

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

Coordination			
<i>Action</i>	<i>Target Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>State of Implementation</i>
<p>1. Convening of the Anti-Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee twice per year</p>	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security</p>	<p>On the 29th July 2022, a proposal by the Human Rights Directorate was formally submitted to the newly appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality to chair the Anti-Human Trafficking Body.</p> <p>Trafficking in Human Persons Monitoring Group is set up for the purpose to monitor the implementation of the legal obligations of the Maltese Government to combat Trafficking in Human Beings. The Chairmanship has been delegated by the PS MHSR to HRD.</p>
<p>2. Regular convening of the Stakeholder Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings</p>	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>	<p>Stakeholders Task Force</p>	<p>Instead of the Task Force related to the human Trafficking Reform, HRD proposed that <u>Ad hoc Thematic Working Groups will be</u> set up to be able to assist the TSI project in the legislative and operational reform leading to the Anti-Trafficking National Strategy</p> <p>An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been set up for reporting purposes on the 29th July 2022, by the Human Rights Directorate during a networking event aimed at strengthening the national cooperation among the Policy Development and Programme Implementation Officers on matters related to combatting THB. During this event, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality announced the setting up of the Anti-Trafficking Malta - Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC).</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>IMC nominees have been confirmed by all their respective Ministries and the first meeting to be convened on the 18th of October 2022.</p> <p>The nominees will be tasked with providing information on the services offered by their respective Ministries in support to vulnerable persons to prevent any form of human exploitation. These will be collected in the form of a booklet which shall be designed and printed by Outlook Coop, commissioned through a tender agreement awarded on the 7th of September 2022. The first half of the booklet will be in the Maltese language and the other half which is upside down format shall be in English.</p> <p>HRIU shall be looking into the design and print of three-gate leaflets, every version to be translated into English and Maltese to address the action recommended by GRETA in the Third Evaluation Report : “Malta to take steps to ensure that presumed and formally identified victims of trafficking are given information in a proactive manner regarding their rights, including by developing a specific leaflet and making it available in the languages of the main countries of origin of victims.”</p>
<p>3. Enhance identification and referral of victims of human trafficking, including child victims</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2020</p>	<p>Stakeholders and Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security</p>	<p>IOM have been contracted to provide training leading to the enhancement of the identification and referral process.</p> <p>Staff members on Support line 179, which is the National Helpline, have all been trained including the operators and their supervisors in Human Trafficking issues, in identifying victims and in referring them for help. The Support line operates on a 24/7 basis and is available for free on both landlines and mobile phones.</p> <p>Police officers receiving crime reports direct cases to relevant sections, including Immigration and Vice Squad. Officers at both Immigration and Vice squad are aware of the different forms of Human trafficking. Past training initiatives have benefitted, inter-alia, officers at these sections.</p> <p>The Foundation for Social Welfare Services (FSWS), through the Human Trafficking Service has also given various information sessions about indicators of human</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>trafficking to various front-liners including the police, health care personnel in different hospitals and health centres, social workers working in different fields including AWAS and the Corradino Correctional Facility. Furthermore, FSWS invites JobsPlus and the Department For Industrial and Employment Relations (DIER) and the Police to the round table conference (which are currently held bi-monthly) and gives them training regarding the detection of victims and reporting of cases.</p> <p>The Coordination of the Anti-Trafficking Reform has been entrusted to the Human Rights Initiatives Unit within the Human Rights Directorate.</p> <p>In 2021, the Human Rights Directorate successfully applied for EU assistance under the technical Support Instrument (TSI) in the drafting of a national strategy to combat THB. In this regard, the council of Europe has been engaged by the European Commission to provide its expertise and assistance in the implementation of this project which enshrines a human-rights based approach and aims to develop a sustainable system for the early identification and comprehensive support for victims.