

REPORT 2024

Six Pillars of Impact

1

Simulation Training: Empowering Real-World Results

The Office strengthened multi-agency capacity to identify and combat trafficking through simulation-based training exercises tailored to practitioners' needs.

2

Tech & AI Defense: Leading Digital Protection

The fight against human trafficking tackled digital tools used to find and exploit victims, including AI, positioning the OSCE at the forefront of addressing technology-facilitated trafficking.

3

Financial Intelligence: Disrupting Criminal Networks

Partnerships with financial intelligence units were enhanced, cutting off trafficking funds and increasing collaboration with the financial sector to disrupt trafficking networks.

4

Protecting the Vulnerable: Breaking Barriers

Efforts to address trafficking risks for marginalised groups and persons with disabilities were expanded, highlighting the importance of understanding vulnerabilities to prevent trafficking effectively.

5

Crisis Response: Safeguarding Displaced Populations

The Office prioritised protecting those displaced by wars and crises, including individuals affected by the ongoing war against Ukraine, through targeted humanitarian crisis responses.

6

Supply Chain Reform: Setting Global Standards

The Office played a key role in global efforts to prevent labour exploitation in supply chains by promoting supply chain and procurement transparency.

Under the guidance and leadership of Special Representative and Co-ordinator Kari Johnstone, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) strives each day to fulfil the Special Representative's mandate, co-ordinating and enhancing the OSCE's support for participating States in formulating and executing effective policies to combat and prevent human trafficking while safeguarding victims' rights.

In 2024 the Office continued to provide support to States in combating human trafficking by working together with governments and civil society. We provided research, training, and support for policy-making to help States meet their commitments. We also co-ordinated the OSCE's own efforts in this area and connected with many partners to boost the visibility and effectiveness of anti-trafficking initiatives.

Human trafficking is a serious concern for all OSCE countries, posing both security risks and human rights challenges. All countries in the region are affected. Trafficking crimes can occur virtually anywhere and citizens from any State may be exploited in trafficking anywhere – in their homes or in another country. The nature of the crime requires international co-operation and positions the OSCE as a vital organisation to support States in combating this crime.

One of our key activities in 2024 was the high-level Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, held in April under the theme “Beyond Awareness-Raising: Reshaping Human Trafficking Prevention.” This event gathered the largest number of in-person anti-trafficking practitioners to date and, for the first time, all panels included experts with lived experience, reinforcing the critical need for survivor-led insights in shaping policies and practices.

Uniting against human trafficking means harnessing the power of a broad collective – where every voice matters and every survivor is not just a story but a vital architect in crafting effective solutions.

Dr. Kari Johnstone

OSCE Special Representative
and Co-ordinator for Combating
Trafficking in Human Beings

SIX PILLARS OF IMPACT | 2024

01

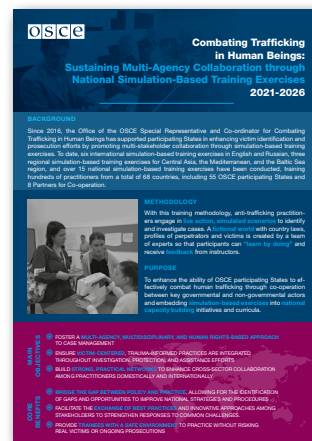
The Office improved the capability of anti-trafficking practitioners to identify victims and prosecute perpetrators by promoting multi-agency collaboration through simulation-based trainings and specialised workshops, while ensuring the integration of victim-centered, trauma-informed practices throughout investigations, protection, and assistance.

Main achievements in 2024

The OSCE's exclusive simulation-based training methodology, which immerses practitioners in realistic, simulated scenarios and enables hands-on learning through direct experience and expert feedback, was showcased at the inaugural Mediterranean regional training on CTHB in Italy, bringing together professionals from participating States and Partners for Co-operation to foster cross-border collaboration. The OSR/CTHB also organised a workshop on trauma-informed approaches and multi-agency co-ordination for Georgian practitioners. Additionally, a regional workshop for Central Asian experts addressed vulnerability factors to trafficking, such as minority status and disability, enhancing practitioners' capacity to manage complex cases.

Impact Story

Just months after participating in the OSCE's regional simulation-based training exercise for the Baltic Sea region in Germany, Icelandic authorities carried out their largest-ever anti-trafficking operation in Reykjavik, identifying over 40 victims and initiating proceedings against nine alleged traffickers. According to Reykjavik Police, the operation was "planned just like we learned in Brühl" and "would not have happened without the simulation," highlighting the direct impact of the OSCE's training on real-world action.



