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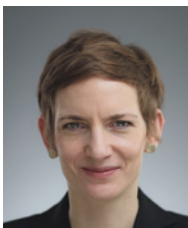
DECEMBER 2022 – NOVEMBER 2023

# KOK

German NGO Network against  
Trafficking in Human Beings



**ANNUAL REVIEW**  
2023



Dear readers,

As the year draws to a close it is time to take stock. Many of the measures in the coalition agreement to combat trafficking in human beings and violence against women have not (yet) been implemented. This is particularly true for the creation of a humanitarian right of residence for trafficked persons.

The KOK is calling for swift implementation and has made concrete proposals to politicians. The latest KOK data records on trafficking in human beings for 2022 shows a continuing high number of cases in the specialised counselling centres, with many clients from third countries. For these individuals, a humanitarian right of residence is paramount to enforce their rights to protection and support.

Germany's support for the tightening of European migration and asylum legislation is of particular concern, as it only increases the risk of vulnerable target groups falling prey to violence, trafficking in human beings and exploitation. KOK has been engaging closely with civil-society organisations across Germany and Europe and has taken part in campaigns calling for the enforcement of the human rights of refugees. On the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we cannot and will not look on as this key compass for the international community is eroded and nationalist and inhumane tendencies continue to gain ground.

However, there were also positive developments, such as the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings taking up its work and the constructive discussions during the country visits of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

KOK is very grateful for the tireless commitment shown by all colleagues from our member organisations who do vital work day in, day out.

We would like to thank you, too, for your interest in our work and for your continued support.

A brief announcement for 2024: our international symposium on trafficking in human beings will take place on 26 and 27 September.

*Our aim is and remains to combat trafficking and to enforce human rights.*

*Sophia Wirsching, KOK Executive Director*

THE KOK  
IS FUNDED BY



Federal Ministry for  
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,  
Women and Youth

KOK newsletter for the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees Special Representatives for Trafficking in Human Beings

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**16/12** KOK interviewed on trafficking in human beings by *missio magazin*

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**19/12** Study *Trafficking in Human Beings 2.0 – Digitalisation of Trafficking in Human Beings in Germany: Developments and Courses of Action*

**13/12** Presentation of the EU Commission's proposals amending the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive  
by EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator Diane Schmitt

**13/12** Online conference organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Latin American Initiative *Combating human trafficking: protecting women's rights*, presentation by KOK

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**14/12** Online lunch talk on the report *Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation in the Context of the Ukraine War – An Investigation from the Perspective of Specialised Counselling Centres on the Situation in Germany*

**5/1 KOK information brochure**  
***Trafficking in***  
***human beings/labour exploitation***  
(revised edition)

**8 – 9/1 Round table and workshop**  
**with KOK's participation as part of**  
**the *Symposium Against Trafficking in***  
***Human Beings*,**  
Katholische Akademie in Berlin

**24/1 Third EU Ambassadors'**  
**Conference at the Federal Ministry of**  
**the Interior and Community,**  
presentation of the outcomes of KOK's  
Ukraine Project

**26/1 *Fifth anniversary of the***  
***Istanbul Convention in Germany,***  
online event organised by the Istanbul  
Convention Alliance

**28 – 29/1 Annual planning**  
**retreat of the KOK office and board**

**31/1 – 2/2 *Virtual Training on Data***  
***Collection, Analysis and Reporting on***  
***Trafficking in Persons for NGOs,***  
organised by UNODC

**1/2 Awareness campaign for refugees in private accommodation**  
(social media campaign)

**22/2 Guidelines for private accommodation for refugees**

**23/2 KOK information note on the reflection and stabilisation period for trafficked persons**

**Fifth anniversary of the Istanbul Convention,**  
which entered into force on  
1 February 2018

**16/2 Online hearing before the European Economic and Social Committee on the revision of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive**

**16 – 17/2 Council of the Baltic Sea States Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings meeting at the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth,**  
presentation on 'trafficking in human beings 2.0' and KOK's response to the situation in Ukraine by the KOK board

**10/2 Brief training course for consulate staff at the US Embassy in Berlin**

**14/2 Online lunch talk on the study *Trafficking in Human Beings 2.0 – Digitalisation of Trafficking in Human Beings in Germany***

**27/2 Training course for the Violence against Women support hotline staff, in collaboration with agisra e.V.**

**7/3 KOK information brochure**  
*Trafficking in human beings/begging*  
*and the exploitation of criminal*  
*activities*

(revised edition)

**9/3 KOK NGO report submitted to the**  
**GRETA Council of Europe Expert Group**  
**on the Implementation of the Council**  
**of Europe Convention on Action**  
**against Trafficking in Human Beings**

**30/3 KOK recommendations on new**  
**legislation regulating the right of**  
**residence of trafficked persons**  
**independently of criminal proceedings**

**30/3 KOK report to the United Nations**  
**Human Rights Council on the Universal**  
**Periodic Review (UPR) process**

**8/3 International Women's Day**

**KOK 16–17/3 First KOK General Assembly**

Training course and information on  
digital outreach work, discussions  
included topics such as labour exploita-  
tion of women and quality standards for  
interpreters

**21/3 Meeting of the Government-**  
**Länder Working Group on Trafficking in**  
**Human Beings**

at the Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens,  
Women and Youth

**31/3 *Combating Trafficking in Human***  
***Beings, Protecting Victims*, event**  
**organised by the National Rapporteur**  
**on Trafficking in Human Beings at the**  
**German Institute for Human Rights,**  
presentation by KOK and the KOK board

Start of talks between KOK and members of the German *Bundestag* on the right of residence for trafficked persons set out in the coalition agreement

