

EUROPEAN RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS AND OTHER FORMS OF EXPLOITATION - EURC

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation



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European Resource Center for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and Other Forms of Exploitation - Opening Ceremony in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

As announced in the first issue of the Newsletter, on November 27, 2013 IFS-EMMAUS officially opened the *European Resource Center for the Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings and Other Forms of Exploitation* located in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The opening ceremony was hosted in cooperation with Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International representatives Mr. Alain Capmas and Mr. Hans Van Beek; the State Coordinator for Anti-Trafficking/Ministry of Security of BiH Mr Samir Rizvo and IFS-EMMAUS Head of Sarajevo Office and Resource Center Ms Amela Efendic. The Ceremony was attended by numerous representatives of respective BiH institutions, international organization diplomatic and consular offices in BiH, as well as representatives of partner NGOs from BiH and the region, in support of ongoing

activities of IFS-EMMAUS on the prevention of THB in the region and Europe.

The Resource Center was established to serve as an information point on trafficking in human beings, changing trends, legislative provisions and statistical data, as well as related information on other forms of exploitation with particular emphasis on this phenomenon in Europe. It is expected to serve as a resource mechanism primarily for Emmaus communities, but also local and international stakeholders on best practices and information for action in combating human trafficking at the regional and global level.

IFS-EMMAUS established a web portal www.eurcenter.net (.int, .org and .com) with the purpose of providing information regarding trafficking in human beings, as well as linkages to European and international networks and partners in joint activities and policy making efforts. The web portal includes statistical data and research of related crimes.

The opening of the Resource Center was implemented within the project "EMMAUS Network Against Trafficking in Human Beings - Combating and Prevention Through Policy Initiatives, Training and Capacity Building", in cooperation with the BiH Ministry of Security/ Anti-trafficking Department and with the support of EMMAUS Europe.

Celebrating the 65th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN DHR) was adopted by the United Nations on December 10th, 1948. After the horrors of the Second World War, the Universal Declaration transcended the context of a divided world shaped by two blocks to place the ultimate importance on the rights of every human being. In the current changing society, it is now time to reclaim that universal respect for every human being. Human rights should be protected and respected in Europe and worldwide.

Sexual exploitation and related terms

“Gender-based violence” is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females. It is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women and girls’ ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men and boys and it impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of women and girls of human rights and fundamental freedoms under international law, including human rights conventions, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Around the world, gender-based violence disproportionately affects women and girls because of their subordinate status to men and boys. As such, the term is most often used to highlight women and girls’ particular vulnerability to violence because of gender inequality. Sexual exploitation and abuse is a form of gender-based violence.

“The term **“violence against women”** means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

“The term **“sexual abuse”** means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.”

“The term **“sexual exploitation”** means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation

Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the new face of slavery because it retains many of the same characteristics of a slave - trafficking victim/master-trafficker relationship: the victim is sold against her/his will by a third party to the trafficker, for whom she/he is forced to work and to whom she/he is forced to concede all profits engendered from such work.

Trafficking in human beings does not only affect/target girls and women, but also boys and men. However in terms of sexual exploitation, statistical evidence shows that trafficking in human beings for purposes of sexual exploitation affects girls and women as a majority target group.

The prevalent form of trafficking for sexual exploitation affects every region in the world, either as a source, transit or destination country, and it is the most common form of trafficking in human beings (79 %) followed by forced labour (18 per cent). Women and children from developing countries, and from vulnerable parts of society in developed countries, are lured by promises of well paid jobs into leaving their homes and travelling to what they consider will be a better life. Victims are often provided with false travel documents and an organized network is used to transport them to the destination country, where they find themselves forced into sexual slavery and held in inhumane conditions and constant fear. When

an adult is coerced, forced, or deceived into prostitution - or maintained in prostitution through one of these means after initially consenting - that person is a victim of trafficking. Under such circumstances, perpetrators involved in recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for that purpose are responsible for trafficking crimes. Trafficking for purpose of sexual exploitation may also occur through debt bondage, as women and girls are forced to continue in prostitution through the use of unlawful “debt” purportedly incurred through their transportation, recruitment, or even their crude “sale” - which exploiters insist they must pay off before they can be free.

