

25 MARCH

International Day Against Organ Trafficking



Official Website of the Day [here](#)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

25 March : International Day against Organ Trafficking

Why does this Day exist ?

■ **25 March marks the opening for signature of the [Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs](#).** On this day, States Parties and other countries are encouraged to organise actions to: bring attention to a transnational crime that thrives in the shadows, exploiting the desperation of vulnerable people and wealthy patients seeking an organ at any cost; highlight that this is a severe human rights violation and encourage the adoption of laws based on universal ethical principles.

■ **Organ trafficking is a serious violation of human rights.** It exploits the most vulnerable and destroys trust in healthcare systems.

■ **To combat it, everyone must take action.** Authorities, healthcare personnel, judges and citizens must be aware of the risks and the tools available to prevent this crime.

■ **The objectives** of the Day are clear:

▶ **raise public awareness** about how organ trafficking operates, its risks and how to prevent it;

▶ **promote the ratification and implementation** of the Council of Europe Convention against Trafficking in Human Organs – the first international legally binding treaty requiring states to criminalise organ trafficking and take comprehensive action to prevent and combat these crimes.

Who is the Day aimed at ?

■ **Any person or institution can join in commemorating this Day:**

- ▶ healthcare professionals and transplant teams;
- ▶ victims, patient associations and NGOs;
- ▶ local, regional and national authorities;
- ▶ law-enforcement agencies and judicial authorities;
- ▶ hospitals and medical institutions;
- ▶ academics and educational institutions;
- ▶ the private sector committed to ethical and safe healthcare systems.

How to commemorate this Day ?

■ **Public authorities, civil society, health institutions and private partners are invited to embrace this Day and choose the initiatives that best suit their circumstances.** These may include:

- ▶ launching awareness campaigns or developing information materials for the public;
- ▶ organising workshops, conferences or round tables to discuss and share knowledge;
- ▶ delivering specialised training programmes for healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies and legal practitioners;
- ▶ integrating specific content on organ trafficking and ethics into university education programmes and medical and law faculties;
- ▶ producing and sharing audiovisual content (videos, social media posts) that help to explain the problem and possible solutions in a clear and direct manner;
- ▶ translating, adapting or disseminating the materials and resources developed by the Council of Europe;

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🖱 www.coe.int/organtrafficking

✂ [@CoE_Health](#)

📌 [Health Protection - Council of Europe action](#)

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