



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

Recommendation CP(2018)26 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Netherlands

*adopted at the 23rd meeting of the Committee of the Parties
on 9 November 2018*

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 the Netherlands on 22 April 2010;

Recalling Committee of the Parties' Recommendation CP(2014)11 of 7 July 2014 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by the Netherlands and the report of the Dutch authorities on measures taken to comply with this recommendation, submitted on 16 February 2017;

Having examined the second report concerning the implementation of the Convention by the Netherlands adopted by GRETA at its 32nd meeting (9-13 July 2018), as well as the comments of the Dutch Government received on 24 September 2018;

1. Welcomes the progress made since the first round of evaluation in the following areas:
 - the further development of the institutional framework for combating trafficking in human beings (THB), including expanding the composition of the Task Force on Human Trafficking and setting up a national network of regional care co-ordinators of assistance provided to victims of trafficking;
 - the efforts made to provide training on human trafficking to an increasing range of relevant professionals and the additional funding allocated to training;
 - the attention paid to preventing human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, including through providing increased resources to the Inspectorate SZW;
 - the setting up of the Victim Identification Board as a pilot project providing a model of multidisciplinary identification of victims of human trafficking;

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- the attention paid to guaranteeing compensation to victims of human trafficking and the high number of victims awarded compensation by courts or the Violent Offences Compensation Fund;
 - the increase in the number of police detectives certified to investigate cases of human trafficking and the enhanced capacity and expertise of the Public Prosecution Service to deal with such cases;
 - the successful prosecution of offences related to human trafficking committed by legal entities;
 - the efforts made in the area of international co-operation, including through police and judicial co-operation, funding of projects in countries of origin of victims and keeping the fights against human trafficking high on the international agenda.
2. Recommends that the Dutch authorities take measures to address the following issues for immediate action identified in GRETA's report:
- adopt a new National Action Plan against THB as a matter of priority and to support it with the necessary budgetary resources;
 - ensure, in line with Article 12 (6) of the Convention, that assistance provided to foreign victims of THB is not linked to investigations or prosecutions being pursued;
 - take additional steps to ensure that, in compliance with the obligations under Articles 10, 12 and 13 of the Convention, all possible foreign victims of trafficking, including EU/EEA nationals, are consistently offered a recovery and reflection period, regardless of the competent authorities dealing with the case.
3. Requests the Government of the Netherlands 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 **9 November 2019**.
4. Recommends that the Government of the Netherlands take measures to implement the further conclusions of GRETA's second evaluation report.
5. Invites the Government of the Netherlands to continue the dialogue in progress with GRETA and to keep GRETA regularly informed of the measures taken in response to GRETA's conclusions.