

Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

[Version française](#)

Newsletter January - April 2022



GRETA holds its 43rd plenary meeting

STRASBOURG, 28 MARCH - 1 APRIL 2022

The Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([GRETA](#)) held its 43rd meeting from 28 March to 1 April 2022 (a combination of physical and online meeting).

During the meeting, GRETA adopted final reports on Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Portugal and Norway as part of the third round of evaluation of the Convention. These reports will be sent to the authorities concerned and will subsequently be made public, together with eventual final comments received from the authorities.

draft report on Belarus under the second evaluation round and draft reports on Belgium, Luxembourg and Ireland, under the third evaluation round of the Convention.

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GRETA carries out a visit to Greece as part of the second evaluation round

ATHENS, 7 - 11 MARCH 2022

A delegation of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([GRETA](#)) carried out an evaluation visit to Greece from 28 February to 4 March 2022 as part of the second evaluation round of the [Convention](#).

During the visit, the GRETA delegation held consultations with officials from the Office of the National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings, relevant ministries and agencies. It also met members of the police anti-trafficking units in Athens and Thessaloniki, prosecutors and labour inspectors.

Further, GRETA paid visits to shelters for victims of human trafficking and centres for unaccompanied children in Athens and Thessaloniki and witnessed the living conditions of undocumented agricultural workers in Nea Manolada (western Peloponnese).

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GRETA carries out a visit to North Macedonia

SKOPJE, 14 - 18 MARCH 2022

A delegation of the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([GRETA](#)) carried out an evaluation visit to North Macedonia from 14 to 18 March 2022 as part of the third evaluation round of the [Convention](#).

During the visit, the delegation met with the Minister of the Interior, Mr Oliver Spasovski, and the National Rapporteur on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Ms Frosina Kiprovska Lukik. The delegation also held meetings with representatives of relevant ministries, labour inspectors, police officers, prosecutors and the judiciary.

Further, the GRETA delegation visited the Reception Centre for Foreigners, the State shelter for victims of human trafficking, the SOS village for children, and a day shelter for street children in Skopje.

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GRETA publishes its third report on Latvia

STRASBOURG, 17 FEBRUARY 2022

In its [third evaluation](#) report on Latvia's implementation of the Council of Europe's Anti-trafficking Convention, GRETA urged Latvia to take further steps to identify, protect and compensate victims of trafficking, and to ensure that traffickers are convicted. The report welcomes the authorities' efforts to develop the legislative and policy framework, and adopt a new national action plan against trafficking in human beings (2021-2023).

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GRETA publishes its third report on France

STRASBOURG, 18 FEBRUARY 2022

In its [third evaluation](#) report, the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings ([GRETA](#)) calls on the French authorities to take additional steps to facilitate and guarantee access to justice for all trafficking victims and set up a national victim identification and referral mechanism.

While welcoming the legal remedies available for seeking compensation, GRETA is concerned by the low level of damages awarded to trafficking victims.

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States must act urgently to protect refugees fleeing Ukraine from human trafficking

STRASBOURG, 17 FEBRUARY 2022

The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings ([GRETA](#)) has warned of the dangers of people fleeing the armed conflict in Ukraine falling victim to human trafficking and exploitation, amid the fastest-growing refugee flow in Europe since World War Two.

Helga Gayer, President of GRETA, said: "Public officials and civil society organisations in countries receiving Ukrainian refugees must be alerted to the risks of human trafficking and exploitation. Urgent steps must be taken to strengthen coordination at border crossings and reception facilities and to ensure the accurate registration of refugees and their access to necessary documentation, residence permits and essential services."

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New report on online and technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings

STRASBOURG, 18 MARCH 2022

The [report](#) analyses information collected through questionnaires sent to the 48 state parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, civil society organisations and tech companies. It offers evidence-based recommendations on how to enhance the detection, investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated trafficking, enhance co-operation with private companies, and strengthen international co-operation. Particular emphasis is placed on training, as investments in human capital are as important as those in technical tools.

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[Child education professionals trained on prevention of child trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)

Child education professionals trained on prevention of child trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina

SARAJEVO AND BANJA LUKA, 5 APRIL 2022

"What is my role in the system of protection of children from human trafficking?" was the guiding question discussed at the training activities held in Sarajevo on 24-25 March and Banja Luka on 31 March - 1 April, organised in the framework of the joint European Union - Council of Europe action "[Preventing and combating trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)".

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High school psychologists and pedagogues in North Macedonia enhance their skills for interviewing potential child victims of human trafficking

SKOPJE, 20 APRIL 2022

The action on "[Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking in North Macedonia](#)" in co-operation with the Bureau for Development of Education, delivered a hybrid training on conducting interviews with potential child trafficking victims amongst high school students. The training was attended by 25 school psychologists and pedagogues from Skopje, Tetovo, Vinica, Kumanovo and St. Nikole.

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Media play an important role in the fight against human trafficking

SERBIA, 31 MARCH 2022

The 25 media representatives from all over Serbia who followed the first training session on ethical and fact-based reporting on trafficking in human beings, organised on 31 March 2022 in Belgrade, unanimously agreed that “media and journalists can be a megaphone when it comes to promoting the protection of human rights as they give a voice to those who cannot be heard”.

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Second training on the strengthening of identification and referral of the victims of human trafficking delivered to law enforcement agencies of Turkey

ISTANBUL, 15-18 MARCH 2022

The training was delivered to the representatives of law enforcement agencies of Turkey in Istanbul on 15 - 18 March 2022. It was attended by 41 participants from the Coast Guard General Command, the Gendarmerie General Command, the Directorate General of Security, the Presidency of Migration Management, under the joint European Union and Council of Europe Action on [“Strengthening the human rights protection of migrants and victims of human trafficking in Turkey”](#).

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Labour inspectors in Turkey raise their capacities on strengthening of identification and referral of the victims of labour exploitation

İZMİR, 7-10 MARCH 2022

Strengthening of identification and referral of the victims of labour exploitation was the focus of the training for 39 labour inspectors from the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, delivered during 7-10 March 2022, under the joint European Union and Council of Europe action on “[Strengthening the human rights protection of migrants and victims of human trafficking in Turkey](#)”.

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Upcoming

- Committee of the Parties’ 30th meeting (17 June 2022)
- GRETA’s 44th meeting (27 June - 1 July 2022)
- Third round evaluation visit to Serbia (16 - 20 May 2022)
- Third round evaluation visit to Slovenia (6 - 10 June 2022)
- Second round evaluation visit to Estonia (6 - 10 June 2022)
- Third round evaluation visit to Spain (4- 8 July 2022)