In reality, that debt cannot be repaid, as the “trafficker” often adds on various new amounts to the original debt (punishments for misbehaviour, expenses for hygienic materials provided during exploitation, for make-up, for drinks/food etc) so the amount is always increased.

Finally, once the amount is to be paid off by the trafficked person, the owner sells her/him to a new owner and the debt bondage is anewed, and the trafficking circle continues.

SEXUAL EXPLOITATION HAS A HARROWING EFFECT ON THE MENTAL, EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING OF THE TRAFFICKED INDIVIDUAL, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND GIRLS

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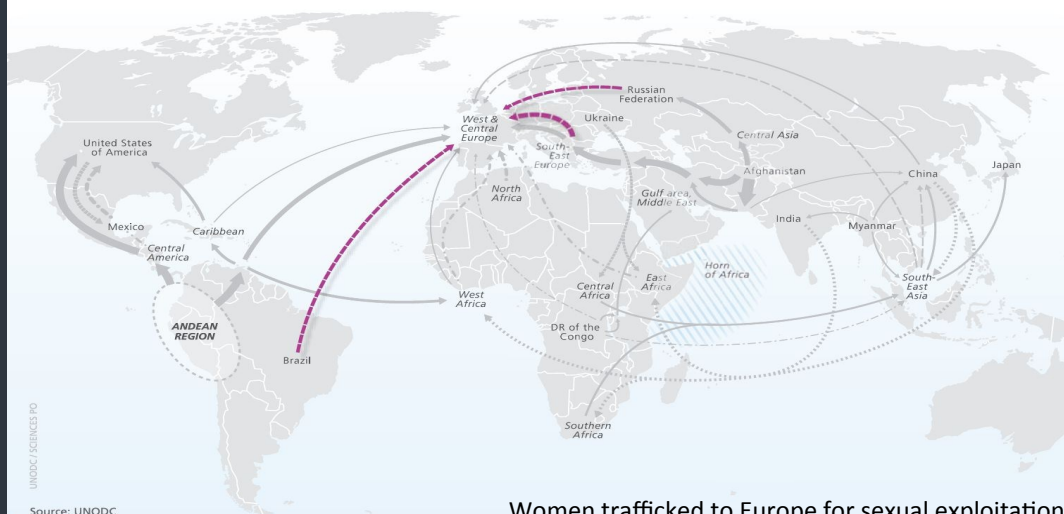
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Women trafficked to Europe for sexual exploitation

*“There’s always reason for hope,
and if you look hard enough
you can find it.”*

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The distinctions between prostitution and trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation

Trafficking in human beings is often misinterpreted and confused with the term “prostitution”. The term “prostitution” generally means the commission by a person of any natural or unnatural sexual act, deviate sexual intercourse, or sexual contact for monetary consideration or other thing of value. People usually equate prostitution with sexual exploitation, but the primary distinction made between sexual exploitation as a form of trafficking in human beings (sex trafficking/slavery) and prostitution in relevant literature is that **sexual exploitation is involuntary while prostitution is voluntary**. Sexual exploitation is far more widespread than many people realize, since each year between 600,000 and 800,000 women and children are trafficked across international borders. 79 % of human trafficking is for sexual exploitation. Thousands more are victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation within their own countries. Overall, women make up 66 % of trafficking victims and girls make up 13 %. In many communities, especially smaller communities, sexual exploitation is virtually invisible and known only to well-informed “professionals”, the traffickers themselves and those being trafficked.

	Trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation	Prostitution
Will	Always forcibly exploited – involuntary	Always do what she wants – all voluntary
Freedom to decide	The victim has no choice or freedom to decide: the person who sexual exploits them has full control	A prostitute has the freedom to make independent decisions about their own lives
Movement	Victims do not have freedom of movement	A prostitute has freedom of movement
Profits disposition	The victim does not have the self-realized profits	The prostitute alone has accrued profits
Usage of protection (preservatives) and selection of clients	The victim does not have the right to decide on the use of protection or select clients	The prostitute herself decides on the use of condoms and client selection

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The causes of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation

Gender inequality is the first major cause of trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation. Gender inequality leads to a culture in which the bodies of women and girls are seen as objects which can be bought and sold, thus fuelling a demand for purchased sex. Without this demand, there would be no sex slavery. Women and girls who live in societies in which they are undervalued, and seen as being expendable, are at a greater risk of being abused, trafficked, and coerced into sex slavery.

The second major cause of sexual exploitation is poverty, which is a common bond among victims: many of the world's poorest and most unstable countries have the highest incidences of trafficking in human beings. Increased unemployment; the

loss of job security; gender wage gaps; and an increase in women working part-time or in informal sector work, have all assisted in the undermining of women's incomes and economic position, leaving them vulnerable to traffickers. In addition, traffickers traffic because it can be an extremely lucrative business, especially in areas with limited opportunities for education or legitimate employment.

Improving the world-wide economic and social status of women would lead to trafficking being largely eradicated.

Methods of recruitment and keeping victims in bondage

The majority of sexual exploitation victims are women and girls, with certain women and girls being especially vulnerable to such exploitation. Women and girls can become victims of sex trafficking in a variety of ways. Some are lured by false offers of legitimate and legal work, often as dancers, au pairs or waitresses. Others are promised a better life, often for marriage or educational opportunities. Some are kidnapped, whilst many are

The Directive 2011/36/EU

The Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims. This Directive is part of the global action against trafficking in human beings, which includes action involving third countries as stated in the 'Action-oriented Paper on strengthening the Union's external dimension on action against trafficking in human beings; Towards global EU action against trafficking in human beings' approved by the Council on 30 November 2009. In this context, action should be pursued in third countries of origin and transfer of victims, with a view to raising awareness; reducing vulnerability; supporting and assisting victims; fighting the root causes of trafficking and supporting those third countries in developing appropriate anti-trafficking legislation.

This Directive recognizes the gender-specific phenomenon of trafficking and that women and men are often trafficked for different purposes, and for the first time recognizes Compensation to victims: Member states shall ensure that victims of trafficking in human beings have access to schemes of compensation to victims of violent crimes of intent - Article 17.

The Directive came into force on April 5, 2011 in the European parliament and the Council, and replaced the Council Framework Decision 2002/629/JHA.

sold into trafficking by boyfriends, friends, neighbours or even parents. In fact, research by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) showed that 46% of sexually exploited victims know their recruiter.

Having been dragged into the system of human trafficking, victims are often passed from trafficker to trafficker, moving increasingly further from their homes and support systems. They may travel through multiple countries before reaching their final destination, becoming confused and disoriented along the way.

Traffickers use various tactics to keep women and girls captive. Victims' passports and official papers are usually confiscated and held. Victims are not only told that they are in the destination country

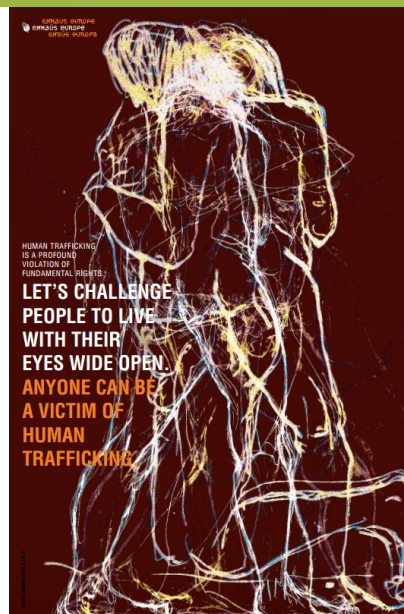
Different forms of control include:

- debt bondage
- isolation: removal of identification and/or travel documents
- isolation - linguistic and social
- violence and fear
- reprisals against the victim's family
- psychological imprisonment and torture
- false promises

illegally, which increases their dependence on their traffickers, but are also told that their families and children will be harmed or murdered if they attempt to escape or tell anyone about their situation. Victims rarely have any knowledge of the culture or language of the country into which they have been trafficked, further increasing their dependence on their trafficker, and causing further psychological stress and frustration. Victims are also locked up by their traffickers and kept under surveillance.