</p> <p>Moreover, a training programme will be launched for the benefit of police officials, border control officers and police officers at border crossing points in relation to the identification of potential human trafficking cases. In this regard, the Human Rights Directorate is currently seeking the assistance of international partners to deliver this training. The programme will focus on the drafting of a check list to assist risk of human trafficking, and training in relation to the referral of potential cases. Correspondence with OSCE and the Council of Europe is presently ongoing. Training is envisaged to commence by October 2022.</p> <p>With regards to the National Referral Mechanism, HRD shall design Consent form, Case record form and Data Protection Policy (retention of data etc) which every public entity should have in accordance to the GDPR. The role of the designated Data Protection Officer shall be to proceed accordingly once an individual seeks</p>
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NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>the assistance of any gov service through HRD. This practice will be vetted by the Office of the Commissioner for Data Protection and shared with the PDPI officers.</p> <p>HRIU coordinated the appointment of national experts on nine (9) Simulations organised by the Council of Europe As part of the objective to enhance the capacities of relevant professionals of the MENA region to detect, identify and refer victims of trafficking in human beings following a human rights approach centred on the victims, several simulations have been conducted at the national level in Tunisia and Morocco to train professionals on the identification and referral of victims of trafficking in human beings. <i>An example of simulation conducted in Tunisia is <u>available on the website of the Council of Europe in Tunisia.</u></i></p> <p>Event organised by MENA Office in Tunis and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Malta.</p>
TRAINING			
<i>Action</i>	<i>Target Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>State of Implementation</i>
4. Training for Public Officers	3 rd Quarter 2022		<p>15 Sep 2022 - Online Event delivered by US Secretary of State Office – “Nefarious Crossroads: How Corruption Shapes Human Trafficking” – A series of three Events:</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>17 Oct 2022 – Workshop delivered by OSCE – “Assessing the Risks and Prevention of Trafficking in Human Beings in Supply Chains”, held in the Grand Salon in the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta.</p> <p>18 Oct 2022 – Focal Persons appointed from Governmental Ministries will attend Anti-Trafficking Malta -IMC. Guest speaker Ms. Melita Gruevska Graham, Head of the Anti-Trafficking Programme of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) has been invited to share the aim of their activities around the Anti-Trafficking Day within the framework of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) (ICMPD is a co-chair in 2022) and within the Network of Anti-Trafficking Coordinators of South East Europe (ICMPS as Secretariat of the Network).</p> <p>24-30 Oct 2022 - The Council of Europe Programme Office in Tunisia organised a week-long simulation exercise in Malta. HRD coordinated the appointment of nine National Experts to participate in nine (9) Simulations exercises focusing on referral mechanisms related to Trafficking in Human Beings to help professionals from the MENA region to enhance their capacities in the detection, identification and referral mechanisms of victims in human trafficking.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of National authorities on action against trafficking in human beings; nominee representing national Authorities – Senior Manager HRIU - Professionals Law enforcement professionals; PDPI MHSR nominee - Malta Police - Judges and prosecutors; PDPI MFJ to nominate someone from AG office and Judiciary - Professional in Financial investigation - PDPI Finance - Professional in Public social services - PDPI MSPC (perhaps nominee from FSWS) - Professional in Public health services –PDPI Health - Professional Labour inspection services - PDPI OPM (perhaps nominee from DIER)
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NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NGO: with social responders, lawyers and cultural mediators. – VO Commission/ PDPI MIVC - MT journalist – PBS Head of News
5. Training on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse for officials working with migrants and asylum seekers	2 nd quarter 2021	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, AWAS and Ref Com	<p>The Academy for Disciplined Forces is committed to providing the In-Service Training Course for Police Sergeants and Constables. In-Service Training Courses are a continuation of the previous year in terms of the structure and content and partly focus on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.</p> <p>As of January 2020, 299 officials from the Malta Police Force have received this training. Officials are also exposed to different units such as the Gender-Based Violence and Victims of Crime unit. This area introduces the officers to the responsibilities they have towards protecting and supporting victims of crimes, with lectures covering the basic communication skills of how to deal with traumatized victims and how the crime’s consequences may affect victims in different ways.