



Hellenic Republic
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Office of the National Rapporteur on
Trafficking in Human Beings

National Strategy to Monitor and Combat trafficking in Human Beings

Legal and Institutional Framework

Greece stepped up efforts to fight Human Trafficking through the “national ownership” of three pivotal legal instruments: 1) the ratification of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary Protocols/the “Palermo Protocol” (Law 3875/2010), 2) the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (Law 4216/2013) and 3) the transposition of the E.U. anti-trafficking Directive (2011/36/EC/ Law 4198/2013).

The Office of the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings (O.N.R.) was established within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, following the transposition of the E.U. anti-trafficking Directive (November 2013). The O.N.R. is mandated to cooperate closely with focal points in eight competent Ministries, as well as with International Organizations and civil society. The Office endorses a fourfold strategy to address human trafficking, namely Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships with civil society and the private sector.

The current influx of mixed migratory flows requires the full attention of Greek authorities and civil society, particularly as it concerns the nexus between trafficking and smuggling. In particular the Office shifts the emphasis on the low level exploitation of stranded refugees and migrants such as unaccompanied minors at risk of being trafficked in areas like forced criminality, forced begging and “survival prostitution”.

Main Fields of Action

The main O.N.R. fields of action are: a) to coordinate the National Referral Mechanism (N.R.M.), b) to organize specialized trainings of front-line professionals on first-level identification of potential victims, c) to implement a strategic partnership between national competent authorities and leading international organizations (IOM, UNHCR, UNODC, Council of Europe, OSCE), d) to step up human trafficking prevention initiatives and awareness raising campaigns. More specifically: 1. Introduction of human rights & reproductive health and sexual education in schools, 2. Promotion of the “Break The Chain Festival” for the fourth consecutive year, 3. Collaboration with public and private sectors to promote partnerships and bring in more professional groups into the national referral and identification regime (e.g. medical sector, public transportation sector), 4. Promotion of a slavery free supply chain in certain areas of the private sector (e.g. Agriculture and major retailers), 5. Consolidation of a zero tolerance CSR strategy towards THB, as well as supporting the integrity of recruitment agencies.

Recent Developments

Policy-making updates: An updated National Action Plan is currently drafted for consultation in the parliamentary sub-committee on THB. The Committee came as a response of the Parliament to the National Rapporteur recommendation to involve M.Ps in the policy making procedures that are necessary to address issues of exploitation of vulnerable groups at risk of

being trafficked and the need to follow up on international developments and proceed to possible amendments in the existing legal framework.

Operational updates: *National Referral Mechanism/NRM*: Further to its mandate to enhance the national ownership of competent stakeholders involved in the identification and protection of victims and the prosecution of perpetrators, the O.N.R. is paying equal emphasis to extend the scope of the country's identification regime, therefore bringing in more professionals and stakeholders into the screening and identification process. This does not merely concern law enforcement (police and prosecutors) and involves additional front-line professionals, such as labour inspectors, health providers, migration services, public transportation employees, local administration authorities and other stakeholders who may come across potential victims (*notably unaccompanied minors and potential victims among migrants and refugees*).

Updates on victims' identification and rescue: During the period between 2015 and 2016, public authorities, NGOs and the IOM- Greece offered protection to 38 officially identified and 370 presumed victims of human trafficking, including 129 minors. Concerning prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators, during the same period, 69 criminal prosecutions, 23 convictions in first instance (19 for sexual exploitation and 4 for forced labour) and 07 convictions in second instance (all for sexual exploitation) were applied. The Hellenic Police reports 57 cases of human trafficking in the context of which 214 perpetrators were brought up to justice and 96 victims were rescued.

With reference to 2017, the Hellenic Police reported 21 cases of human trafficking, 38 victims were rescued and 147 perpetrators were brought up to justice.