



**Position Paper on the Fight against Human Trafficking by  
the Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany to  
the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Jus-  
tice of the UNODC**



Trafficking in Human Beings (THB) is a globally spread crime which involves the recruitment or transportation of persons by means of threat, use of force or other forms of coercion for the purpose of exploitation.

The Federal Republic of Germany continues to be primarily a country of destination for trafficked persons, as well as to some extent a country of origin and of transit. The number of identified victims of THB was increasing the last years: 470 (2015), 536 (2016) and 671 (2017). Most of the victims identified in the period 2014-2017 were subjected to sexual exploitation (1,950) with women and girls (around 97%) being mostly concerned. The main countries of origin of victims of sexual exploitation were Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Nigeria. The identified victims of labour exploitation were mostly male (86% in 2017) and the main countries of origin were Romania, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Latvia and North Macedonia.

The nationwide Coordination Group against THB (KOK) is responsible for coordinating and monitoring victim assistance throughout Germany. NGO counselling centres funded by the government serve both labour and sex trafficking victims. NGO service providers operate in 45 cities, providing shelter, medical and psychological care, legal assistance, vocational support, and other services. In 2016, two important anti-trafficking laws were passed: Firstly, Germany adopted *the Act to Improve Action against Human Trafficking* and thus, transposed Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of the EU on preventing and combating THB and protecting its victims into national law. In addition to sexual exploitation and the exploitation of labour, the Criminal Code now also criminalises additional forms of exploitation, i.e. forced begging, forced criminality and the removal of organs and comprises the three elements of the Convention's definition of THB, i.e. action, means and purpose of exploitation. Secondly, the German Bundestag passed *the Prostitute Protection Act*, in order to enhance working conditions in legal prostitution and to protect prostitutes against exploitation, forced prostitution and THB. Additionally, state funding for bilateral and EU-wide anti-trafficking programmes in countries of origin, notably Nigeria, was increased in 2018. In October 2018, the Family Ministry published its Federal Cooperation Concept *Protection and Assistance in Trafficking and Exploitation of Children*, which is intended to help coordinate policies and clarify responsibilities between authorities and across countries in cases involving minors. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) established guidelines in 2018 with the aim of obliging 50% of companies by 2020 to report on operational measures to protect human rights, including THB in supply chains. In February 2019, the United States and Germany signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* aimed at strengthening cooperation on THB for labour exploitation, including in global supply chains.

The Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany believes that it is utterly important to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against THB – especially with countries of origin in order to treat THB at its root – and expects the necessary mechanisms to be developed in the following debates.