02

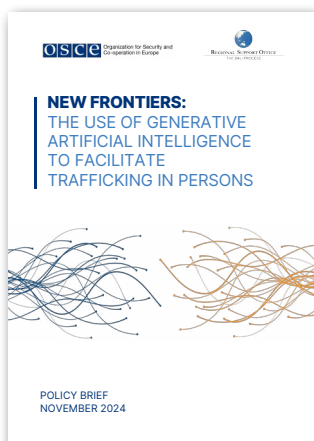
The fight against human trafficking is adapting to better address digital tools used to find and exploit victims, including AI, and the OSCE is at the forefront of addressing technology-facilitated trafficking.

Main achievements in 2024

In 2024, we took a leading role in addressing tech-facilitated human trafficking, especially concerning AI. The Office launched the **first-ever Policy Brief on the misuse of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in human trafficking**, in collaboration with the the Bali Process RSO. The brief received praise from six participating states at the Permanent Council for its timely insights. Additionally, in Kyrgyzstan, the Office organised the first known workshop on AI, machine learning and trafficking by an international organisation, resulting in the creation of a national roadmap for AI integration into national anti-trafficking efforts.

Impact Story

In partnership with Interpol, UNODC, and Canadian authorities, the Office conducted the first hackathon focused on technology-facilitated trafficking of Latin American victims exploited in Europe. The hackathon led to the identification of a new platform and 68 potential victims; 146 potential exploiters, recruiters, and facilitators; and 365 usernames and 162 URLs linked to suspicious activity used to recruit Brazilian victims to the UK, information that was promptly shared with UK law enforcement to enhance victim identification and strengthen international anti-trafficking efforts.



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03

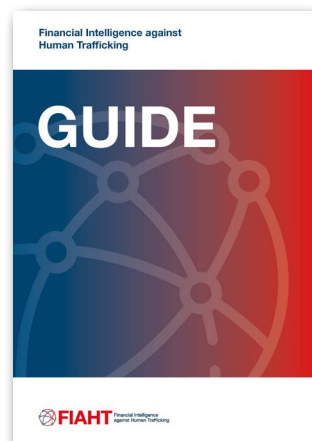
Partnerships with financial intelligence units and with the financial sector were enhanced, cutting off trafficking funds and disrupting trafficking networks through the facilitation of multi-stakeholder partnerships and quality guidance.

Main achievements in 2024

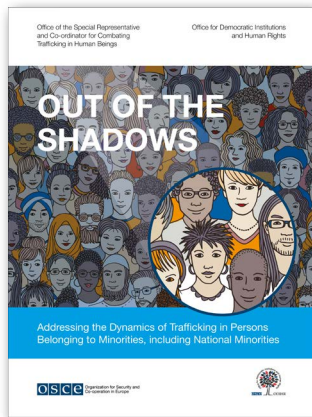
In 2024, the OSCE strengthened efforts to disrupt trafficking financial flows by fostering partnerships between financial institutions, financial intelligence units (FIUs) and law enforcement agencies. Building on our 'Following the Money' publication, we developed tailored guidance to improve the quality of trafficking-related reports submitted by financial entities. We partnered with financial intelligence and regulatory authorities in Greece and Lithuania to scale up anti-trafficking action in the financial services industry.

Impact Story

The Office continued tackling illicit financial flows by fostering public-private partnerships and engaging with financial services across the OSCE through guidance on trafficking risks and red-flag indicators. Following a successful pilot-project in Cyprus, we facilitated the establishment of the first anti-trafficking public-private partnership project that brought together 20 cantonal authorities, financial intelligence units, and six financial institutions in sharing data and intelligence and the release of a human trafficking dedicated guide for financial services in Switzerland in 2024.



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04

Efforts to understand and address trafficking risks for persons with disabilities and persons belonging to marginalised groups were expanded.

Main achievements in 2024

This year, the Office released two publications: one exploring the nexus between disabilities and trafficking, and another, developed together with OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), examining the dynamics of trafficking among persons belonging to minority groups. Our efforts were further bolstered by a workshop held in Sarajevo, which deepened understanding of how specific groups, such as minorities and persons with disabilities, face heightened risks of trafficking.

Impact Story

The Office expanded its focus to address the issue of orphanage trafficking, which is the exploitation of children recruited into orphanages for profit. The Office organised a series of events with the CBSS and participated in awareness-raising initiatives in the UK and Ireland. These events engaged anti-trafficking practitioners and parliamentarians, emphasising their critical role in combatting orphanage trafficking and protecting vulnerable children.

05

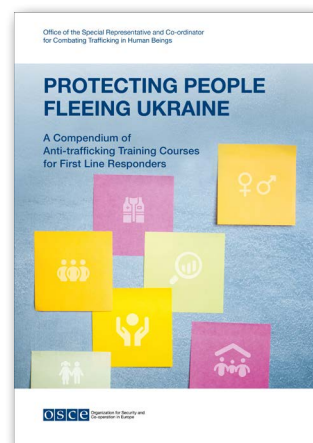
Continuous efforts to protect people displaced by wars and crises from trafficking, including individuals affected by the ongoing war against Ukraine.

