



EU Anti-Trafficking Day 2019 Panel took place in Nicosia

Importance of coordination in the fight against human trafficking highlighted

On the occasion of EU Anti-Trafficking Day, a networking panel is held on 18 October at the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Commerce (KTTO) in Nicosia. The aim of this year's EU Anti-Trafficking Day event was to bring together local NGOs working in the field to join forces and share experiences in order to define local restrictions and constraints in the combat against human trafficking and find synergies between local initiatives and NGOs. The opening speeches of the panel were made by Mr. Kjartan Björnsson and Ms. Ayşegül Baybars.



During the panel discussion, Ms. Fezile Osum from Refugee Rights Association's "COMMIT - Coordinated Measures and Mechanisms for Anti-Trafficking" Project, Mr. Ahmet Türkdoğan from Cyprus Turkish Bar Association's "Legal Changes and Legal Support against Human Trafficking" Project, Mr. Doğukan Gümüşatam from Queer Cyprus Association's "LGBTI+ in Freedom from Exploitation (LifE)" Project and Ms. Mine Atlı from Association of Women to Support Living "Do not Ignore" Project came together to present their projects that received EU grant from the call "Together against Trafficking in Human Beings". After the presentations, the participants and the speakers discussed the opportunities and challenges in the local context to join efforts with all relevant stakeholders to better combat trafficking in human beings in the Turkish Cypriot community.





In 2018 the European Commission as part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, launched a EUR 1,000,000 call for proposals aiming to prevent and address trafficking in human beings. The main objectives of the Call for Proposals were to prevent human trafficking and raise awareness; to improve victims' access to rights; and to increase knowledge of and effective and coordinated response to all forms of trafficking in human beings.

The EU Anti-Trafficking Day was established by the European Commission in 2007 and is marked on 18 October of every year. The main purpose has been to raise awareness on trafficking in human beings and increase the exchange of information, knowledge and best practices amongst the different actors working in this field. EU Anti-trafficking Day serves as an occasion to bolster Europe-wide commitment for ending trafficking in human beings, to raise awareness, exchange know-how, and best practices, and take stock of what has been achieved. Trafficking in human beings is a grave human rights violation and it is prohibited by the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.



Trafficking in human beings

The slavery of our times

Trafficking in human beings is the slavery of our times. It is a human rights violation and a terrible crime. Victims are lured and kept in horrible conditions for the purposes of sexual or labour exploitation, begging, criminal activities or the removal of organs, only to name a few. There can be hundreds of thousands of victims around us.

The International Labour Organization (June 2012) estimates the number of victims exploited for forced labour and sexual services to be around 880 000 in the EU alone and nearly 21 million worldwide. And these are only conservative estimates... [continue reading >>](#)



Environment Awareness Trainings in Primary Schools

The "Protect the Environment" trainings, organised in cooperation with the EU-funded Capacity Building in the Solid Waste, Wastewater Sector Project, took place at Karşıyaka Merkez Primary School on 9 October, at Karaoğlanoğlu Primary School on 14 & 15 October, at Türkmenköy Primary School on 16 October, and at Çatalköy Primary School on 31 October with the participation of approximately 350 students from 4th and 5th grades. The training sessions aimed to raise awareness of environmental protection. The interactive trainings included a short video on marine waste and a lively Q&A session with the participants. All students received a brochure about waste management and recycling.

Please follow the [link](#) to check out the brochure.



Upcoming Events and Themes

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11 November 14:00 - 15:00 @ EU Infopoint, Nicosia

Animal Disease Eradication**Strengthening Capacities of Veterinary Services**

14 November 16:00 - 19:00 @ Merit Hotel, Nicosia

European SME Week 2019**Innovation Seminar & SME Grants Award Ceremony**

22 November 09:00 - 11:30 @ Bedestan, Nicosia

Environment Awareness Trainings in Primary Schools**Universal Children's Rights Day****DECEMBER****Nicosia Jazz Days****Animal Health**

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