdinand von Schirach argues that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights no longer reflects reality, as today we have to face completely new challenges and dangers, such as globalization, digitalization, artificial intelligence, climate change, etc., and therefore we need new, additional human rights. **Experts will discuss why protecting and advancing human rights in the fight against human trafficking and exploitation is crucial and why they must not be open to (political and other) interpretation at will.**

Keynotes:

- **Manfred Nowak**, Secretary General, Global Campus of Human Rights, Venice:

Why Human Rights must NOT be subordinated to State or National Interests?

- **Conny Rijken**, Researcher, Univ.Prof. Tilburg University, National Rapporteur NL:

Securing Human Rights through Criminal Justice?

Debate: Do many cooks spoil the broth?

The basis for effective anti-trafficking monitoring lies in clear communication channels and lines of responsibility including efficient resource management ensuring that efforts are targeted and priorities addressed effectively in transparent ways. The proverb: 'too many cooks spoil the broth' suggests that involving many different actors in a task or process, can lead to confusion, inefficiency and ultimately to a negative outcome. In the context of the establishment of various anti-trafficking monitoring mechanisms by different organizations and stakeholders, the same principle may apply to some extent. **Experts will discuss the issue at large and provide in-depth insight into positive and negative experiences with regard to respective implementation efforts.**

Keynote:

- **Valentina Carraro**, Assistant Professor, University of Leiden, Institute of Security and Global Affairs:

Empirical Findings related to Overlapping Activities Performed by Human Rights Monitoring Bodies

Critical Reflections on Regional and International Monitoring Mechanisms

- **Tetiana Rudenko**, Senior Co-ordination Adviser on THB, OSCE

- **Claire Healy**, Research Officer, UNODC Research Branch

- **Ludovica Banfi**, *Project Manager, Justice, Digital and Migration Unit, FRA*
Q&A

Livestream Link: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. (CET):

[TIME TO GET REAL - How to Reduce the Likelihood of People Being Trafficked & Exploited - Part I - YouTube](#)

12:30 – 13:30 Break

13:30– 14:30

III. When Labour Exploitation becomes Trafficking...

Human trafficking is not an isolated phenomenon. It intersects with a range of other policy areas. One key area is migration. Experience shows that migrants are generally at the mercy of traffickers and of people who wish to exploit them before departure, on their often dangerous routes they take and/or in the countries of transit and destination, because they may be particularly vulnerable due to language barriers, lack of regular legal status, lack of social inclusion, among other factors. **Experts will discuss how policy responses to migration, such as the UK's Illegal Migration Bill, and EU's relocation of asylum applications outside of Europe, including smuggling and push backs without proper investigations, (inadvertently??) may trigger human trafficking and exploitation, instead of reducing the likelihood of people being trafficked and exploited.**

Keynotes & Debate about Obstacles & Possible Solutions:

- **Ryszard Piotrowicz**, *Professor of Law, Aberystwyth University, Department of Law and Criminology, Wales:*
[The Impact of \(Anti-\)Migration Policies and Measures for Labour Trafficking and Exploitation](#)

- **Klara Skrivankova**, *International Expert and Consultant, London: (online)*
[Consequences and Possible Improvements of Anti-Trafficking by National and Regional Responses to Migration](#)

- **Roger Plant**, *Independent Expert, Former Head of ILO Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour:*
[What have been the Effects – if any - of the Focus on Supply-Chains and Private Business on Anti-Trafficking?](#)

- **Suzanne Hoff**, *International Coordinator, La Strada International, NL:*
[What Obstacles are Encountered by NGOs when Addressing Labour Trafficking and Related Exploitation?](#)

Q&A

14:30 – 16:00

IV. How to Get Out of a Machine in Perpetual Motion?

In recent years, there have been numerous initiatives to develop methods for monitoring the implementation of anti-trafficking laws, policies and related measures. So far, monitoring has been little more than an afterthought and at best conceived and understood as self-edited reporting on project outcomes by governments, NGOs or IOs. The initiatives taken by the European Commission can also hardly be considered monitoring in a qualitative sense. And there is also a quite different exercise called 'monitoring', the US TIP report, which involves making a judgement on whether measures implemented to stop human trafficking meet the minimum standards set by the US' own national laws. This is not enough. What is needed, is independent external objective monitoring and evaluation, based on professional methodologies and standards, informed by trafficking expertise. **Experts will discuss WHY all these monitoring exercises result in so little progress and will identify what is very relevant but is NOT monitored, or deliberately 'shoved under the carpet'.**

Keynote:

- **Mike Dottridge**, *Independent Expert and Consultant, UK:*

[What's Going on Beyond/Outside Europe – and What Can we Learn from One Another?](#)

Reality Checks:

Examples of Innovative Accountability Tools and Practice at National/Domestic Levels

- **Sangeetha Manavalan**, *Deputy Head, LEFÖ-Intervention Centre for Trafficked Women and Girls (IBF), Austria*

- **Marija Andjelkovic**, *Director of NGO ASTRA-Anti trafficking action, Serbia*

- **Afia Zabre**, *Coordinator of Dispositif national Ac.Se – Association ALC, France*

- **Vassilis Kerasiotis**, *Director HIAS, Greece*

- **Markus Zingerle**, *Sociologist, MEN VIA- Support for Male Victims of Human Trafficking & Exploitation, Vienna*

Q&A

16:00 – 17:00

V. From Lip Service to Concerted Action?

For many years experts working on anti-trafficking have been calling for the political will to put theory into practice, to fully implement the relevant laws and commitments. Political will, which is more than political leaders and stakeholders declaring that addressing THB is one of a country's priorities. Political will, meaning more than government officials gathering periodically in inter-ministerial meetings. Political will, understood as proactive political leadership on the issue, which means pushing initiatives regularly and continuously towards more and better results, and reviewing policies and adjusting them as new knowledge becomes available. Cooperation in the fight against human trafficking is essential and we must set up and further develop mechanisms at national, regional and international levels that foster cooperation and coordination. Constructive institutionalized cooperation

means shared joint responsibility, it means accountability including proper budgeting and funding. *Stakeholders & Experts will discuss, how to generate political will, and how cooperation can be effective and whether our actions are pointed in the right direction or need to be re-directed and supplemented.*

Panel Discussion among Stakeholders & Experts:

Responsibility, Leadership, Political Will, Cooperation

- **Peter von Bethlenfalvy**, Executive Director, Center for European and International Policy Action CEIPA, Brussels
- **Gerald Tatzgern**, Police Brigade General, Head of Special Investigation, Federal Criminal Police Office, Ministry of the Interior Austria
- **Wolfgang Spadinger**, Acting National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
- **Marie-Theres Prantner**, Deputy Director, Department for Women specific Legislation & Prevention of Violence, Austrian Chancellery
- **Conny Rijken**, Researcher, Univ.Prof. Tilburg University, National Rapporteur NL

Q&A

Livestream Link: 1:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (CET):

[TIME TO GET REAL - How to Reduce the Likelihood of People Being Trafficked & Exploited - Part II - YouTube](#)

17:00 Closing of the Meeting