

Press release

New KOK report on trafficking in human beings and exploitation in Germany gathers data from specialised counselling centres for the first time

Berlin, 13 October 2021 - On the occasion of the European Day against Trafficking in Human Beings on 18 October and to underline the political importance of this issue, KOK publishes its [2nd report](#) on data collection on trafficking in human beings and exploitation in Germany. The report contains a first analysis of the KOK data tool with over 700 cases of trafficking in human beings and exploitation from January 2020 til end of June 2021. Compared to the situation report on human trafficking published annually by the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), there are clear differences, e.g. in regard to the main countries of origin of trafficked persons.

"The KOK data collection reflects the work and expertise of the specialised counselling centres and is an important supplement to the official statistics," says Barbara Eritt, KOK board member and head of the IN VIA specialised counselling centre for women affected by human trafficking. The KOK data tool, which was developed in cooperation with data experts and staff of specialised counselling centres for trafficked persons, is meant to contribute to the evaluation of anti-trafficking measures and the protection of trafficked persons from a human rights perspective.

In order to define effective steps against trafficking in human beings and exploitation, reliable data is needed to show the extent of this human rights violation. The data collected by law enforcement agencies is often insufficient to depict cases from a rights based perspective. Until now data collection lacks the human rights grounding needed to develop appropriate action plans to protect trafficked persons and safeguard their rights. "Our data report clearly shows the invaluable importance services of specialised counselling centres have for trafficked persons. These support structures must be strengthened and sustainably expanded," says KOK Executive Director Sophia Wirsching.

At the KOK conference on trafficking in human beings and data policy in Berlin on 14-15 October, the topic of data collection on human trafficking and exploitation will be discussed with experts, practitioners and politicians in the light of current developments in Germany.

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Interviews with KOK Board member Barbara Eritt and Executive Director Sophia Wirsching can be arranged for interested media representatives.