

KOK

German NGO Network against
Trafficking in Human Beings



RECHTE VON BETROFFENEN VON MENSCHENHANDEL IM STRAFVERFAHREN

Eine Untersuchung zur Umsetzung
der Menschenhandelsrichtlinie 2011/36/EU

DECEMBER 2020 – NOVEMBER 2021

ANNUAL REVIEW
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Dear readers,

This year, once more, we look back on a challenging time, again marked by the coronavirus. Many people both in Germany and especially in other parts of the world face an existential crisis due to the pandemic. Time and time again, these difficult circumstances are exploited by the unscrupulous, and the risk of trafficking in human beings and exploitation continues to grow. It is assumed by the German Federal Criminal Police Office and specialised counselling centres supporting trafficked persons that there are a great number of unreported cases in Germany. However, we have seen notable developments counteracting this trend. A plan for a national reporting mechanism on trafficking in human beings is currently being developed and examined and KOK published the initial results of the civil society data collection project carried out among member organisations this year. These findings are extremely helpful for evaluating to what extent Germany complies with its commitments to human rights for those affected by trafficking in human beings. It is the specialised counselling centres that carry out this important work to enforce human rights on the ground, often in underfunded and understaffed conditions.

Trafficked persons often face situations where their rights are not duly taken into consideration. This was once again highlighted by KOK's publication *The Rights of Trafficked Persons during Criminal Proceedings – Examining the Implementation of EU Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36'* (summary report available in English), which was released last summer following its monitoring of proceedings.

Moreover, trafficking in human beings in its many forms (trafficking for the purpose of sexual or labour exploitation, but also forced begging or the exploitation of criminal activities) is still not acknowledged enough in Germany. The International Symposium on Trafficking in Human Beings and Data Politics that took place in October 2021 provided useful insights into how crucial it is to gain more insight into trafficking in human beings. During the Bundestag election campaign, KOK issued a list of demands, compared election promises and held meetings with MPs to draw their attention to the weaknesses of the current system and what needs to be done.

We continue to strive to enforce the rights of trafficked persons and to raise political awareness of trafficking in human beings and exploitation.

We thank you for your interest in our work and for your continued support to help us combat trafficking in human beings and enforce human rights.

Sophia Wirsching, KOK Executive Director

THE KOK
IS FUNDED BY



Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

KOK newsletter to special representatives for victims of trafficking in human beings in the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees

KOK newsletter 04/20

8/12 German Bishops' Conference's Preparatory Conference for the Santa Marta Group Preventing Human Trafficking

Lecture by Sophia Wirsching on enhanced accountability

9/12 CEDAW forum with the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

DECEMBER 2020

**6/1 Meeting between KOK and
Finanzkontrolle Schwarzarbeit**

(authority to investigating
undeclared work and
unlawful employment)

**Statement *Lessons learnt from
the pandemic* (in German) –
updated version**

issued by the Forum Menschenrechte
Working Group on the Rights of Women
and LGBTI*

**13–15/1 Annual meeting of
Forum Menschenrechte**

**25/1 IOM Niger,
*Combatting trafficking in persons
and migrant smuggling through better
cooperation on protection and
border management***

**29–31/1 Annual planning retreat
of the KOK office and board**

14/2 Written submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons on the implementation of the non-punishment clause in Germany

2/2 Meeting between Forum Menschenrechte and Foreign Minister Maas

10/2 Seminar on trafficking in human beings, forced labour and labour exploitation at the University of Potsdam held by Sara Blücher

18/2 Online panel *1 year #coronaisfemale – women's and LGBTI* rights during the pandemic* (in German) organised by the Forum Menschenrechte Working Group on the Rights of Women and LGBTI* One working group was facilitated by Sophia Wirsching

26/2 Online meeting between the KOK advisory board, board and office

8/3 Press release

Trafficked women need better support
(in German)

**15/3 Press release by the
German Istanbul Convention Alliance
on the publication of the GREVIO
shadow report**

**18/3 Brief statement on the *Bill
modernising the Federal Police Forces'
legal basis***

in reaction to the public hearing before
the Bundestag Committee of
Internal Affairs on 22/3

8/3 International Women's Day

KOK 25–26/3 First KOK general assembly
(online) Discussions included topics such
as the legal entitlement to be protected
against violence, practical challenges in
terms of counselling due to the pandemic,
as well as asylum and trafficking

**15/4 Interview by the
Institute of Criminology of
Lower Saxony**

with Claudia Robbe (KOK board/
FIZ Stuttgart) and Sophia Wirsching
**as part of the evaluation round
on criminal offences
relating to trafficking**

**15/4 KOK list of demands for
the Bundestag elections**

**13/4 ECPAT online panel discussion on
*Developing appropriate accommodation
opportunities for trafficked and
exploited minors* (in German)**

**15/4 Federal-Länder Working Group
on Trafficking in Human Beings/Labour
Exploitation at the Federal Ministry of
Labour and Social Affairs**

**23/4 Online meeting of the National
Council against Sexual Violence against
Children and Young People's Working
Group on protection from exploitation
and international cooperation**

**29/4 Lecture on *Trafficking in human
beings in Germany and the pandemic*
(in German) for students of the
University of Freiburg
held by Sophia Wirsching**

**29/4 Online seminar on *Trafficking in
human beings in Germany in the context
of displacement* for the
Rhineland-Palatinate branch of the
German Red Cross
held by Claudia Robbe (KOK board/
FIZ Stuttgart) and Sarah Schwarze**