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4/4 Information flyer  
*Menschenhandel in Deutschland im Kontext von Flucht*  
(*'Trafficking in human beings in Germany in the context of refugee movements'*)

(revised edition)

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20/4 CEDAW Alliance Germany's alternative report

3–6/4 Delegation visit to Bucharest with representatives of the German Federal Criminal Police Office, the Berlin State Office of Criminal Investigations as well as IN VIA Berlin and the KOK office

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21/4 CEDAW Dialogue Forum, submission of CEDAW Alliance Germany's alternative report to the German Federal Government

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26/4 Joint meeting of national rapporteurs and equivalent EU mechanisms

organised by the EU Civil Society Platform against Trafficking in Human Beings and the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)

8 – 12/5 Erasmus+ networking trip with FiZ Stuttgart

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10/5 ntv televised interview with Sophia Wirsching on the situation of Ukrainian refugees in Germany

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31/5 Establishment of the KOK working group on trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation

**KOK** 3/5 Online seminar '*Trafficking in human beings in Germany in the context of refugee movements*' in cooperation with NADESCHDA

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3/5 THB Liberi project by the German Federal Criminal Police Office – Phase II, kick-off workshop in Frankfurt, presentation by KOK on 'trafficking in human beings 2.0'

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**KOK** 8/5 NGO Round Table Meeting with representatives of GRETA and specialised counselling centres as part of their country visit in Berlin

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24/5 Panel discussion with Bündnis 90/Die Grünen on the 2024 European elections in Berlin

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**KOK** 25–26/5 KOK training and networking event in Berlin focusing on diversity-sensitive counselling



*Menschenhandel in Deutschland – Wissen kompakt ('Trafficking in human beings in Germany – a brief overview')*

New information boards by KOK

12/6 World Day Against Child Labour

16/6 International Domestic Workers' Day

20/6 World Refugee Day

**12 – 13/6 German Prevention Day,**  
joint information stand with the Frauen-  
informationszentrum (FiZ) in Mannheim

**19/6 Trafficking in human beings:  
combating sexual exploitation,  
protecting victims,**  
public, hybrid panel discussion at the  
German *Bundestag* organised by  
Bündnis 90/Die Grünen

**28 – 29/6 Joint workshop between  
KOK and the German Federal Criminal  
Police Office in Berlin,**  
discussions focused among other things  
on trafficking in human beings from China

29/7 Interview with Andrea Hitzke (member of the KOK board) on Deutschlandfunk Kultur on the International Anti-Trafficking Day

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4/7 KOK position paper on financial support in the EU: *Access to welfare benefits for trafficked EU nationals*

26/7 Press release on International Trafficking Day: *Honouring the coalition agreement – strengthening the rights of trafficked persons*

30/7 International Anti-Trafficking Day

3 – 4/7 Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women (GAATW) Europe Regional Meeting in Berlin

8 – 31/7 International Visitor Leadership Program against Trafficking in Human Beings, US State Department, USA

**2/8 KOK position statement on the amendments to the Federal Citizens' Registration Act**

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**25/8 KOK position statement on the bill establishing Georgia and Republic of Moldova as safe countries of origin**

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**31/8 Joint aide-mémoire published by KOK, Deutscher Frauenrat e.V., medica mondiale e.V. and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom on feminist foreign policy**

**18/8 Meeting between the KOK advisory board, KOK board and office in Berlin**

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**28/8 Meeting between members of Forum Menschenrechte and Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock**

**8/9 Discussion between members of CEDAW Alliance Germany and Bundestag member Ulle Schauws on the implementation of the CEDAW Convention**

**4/9 Meeting of the Government-Länder Working Group on Trafficking in Human Beings/Labour Exploitation at the Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth**

**5/9 Forum Menschenrechte plenary in Berlin**

**15/9 KOK workshop with the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees in Frankfurt**

**18 – 21/9 NGO platform La Strada International annual conference in Bucharest**

**21 – 23/9 Sociology of law congress in Innsbruck, presentation on 'The rights of trafficked persons during investigations'**

**28/9 Online seminar '*Trafficking in human beings in Germany in the context of refugee movements*' organised by the DeBUG project**

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***18/10 Data Collection in the Context of Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation in Germany 2022 – KOK Report***

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KOK submission as part of the participation process towards the German Federal Government's action plan on trafficking in human beings

***7/10 World Day for Decent Work***

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***18/10 EU Anti-Trafficking Day***

***2 – 5/10 Nigeria-Europe NGO Conference, presentation on 'The overview of EU and Council of Europe legislation on the rights of trafficked persons in Europe', Sicily***

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***12/10 Meeting of the Working Group on Protection from Exploitation and International Cooperation of the National Council against Sexual Violence against Children and Young People***

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***12 – 13/10 Second KOK general assembly (online), incl. introduction of the National Rapporteur on THB and discussion on National Action Plan on THB***

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***16/10 Online lunch talk on KOK report *Trafficking in Human Beings and Exploitation in Germany in 2022****

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***31/10 Meeting with President of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, as part of the KOK project 'Displacement and trafficking in human beings'***

**25/11** International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

**14/11** Consultation event organised by the Federal Ministry of Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth as part of the Federal Government's efforts to establish a strategy on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

in Berlin

**17/11** *Enforcing human rights – the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as an effective tool*, parliamentary breakfast organised by the CEDAW Alliance Germany

**21/11** *Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Protecting Victims* Symposium organised by Fraueninformationszentrum FiZ Stuttgart, Mitternachtsmission Heilbronn and Freija – Aktiv gegen Menschenhandel

in Stuttgart

**29/11** Online seminar organised by KOK and the IOM on '*Displacement and trafficking in human beings*'

for IOM return assistance staff

**29 – 30/11** *Universal, indivisible and essential – 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, conference organised by Forum Menschenrechte

in Berlin