Furthermore, traffickers trap their victims with debt bondage, claiming that the women owe them large amounts of money for their transportation and recruitment fees and that these must be paid before the women can be released. By charging additional fees through their servitude, for accommodation and daily necessities, traffickers force victims to work for longer periods of time to pay off their debts. If a woman is near to paying off her debt, her trafficker is likely to pass her to another trafficker, and a new cycle of mounting fees will begin.

Victims of human trafficking experience various forms of physical torture, psychological torture and degradation. They are usually unable to move



about freely, as their traffickers impose means to prevent their escape; are made to work long hours, with little to no rest or recreation; are often deprived of food; and have almost no access to medical facilities. It is common for victims to be forcibly raped by the traffickers themselves before they start to service clients, in order for the cycle of abuse and degradation to be initiated. Many women are drugged by their traffickers, to prevent their escape. Having been “broken in”, victims can be made to service tens of men a day, making them incredibly vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, HIV infection and unwanted pregnancy.

Who purchases women and girls?

The demand for victims of human trafficking is created by the purchase of sexual services. Therefore, in order to decrease demand, it is

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POSTER (part of awareness raising and prevention activities targeting clients, users of sexual services of victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Part I:
 Millions of girls and women all over the world are victims of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation. **In Bosnia and Herzegovina, that number is growing larger every day.** „Are you one of them (the victim)?“
You are not alone! Report trafficking in human beings as a crime!
 In accordance with the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina, trafficking in human beings is a crime punishable with long prison sentences.

Part II:
 Millions of people all over the world are paying for the sexual services of **victims of trafficking in human beings.** „Are you one of them (the clients)?“
 Did you know that recent changes to article of the Criminal Code punish the use of sexual services of victims of trafficking in human beings?
 Article 186 paragraph 6: „Whoever uses the services of victims of human trafficking, **shall be punished by imprisonment for a term of six months to five years**“

important to know at whom such efforts should be aimed.

Men who purchase sexual services cannot be reduced to a single profile or demographic, as the trafficking industry is supported by men from every nationality, race, religion, education level, age, and socioeconomic status. Many are married and have children. Their only shared characteristic is a belief that the bodies of women and girls are available for their sexual pleasure for a price. However, it should be highlighted that few are aware of the link between the commercial sex trade and human trafficking, with most believing that all women in the commercial sex trade entered voluntarily. For this reason,

awareness-raising campaigns can be effective in fighting demand.

The impact of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation

Trafficked women experience not only physical abuse such as beatings, rape and even murder, but also extreme emotional stress, including shame, grief, fear, distrust and suicidal thoughts. 68% experience PTSD (Post-traumatic Stress Disorder), with symptoms including acute anxiety, flashbacks, depression and insomnia. As a result, many victims turn to drugs and/or alcohol.

However, trafficking for sexual exploitation has wider, societal negative impacts. The removal of women and girls from their

families and communities promotes societal breakdown, and leads to a loss of human resources that negatively impacts labour markets, both local and international. Furthermore, trafficking provides organised crime groups with further income to fuel their participation in illegal activities such as money laundering and the trafficking of drugs and/or weapons. It also burdens public health systems, as well as eroding the authority of the government; encouraging widespread corruption; and threatening the security of vulnerable populations.

One thing all victims of sexual exploitation and slavery share is that they are human beings – somebody’s daughter, mother, sister, friend.

