



**Committee of the Parties
to the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings**

**Recommendation CP(2017)30
on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention
on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
by Norway**

*adopted at the 21st meeting of the Committee of the Parties
on 13 October 2017*

The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (hereinafter referred to as 'the Convention'), acting under the terms of Article 38(7) of the Convention;

Having regard to the purposes of the Convention to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings, while guaranteeing gender equality, protect the human rights of victims of trafficking, design a comprehensive framework for the protection and assistance of victims and witnesses, ensure the effective investigation and prosecution of the offences related to trafficking in human beings, and promote international co-operation;

Bearing in mind the provisions of Article 36(1) of the Convention concerning the monitoring role of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) in the implementation of the Convention;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of the Parties;

Having regard to the instrument of ratification deposited by Norway on 17 January 2008;

Recalling Committee of the Parties' Recommendation CP(2013)6 of 7 June 2013 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Norway and the report of the authorities of Norway on measures taken to comply with this recommendation, submitted on 8 June 2015;

Having examined the second report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Norway adopted by GRETA at its 28th meeting (27-31 March 2017), as well as the comments of the Government received on 9 June 2017;

1. Welcomes the progress made since the first round of evaluation in the following areas:
 - the further development of the legal framework for combating trafficking in human beings by amending the definition of trafficking in human beings and increasing the maximum penalty for this offence, as well as the adoption of a new comprehensive National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings;
 - the efforts made to provide training concerning different forms of human trafficking to relevant professionals and to expand the categories of staff trained;
 - the setting up of a new grant scheme for measures to prevent human trafficking and support trafficking victims, which has enabled the opening of a shelter for male victims of trafficking as well as other projects run by non-governmental organisations;
 - the steps taken to prevent and combat human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, including through improved co-operation between law enforcement agencies and labour inspectors;

- the increased number of victims of trafficking granted compensation by the State;
- the setting up of specialised anti-trafficking units in the five largest police districts and the development of multi-agency co-operation in the investigation of human trafficking cases as well as international co-operation.

2. Recommends that the Norwegian authorities take measures to address the following issues for immediate action identified in GRETA's report:

- set up and maintain a comprehensive and coherent statistical system on trafficking in human beings by compiling reliable statistical data from all main actors, including specialised NGOs, on measures to protect and promote the rights of victims as well as on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and compensations in human trafficking cases;
- further improve the identification of victims of trafficking by:
 - setting up a formalised National Referral Mechanism which defines the procedures and roles of all frontline actors who may come into contact with victims of trafficking, in order to improve clarity and legal certainty, and applying the procedures to all victims of trafficking, including asylum seekers, regardless of the setting in which the victims are detected;
 - harmonising the indicators and criteria used by the authorities and civil society representatives to identify presumed victims of trafficking;
 - improving the identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers, migrants and persons placed in detention centres;
 - reviewing the legislation limiting the time period for appealing negative asylum decisions with a view to leaving sufficient time for identifying victims of trafficking and ensuring the effective exercise of the right to judicial review;
- improve the identification and assistance of child victims of trafficking, in particular by:
 - adopting as a matter of priority a National Referral Mechanism for child victims of human trafficking which takes into account the special circumstances and needs of child victims, involves child specialists and ensures that the best interests of the child are the primary consideration in all proceedings relating to child victims of THB and children at risk;
 - ensuring that child victims of trafficking across the country, regardless of whether they seek asylum or not, benefit from the assistance measures provided for under the Convention, including appropriate accommodation, effective access to free legal assistance and psychological support;
 - taking further steps to address the problem of children going missing while in the care of the state and ensuring that there are clear instructions as to which institution holds the lead responsibility for tracing missing children and for taking appropriate measures to notify all relevant authorities in view of ensuring that children are traced and provided with appropriate protection;
 - ensuring that all child victims of trafficking aged 15 to 17 are placed under the care of child welfare services, which should receive the necessary resources and training;
 - carrying out family tracing efforts immediately when a separated child is identified as a victim of trafficking;
- ensure that all possible victims of trafficking are offered a recovery and reflection period and all forms of assistance and protection that go with it regardless of whether a temporary residence permit and access to assistance can be secured on other grounds;
- include slavery, practices similar to slavery and servitude as types of exploitation in the legal definition of trafficking in human beings.

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3. Requests the Government of Norway to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to improve the implementation of the Convention in the above-mentioned areas by 15 October 2018.
 4. Recommends that the Government of Norway takes measures to implement the further conclusions of GRETA's second evaluation report.
 5. Invites the Government of Norway to continue the dialogue in progress with GRETA and to keep GRETA regularly informed of the measures taken in response to GRETA's conclusions.