



NETHERLANDS HELSINKI COMMITTEE

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

IMPROVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS: LAWYERS' NETWORK MEETING

22-23 November 2016

Council of Europe, Agora Building
Avenue de l'Europe, Strasbourg

DRAFT AGENDA

Tuesday, 22 November 2016

09:00 - 09:30 **Registration of participants**

09:30 - 10:00 **Welcome: Introduction to the topic and agenda**

- Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
- Nicolas Le Coz, President of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA)

10:00-10:15 **Background and aims of a lawyers' network for victims of trafficking**

- Pepijn Gerrits, Executive Director Netherlands Helsinki Committee (NHC)
- Julia Koster, Project Coordinator, NHC

10:15 - 10:40 **Access to justice for trafficked persons: international standards and current situation**

- Marjan Wijers, independent expert and consultant on human trafficking

10:40 - 11:00 **Establishing rights recognition for victims of trafficking**

- Parosha Chandran, barrister, UK

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 12:15 **First panel discussion: Challenges in the protection of the rights of trafficked persons at national level**

Panellists:

- Ivana Radovic, ASTRA Anti-Trafficking Action, Serbia: first national network of lawyers in Serbia, legal support to victims, outcomes monitoring court cases and collecting judgments
- Dejana Spasojevic-Ivancic, lawyer, Serbia: challenges in Serbia and the functioning of the lawyers' network on a national level
- Natasha Dobрева, lawyer, Bulgaria: challenges in the protection of the rights of trafficked persons in Bulgaria
- Jean-Pierre Jacques, lawyer, Belgium: challenges in the protection of the rights of trafficked persons in Belgium

12:15 - 13:15 **Working groups: Exchange of experiences and identification of challenges in identifying, referring and representing trafficked persons for different forms of exploitation**

13:15 - 14:45 Lunch at Palais de l'Europe, Restaurant Bleu, Galerie Portugaise

14:45 - 15:15 **Plenary sharing of the working groups outcomes**

15:15 - 15:45 **Second panel discussion: Acting at the international level**

Panellists:

- The necessity of strategic litigation before the European Court of Human Rights, Bénédicte Bourgeois, lawyer, France
- COMpact, an international project to improve compensation for trafficked persons, Maja Varoshlija, Social Assistance Program Manager, Open Gate/La Strada Macedonia

15:45 - 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 - 17:15 **Third panel discussion: The role of lawyers in protecting the rights of trafficked persons** (identification as a victim of trafficking, non-punishment, protection of privacy and safety, avoiding repeated interviews, access to compensation)

Panellists:

- Parosha Chandran, barrister, UK
- Annet Koopsen, lawyer, Netherlands
- Natasha Dobрева, lawyer, Bulgaria

17:15 - 17:30 **Closure of the first day**

Wednesday, 23 November 2016

9:30 - 10:15 **Fourth panel discussion: National models of legal aid to trafficked persons, good practices and challenges**

Panellists:

- Bernard de Leest, General Council of the Dutch Bar Association: Dutch state funded legal aid system
- Hui-ju Hsieh, lawyer, LEFÖ-IBF: Austrian legal aid system

10:15 - 10:30 **Presentation of a new Council of Europe online training tool on human trafficking for legal practitioners**

Camille Gangloff, HELP Unit, Council of Europe

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break

11:00 - 12:00 **Working groups: How to improve access to justice for victims of human trafficking**

12:00 - 12:30 **Plenary sharing of the working groups outcomes**

12.30 - 13.00 **Conclusions, recommendations for future action and closure of the meeting**