

Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings



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Combating human trafficking

Human trafficking is a gross violation of human rights, fundamental freedoms and human dignity, and is often a form of violence against women and children. It is also a serious transnational threat to security in the OSCE region and beyond.

Victims of human trafficking are exploited in conditions amounting to slavery and are often held in unfamiliar and isolated environments where they can be forced to work under violence, threats or subtle means of coercion, often to pay back an insurmountable debt.

These people often do not speak the language, are unaware of their rights, are deprived of their documents, and depend heavily on their exploiters for food and lodging, as well as for making contact with the outside world. They are not free to leave, as they have no real and acceptable alternative but to submit to exploitation.

The Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator

Human trafficking cuts across all three dimensions of the OSCE's work – the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions – and combating it therefore requires a multidisciplinary approach. The OSCE's political commitments provide a comprehensive framework for preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the OSCE's 57 participating States.

The Office was established in 2003 as a high-level mechanism to promote the implementation of the Organization's anti-trafficking commitments. It is a special unit within the OSCE Secretariat that provides assistance to participating States in implementing the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.

The Action Plan

The OSCE Action Plan is the key document providing the approach and framework for the anti-trafficking efforts of the OSCE participating States. It contains core recommendations for action at the national level known as the "3 Ps":

- Prevention, including awareness-raising and addressing root causes;
- Prosecution, including investigation and co-operation with international law enforcement;
- Protection of victims' rights, including assistance and compensation.

In 2013, the OSCE added a fourth "P" – a chapter on partnerships – highlighting the need for enhanced co-operation with international organizations and other partners, including on issues related to law enforcement, National Referral Mechanisms (NRMs) and joint work between public institutions and the private sector.



The Special Representative raises the public and political profile of human trafficking by meeting with senior government officials and legislators across the OSCE region.



The Office works with international law enforcement organizations and members of the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* to fight modern-day slavery.

How we work

The OSCE seeks to eliminate human trafficking in all its forms across the entire region, from Vancouver to Vladivostok. To this end, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator has defined several priorities.

Country Visits

The Special Representative makes regular country visits, at their formal request, as part of her effort to encourage governments to place the fight against all forms of human trafficking high on the political agenda in the OSCE region.

As part of this multi-day country visit, the Special Representative meets with government authorities, parliamentarians, representatives of the judiciary, and non-governmental organizations.

A report on the country visit containing concrete and focused recommendations is produced to help the country implement its anti-trafficking commitments. This document is published on the OSCE website together, if requested, with a response from the participating State.

Combating human trafficking in crisis situations

The Special Representative puts a special emphasis on addressing human trafficking in crisis situations. This includes a wide range of issues such as combating human trafficking along migration routes in the OSCE region, raising awareness of the threat among conflict-affected populations, and exploring the nexus between human trafficking and the phenomena of foreign terrorist fighters.

As part of this effort, the Special Representative travels frequently to Ukraine to engage with high-level authorities and contribute to building trust among relevant stakeholders to prevent an increase in human trafficking. Her Office co-operates closely with the OSCE field operations in Ukraine to train the Organization's monitors to publicize the dangers of human trafficking among populations at risk, including internally displaced persons, and identify situations where this crime could occur.

Increasing visibility

Participating in high-level conferences and other expert events convened by governments, international organizations, academic institutions and NGOs allows the Special Representative to raise the visibility of the OSCE's anti-trafficking work.

Capacity building

The Special Representative supports national authorities' efforts to address human trafficking as a transnational threat and human rights

violation through facilitating capacity-building and information-sharing initiatives.

Recent examples include workshops for judges and prosecutors on applying the non-punishment principle for victims of human trafficking, developing a training module on the use of financial investigations in the prosecution of human trafficking cases, and initiating a survey of the Organization's 57 participating States on the status of the implementation of the OSCE's anti-trafficking commitments, with a particular focus on the Addendum to the Action Plan.



Ambassador Jarbussynova travels on official Country Visits and other trips to assist States in implementing OSCE commitments.



The Office of the Special Representative co-operates closely with OSCE institutions and field operations to carry out the anti-trafficking agenda.

Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

The *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* is a broad voluntary platform of more than 30 members including international and non-governmental organizations that have joined forces to prevent and combat human trafficking. Results of this partnership include:

- The annual high-level *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* conference where global leaders gather to focus on key themes in the struggle to eliminate modern-day slavery;
- Developing and convening two annual *Alliance* Expert Co-ordination Team (AECT) meetings and engaging in bilateral and multi-stakeholder consultations with AECT partners, including in the

context of the OSCE survey on the implementation of OSCE anti-trafficking commitments;

- Creating effective joint strategies, combining individual efforts, and providing OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation with innovative and co-ordinated approaches to fight human trafficking.
- Strengthening the partnership by expanding its membership and promoting and engaging in advocacy initiatives with participating States and AECT members.



Publications

The Office of the Special Representative issues publications on a regular basis in order to provide policy-making guidance, build capacity and raise awareness. The Office collaborates with leading experts from academia, the NGO sector, government and international organizations to produce cutting-edge research as well as essential guidebooks for various professionals working to stamp out modern-day slavery.

Recent publications have focused on the most challenging issues in the OSCE's anti-trafficking Action Plan and its Addendums, governments' duty to prevent human trafficking in their supply chains as well as those of the private sector, and how to prevent human trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households and protect private domestic workers.

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