



*Direttorat għad-Drittijiet tal-Bniedem*

*Human Rights Directorate*

MALTA

## **TRAINING FOR FRONTLINERS**

Trafficking in human beings is a growing phenomenon with grave consequences. It destroys the lives of millions of victims by depriving people of their dignity, freedom and fundamental rights. Combatting this hideous crime requires training initiatives for front-line officials in order to recognize the signs and reduce the risks of people becoming victims.

Systematic training of law enforcement and justice practitioners on specific elements of the crime as well as with multi-stakeholder, simulation-based practical exercises to test procedures in handling trafficking cases will also increase professionalism and coordination in dealing with the cases and will ensure follow-up. In accordance with the EU strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025), such training activities are encouraged to focus on the specific elements of the crime of THB for different types of exploitation, the complex dynamic between the crime of THB and other illicit crimes such as smuggling, methods for detecting the crime and its financial aspects, the role and use of internet and social media, as well as on developing skills in managing investigations and moving them towards prosecution. Furthermore, in addition to specialized training for law enforcement working on human trafficking cases, it is also being recommended to train other law enforcement officers working in other crime areas as well as training for the judiciary to increase the detection, reporting and to improve handling of trafficking cases.

Moreover, in order to take into account the victims' perspective and needs, training is also recommended to take place in a multi-stakeholder environment, including among other, law enforcement, judicial authorities, civil society, social workers, child protection practitioners, education and health care providers. The current EU Strategy encourages that specific attention should be dedicated to capacity building of police, labour inspectors, border guards, prosecutors and judges on how to work with victims during criminal proceedings, on detecting signs of beings a victim of trafficking and on referring victims to support services, in line with



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the applicable procedures. Trained officials are also required when cases involve child victims.<sup>1</sup>

### **RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO MALTA:**

GRETA Group of experts welcomed the measures taken and progress achieved by the Maltese authorities in implementing the Convention and in particular recommends that training activities should be undertaken to prevent and combat child trafficking and that efforts should be made to combat trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation, through increased capacity and training of labour inspectors. Furthermore, training programmes for judges and prosecutors should include the topic of compensation to victims of THB. In order to strengthen the criminal justice response to human trafficking and ensure that human trafficking cases lead to effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, it has also been recommended that regular training is provided to judges, members of the Attorney General's Office and police officers on the subject matter and on the rights of victims.

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report also provides recommendations for specific goals and objectives to further the Government of Malta's anti-trafficking efforts over the next year. When it comes to training, the report recommends for the institutionalization of a victim-centered and trauma-informed anti-trafficking training for front-line officials, police officers, prosecutors, and judges with a focus on the use of psychological coercion and fraud as means of trafficking. Additionally, it also recommends the increased training for and efforts to pursue financial crime investigations in tandem with human trafficking cases.

Finally, following the official visit made by Dr Valiant Richey (*Organization for security and co-operation in Europe {OSCE} Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings*) back in September of 2021, other recommendations relating to training and capacity building were made. For instance, when it comes to preventing trafficking in human beings in supply chains, several OSCE commitments call on OSCE participating States to adopt

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<sup>1</sup> Communication From the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021 – 2025).



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effective measures on preventing trafficking in supply chains by addressing consultation in policy options as well as training and capacity building to implement such policies.<sup>2</sup>

### **ACTIONS RELATED TO TRAINING IN THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (NAP):**

The Human Rights Initiatives Unit within the Human Rights Directorate has been entrusted with the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the current National Action Plan. Malta's fifth National Action Plan (NAP) on Human Trafficking seeks to reform the sector by taking measures complementary to those initiated by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Reforms, Citizenship and Simplification of Administrative Processes. At the same time, it builds on the work undertaken in the context of previous Action Plans. In line with Malta's EU and other international obligations reference is also made to the submission of information to the EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator as well as other major international stakeholders.

The Actions envisaged in the current plan seek to address the major aspects of the fight against human trafficking with a particular focus on awareness and prevention, although efforts in other spheres, including prosecution, must also be pursued by the entities concerned. Focusing on awareness and prevention measures is considered necessary given that these measures entail the involvement of several stakeholders, as well as coordination between them. The following actions included in the current national action plan are specifically related to training and must be implemented by the end of 2023:

- **Action 4:** *Training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse for officials working with migrants and asylum seekers;*
- **Action 5:** *Training for Immigration Police and civilian immigration officers;*

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<sup>2</sup> Refer to:

- [Model Guidelines on Government Measures to Prevent Trafficking for Labour Exploitation in Supply Chains | OSCE](#)
- [OSCE Compendium Database, an easy way to access information on prevention of labour exploitation in supply chains, now accessible online | OSCE](#)
- [Summary of OSCE Workshops on "Prevention of Human Trafficking in Supply Chains through Public Procurement" and recommended next steps | OSCE](#)



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- **Action 7:** *Awareness session on domestic servitude and labour exploitation mainly for persons working in care care.*<sup>3</sup>

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE REGARDING TRAINING INITIATIVES ON TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS (THB):**

To conclude we must acknowledge that Human trafficking training serves as a crucial foundation for understanding the signs of human trafficking and learning how to react effectively. We therefore kindly request for the appointed entity to fill in the below table for us to understand the necessary tools to assist your body in our goal of combatting THB.

Name of Ministry:

Name of Applicant Entity:

<sup>3</sup> [National Action Plan January 2020 - December 2023.pdf \(gov.mt\)](#)



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**Description of measures:**

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**Implementation period:**

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**Estimation of funding:**

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MINISTERU GHALL-INTERN, IS-SIGURTA', IR-  
RIFORMI U L-UGWALJANZA



MINISTRY FOR HOME AFFAIRS, SECURITY,  
REFORMS AND EQUALITY

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**Contact person / responsible party:**

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**Any other participating entities / ministries:**

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**Description of assistance requested:**

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**Number of officials attending training:**

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**Specific outcome / aim for this request:**

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**Format (online / in person):**

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**Duration of training sessions (whole days, half days, multiple days):**

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**Is the programme intended to be a series of sessions or a one-time event:**

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**Suggest trainer or organization offering training requested:**

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For more information, you are kindly requested to seek the assistance of the Initiatives Unit at the contact details provided below.

Thank you for your cooperation.

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Human Rights Initiatives Unit  
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