

7th Annual International Symposium on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling



Wednesday 17th May 2017

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre,
Brussels



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Overview

Human trafficking is an increasingly disturbing phenomenon in Europe with terrible consequences for the victims, the majority of whom are forced into prostitution, domestic servitude, forced labour, and other forms of exploitation. The European Commission estimates that several hundred thousand people are trafficked to or within the EU per year. Women and girls make up nearly 80% of the victims, and over two-thirds are trafficked for sexual exploitation. As well as devastating the lives of individuals, this crime has far-reaching implications for the social, economic and organisational fabric of every affected community in Europe.

The EU Directive 2011/36 and EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings (2012-2016) have, in recent years, served as guidance for implementing effective means of preventing trafficking, protecting victims and prosecuting traffickers. After a review of the efficacy and impact of these measures, a Post-2016 strategy is currently being formulated for adoption.

However, increased global migration has added an additional dimension to this challenge. Whilst migrant smuggling and human trafficking differ from each other, they are both lucrative, often exploitative businesses involving human beings. Indeed, more than 90% of refugees in 2015 used criminal networks to move.

The EU and EC have subsequently identified migrant smuggling as a priority issue, adopting the European Agenda on Migration in May 2015, and formulating the EU Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling 2015-2020, as a pan-European framework for action, emphasising the importance of information sharing. In addition, the EU launched the Global Action Against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT), a four-year initiative which aims to assist 15 developing nations to implement national counter traffic and counter smuggling policies in cooperation with the IOM, Unicef and UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC).

Nonetheless, despite the recognition of human trafficking and migrant smuggling as serious crimes and flagrant violations of inalienable rights outlined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU, progress in the prosecution and conviction of human traffickers remains limited across Europe. In addition, conflicts and political instability are exacerbating the volume of requests for smuggler's services by potential migrants, allowing abuses and exploitation to continue apace.

In view of these enormous challenges, this symposium will provide a timely and invaluable opportunity to develop integrated solutions to tackle human trafficking and migrant smuggling. It will also explore effective means of identifying victims, raising awareness and improving multilateral cooperation.

“ Human traffickers prey on the most desperate and vulnerable. To end this inhumane practice, we must do more to shield migrants and refugees - and particularly young people, women and children - from those who would exploit their yearnings for a better, safer and more dignified future.”

Former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, July 2016

Venue and Accommodation

Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre
Avenue du Boulevard 17
1210 Brussels
Belgium



Why Attend?

- ✓ Discuss current policy initiatives and priorities across Europe in the fields of human trafficking and migrant smuggling
- ✓ Develop a greater understanding of the various dimensions of human trafficking and examine the needs of victims of human trafficking
- ✓ Explore possible solutions for creating more robust and integrated multi-level structures to improve coordination and information exchange between relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Build strong partnerships with relevant stakeholders
- ✓ Determine how to improve the accessibility of existing victim support services
- ✓ Learn from successful interventions and projects and share best practices of successful initiatives
- ✓ Establish recommendations for future actions at the levels of policy and practice

Who Should Attend?

- EU Officials
- Border Agency Staff
- Police Service and Police Authorities
- Interpol
- Missing Person Units
- Diplomatic Missions
- Visa and Consular Sections in National Administrations
- Travel and Transportation Industry
- Licensing Enforcement Officers
- Housing Officials
- Social Services
- Public Health Practitioners
- Asylum and Refugee Groups
- Domestic Violence Coordinators
- Crime Reduction Partnerships
- Victim Support Organisations
- Local, Regional and National Authorities
- Local Authority Officers and Councillors
- Governmental Departments and Agencies
- School Authorities and Local Education Welfare Authorities
- Workers and Employers Confederations
- Licensed Entertainment Industry and Private Sector Organisations
- Media Organisations
- Academics
- Research Institutes
- Migration Organisations
- Criminal Justice Specialists
- Judges and Magistrates
- Legal Professionals
- Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences
- NGOs
- Third Sector Representatives
- Academics and Researchers

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Programme

- 09:15** Registration and Morning Refreshments
- 10:00** Chair's Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 10:10** **European Approaches and Perspectives to Tackle Human Trafficking**
- Trafficking of Human Beings – Definition, Figures and Policy Developments
 - Evaluation of the EU Strategy Towards the Eradication of Trafficking of Human Beings (202-2016) - Towards a Post-2016 Strategy
 - Assessing Current Data Trends Across Europe
- 10:40** **First Round of Discussions**
- 11:10** Morning Coffee Break
- 11:30** **New Dimensions of Human Trafficking in Times of Increased Migration**
- Discussing the EU Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling (2015-2020)
 - Improving and Developing Member States Approaches to Migrants
 - Establishing Safe and Legal Entry Ways for Migrants to Limit the Demand for Smugglers' Services
 - Actions to be implemented to Protect Victims of Migrant Smuggling
- 12:00** **Second Round of Discussions**
- 12:30** Networking Lunch
- 13:30** **Raising Awareness and Protecting Vulnerable Groups: The Need for a Victim-Centred Approach**
- Actions to Raise Awareness About the Hidden Crime Human Trafficking
 - Defining the International Protection Needs of Victims of Human Trafficking
 - Training Professionals to Effectively Support Victims
 - Providing Adequate Referral Services for Victims
- 14:00** **Third Round of Discussions**
- 14:30** Afternoon Coffee Break
- 14:50** **Improving Cooperation amongst Key Actors at International Level**
- Breaking the Trafficking Chain: From Recruitment to the Harboring of Victims
 - Cooperation to Combat Human Trafficking: Improving Border Management
 - Innovative Solutions and Projects: Learning From Successful Interventions
- 15:20** **Fourth Round of Discussions**
- 15:50** Chair's Summary and Closing Comments
- 16:00** Networking Reception
- 16:30** Close

Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice

Event Details

- Date:** Wednesday 17th May 2017
Time: 10:00am – 4:30pm
Venue: Thon Hotel Brussels City Centre, Brussels



Speakers Include:

- ✓ **Irene Wintermayr**, Policy Officer, International Labour Organisation
- ✓ **Michele LeVoy**, Director, PICUM
- ✓ **Sally Beeckman**, Coordinator of the Legal Unit, PAG-ASA
- ✓ **Patsy Sörensen**, Director, Payoke
- ✓ **Roel Simons**, Director, Please Disturb'

Forthcoming Events

- ✓ Mental Health in Europe: Promoting Equal Opportunities and Social Participation
12th April 2017
- ✓ E-Skills and Jobs in the Digital Age: Accelerating Europe's Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth
10th May 2017
- ✓ 7th Annual International Symposium on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling
17th May 2017
- ✓ The Future of Tourism in Europe: Promoting Competitiveness Through Sustainability and Digitisation
30th May 2017
- ✓ Strengthening Youth Employment in the EU: Ensuring Bright Futures for the Young Generation
1st June 2017
- ✓ Reforming European VAT: Boosting Trade and Achieving Modernisation
8th June 2017
- ✓ The 9th Annual International Symposium on University Rankings and Quality Assurance 2017
22nd June 2017


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