6/5 Launch of the *GleichBeHandeln* campaign on equal access to health care for undocumented migrants

at the initiative of a coalition of over 60 civil society organisations (including KOK)

19/5 The German Federal Government adopts the 9th State Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

3/5 *Child trafficking and exploitation*, Conference organised by the Council of Europe and the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as part of Germany's 2021 Council of Europe Presidency with lectures by Andrea Hitze (KOK board/Dortmunder Mitternachtsmission) and Sophia Wirsching

6/5 Joint Meeting of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms and EU Civil Society Platform Against Trafficking in Human Beings

Lecture on the monitoring of proceedings by Sophia Wirsching

11/5 UNODC Regional Conference on Trafficking in Human Beings

Lecture by Sophia Wirsching on support options for trafficked persons

12/5 Working Group on the *Identification of special protection needs* as part of the *BeSAFE* project ("Identifying special protection needs when receiving refugees")

17–18/5 KOK online networking event on trafficking in ritual and organised violent structures

30/6 Joint communication by the National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Young People

2/6 KOK's assessment of the *EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025)*

25/6 KOK's comments on the *Statement of the Federal and regional authorities on the legal entitlement to be protected against violence*

20/6 World Refugee Day

30/6 Meeting between representatives of the National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Young People and Federal President Steinmeier

10/6 Online training course by the German Federal Criminal Police Office and KOK on *Trafficked persons from Vietnam and Nigeria*

21–22/6 Berlin Symposium on the protection of refugees

29/6 Meeting of the National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Young People

KOK was represented by Andrea Hitzke (KOK board/Dortmunder Mitternachtsmission) and Sarah Schwarze

19/7 Opening of the KOK touring exhibition on trafficking in human beings in Friedrichshafen on Lake Constance, with a speech by specialised counselling centre FIZ

7/7 *The Rights of Trafficked Persons during Criminal Proceedings – a Study of the Implementation of EU Anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36 in Germany*

report published along with a press release

30/7 Press release on World Day against Trafficking in Persons

30/7 World Day against Trafficking in Persons

29/7 Online seminar *Displacement and trafficking in human beings in collaboration with DeBUG*

held by Larissa Hilt

30/7 Workshop on the rights and support options of trafficked persons during displacement in Halle as part of DaMigra's *MUT-Macherinnen* project held by Larissa Hilt

Participation in the *Stop deportations to Afghanistan!* appeal by ProAsyl

3/8 Opening of the KOK touring exhibition on trafficking in human beings in Singen

on Lake Constance, with a speech by specialised counselling centre FIZ

Pre-electoral meetings between KOK and MPs from parties DIE LINKE, FDP, SPD and Bündnis 90/Die Grünen

10/8 Presentation of KOK and its work to a giz delegation from Columbia

Lecture by Sophia Wirsching

12/8 Panel discussion organised by the Institute of Criminology of Lower Saxony on the evaluation round on criminal offences relating to trafficking (hybrid event)

KOK was represented by Claudia Robbe (KOK board/FIZ Stuttgart) and Sarah Schwarze

18/8 Federal-Länder Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings

Lecture on the monitoring of proceedings by Sophia Wirsching

14/9 Submission as part of the monitoring of the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in Germany

16/9 KOK comparison of electoral promises of various parties for the 2021 Bundestag elections

26/9 Bundestag elections

1/9 Online seminar *Displacement and trafficking in human beings in collaboration with the IOM* held by Larissa Hilt

6/9 KOK training course on *Trafficking in human beings and labour exploitation* at the German Federal Criminal Police Office held by Doris Köhncke (FIZ Stuttgart)

7–8/9 Joint workshop co-organised by the German Federal Criminal Police Office and KOK in Potsdam on *Trafficked persons from Vietnam and Nigeria*

15–17/9 La Strada International NGO Platform annual conference and 25th anniversary in Amsterdam

22/9 Online panel discussion on gender-based persecution and trafficking in human beings in the context of asylum as part of KOK' *Displacement and trafficking in human beings* project

23/9 Practical training course for Federal Police Force officers in Lübeck held by Andrea Hitzke (KOK board/ Dortmund Mitternachtsmission) and Sophia Wirsching

21/10 Meeting with the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees on displacement and trafficking in human beings among other topics

with Claudia Robbe (KOK board/
FIZ Stuttgart) and Larissa Hilt

12/10 *Data collection on trafficking in human beings and exploitation in Germany – 2020/2021 KOK report* published along with a press release

7/10 World Day for Decent Work

18/10 EU Anti-Trafficking Day

1/10 Plenary working session of the CEDAW Alliance Germany

8/10 Online expert talk with the Servicestelle gegen Zwangsarbeit on the *reflection and stabilisation period*

14–15/10 KOK international conference on *Data policy and trafficking in human beings* in Berlin

18/10 *Trafficking in human beings – trafficked persons from Western Africa*, online symposium organised by contra e.V.

Lecture by Sophia Wirsching

KOK information service on exploitation and violence in ritual and organised violent structures

25/11 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

KOK 8–9/11 Second online KOK general assembly

Discussions included topics such as the reflection and stabilisation period, the role of the internet in trafficking in human beings as well as displacement and trafficking in human beings

10/11 Networking event organised by the Federal initiative *Protecting refugees in refugee accommodation*

KOK 15/11 Meeting between the KOK advisory board, board and office in Berlin

18/11 Online symposium organised by the Hannover University of Applied Sciences and Arts on *Enforcing human rights to combat labour exploitation – challenges and opportunities*

Lecture on support options for trafficked persons by Sophia Wirsching