



Preliminary Agenda

21st Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference

“Confronting Demand: Tackling a root cause of trafficking in human beings”

June 14-16 2021

Hofburg, Vienna and via videoconference (upon registration)

Monday

14:00 – 14:45 Welcoming Remarks

14:45 – 15:30 Keynote Address

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 **Panel 1 – What is ‘Demand’ and why must it be discouraged**

The obligation for States to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation resides in various international instruments, including most significantly Article 9(5) of the Palermo Protocol. Before States can effectively implement measures to discourage demand, there must first be an understanding of what constitutes demand and its role in fostering trafficking in human beings. This requires unpacking the financial relationships that motivate trafficking in human beings, as well as recognizing that demand manifests differently depending on the form of exploitation, with each form of exploitation possessing unique market characteristics that alter the role played by end users of goods and services produced by or extracted from trafficking victims. To shed light on these relationships and characteristics, this panel will explore the nature and scale of demand within the context of trafficking for forced labour and sexual exploitation, outline international obligations, and articulate importance of demand as a means of prevention.

Tuesday

14:00 – 14:05 Opening statement for Day 2 – survivor perspective

14:05 – 15:35 **Panel 2 – Tackling the demand that fosters trafficking for forced labour**

Discouraging the demand that fosters trafficking for forced labour requires States to enact and enforce laws and regulations that reduce and prevent the purchase of goods and services produced by or extracted from trafficked labour, including public procurement. Understanding the tools and policy options at their disposal, as well as their strategic benefits in preventing demand, will help States do this effectively. Panel 2 will therefore inform States on promising initiatives, outline existing resources on strengthening protection measures, highlight the role of cross-border collaboration and the harmonization of procurement principles, describe the path to adopting national due diligence legislation, and discuss the benefits of collaboration with civil society actors.

15:35 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 **Panel 3 – Tackling the demand that fosters trafficking for sexual exploitation**

Trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is the most common form of THB within the OSCE region, and generates nearly two-thirds of all profits from trafficking globally. The scale of this crime, as well as its unique gender and market characteristics, elevate the need for States to prioritize combating the demand that fosters sex trafficking within their prevention strategies. To help States improve their national responses, this panel will introduce some existing promising practices on how to prevent, deter, disrupt, and penalize the demand that fosters THB for sexual exploitation, including methods of targeting online forums that advertise sexual services from trafficking victims; codes of conduct that prohibit activities which foster sexual exploitation; education programmes for buyers and young adults; and effective legislative measures that target the impunity currently enjoyed by users of sexual services from victims.

Wednesday

14:00 – 14:05 **Opening statement for Day 3 – survivor perspective**

14:05 – 15:35 **Panel 4 – Pathways for implementation**

Policies and procedures are only as strong as their level of implementation. Through enhanced implementation States can challenge the impunity currently enjoyed by the creators of demand

and reduce the financial incentives for THB while also protecting victims. To improve the ability of States to enact and implement the prevention measures highlighted throughout the conference, this panel will outline pathways for States on how to generate political will and take concrete next steps in combating demand. The panel will also discuss how to create and execute action plans that discourage the demand that fosters both labour and sex trafficking through State-led initiatives and collaboration with civil society and survivor-led groups.

15:35 – 16:00

Coffee Break

16:00 – 16:30

Closing Remarks