</p> <p>Furthermore, officials receive training on the rights, support and protection of victims in line with Chapter 539 Laws of Malta (Victims of Crime Act). Case studies based on real-life experiences are also shared to better understand and analyse the significance of such duties.</p> <p>The Academy also provides sessions on fundamental rights and ethics with the objective of raising awareness about the importance of ethical behaviour in day-to-day police work and to enhance respect towards fundamental rights in all levels of policing. A series of other courses are also delivered up to the rank of Police Constables and Inspectors, covering fundamental rights, victims support, human trafficking and people smuggling.</p> <p>Several informational sessions about the signs of human trafficking were also held for front-line employees, such as the police, medical staff at various hospitals and</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>health facilities, and social workers employed by organizations like AWAS and Corradino Correctional Facility.</p> <p>HRIU and national Stakeholders will be guided by the draft law on Prostitution reform to include the rights and obligations and other prevention and protection support services & programmes accordingly. the sexual industry.</p> <p>A close collaboration with Public Health and other entities involved in the Adult Entertainment business,(namely MTA, Police Force, Labour Inspectorates, FSWS, MCESD etc) to design 3 A3 posters (50 copies of each version namely, on Protection Services, Sexual Exploitation and Labour Exploitation to be place in areas which are frequently accessed by the vulnerable persons referred to in the email sent by the concerned parties below.</p>
6. Training for Immigration Police and civilian immigration officers	1 ^s and 2 nd quarter 2021	Academy for Disciplined Forces and Police	A training programme will be launched for the benefit of police officials, in particular border control officers and police officers at border crossing points in relation to the identification of potential human trafficking cases. The Human Rights Directorate is presently seeking the assistance of international partners to deliver this training. The programme will focus on the drafting of a check list to assist risk of human trafficking, and training in relation to the referral of potential cases. Training will commence by October 2022.
Awareness and Prevention			
<i>Action</i>	<i>Target Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>State of Implementation</i>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

<p>7. Strengthening public awareness by screening video on human trafficking awareness on national TV station</p>	<p>4th quarter 2020</p>	<p>Ministry for Home and National Security</p>	<p>During the week starting the 25 – 30 July 2022, a series of events have been held as part of the National Awareness Raising Blue Heart Campaign. An audio-visual production incorporating all the initiatives taking place during year 2022 will be launched on national TV / radio stations, as well as social media portals, including governmental social media (HRD / Reforms), and all local media platform.</p> <p>HRIU shall also seek the cooperation of the stakeholders giving support services to vulnerable persons to create video clips discussing various topics and aimed at different target groups on human trafficking to strengthen public awareness on national media and social media.</p> <p>The collaboration of the Malta Police Force on identification procedures and the Victim Support Agency on protection services shall be sought.</p>
<p>8. Awareness session on domestic servitude and labour exploitation mainly for persons working in care services</p>	<p>1st quarter 2023</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, DIER and Jobs Plus</p>	<p>feedback from DIER re the report of OSCE and recommended actions concerning DIER.</p> <p>HRIU shall also seek the cooperation of the stakeholders giving support services to vulnerable persons and prone to labour exploitation to create video clips in Mltese with English subtitles or English with Maltese subtiles, discussing various topics and aimed at different target groups.</p> <p>The collaboration of Ministry for Active Ageing, Ministry for Inclusion, DIER, Jobplus, identity Malta and SCSA shall be sought.</p>
<p>9. Research among former victims of human trafficking in Malta, with a view to obtaining information about their</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2023</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security</p>	<p>In July 2021, the Human Rights Directorate has conducted a research on the 3P's entitled 'Legislation, policies, strategies and guidelines concerning Trafficking in Human Beings'. Selected judgements of the Maltese Criminal Courts were included. Court judgments and decisions serve not only to decide upon those cases brought before it but more generally, it enables the analysis of the testimony given by victims and/or presumed victims of THB.</p> <p>Research will be conducted by RCU among former victims of human trafficking in Malta. To do so, guidance to follow the highest ethical standards shall be sought by the unit.</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

<p>recruitment and experience, as well as the efficacy of assistance provided.</p>			