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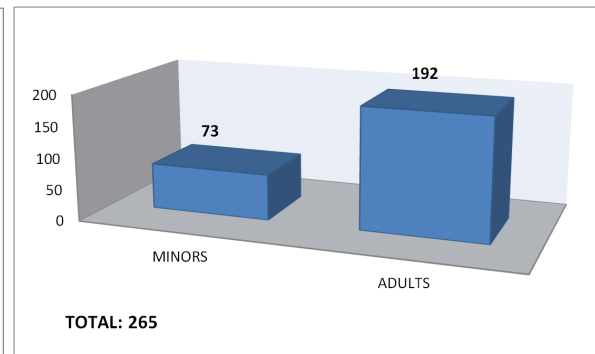
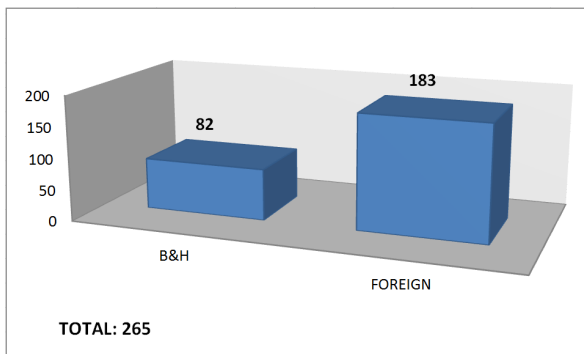
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Number of victims of trafficking in human beings assisted by IFS-EMMAUS in 2000-2013





Implemented activities of IFS - EMMAUS Office in Sarajevo in 2013

- Shelter and assistance activities to victims of human trafficking were continued, reaching the total number of 265 assisted trafficked individuals, including 183 foreign and 82 BiH national victims, of whom 73 minors and 192 full aged individuals. Activities include accommodation, food, sundries, medical assistance, psycho-social support, legal advice, occupational therapy and related rehabilitation services, in addition to repatriation (assisted return to countries of origin) and re-socialization services (on-the-job training, education, social living assistance, mentoring, etc.).
- IFS-EMMAUS was entrusted by the BiH Ministry of Security/Department of Anti-trafficking to establish and administrate the national web portal on prevention of human trafficking and illegal migration. The web portal www.bihat.ba was established with the aim of improving the coordination of all actors involved in the prevention of trafficking in human beings in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, increasing information sharing and networking. The portal represents one of awareness raising and prevention activities implemented during 2013 which, amongst others, involved activities targeting clients of trafficked victims with the aim of reducing demand and sexual exploitation. Focus was also made on awareness raising and training of media on investigative journalism practices and ethics in reporting on trafficking in human beings and related crimes.
- In April 2013, the IFS-EMMAUS representative was nominated to the Executive Board of INHOPE – International Association of Internet Hotlines in the fight against child sexual abuse and inappropriate online contents and the INHOPE Foundation Supervisory Board.
- In May 2013, in recognition of the outstanding efforts in the prevention of online child abuse and exploitation, the BiH Council of Ministers recommended IFS - EMMAUS for the establishment of the National Safer Internet Center in the country.
- Regional initiatives on anti-trafficking were developed and initiated in the beginning of 2013, with the aim of contributing to the democratization processes in the Western Balkans through the involvement in debate on human rights and the rule of law related to organized crime and human trafficking, therewith influencing policies of four regional countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Croatia and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in efforts to contribute to human trafficking prevention and aligning justice sector policies with EU standards. First activities of the „Balkan ACTs Now!“ project include a comprehensive Situation Analysis of the current situation regarding trafficking in human beings in the four countries, resulting in the signing of the first policy document: [Balkans Declaration on the Suppression of Trafficking and the Exploitation of Human Beings](#), signed in a ceremonial event held in Zagreb on September 19, 2013. The document shall serve as a platform for regional cooperation on human trafficking prevention and has been—till present—signed by 68 civil society organizations from the Balkan region and Europe, including Emmaus Europe.
- IFS-EMMAUS took active part in the development of the first National Strategy to Counter Trafficking in Human Beings in BiH and Action Plan 2013 - 2015 and the new Action plan for Child Protection and Prevention of Violence Against Children Through Information and Communication Technologies in BiH 2013 – 2015.
- Continued the management of the Hotline for the prevention of online child abuse and exploitation www.sigurnodijete.ba, which received 254 reports during 2013. Relevant reports were referred to respective law enforcement agencies and partner INHOPE hotlines in countries around the globe.
- Continued engagement in the work of the BiH Strike Force for Prevention of THB and work of Regional Monitoring Teams. on Assistance to Victims of Human Trafficking.
- In summer 2013, BiH NGOs active in the anti-trafficking area elected IFS-EMMAUS as the representative of civil society organizations in the National Team to Monitor the Implementation of the State Strategy for the Suppression of Human Trafficking in BiH.

