

Private Invitation

“Hear their voices. Act to protect.”

A lunchtime reception &
exhibition to mark the
11th EU Anti-Trafficking Day

Tuesday, 17 October
2017

Reception: 13:00 – 14:00
Exhibition: 13:00 – 17:00



European Economic
and Social Committee,
Jacques Delors Building,
Rue Belliard 99, Atrium 6
Brussels, Belgium

To mark the 11th EU Anti-Trafficking Day, the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT), together with the European Economic and Social Committee, will host a reception to launch its “Hear their voices. Act to protect.” exhibition. The key objectives of the reception and exhibition are to support the European Union in raising awareness on trafficking in human beings, increasing the exchange of information, knowledge and best practices as well as highlighting why victims need to be placed at the centre of any strategy against human trafficking.

- Mr. Gonçalo Lobo Xavier, Vice-President in charge of Communication, European Economic and Social Committee
- Mr. Jean-Louis Ville, (Acting) Director, DEVCO B - People and Peace, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development
- Ms. Myria Vassiliadou, EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator
- Mr. John Brandolino, Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

MARY

“I left Nigeria at the age of 17. I was completely alone and had no prospects at all.” Some guy called Ben said he knew people in Europe and could help me find work. He offered to pay for my trip – 25,000 Euros. We were going to leave for Europe from Libya, but once I had arrived there I realized that Ben had lied to me. He showed his true face. He threatened to hand me over to someone else and leave me behind. I didn’t know what to do. Then he raped me. I was scared and didn’t know what to do. I was with him for a long time. I was not enough food and cut on my back. I wanted to flee, but I had nothing; no phone, no money. I didn’t even know where I could have escaped to. Then we finished the trip and we had to be rescued by the Italian authorities. I had to go to a reception centre to have to work as a prostitute. When I told the authorities at the reception centre my story, they placed me in a safe house for victims of sex trafficking. But now the people who paid for my journey back home are threatening my mother, asking for their money back. They told her I ran away, that she has to pay them back. If she doesn’t, they say, they will curse me so I get deported. My life is still terrible. I feel like I’m in prison. The only place I’ll ever be in is this room. I’ve been abandoned here and I can’t tell anyone what’s inside me. I’m so confused. I can’t focus. I just want to be free.

Hear their voices. Act to protect.

Hosted by the European Economic and Social Committee and organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development under the framework of

GloACT

Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (2015 - 2019)

This project is funded by the
European Union



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UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The IOM Migration Agency

unicef



European Economic and Social Committee

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) represents the various economic and social components of organised civil society. It is an institutional consultative body established by the 1957 Treaty of Rome. Its consultative role enables its members, and hence the organisations they represent, to participate in the EU decision-making process. The Committee has 350 members from across Europe, who are appointed by the Council of the European Union.

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu>

GloACT

Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (2015-2019)



GLO.ACT is a four-year (2015-2019), €11 million joint initiative by the European Union (EU) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The project is being implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). GLO.ACT aims to provide assistance to governmental authorities and civil society organizations across 13 strategically-selected countries: Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa, Ukraine. It supports the development of more effective responses to trafficking and smuggling, including providing assistance to victims of trafficking and vulnerable migrants through the strengthening of identification, referral, and direct support mechanisms.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/glo-act/>

twitter: [@glo_act](https://twitter.com/glo_act)

This project is funded by
the European Union