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**Betreff:** The impact of COVID-19 on victims and survivors of trafficking of human beings

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe/Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) jointly with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) are in the process of developing short-term and mid-term policy recommendations based on data collected through surveys with survivors of trafficking and frontline responders to ensure the implementation of a human rights-based, gender-sensitive and victim-centered approach to trafficking in persons during and post COVID-19.

The United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres has launched a Call to Action to put human dignity and the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the core of our work. The COVID-19 pandemic poses significant concerns to the protection of victims of trafficking and those at heightened risk of trafficking and exploitation.

The exacerbation of vulnerabilities during and after the pandemic, will bring several challenges to the effective identification of victims of trafficking, their access to services, protections and redress, as well as the prevention of trafficking. Moreover, the dynamics of trafficking for sexual exploitation, particularly impacting women and children, have shifted from the more traditional forms of exploitation to various forms of trafficking online, which likewise requires a shift in policies and programmes to develop an effective response to this emerging challenge.

Please find below the links to the surveys, which will be active until 11 May 2020. The survey for survivors is available in 25 languages, including Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, Croatian, English, French, German, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Uzbek (Cyrillic and Latin letters), Vietnamese and Yoruba. The survey for frontline stakeholders is available in 18 languages, including Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, English, French, Hindi, Italian, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese and Yoruba. The survey should not take more than 30 minutes to complete.

We would be very grateful if you could answer and share this with your networks.

If you are a survivor of trafficking, please click this link: <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/8Otmox>

If you are a staff of an NGO or IGO, please click this link: <https://survey.sogosurvey.com/r/4HqbXV>

Kind regards and thank you,

*Álvaro Gómez del Valle Ruiz*

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