NEW WAYS TO TACKLE HUMAN TRAFFICKING FOR FORCED LABOUR ALONG MIGRATION ROUTES

Identifying, Assisting and Referring migrants and refugees, victims of trafficking in human beings, along migration routes

25 NOVEMBER 2016

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

In 2015, worldwide displacement has hit an all-time high in response to which states have reinforced their security-oriented policies in the fight against irregular migration. As a consequence, the majority of forcibly displaced people undertake ever longer, costlier and more perilous journeys, therefore becoming increasingly exposed to human trafficking. The marked increase in the number of human trafficking cases along migration routes has repeatedly been underlined. Moreover, Europol predicts that labour exploitation of migrants will increase in transit as well as in destination countries. This poses a significant challenge for policy-makers and stakeholders who need to rethink their current approaches.

Trafficking in human beings is a multi-faceted and multi-dimensional phenomenon, which has various root causes. It is a serious human rights violation but also one of the most profitable transnational crimes and has serious negative consequences on the formal economy. It is very often linked to other transnational crimes, such as drug and arms trafficking. It fuels organized crime, and can be a threat to the rule of law and a stable public order in general. The international community’s response must therefore adopt long-term and comprehensive approaches, with human rights firmly embedded at their core.

Important challenges remain and must be addressed by the different actors of the international community, if it is to succeed in effectively identifying and protecting victims of human trafficking. In light of the magnitude and complexity of current migration movements as well as the diverse consequences of trafficking for labour exploitation, there is an urgent need for the international community, states and civil society to promote human security and recommit to the fundamental principles of the protection of all human rights at the core of anti-trafficking policies.

---


2 Europol, Latest Trends in Migrant Smuggling: EPMT One Year Anniversary Infographic (2016)
Objective

The objective of this high-level meeting is to bring together state representatives, IOs, NGOs, think tanks, private businesses, media and academia in order to develop new responses that effectively address trafficking for forced labour along migration routes.

The subject is not limited to the migration crisis in Europe and instead the event will address the phenomenon at large (e.g. consequences of states restrictive migration legislation on vulnerabilities to trafficking and labour exploitation, organized crime connections, vulnerabilities in recruitment processes within regular migration routes).

Format, location and timing

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) together with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) will host the High-Level Event.

The International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are co-organizers of the event.

Dr. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, and Ambassador Madina Jarbussynova, OSCE Special Representative and Coordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, have been confirmed as panelists.

The format will consist of 3 panels with 4–6 panelists (TBC) at the Maison de la Paix in Geneva on Friday the 25th of November 2016.

Representatives of Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office in Geneva, international organizations, the private sector, NGOs, media, academia and think tanks will be invited to attend the event.

Working language: English and no interpretation will be provided. Chatham House Rule will not be applied. The High-Level Event will be webcast live. Active promotion and participation via Twitter – @dcaf_amcthb and #DCAF4VoT (DCAF for Victims of Trafficking) – is highly encouraged.

4 OCTOBER 2016