

KOK

German NGO Network against
Trafficking in Human Beings

25 YEARS KOK
AGAINST
TRAFFICKING IN
HUMAN BEINGS
FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

DECEMBER 2023 – NOVEMBER 2024

ANNUAL REVIEW
2024



Dear readers,

This year, we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of KOK – 25 years of action against trafficking in human beings and exploitation and advocating for the rights of affected individuals and human rights of migrants. We marked the occasion in November with a symposium in Berlin gathering our member organisations, cooperation partners and supporters.

October saw the release of the very first periodic report by the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings within the German Institute for Human Rights. This document describes how trafficking in human beings has evolved in Germany since 2020 and what measures have been taken by the state and the regions to comply with their obligations under European and human rights law. As part of this work, KOK provides its insights derived from the data collection efforts carried out by civil society stakeholders. Our own 2024 Data Report came out on 18 October.

Germany's tripartite coalition government failed to reach many of the aims they had set themselves as regards anti-trafficking efforts or the rights of affected individuals. However, there have been some positive steps.

The new Social Compensation Legislation (German Social Code, Part XIV) entered into force on 1 January, making it easier for affected persons to fulfil the necessary conditions to file claims. In collaboration with NGOs bff and BKSf, KOK developed practical guidelines for specialised counselling centres to offer the best possible help to their clients when making a claim.

The EU Anti-Trafficking Directive revision has also been completed. In our KOK Information Service, we presented our analysis and recommendations for the national implementation.

However, we are concerned by the tightening of asylum legislation following the reform of the Common European Asylum System, which has not taken into consideration the needs and rights of vulnerable groups. In the face of a political discourse on migration that increasingly lacks objectivity and a tangible shift to the right in politics and in society at large, we will continue standing up for human rights in the coming year as Germany heads towards elections.

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

20/12 2023 KOK Information Service
Media Perspectives: How Trafficking in Human Beings is Framed in German News Reports Based on Two Case Studies

21/12 KOK newsletter 4/23

4/12 *Universal and Indivisible – Bolstering Human Rights across the World*

symposium organised by parliamentary group Bündnis 90/Die Grünen at the Bundestag

6/12 Lunch talk *The Rights of Trafficked Persons during Investigation Proceedings – A Study of the Relevance of the Rights of Affected Individuals for Law Enforcement*

online

7/12 Violence against Women support hotline advisory council meeting

7–8/12 *European Forum Against Human Trafficking for Forced Labour and Labour Exploitation,*

organised by the Council of the Baltic Sea States, Stockholm

18/12 Meeting of the joint Government-Länder Working Group on trafficking in human beings at the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

25/1 KOK demands for the European elections

30/1 *The German Social Code, Part XIV: The New Social Compensation Legislation – a Practical Guideline to Support Persons Affected by Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence and Trafficking in Human Beings*, joint publication by KOK, bff and BKSF

12–13/1 Annual meeting of Forum Menschenrechte
online

15–16/1 Meeting of the KOK office and board

23/1 Keynote at the 3rd National Symposium for Outpatient Trauma Clinics

30/1 Lunch talk presenting our practical guidelines *The German Social Code, Part XIV: the New Social Compensation Legislation* in collaboration with bff and BKSF
online

28/2 Guidelines on Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation for Social Workers (in German)

**29/2 KOK project newsletter
Refugee Movements and Trafficking in Human Beings I/2024**

3/2 Participation in the *Hand in Hand* rally in Berlin

28/2 Lunch talk presenting the *Guidelines on Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation for Social Workers*

online

29/2 Meeting of the KOK Gender-Based Persecution Working Group

online

4/3 Departure from X (formerly Twitter) and switch to Bluesky, other accounts with LinkedIn, Instagram and Threads

4/3 *The Non-Punishment Principle*, advocacy document and clarifications by La Strada International and KOK (English version available)

8/3 Feminist Action Day

KOK

1/3 Strategy meeting with KOK advisory board, online

5/3 Meeting of the KOK Trafficking in Human Beings and Labour Exploitation Working Group, online

12/3 Training course on *Labour Exploitation, Forced Labour and Trafficking in Human Beings* in Leipzig, organised by KobraNet and the Service Centre against Labour Exploitation, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking including KOK

KOK

18–19/3 KOK general assembly and board elections

9–10/4 Plenary session of
Forum Menschenrechte

24/4 Statement on the *Draft Bill
Bolstering Structures Combating
Sexual Violence Committed against
Children and Young People*

25/4 KOK newsletter 1/24

23/4 Adoption of revised
EU Anti-Trafficking Directive by
European Parliament

KOK 10/4 Training course for KOK member
organisations: *Introduction to the
New Social Compensation Legislation
(German Social Code, Part XIV)*, online

15–16/4 24th OSCE Conference of the
Alliance against Trafficking in Persons,
Vienna

23–25/4 International information
and networking event on combating
trafficking in human beings as part of
the Jadwiga project *Safety Net*, Munich

24–26/4 La Strada International Annual
Platform Meeting, Paris, presentation at
the panel on trafficking in human beings
during major sporting events

16/5 General assembly of the German Institute for Human Rights' funding body

Sophia Wirsching elected as member of the Institute's board of trustees for the two coming years

16/5 KOK project newsletter *Refugee Movements and Trafficking in Human Beings* II/2024

23/5 75th anniversary of the German Constitution

21/5 German Istanbul Convention Alliance Meeting
online

23/5 Forum on migration policy
at the Baden-Württemberg State Representation in Berlin

