



Vienna Conference on Combatting  
Trafficking in Human Beings

**NO FUTURE**

**FOR TRAFFICKING**

13 October 2022

Vienna School of International Studies

# REGISTRATION

The conference is a public event and participation is free of charge. Participants are kindly requested to fill in the online registration form by **10 October 2022** available at this [link](#). The conference will take place in person at the Vienna School of International Studies and online. 150 people are able to participate in person while up to 500 can partake in the event online. Registration will be on a first come – first served basis.

During the plenary sessions of the conference, simultaneous interpretation (German, English) will be provided. Three workshops will be held in English while two will be held in German. The discussion of the workshop results and the closing of the conference will also have simultaneous interpretation.

Links on how to attend the plenary session and the workshops, as well as technical instructions, will be sent shortly before the event.

[Sign up](#)

# PROGRAMME

08:45 - 09:30 **Registration**

09:30 - 10:00 **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Petra Schneebauer, National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator,  
Head of the Austrian Task Force on Combatting Human  
Trafficking

Emil Brix, Director of the Vienna School of International  
Studies

Diane Schmitt, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

Dominique Hasler, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Education  
and Sport of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Ghada Fathi Waly, Director-General UNOV and Executive  
Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime  
(UNODC)

Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary General of the OSCE

Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Secretary General for Foreign  
Affairs

10:00 - 10:20 **Keynote Speech**

Prof. Peter Klimek, Complexity Science Hub-Faculty  
Vienna, "Hiding in plain sight. How to use digital  
transformation to combat human trafficking."

10:20 - 10:40 **Coffee Break**

10:40 - 11:20 **Panel Discussion:  
No Future for Trafficking**

Petya Nestorova, Executive Secretary of the Council of  
Europe Convention on action against Trafficking in Human  
Beings

Dina Dominitz, National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator of  
Israel

Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the UN  
Secretary General on Violence against Children

Kateryna Cherepakha, Head of the NGO „La Strada“ in  
Ukraine

Peter Klimek, Professor at the Complexity Science Hub-  
Faculty Vienna

Moderation: Wolfgang Spadinger, Federal Ministry for  
European and International Affairs

- 11:20 - 12:20 Discussion with the Audience
- 12:20 - 13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30 - 16:00 Parallel Workshops held at the Vienna School of International Studies and Online

**1** Smuggled, Trafficked, Persecuted? Structural Vulnerabilities and Protection Gaps in Migration and Asylum Procedures (English)

LEFÖ-IBF, International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
Experts: Heather Komenda, Petya Nestorova, Karoline Preißler, Evelyn Probst, Martin Stiller

**2** Labour Market Integration of Displaced Persons and Refugees as Prevention of Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation? (English)

Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC)  
Experts: Kateryna Cherepakha, Zvezda Vankova, Sarah Strobel

**3** New Forms of Exploitation - Forced Criminality, including Identity Fraud and other fraudulent Acts (German)

MEN VIA  
Experts: Silke Albert, practitioners in casework

**4** Safe Places for Trafficked Children? Promising Practices of Specialized Shelters for Children (English)

ECPAT Austria, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights  
Experts: Najat Maalla M'jid, Olivier Peyroux

**5** Displaced Persons from Ukraine – a Business Model? Trafficking in Human Beings with a Focus on Ukraine from a Police Perspective (German)

Federal Ministry of the Interior, Federal Office of Criminal Investigation, UNODC  
Experts: Ilias Chatzis, Christian Wehrschütz, Kataryna Bobal

- 16:00 - 16:30 Coffee Break

16:30 - 17:00 **Presentations by Workshop Rapporteurs**

Evelyn Probst, Head of LEFÖ-IBF

Kateryna Cherepakha, Head of the NGO „La Strada“ in Ukraine

Manfred Buchner, Psychologist, MEN VIA

Helmut Sax, Senior Researcher at Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights

Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Division on Migrant Smuggling, Human Trafficking and Special Investigations, Federal Office of Criminal Investigation

17:00 - 17:30 **Discussion of Workshop Outcomes**

17:30 - 17:45 **Closing Remarks**

Diane Schmitt, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator

Petra Schneebauer, National Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Head of the Austrian Task Force on Combatting Human Trafficking

 **Federal Ministry  
Republic of Austria**  
European and International  
Affairs



## **No Future for Trafficking**

### Concept Note

Combating human trafficking is, in most cases, reactive rather than proactive: perpetrators are tracked down, proceedings are conducted, victims are supported and data is collected. In addition, the manifestations of human trafficking are changing rapidly with current world events as well as the advance in digitalisation. As a result, we are facing new challenges. At the same time, however, new opportunities are emerging to pre-empt perpetrators and protect vulnerable populations. For instance, with new digital campaigns, such as for displaced persons from Ukraine, we are increasingly able to warn of the dangers of trafficking. The question remains: What developments are yet to come and what possibilities do we have to counteract human trafficking at all levels in order to ensure a future without this grave violation of human rights?

With the title "No Future for Trafficking", the Vienna Conference on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings will attempt to move from reaction to action. Held annually on the occasion of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day, this year's conference aims to build on the themes of the last three years - digitalisation, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the financial aspects of trafficking - to identify how human trafficking will develop in the future and how it can be prevented. This year's conference will once more take place in a hybrid format; physically, at the Vienna School of International Studies as well as virtually, to allow as many experts as possible to participate. Consisting of one panel discussion and five thematic workshops (two of which are due to the current situation dedicated to the Ukraine and displaced persons from this country), the event seeks to find out how anti-trafficking stakeholders can stay one step ahead of perpetrators. To guarantee a comprehensive approach, the event will engage intergovernmental institutions, international organisations, NGOs, and representatives from business and academia.