<p>10. Outreach sessions for boys and girls between 13-15 years old on the dangers of online child abuse, including sexting, grooming and child pornography.</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2022</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security and Ministry for Education, Youth and Employment</p>	
<p>11. Publication of material relating to online sex abuse of children for parents</p>	<p>2nd quarter 2022</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security and Ministry for Education, Youth and Employment</p>	<p>The 'CALL FOR ACTION' report was circulated with all Permanent Secretaries, PDPs and entities within the public service and sector during the National Blue Heart Awareness Campaign in July 2022. The theme of the campaign was 'Use and Abuse of Technology'. The publication included actions recommended by international organisations to Malta under Prevention, Protection, Prosecution and Partnerships sub-headings.</p> <p>Powerpoint presentations by Speakers from NSO and MITA highlighted the need for more online security and initiatives to be undertaken by the Malta Communications Authority and other governmental institutions empowered to regulate the content available to the public, especially minors, online.</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>The HRD is collaborating with the Ministry for Health (MFH) during the Anti-Trafficking Malta Campaign as part of the EU Anti-Trafficking Day 2022, aimed to raise awareness on the risks of sexual exploitation as well as the support services available for potential victims. Posters shall be distributed in health centres’ and hospitals’ common areas.</p>
<p>12. Awareness sessions for women and girls aimed at:</p> <p>a) Providing information about services that would assist in dealing with past traumatic situations; and,</p> <p>b) About the threat posed by labour trafficking and human trafficking for sexual exploitation.</p>	3 rd quarter 2021	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security, Agenzija Appogg and AWAS	<p>Outreach sessions have started on the 26th July 2022 at Hal-Far Open Centre. These sessions are organised by FSWS and coordinated in collaboration with the Human Rights Directorate, the Agency for the Welfare of Asylum Seekers, and the Correctional Services Agency. The link to the first outreach activity at the Hal-Far Open Centre may be viewed on the following link https://www.facebook.com/HRDmalta/posts/pfbid0MRoyijHPhQgtQF5zpZGRuZYskPE9MQCX6FQAnjbnnEndAJrZXyAffwhzxcgqLsKDgI</p> <p>These sessions are currently on-going.</p> <p>HRIU shall also seek the cooperation of the stakeholders giving support services to vulnerable persons involved in the sex industry to create video clips in Mltese with English subtitles or English with Maltese subtitles, discussing various topics and aimed at different target groups.</p> <p>The collaboration with SOGIGESC unit shall be sought</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

Evaluation and monitoring			
<i>Action</i>	<i>Target Deadline</i>	<i>Responsible Parties</i>	<i>State of Implementation</i>
13. Yearly report to the Minister for Home Affairs and National Security on action in combating human trafficking	Year 1 - 4	Anti Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee	A publication of the report has been presented to the PS MHSR, for the eventual presentation to the Minister of Home Affairs, Security and Reforms.
14. Publication of final report on the implementation of the Action Plan	4 th quarter 2023	Anti Human Trafficking Monitoring Committee	
15. Support EU Anti Trafficking Coordinator and attend meeting of the National Rapporteurs and Equivalent	Year 1 -4	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security	<p>On the 7th May 2021, the Human Rights Directorate has attended the meeting of the NREMs to discuss further the consolidated country fiches, including the contributions received from 25 Member States.</p> <p>On the 15th & 16th November 2021, representatives from the Human Rights Directorate within the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security, Reforms and Equality have attended the Annual Meeting of National Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinators and Rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms. The annual meeting was organized</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

<p>Mechanisms meetings</p>			<p>by the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).</p> <p>Furthermore, on the 6th December 2021, the Directorate also attended the Joint meeting of the EU Network of National Rapporteurs and/or Equivalent Mechanisms against trafficking in human beings and the Network of the National Anti-Trafficking coordinators of South-East Europe.</p> <p>Meeting in May 2022 in Brussels HRIU participated as National Anti-Trafficking Rapporteur in an event organised by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Ms Diane Schmitt and the French Presidency Secretary General of the Inter-Ministerial Mission for the protection against violence against women and the fight against trafficking in human beings, Ms Elisabeth Moiron Braud - EU Network of National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms on Trafficking in Human Beings held in Brussels on 16 & 17 May 2022</p> <p>Event was organised by the EU Commission for Home Affairs in which the Network of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms and the Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings met in Brussels on the 16/17 May 2022 to address the risks of trafficking in human beings and support potential victims among those fleeing the war in Ukraine, the Digital dimension of trafficking in human beings, the Criminalisation of the use of exploited services, preventing and detecting trafficking for labour exploitation and assisting its victims, penalties and sanctions for offences concerning trafficking in human beings.</p> <p>The keynote addresses on the 17th of May have been streamed Live: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9E5LxidjLI</p> <p>Feedback on the Common Action Plan</p>