Main achievements in 2024

In 2024, we continued our work assisting States to ensure that the humanitarian consequences resulting from the war against Ukraine did not create a human trafficking crisis. The Office conducted workshops in Canada, France, Spain, and the USA, totalling 23 countries since the beginning of the project in 2022. These workshops focused on enhancing hosting countries' mechanisms to prevent trafficking of those fleeing the war. In 2024, the Office also assisted in strengthening victim identification and assistance mechanisms in 5 countries, namely Estonia, Hungary, Greece, Bulgaria, and Latvia and fostered regional collaboration on criminal justice through an event with over 110 stakeholders from 33 States. To align humanitarian and anti-trafficking responses, the Office published three anti-trafficking resources for first-line responders and other stakeholders engaged in receiving and supporting Ukrainian refugees: an awareness-raising brief on THB risks, indicators, and case management; a code of conduct to ensure first-line responders do not contribute to any form of THB (both available in 15 languages); and a compendium of available anti-trafficking training courses for stakeholders in humanitarian crisis responses.

Impact Story

The OSCE's #BeSafe Campaign was updated to address the evolving risks for Ukrainian refugees, adding helplines in five new countries, now totalling 35, and benefitting about 50,000 users. The total campaign has reached more than 2.8 million Ukrainians.



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06

The Office implemented further efforts to prevent labour exploitation in supply chains and improve procurement practices.

Main achievements in 2024

The OSCE was the first multilateral organisation to adopt comprehensive procurement guidelines addressing human trafficking within its own procurement. Over the past year, the Office launched two e-learning courses – one for the OSCE and another for the UN Procurement Task Force, for which the OSCE is the Secretariat – shaping global procurement practices. Additionally, the Office organised a regional conference with the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, updating stakeholders on integrating human rights due diligence in line with legal frameworks in the EU and beyond.

Impact Story

We strengthened our partnership with the UN Global Compact, collaborating with networks in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, and Germany. This partnership enhances our ability to influence corporate behaviour, address human rights issues in supply chains, and promote action against human trafficking and labour exploitation worldwide.

REVIEW | 2024

In 2024, high-level political engagement was key to turning commitments into action.

The annual meeting of the National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs, co-hosted with the Council of Europe, brought together representatives from 61 States to advance victim protection, strengthen prosecutions, and amplify contributions by lived experience experts in policy making. The Conference for Strengthening Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking amid Refugee Flows from Ukraine, held in Vienna, underscored the urgency of co-ordinated efforts in crisis settings.

Meanwhile, official visits to Finland, France, Kyrgyzstan, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Tajikistan, as well as virtual engagements with Ukraine and Lithuania, ensured direct dialogue with national authorities.

These efforts sought to reinforce political will, mobilise resources, and keep anti-trafficking measures at the top of the agenda, because real change happens when commitment turns into action.



“As we face continuing challenges posed by wars, crises, and displacement, human trafficking has potentially dire consequences for our societies, making international co-operation more critical than ever. We need leadership with the necessary resolve and resources to combat this crime and keep people safe. The time to act is now.”

Dr. Kari Johnstone

OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

LOOKING AHEAD | 2025

Continuing the Momentum in Combating Human Trafficking

Building on the progress made in 2024, the Office will continue its efforts in 2025 to address the complex and evolving challenges of human trafficking. Through targeted interventions in prevention, protection, and prosecution, the Office will uphold a victim-centred, multi-disciplinary approach.

Galvanising Efforts to Combat Child Trafficking

2025 will mark a significant milestone: the 20th anniversary of the *Action Plan Addendum on Child Trafficking*. To commemorate this occasion, we will dedicate the 25th Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference to strengthening responses to child trafficking across the OSCE region. Our focus will address pressing challenges, including the surge in technology-facilitated exploitation, the growing concern of children being exploited in committing criminal offences as grave as drug-related and violent crime and orphanage trafficking. Through enhanced international co-operation and survivor-informed approaches, we will advance comprehensive solutions to protect children from trafficking in all its forms.

Expanding Partnerships and Global Engagement

The Office will continue to strengthen its collaboration with international, national, and local partners in 2025, leveraging its unique position to influence global anti-trafficking strategies. We will ensure that the fight against trafficking remains central to the OSCE broader security and human rights agenda, fostering a coherent global response.

Elevating Survivor Leadership in 2025

In 2025, the Office will further prioritise the inclusion of lived experience experts and survivor leaders in shaping anti-trafficking laws, policies, and programs. In close co-ordination with ODIHR and the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC), we will expand opportunities for survivor expertise to guide our work, ensuring their insights inform prevention measures, policies, and victim support strategies to optimise effectiveness.



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