

Handout – Recommendations to fight Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Switzerland



ACT212 is a Swiss consulting and training centre that aims to combat human trafficking and exploitation. The association provides counselling, training and advocacy and collaborates with experts, like-minded organisations and the Swiss Government. Our trainings for professionals address police officers, prosecutors, psychologists, social workers, health care staff, victim assistance councillors and others. In collaboration with the Swiss Government, we provide specific trainings for medical staff and labour inspectors. We also run the National Hotline against Human Trafficking and Exploitation and form part of NEGEM, the National Expert Group on Human Trafficking that advises the Government, currently on the development of the third National Action Plan 2023-2027.

ACT212 makes the following **recommendations** to the Government of Switzerland:

1. Ensure that trainings on human trafficking are available to all professional groups potentially dealing with trafficking victims. Given the ongoing migratory movements and the arrival of refugees, border protection units should be specifically trained. Ensure a sustainable impact of the information campaigns already carried out among medical personnel and labour inspectors.
2. Raise awareness about sex and labour trafficking among the general public, especially regarding consumption of products and services provided through forced labour.
3. Increase the number of convicted traffickers by improving mechanisms to identify and support victims of trafficking. Significantly increase the sentences for perpetrators: the latter should receive sentences commensurate with the severity of the crime.
4. Enhance the collection and compilation of law enforcement and victim assistance data and ensure that an analysis of case law is carried out.
5. Include an explicit definition of labour exploitation in the current legal definition of human trafficking in order to provide for an easier criminal prosecution of such cases. Adapt the mandate of labour inspectors so that they can check and denounce cases of trafficking as part of their daily work.
6. Improve the identification of victims of trafficking for forced begging and forced criminal activities. Ensure that victims receive the necessary support instead of being criminalised for their actions.
7. Recognise the interlinkages between human trafficking and forced marriage by including forced marriage in article 182 CC.
8. Provide specialised care and assistance to persons, including asylum seekers, who have become victim of trafficking abroad and reconsider the current expelling and return practice of victims of trafficking based on the application of the Dublin Regulation.
9. Sustain the support of victims of illegal adoptions from Sri Lanka. Extend the efforts concerning illegal adoptions to other countries of origin of adoptees.

We kindly thank you for your attention and respectfully request your support on these points during the UPR Working Group on Switzerland. Please contact us for any further information.

To download our full report from July 2022, please go to www.act212.ch > Media > UPR documents > UPR 4th Cycle_SWITZERLAND_ACT212.