The fight against human trafficking has been a priority of Austrian foreign policy since the establishment of the Task Force on combating Human Trafficking in 2004. The Task Force has organised the conference since 2007 and is again being held in cooperation with the Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the OSCE and once again with the Principality of Liechtenstein.

## Workshop 1

### **Smuggled, Trafficked, Persecuted? Structural Vulnerabilities and Protection Gaps in Migration and Asylum Processes (English)**

*Moderation: Isabella Chen, LEFÖ-IBF; Katie Klaffenböck, International Organization for Migration (IOM)*

*Experts: Heather Komenda, International Organization for Migration; Petya Nestorova, Council of Europe; Karoline Preißler, Austrian Federal Office for Immigration and Asylum; Evelyn Probst, LEFÖ-IBF; Martin Stiller, European Migration Network*

The primary objective in terms of anti-trafficking prevention measures is to address the root causes that lead to predicaments and vulnerabilities. The risk of exploitation and human trafficking exists for all those groups that have already experienced marginalization and discrimination prior to their flight and migration. These groups include women, children, the chronically ill and people with disabilities, the elderly, those affected by racism, Rom\*nja and LGBTIQ+. Vulnerabilities are composed of an interplay of structural and socio-economic factors. In particular, migration practices, laws, or policies can be the source of such structural problems. These vulnerabilities can become acute in a short period of time during states of political emergency and turmoil. Most recent examples include the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. This workshop will discuss precisely these issues of structural protection gaps for migrants and displaced persons in a global and European context, with a focus on the EU and Austria. In a panel of national and international experts, we will discuss ways to protect migrants from exploitation and trafficking in current migration systems.

## Workshop 2

### **Labour Market Integration of Displaced Persons and Refugees as Prevention of Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation? (English)**

*Moderation: Maria Velizarova, Consultant; Nadja Schuster, Vienna Institute for International Dialogue and Cooperation (VIDC)*

*Experts: Kateryna Cherepakha, Head of the NGO La Strada Ukraine; Zvezda Vankova, Law Faculty, Lund University; Sarah Strobel, The Network — Companies integrate displaced persons*

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has caused a wave of displaced persons of over five million people in just two months (24.2.-25.4.2022). In comparison, one million people fled to Europe in the so-called "refugee year 2015". Displaced Persons are among the most vulnerable groups targeted by people with criminal and exploitative intentions to make supposed offers of help and work to them. Ukrainian displaced persons are composed of 90% women and children, often with low levels of education, who are among the most vulnerable groups in the context of trafficking. In addition to covering basic needs, easy, direct access to work and the labour market is of great importance for the prevention of trafficking for labour exploitation. The easier the access

to work and the more successful the labour market integration, the less "attractive" are dubious job offers or irregular employment opportunities. In this workshop, international experts will discuss how displaced persons can be supported in their labour market integration and what contribution the state and the private sector can make to this.

### Workshop 3

#### **New Forms of Exploitation – Forced Criminality, including Identity Fraud and other fraudulent Acts (German)**

*Moderation: Manfred Buchner, MEN VIA*

*Experts: Silke Albert, UNODC; Psychosocial advisor LEFÖ-IBF; Psychosocial advisor MEN VIA*

Victims of trafficking are highly vulnerable to exploitation. Once trapped by traffickers, the technologies of the 21st century drastically increase opportunities to exploit victims in a targeted manner. Identity abuse and theft, as well as fraudulent actions are some of the ways in which those technologies can be used. For example, victims can be pressured, threatened, or misled into signing contracts. Forcing trafficking victims to commit crimes is a way for criminals to make victims liable and discourage them from seeking protection.

How is trafficking for the purpose of forced criminality actually conducted? Who are the potential victims and how can new forms of exploitation be prevented in the age of digitalisation?

### Workshop 4

#### **Safe Places for Trafficked Children? Promising Practices of Specialized Shelters for Children (English)**

*Moderation: Astrid Winkler, ECPAT Austria; Helmut Sax, Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Fundamental and Human Rights.*

*Experts: Najat M'jid, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children; Olivier Peyroux, Director of Centre „Koutcha“ for underage victims of Human Trafficking, France; BBU (Austrian refugee support agency)*

The establishment of a shelter for child victims of human trafficking in Austria is already underway. Given the ongoing war in Ukraine and the millions of displaced persons (including children), this matter is of great importance. The purpose of this workshop is to identify promising practices from already existing (international) models for shelters for trafficked children and relevant child protection systems, and to discuss the implications of lessons learned for the process in Austria and other countries.

## Workshop 5

### **Displaced Persons from Ukraine – a Business Model? (German)**

Trafficking in Human Beings with a Focus on Ukraine from a Police Perspective

*Moderation: Gerald Tatzgern, Bundesministerium für Inneres (BMI); Horst Schiller, Bundeskriminalamt (BKA)*

*Experts: Christian Wehrschütz, ORF-Correspondent; Ilias Chatzis, Chief Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling (UNODC); Kataryna Bobal, BBU*

Due to the Russian war of aggression, displaced persons from Ukraine are particularly targeted by criminal organisations, according to information from Europol. Women and children in particular present ideal victims for the perpetrators as findings from other countries suggest. They are exploited sexually and as labourers, but also for begging. Minors, especially unaccompanied, who are sent to the EU by their families should be at the centre of all efforts. Particular attention needs to be paid at borders, at arrival, reception and registration centres, mass accommodation facilities, as well as train stations. In these places, perpetrators will try to recruit their victims. Preventive measures will serve as a tool to raise awareness among the displaced of the ever-increasing danger that Ukrainian women and children could become victims of human trafficking.