

Legal Framework

The members of the Council of the Baltic Sea States Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings agree that

- the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, (ETS nr 197, 2005) should serve as a point of departure for all efforts and proposals, for the CBSS Task Force against Trafficking in Human Beings.
- respect for victims' rights, protection of victims and action to combat trafficking in human beings must be the paramount objectives;
- all actions or initiatives against trafficking in human beings must be non-discriminatory, take gender equality into account as well as a child-rights approach, when necessary;

The following legal documents should be taken in to consideration at all times;

- the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1950) and its protocols;
- the following recommendations of the Committee of Ministers to member states of the Council of Europe: Recommendation No. R (91) 11 on sexual exploitation, pornography and prostitution of, and trafficking in, children and young adults; Recommendation No. R (97) 13 concerning intimidation of witnesses and the rights of the defence; Recommendation No. R (2000) 11 on action against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation and Recommendation Rec (2001) 16 on the protection of children against sexual exploitation; Recommendation Rec (2002) 5 on the protection of women against violence;
- the following recommendations of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: Recommendation 1325 (1997) on traffic in women and forced prostitution in Council of Europe member states; Recommendation 1450 (2000) on violence against women in Europe; Recommendation 1545 (2002) on a campaign against trafficking in women; Recommendation 1610 (2003) on migration connected with trafficking in women and prostitution; Recommendation 1611 (2003) on trafficking in organs in Europe; Recommendation 1663 (2004) Domestic slavery: servitude, au pairs and mail-order brides;
- the European Union Council Framework Decision of 19 July 2002 on combating trafficking in human beings, the European Union Council Framework Decision of 15 March 2001 on the standing of victims in criminal proceedings and the European Union Council Directive of 29 April 2004 on the residence permit issued to third-country nationals who are victims of trafficking in human beings or who have been the subject of an action to facilitate illegal immigration, who cooperate with the competent authorities;
- the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women, 15 September 1995; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;
- the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol thereto to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women

and Children with a view to improving the protection which they afford and developing the standards established by them;

alongside of the other international legal instruments relevant in the field of action against trafficking in human beings.