

## **Safeguarding work conditions for vulnerable workers**

Three years on from the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April, 2013, which took the lives of over 1,100 garment workers and highlighted the need to promote decent work in global supply chains, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has compiled a photo report of their response to the Rana Plaza tragedy. The photo report illustrates what has been achieved so far and what remains to be done to promote decent work in global supply chains.

[http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/photo-slideshows/slideshows/rich/WCMS\\_472719\\_EN/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/multimedia/photo-slideshows/slideshows/rich/WCMS_472719_EN/lang--en/index.htm)

RENATE supports the EU legislation and policy to ensure that good and healthy working conditions - a fundamental right for workers - are upheld. The EU and the ILO have formal cooperation frameworks which include agreement to cooperate in a number of activities such as the following:

- Labour standards.
- Working conditions.
- Wages.
- Social protection.
- The creation of employment opportunities.
- Protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.
- Child labour.
- Labour migration and human trafficking.

International labour standards inform the legal framework for the Decent Work Agenda, ratified by all EU member States. And while the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is universally recognised, additional non-discriminatory legislation has been necessary, covering employment, equal opportunities for both men and women, Health and Safety practices at work and the working conditions for those who work at sea. RENATE supports this practice in the workplace.

International labour migration is a constant, where all too frequently, those in search of decent employment, are vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, entrapment, hazardous working conditions and little or no wages for extreme hours of work. Compliance with any existing legislation is difficult to monitor.

RENATE believes that small, tangential steps matter. These include commitments by the EU and the ILO to address these harsh realities. Developments of national legislative reform processes covering both anti-trafficking legislation and the regulation of private employment agencies are in place. As a result, there has been legislative revision and newly enacted legislation in Germany, Moldova and the United Kingdom.

Another success has been some modifications- however small- in the obligations of Thai recruitment companies that send Thai nationals abroad as migrant workers, often ending up exploited in host countries without recourse to legislative protection in their home country.

Joint EU and ILO workshops and consultations have contributed to the drafting of Moldova's National Action Plan to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings.

Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan have welcomed substantial input from the joint EU-ILO partnership, as the countries formulate their respective Action Plans to prevent and address human trafficking.

Through dialogue and collaboration, the UKRAINE has seen the inclusion of representatives of both Trade Unions and employer's organisations on the inter-agency Council on countering human trafficking.

A joint research project to devise indicators to help identify victims of human trafficking, has been developed and successfully piloted in labour force surveys in both Moldova and Georgia.

Combined EU and ILO research is a source of information on migration and trafficking in numerous countries worldwide, including the extent of human trafficking from Nigeria to Italy.

In RENATE- member countries , it is encouraging that progress is ongoing, for example in Romania, where labour inspectors increasingly play an active role in monitoring private employment agencies there is dissemination of information to migrant workers. Also in Belgium, France, Italy and Spain, joint research is conducted with a view to improving the integration of migrant domestic workers in their respective countries.

Frameworks for continued international cooperation on legislation and policy formation to prevent human trafficking and the exploitation of persons, continue to be formulated. This is a source of hope for the future and an attempt to ensure we are mindful of the voiceless.

For more information:

[https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-projects/adstringo-addressing-trafficking-labour-exploitation-through-improved-partnerships\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/eu-projects/adstringo-addressing-trafficking-labour-exploitation-through-improved-partnerships_en)

[https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu\\_strategy\\_towards\\_the\\_eradication\\_of\\_trafficking\\_in\\_human\\_beings\\_2012-2016\\_1.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/sites/antitrafficking/files/eu_strategy_towards_the_eradication_of_trafficking_in_human_beings_2012-2016_1.pdf)

[http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---ilo-brussels/documents/publication/wcms\\_195135.pdf](http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---ilo-brussels/documents/publication/wcms_195135.pdf)

[www.ilo.org/integration/themes/mdw/WCMS\\_123804/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/integration/themes/mdw/WCMS_123804/lang--en/index.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/trafficking-in-human-beings/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/organized-crime-and-human-trafficking/trafficking-in-human-beings/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/asylum/general/docs/eu\\_action\\_plan\\_against\\_migrant\\_smuggling\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/home-affairs/e-library/documents/policies/asylum/general/docs/eu_action_plan_against_migrant_smuggling_en.pdf)

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/11/16/europes-refugee-crisis/agenda-action>

[http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/file\\_/PICUM\\_Ten\\_Ways\\_to\\_Protect\\_Undocumented\\_Migrant\\_Workers.pdf](http://picum.org/picum.org/uploads/file_/PICUM_Ten_Ways_to_Protect_Undocumented_Migrant_Workers.pdf)

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