



Dear readers,

As the coronavirus pandemic is raging across the globe, it is aggravating preexisting crises, and this is also true for trafficking in human beings. Sudden unemployment and lockdown measures have led to a dramatic rise in poverty. The risk of being exploited, for example as a result of debt, closed borders, bans on carrying out specific jobs or a lack of alternative means of subsistence, is much higher than a year ago.

Many people have seen a decline in their quality of life and are finding it more and more difficult to enforce their rights and receive protection. Throughout the lockdown, our colleagues working for specialised counselling centres showed an incredible level of creativity, flexibility and commitment, managing to find solutions to carry on supporting their clients despite often limited resources and IT equipment. Protecting the health of clients and their support workers is, and will remain, crucial.

The work of these specialised counselling centres was highlighted by two publications produced in the past year. KOK's book *Trafficking in human beings in Germany - Reflections on Protection and Rights* was launched on World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

In October, we also published *Defining the gap: data collection in the field of trafficking in human beings and exploitation in Germany – KOK's civil society approach*. Both are key publications in the field of trafficking in human beings and exploitation in Germany.

Throughout the year, we also published various position statements on bills to highlight the specific challenges faced by trafficked persons and ensure the demands of specialised counselling centres are heard by the Federal Government. Thanks to this work, proposed changes, which would have had negative impacts on trafficked persons, have been abolished in the amendment of the Act on the General Freedom of Movement for EU Citizens (Freizügigkeitsgesetz/EU). This measure would have had a disproportionately negative impact on many EU citizens, including trafficked persons.

Many of the planned networking, training and awareness-raising events had to be held online. By offering online training courses and virtual conferences, we were able to address trafficking in human beings and exploitation in a very new way. Although these formats are certainly workable options, they cannot entirely replace face-to-face meetings and personal encounters, which are crucial for any anti-trafficking work with partners. We very much look forward to resuming personal contact soon, hopefully next year.

We thank you for your interest in our work.

Sophia Wirsching, KOK Office

THE KOK
IS FUNDED BY



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

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

Second KOK newsletter on forced migration and trafficking in human beings sent to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) Special Representatives for victims of trafficking in human beings

3/12 Constituent assembly of the National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Young People

3/12 Training course on trafficking in human beings and exploitation for police officers as part of the 'Basic module for witness protection measures' conducted by the State Office of Criminal Investigations of Hamburg and Lower Saxony

5-6/12 Meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings in Brussels

DECEMBER 2019

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

17/1 Bill on penalising cyber grooming attempts adopted by the German Bundestag

16-17/1 Annual meeting of Forum Menschenrechte

20/1 Meeting of the Government-Länder Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings/Labour Exploitation

20/1 Meeting of the 'Violence against Women Support Hotline' Advisory Board

22-23/1 Victim Support and Victim Protection Day, organised by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection

22 and 28/1 KOK online seminar 'Introduction to trafficking in human beings - understanding the context, identifying and protecting trafficked persons'

for government officials in charge of the registration procedure as per the German Act on Sex Worker Protection

JANUARY 2020

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

20.2. World Day of Social Justice

1-2/2 Meeting of the KOK office and board

7/2 German Istanbul Convention Alliance Meeting

18/2 Expert discussion between KOK and representatives of the Federal Police Force and the German Federal Criminal Police Office

19/2 Forum in preparation of the 64th session for the UN Commission on the Status of Women organised by UN Women and the National Council of German Women's Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

FEBRUARY 2020

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

11/3 Publication of the List of Issues Prior to Reporting by the CEDAW Committee

20/3 KOK joins the Alliance for Legal Security

4/3 Press release 'Better protection for women against labour exploitation and forced labour' on International Women's Day

12/3 'No to European asylum rights reform at the expense of people, human rights and border countries' – joint declaration by 21 NGOs including KOK

8/3 International Women's Day

3/3 Evening on women's rights organised by the Social Democratic Party of Germany (SPD) parliamentary group for International Women's Day

4/3 Training course at the German Federal Criminal Police Office on trafficking in human beings/labour exploitation given by Claudia Robbe (FIZ/KOK board)

5-6/3 First KOK general assembly, discussions included topics such as strategies to establish a national rapporteur on trafficking in human beings within the German Institute for Human Rights, the new compensation legislation and collaboration with NGOs in Romania upon the return of affected individuals

MARCH 2020

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

1/4 KOK newsletter 1/2020

9/4 KOK press release 'The rights of trafficked persons should not be ignored during any crisis'

3/4 First virtual plenary working session of the CEDAW Alliance Germany

24/4 Virtual PICUM general assembly, discussions included topics such as the impact of the pandemic on undocumented migrants

28/4 First virtual meeting of Forum Menschenrechte's Working Group on the Rights of Women and LGBTI*

APRIL 2020

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

GAATW submission on the draft 'CEDAW Recommendations on Trafficking in Human Beings'

KOK submission for the 3rd progress report on the implementation of EU anti-trafficking Directive 2011/36

4/5 Virtual meeting of KOK's Working Group on Data Protection and Data Collection

07/05 Virtual meeting of the PICUM Working Group on 'Fair work'

MAY 2020