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Romanian victims trafficked in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Two sisters Marina and Petra

My sister and I always lived humbly and helped our parents with agriculture and livestock. One day, a turning point in our lives occurred when our acquaintances offered us work as babysitters and salesgirls. It was a happy day for us because we thought that our life and the life of our parents would become normal. However, it was all a big lie. Once we reached

Trafficked victim in South-Eastern Europe

“I begged him to let me work down in the restaurant. I begged him to be good to me, like I was good to him. He promised, but on one condition—that I would not try to escape or tell anybody. He warned me that it would be useless, because the police were with him. He said that would be bad for me, because I couldn't prove anything.”

Marcela, trafficked victim, interviewed by the Brazilian NGO Projeto Trama

“We were trapped by criminals and forced into prostitution in order to pay debts for the trip. We had up to 15 clients per night. The use of condoms was the client's decision, not ours. The criminals kept our passports and had an armed man in front of the 'disco' to make sure we never escaped. But a woman helped us. We went to the police and told them everything.”

our destination, a living hell of torture and sexual exploitation began. We were under constant surveillance and locked up. Now it is all behind us, we only want to turn back to the life we used to live.



International Calendar of Anti-trafficking Events

January 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11 <i>San Bernardino, California</i> January 11 – 2014 Anti-Human Trafficking Awareness Walk
12	13	14 <i>Vienna, Austria</i> UNODC: Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Protection against Trafficking in Cultural Property, 3rd session	15 <i>Vienna, Austria</i> UNODC: Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Protection against Trafficking in Cultural Property, 3rd session	16 <i>Pomona, California</i> Southwest Conference Against Trafficking http://www.swcat.org/home.html	17 <i>Pomona, California</i> Southwest Conference Against Trafficking http://www.swcat.org/home.html	18
19 <i>Pomona, California</i> Southwest Conference Against Trafficking http://www.swcat.org/home.html	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

International Calendar of Anti-trafficking Events

February 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 <i>Perth, Western Australia</i> Smart Surveillance: Global Perspectives <i>Konjic, BiH</i> Capacity building workshop for BiH Service for Foreigners Affairs and Border Police officials	4 <i>Perth, Western Australia</i> Smart Surveillance: Global Perspectives <i>Konjic, BiH</i> Capacity building workshop for BiH Service for Foreigners Affairs and Border Police officials	5 <i>Perth, Western Australia</i> Smart Surveillance: Global Perspectives	6	7	8
9	10 <i>Globally</i> Safer Internet Day 2014	11 <i>Sarajevo, BiH</i> Training for students of criminology on monitoring court cases of trafficking in human beings	12 <i>Sarajevo, BiH</i> Training for students of criminology on monitoring court cases of trafficking in human beings	13	14	15
16 <i>Vienna, Austria</i> Conference: Not for Sale – Joining Forces Against Trafficking in Human Beings	17 <i>Vienna, Austria</i> Conference: Not for Sale – Joining Forces Against Trafficking in Human Beings	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

Impressum



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Are you interested in more information about trafficking in human beings? Send us your suggestion and questions by e-mail to info@eurcenter.com.

Is Your organization/community active in the combat against trafficking in human beings? Share with us your activities and experiences by e-mail: info@eurcenter.com.

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Related documents

[Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)

[DIRECTIVE 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims](#)

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