



Ressort: Politik

Human trafficking for organ removal organized by OSCE

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On 8 July 2020 in Vienna has taken place the event concerning the issue of human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal, co-organized by the Office of the OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO). It was an opportunity to share experiences in addressing

this challenge and examine possible ways to enhance responses in the OSCE region.

Despite its high profits and catastrophic harm to victims, trafficking in human beings for the removal of organs is one of the least understood and addressed forms of human trafficking globally and needs serious attention from the international community, an international group of experts concluded in a two-day online meeting held on 7 July.

The meeting gathered legal, criminal justice, medical and victim-protection experts from over 20 OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation and international organizations.

The experts observed that, although it is unambiguously mentioned in the internationally-recognized definition of trafficking in human beings, human trafficking for the purpose of organ removal continues to be a troubling and elusive form of exploitation across the globe. They highlighted the need to raise international attention to the issue and implement all available tools to combat it.

"One of the things I am struck by is how incredibly challenging it is to respond to this form of trafficking in human beings. And yet I am also optimistic because we have been jointly developing some of the tools we need like new technologies and improved financial investigations," said OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating

Trafficking in Human Beings Valiant Richey. He also added that the OSCE looks forward to working with a wide range of partners on a list of concrete recommendations. Many participants pointed out the insufficiency of the legal instruments now in use, and the crucial necessity to increase co-operation between countries to make criminals accountable.

Participants stressed that particular attention needs to be devoted to situations with patients travelling abroad to get a transplant or coming from abroad with a donor. The crimes often cross borders which makes it much harder for investigators and prosecutors to track malefactors and exercise jurisdiction over cases that can span numerous countries. Without international judicial co-operation

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these crimes - even when discovered - are hardly prosecuted efficaciously, noted the participants. They also said that the role of financial investigations in detecting and countering flows of money alimenting and paying for these illegal services is essential.

A central point in the discussions was the critical role that can be played by the medical personnel, both in preventing these crimes but also in reporting dubious situations, including when the origins of the organ to be transplanted are not clear.

Participants also proposed improving the capacity of anti-trafficking practitioners and medical personnel to identify victims. Better identification could also lead to improved assistance to survivors, which nowadays is mainly missing.

Bericht online lesen:

https://planet.en-a.at/politik/human_trafficking_for_organ_removal_organized_by_osce_-78612/

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