27/5 Training course: *Introduction to Trafficking in Human Beings*
for staff of the German Competence Centre for International Skilled Workers in the Health and Nursing Professions, in collaboration with Claudia Robbe (FIZ Stuttgart/KOK board)

28/5 Webinar *Trafficking in Human Beings in Germany in the Context of Refugee Movements*
in collaboration with Nadeschda

11–12/6 Consultations on the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Human Beings and Labour Exploitation, Trafficking in Human Beings and Forced Labour, KOK office and board were represented

11/6 Publication by the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings GRETA's third evaluation report on Germany

3/6 Statements by various political parties standing for the European elections following questions by KOK

17/6 Flyer *Social Compensation (German Social Code, Part XIV) – Available Support in Cases of Violence* by KOK, bff and BKSF

6–9/6 European elections

3–4/6 KOK training and networking event: The New Social Compensation Legislation and New Forms of Exploitation under the Revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, Berlin

5/6 *Overcoming Stereotypes – Symposium on Sex Workers in Brandenburg*, organised by IN VIA Berlin in Potsdam

10–11/6 Joint information stand with IN VIA Berlin at the 29th Prevention Day, Cottbus

10/6 Panel discussion on the legal assessment *Immunity from prosecution for Offences Committed by Victims of Trafficking in Human Beings* organised by the Service Centre against Labour Exploitation, Forced Labour and Human Trafficking, comments by KOK, online

27–28/6 Summer meeting of the National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Young People

KOK became member of the organisation
Deutscher Sozialgerichtstag
(German Conference on Social Issues)

9/7 KOK project newsletter *Refugee
Movements and Trafficking in Human
Beings III/2024*

16/7 *Civil Society Priorities for the
Legal Implementation of the Common
European Asylum System Reform in
Germany*, joint statement by 26 national
organisations including KOK

29/7 Press release on International
Trafficking Day

14/7 Directive (EU) 2024/1712
amending Directive (EU) 2011/36 on
preventing and combating trafficking
in human beings and protecting its
victims entered into force

30/7 International Anti-Trafficking Day

KOK 15/7 Meeting with KOK advisory board
online

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

20/8 Publication by the German Federal Criminal Police Office of its *2023 Federal Situation Report on Human Trafficking and Exploitation*

1/8 *Legal Guide for Advising Asylum Seekers as to Gender-Based Persecution and Trafficking in Human Beings*

7/8 *Legal Advice Provided by KOK – 2022/2024 Report*

AUGUST 2024

23/9 Hearing before the Bundestag Committee for Family Affairs, Women, Senior Citizens and Youth on the CDU/CSU motion entitled *Ending Inhumane Conditions in Prostitution – Making Buying Sex an Offence*, Andrea Hitzke heard as expert on behalf of KOK

16/9 *Guidelines for Prosecution Offices on Proceedings for Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of Labour Exploitation*

30/9 2024 KOK Information Service *The EU-Anti-Trafficking Directive reform – positive approaches and missed opportunities (English summary available)*

2/9 Training course on trafficking in human beings for emergency housing staff in collaboration with Andrea Hitzke (Dortmunder Mitternachtsmission/KOK board) and Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Wohnungslosenhilfe (BAG W), online

23/9 Training course for Violence against Women support hotline staff, in collaboration with Meike Zwilling (Dortmunder Mitternachtsmission), Cologne

26/9 Networking event organised by the *Federal Initiative on Protecting Refugees in Refugee Accommodation*, workshop on refugee movements and trafficking in human beings by KOK

26/9 Training course for staff members of the Berlin Regional Office for Healthcare and Social Affairs on trafficking in human beings in the context of the German Social Code, Part XIV by KOK and Margarete Mureşan (KOK board/IN VIA Berlin)

30/9 Lunch talk on KOK 2024 Information Service *The EU-Anti-Trafficking Directive reform – positive approaches and missed opportunities*, online

15/10 Radio interviews with MDR Aktuell and Bayern 2 on the 2024 KOK Data Report

17/10 Publication of the first periodic report by the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings within the German Institute for Human Rights, *Monitoring Report: Human Trafficking in Germany*

4/10 Statement on the *Draft Bill Modernising and Digitalising Action against Illegal Employment*

15/10 KOK report *Data Collection in the Context of Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation in Germany – Data collection period: January to December 2023* (English version available)

18/10 EU Anti-Trafficking Day

7/10 45th anniversary of the *UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)*, organised by the CEDAW Alliance Germany

14–15/10 KOK general assembly online

15/10 Lunch talk presenting the report *Data Collection in the Context of Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation in Germany – Data collection period: January to December 2023*

16/10 Inauguration of new counselling centre for minors IN VIA Fachberatungs- und Koordinierungsstelle bei Handel mit und Ausbeutung von Minderjährigen in Berlin

**7–8/11 Deutscher Sozialgerichtstag
conference**

Kassel

**4/11 German Federal Criminal Police
Office special training course on
trafficking in human beings**
presentation by KOK, Wiesbaden

**11–12/11 KOK's 25th Anniversary –
25 Years of Civil Society Combating
Trafficking in Human Beings:
Symposium on Current Developments
and Approaches**

**18–21/11 THB LIBERI project meeting
on combating trafficking in human
beings and the exploitation of
children, young people and young
adults in Germany and in Europe**
Düsseldorf