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NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>On the EU Anti-Trafficking Day 2022 –National Awareness Raising Events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 14 Oct – Interview on TV programme ‘Kalamita’ One TV - 16 Oct - Article on local newspaper - 17 Oct - Workshop delivered by OSCE on Supply Chains - - 18 Oct – First Anti-Trafficking Malta – IMC meeting Official launch of Anti-Trafficking Malta logo/ facebook page during the IMC. - 4 different posts to be designed and posted on the social media, 12, 13, 14, 17 October 2022 - Audio-visual message by EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to be broadcast on the 18th of October 2022 on National and Social Media - Posters shall be distributed in health centres’ and hospitals’ common areas on the risks of sexual exploitation as well as the support services available for potential victims <p>HRD attended Joint Meeting of the EU Network of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms and Civil Society Platform against trafficking in human beings held in Brussels from 26 to 27 October 2022.</p> <p>The meeting was co-chaired by the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, Diane Schmitt, and the CZ NREM on Trafficking in Human Beings.</p>
16. Support GRETA monitoring mechanism under the Council of Europe	Year 1 - 4	Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security	<p>Malta has contributed in the third evaluation report on Access to justice and effective remedies for victims of trafficking in human beings. https://rm.coe.int/greta-evaluation-report-on-malta-3rd-evaluation-round-/1680a47d84</p> <p>Furthermore, in May 2021, Malta has also contributed to a questionnaire sent by the Council of Europe on online and technology-facilitated trafficking in human beings.</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>On the 4th June 2021, the Human Rights Directorate attended the 28th meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.</p> <p>Malta has also provided its contribution to the drafting Committee on Trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation (DH-TET)</p> <p>Feedback on the GRETA recommendations to Malta from national stakeholders will be collected by the <u>Research and Coordination Unit HRD</u> by mid-2023 on the THIRD EVALUATION REPORT TO MALTA – GRETA and submitted through MHRS PSPI and DG Global Issues Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</p> <p>The Committee of the Parties to the Council of Europe on Action against Trafficking in Persons requests the Government of Malta to report to the Committee of the Parties on the measures taken to comply with these recommendations by <u>17 December 2023</u>.</p> <p>MENA -</p>
<p>17. Support GVA Department of State Washington</p>	<p>Year 1 - 4</p>	<p>Ministry for Home Affairs and National Security</p>	<p>Malta has contributed with the department of State in the compilation of the TIP Report for the year 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>A meeting was held with the US Embassy officers at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. The US Embassy reported that the number of successful investigations leading to effective judicial processes and convictions is what ultimately matters. It has been suggested that a meeting is held with between MFJ PDPI, MHRS PDPI, MFET DG Global Issues and HRD RCU / HRIU to be able to devise plan forward for the collection and coordination of the required feedback concerning the recent amendments and direct involvement of AG office in matter concerning THB, updates on investigative tools and law enforcement procedures and the effectiveness of the Prosecutions within the judicial system.</p>

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING – JANUARY 2020 – DECEMBER 2023

			<p>The cooperation of the National Statistics Office was identified as an essential component in the gathering of data and statistics for the next TIP reporting period.</p> <p>Feedback for the TIP reporting period Arp 2022 to Arp 2023 will be collected as from January 2023 by the <u>Research & Coordination Unit HRD</u> and submitted through MHSR-PDPI and DG Global Issues Ministry of Foreign Affairs <u>by end of April 2023</u></p> <p>65 Public Officers were invited to participate during an online event held on the 15th of September 2022 “Nefarious Crossroads: How Corruption Shapes Human Trafficking”</p>
<p>18. UN Blue heart Campaign Malta</p>			<p>July ' 23 - Promotional Anti-Trafficking messages will be designed on Six (6) billboards (5 in Malta and 1 in Gozo) for a duration of 1 month</p>