



## Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

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

---

15<sup>th</sup> *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* Conference  
***People at risk: combating human trafficking along migration routes***

#### CONCEPT NOTE

- WHAT** 15<sup>th</sup> high-level *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* Conference “*People at risk: combating human trafficking along migration routes*”
- WHEN** 6–7 July 2015 (Monday afternoon and Tuesday)
- WHERE** Hofburg (Neuer Saal), Heldenplatz, Vienna, Austria
- WHO** This conference will be attended by **representatives of the 57 OSCE participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation**, of major **international organizations** and NGOs which are partners in the *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons*, as well as of academia, civil society, the media, trade unions, and think-tanks. Active participation via Twitter – @OSCE, hashtag #cthb15 - is highly encouraged.
- OBJECTIVE** The objective of this high-level event is to **promote human security by enhancing the coherence of international efforts** when addressing trafficking in human beings (THB) in the context of migration processes. To this end, the conference offers an open exchange of best practices and lessons learned. Moreover, the conference will serve as a privileged forum for enhanced co-operation among the OSCE participating States in the context of implementing both their human trafficking and migration related commitments, as well as the recommendations of the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings.
- BACKGROUND** The *Alliance against Trafficking in Persons* was launched in 2004 as an informal and voluntary **platform for advocacy and co-operation** to unite the efforts of all *Alliance* partners around our common goal to prevent and combat human trafficking. It provides a **dynamic framework to develop synergies** and supports the OSCE participating States in establishing a harmonized approach to combat THB, a heinous crime and human rights violation which undermines human security throughout the region. The focus of this conference is in consonance with the **2015 OSCE Serbian Chairmanship priorities** and further **builds on the topics of previous years**, which included ethical issues in preventing and combating human trafficking (2014), human trafficking as a form of modern day slavery (2013), and non-discrimination and empowerment in the context of human trafficking (2012).

**More information** may be found at: <http://www.osce.org/event/alliance15>

## FOCUS

It is estimated that nearly one billion people are on the move globally in regular and/or irregular conditions, either on a voluntary or an involuntary basis.<sup>1</sup> These so-called “mixed migration flows” consist of people who are highly vulnerable and increasingly at risk of being trafficked before, during or after their migration process. Criminal networks often take advantage of people’s migration projects and exploit their vulnerability along migration routes, including in transit and in destination countries, where migrants are often in a precarious situation.

Effective migration management is thus a precondition to prevent human trafficking. However, it should not be equated to the fight against so-called “irregular migration”. On the contrary, restrictive migration policies increase migrants’ vulnerability of being exploited by unscrupulous employers and organized criminal networks.

By addressing the relationship between human trafficking and migration, the 2015 *Alliance* conference provides a privileged forum for dialogue between representatives from countries of origin, transit and destination of trafficked migrants. Moreover, it offers an opportunity to explore how to close the policy gaps in order to prevent human trafficking and prioritize the protection of vulnerable groups along migration routes as well as in destination countries. The event will draw attention to the impact of state migration policies on THB, as well as to the particular vulnerability of certain profiles of migrants, including those fleeing crisis situations and unaccompanied minors on the move.

The OSCE *Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings* calls on participating States to raise awareness about trafficking among immigration authorities and consular and diplomatic personnel, as well as among vulnerable groups, including migrants and IDPs. The *Action Plan* also recommends countries of origin to promote social-economic and political stability, and to reduce supply factors of trafficking. In addition, countries of destination are called upon to address unprotected, informal and often illegal labour in order to achieve a balance between the demand for cheap labour and the possibilities of regular migration and adequate protection of migrant workers’ rights.

According to the 2013 *Addendum* to the OSCE Action Plan, participating States are required to pay special attention to unaccompanied and separated children, child asylum-seekers, refugees and IDPs, and children left behind by migrating parents. Moreover, participating States are reminded to engage with relevant institutions to promote the identification of trafficked persons among migrants, including asylum seekers, as well as the protection of their rights. These specific human trafficking commitments are linked to the wide array of OSCE commitments on migration governance.<sup>2</sup>

In line with the 2015 OSCE Chairmanship priorities, the *Alliance* conference complements other OSCE security efforts in the area of migration and human trafficking. These include thematic meetings of the OSCE Informal Subsidiary Bodies as well as the Annual Police Expert Meeting<sup>3</sup>. Finally, the conference intends to promote the development of multi-dimensional responses to the challenges posed by mixed migration flows in the OSCE region, thereby contributing to human security.

---

<sup>1</sup> While the 2014 *Report of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development (A/69/207)* noted 232 million international migrants (see also the UN International Migration Report 2013), the United Nations Development Programme *Human Development Report 2009 – Overcoming barriers: Human mobility and development* estimated approximately 740 million internal migrants globally.

<sup>2</sup> Building on the Helsinki Final Act – which lays the foundations for the OSCE work on migration management – the OSCE participating States have agreed on a number of commitments such as in the Helsinki 1992 Concluding Document, 1999 Istanbul Charter for European Security, the 2005 Ljubljana MC Decision No. 2/05 on Migration and the 2009 Athens MC Decision No. 5/09 on Migration Management.

<sup>3</sup> This meeting will be devoted to the links between organized crime, trafficking in human beings and irregular migration (Belgrade, Serbia, 28–29 May 2015).