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



Recommendation CP/Rec(2025)01 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Liechtenstein

adopted at the 36th meeting of the Committee of the Parties on 20 June 2025

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 Liechtenstein on 27 January 2016;

Recalling Committee of the Parties' Recommendation CP/Rec(2019)08 on the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings by Liechtenstein and the report of the Liechtenstein authorities on measures taken to comply with this recommendation, submitted on 19 November 2021;

Having examined the third report concerning the implementation of the Convention by Liechtenstein, adopted by GRETA at its 52nd meeting (18-22 November 2024);

Bearing in mind the focus of the third evaluation round of the Convention on access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking;

Considering the conclusions and proposals contained in Appendix I of GRETA's third report on topics related to the third evaluation round and follow-up topics specific to Liechtenstein;

Welcoming the measures taken and progress achieved by the Liechtenstein authorities in implementing the Convention, and in particular:

- the adoption of amendments to the Criminal Procedure Code strengthening the rights of vulnerable victims;
- the training provided to relevant professionals with a view to increasing their capacity to detect, investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in human beings;

- the existence of child-sensitive procedures in the investigation, prosecution and adjudication of human trafficking cases;
- the engagement in international co-operation in combating human trafficking, including through promoting the financial sector's involvement against human trafficking;
- A. Recommends that the Government of Liechtenstein take measures to address the following issues for immediate action¹ identified in GRETA's report:
 - 1. adopt a specific legal provision and/or to develop guidance and training for law enforcement officials and prosecutors on the aims and scope of the non-punishment provision, in order to ensure compliance with Article 26 of the Convention (paragraph 79);
 - 2. intensify efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, taking into account GRETA's Guidance Note on combating trafficking for labour exploitation and the CM/Rec(2022)21 on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation. This should include steps to:
 - ensure that sufficient staff and resources are made available to the Labour Inspectorate to enable it to play a frontline role in the prevention and identification of human trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation;
 - ensure that labour inspectors, law enforcement officers and other relevant actors increase their capacity to detect and identify victims of trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, paying particular attention to at-risk sectors, such as construction, hospitality and personal care workers;
 - increase the legal protection for domestic and live-in care workers by making labour law applicable to all such workers, whether their formal employer is a company/association or a private person, and by developing the conditions under which access to private households can be granted to labour inspectors (paragraph 123);
 - 3. take further steps to ensure that all victims of trafficking are identified as such and can benefit from the assistance and protection measures contained in the Convention, in particular by:
 - ensuring that, in practice, the identification of victims of trafficking is not linked to the prospects of a successful investigation and prosecution of a human trafficking case;
 - strengthening multi-agency involvement in the identification of victims of trafficking by formally recognising the role of specialised NGOs in the decision-making process leading to identification;
 - paying increased attention to the identification of victims of trafficking among asylum seekers and migrants, including by recruiting or otherwise engaging a sufficient number of trained staff, including interpreters and cultural mediators, to more effectively interact with migrants and asylum seekers. In this respect, reference is made to GRETA's Guidance note on the entitlement of victims of trafficking, and persons at risk of being trafficked, to international protection (paragraph 138);
 - 4. take additional steps to ensure that adequate financial and human resources are made available to enable all presumed and identified victims of trafficking, including those who were exploited abroad, to benefit from the assistance measures provided for under Article 12 of the Convention (paragraph 145);
 - 5. take steps to strengthen the identification of, and assistance to, child victims of trafficking, in particular by:

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The number of the paragraph setting out GRETA's proposals in the report is indicated in brackets.

- improving the procedure for identifying child victims through collaboration between relevant institutions, with input from child protection specialists and a focus on the best interests of the child as the prime consideration;
- ensuring that relevant actors (law enforcement, child protection authorities, education professionals, social workers, NGOs) take a proactive approach and receive training and guidance to identify child victims of trafficking for all different of exploitation;
- ensuring that child victims of human trafficking, including unaccompanied and separated foreign children, are provided with accommodation which creates a safe and enabling environment and is staffed with a sufficient numbers of adequately trained professionals (paragraph 152);
- 6. ensure that a recovery and reflection period of at least 30 days is specifically defined in law, and that it is systematically offered to presumed foreign victims of human trafficking, including EU and EEA citizens, together with all the measures of protection and assistance envisaged in Article 12, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Convention during this period. Officers performing identification should be issued with clear instructions stressing the need to offer the recovery and reflection period as defined in the Convention, i.e. not making it conditional on the victim's co-operation or the prospect of any criminal proceedings taking place, and offering it to victims before formal statements are made to investigators (paragraph 157);

B. Recommends that the Liechtenstein authorities take measures to implement the other proposals for action listed in Appendix 1 of GRETA's third evaluation report;

C. Requests the Government of Liechtenstein to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to comply with this recommendation by **20 June 2027;**

D. Invites the Government of Liechtenstein to continue the dialogue in progress with GRETA and to keep GRETA regularly informed of the measures taken in response to GRETA's conclusions.