

CGU(2024) OJ 9

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26 June 2024

Consultation Group on the Children of Ukraine (CGU)

SPECIAL THEMATIC HEARING: understanding the risks of trafficking of children of Ukraine, including for the purposes of sexual exploitation and labour exploitation

2 July 2024

Hybrid Format (in Strasbourg Meeting Room 11, Palais, Council of Europe and via Zoom)

Agenda

9:00-11:00	<p>SPECIAL THEMATIC HEARING: understanding the risks of trafficking of children of Ukraine for the purposes of sexual and labour exploitation</p> <p><i>Moderation: Benoit van Keirsbilck, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, CGU member</i></p> <p>🇺🇦 Opening of the hearing (9:00-9:15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA), Council of Europe</i>- <i>Benoit van Keirsbilck, UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, CGU member</i> <p>🇺🇦 The experience of Ukraine and neighbouring member States dealing with the phenomenon of THB (9:15-10:15)</p> <p>➤ <i>Legal and policy perspectives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Vasyl Lutsyk, Head of the National Social Service of Ukraine</i>- <i>Iryna Suslova, Representative of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Child Rights, Ombudsman of Ukraine</i>- <i>Silvia Tăbușcă, Human Rights Law Professor, Romanian-American University, Director of the Center for Human Rights</i>
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	<p>and Migration and Coordinator of REACT Initiative (Research Excellence against Child Trafficking)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Law enforcement perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colin Carswell and Bernie Gravett, Counter Trafficking Network, Directors, Council of Europe Experts ✚ The perspective of international standards and the work of the international organisations (10:15-11:00) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of GRETA - Zsuzsanna Felkai-Janssen, Team Leader in the Office of the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator - Heather Komenda, Senior Regional Thematic Specialist for Migrant protection covering South-Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Tetiana Rudenko, Senior Co-ordination Adviser, OSCE Office of Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
<p>11:00 - 11:15</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>11:15 - 13:00</p>	<p>SPECIAL THEMATIC HEARING CONT'D via ZOOM (same details as above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ The role of Civil society in combating trafficking of children (11:15-12:00) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Civil society perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Natalka Kryva, Head of Social Programme Department, Caritas Ukraine - Julia Sachenko, Director of Child Protection and Anti-Trafficking, Save Ukraine - Alyona Samar, Project Officer, Missing Children Europe - Branko Kišš, Project Manager with extensive experience combating organized crime, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) ✚ Discussion (12:00-12:50) <p> Some possible questions to guide the discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there reliable data available to your authorities/other relevant national actors (i.e., civil society) on trafficking of Ukrainian children in your countries? ▪ Has the situation related to the trafficking of children within Ukraine and in neighbouring states / your respective countries changed since February 2022?

- What is the reporting procedure and which entity is responsible for granting the status of a victim of trafficking in your country?
- What mechanisms are in place in your country to prevent and combat trafficking of Ukrainian children (screening of potential victims, etc.)?
- How does your country address risk factors with regard to the protection of children of Ukraine against trafficking? (ex. asylum centres and other precarious residential or informal labour situations, exclusive reliance on online education, etc.)
- What do you consider the greatest challenges in combating trafficking of children in your member States?
- What do you consider promising practices from your national contexts?
- Are there good practices of intergovernmental cooperation (bilateral or multilateral) to prevent, investigate and prosecute the cases of THB?

 ***Closing of the hearing: reflections on the main findings (12:50-13:00)***