



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

Vienna, 23 September 2026

Your Excellency,

Child trafficking remains a persistent global challenge, with one in three victims of trafficking worldwide being a child. Despite a plethora of commitments and available tools and instruments, national responses to trafficking in children often miss out on timeliness and prompt action, continue to be over reliant on criminal investigations and do not lead to durable solutions in the best interest of the child. Most significantly, addressing child trafficking is seldom regarded as an integral part of a broader child protection framework, with State child protection agencies not properly trained and adequately engaged.

To strengthen the capacity of child protection agencies in this regard, the Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) is organizing a two-day conference on *The Critical Role of State Child Protection Agencies in Combating Trafficking in Children* to be held on **18-19 November 2026**, in **Vienna, Austria**.

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The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss ways of how national child protection systems can be strengthened through integrating a child trafficking response and what resources and practices are already available to facilitate this transformation, including in conflict settings amidst the ongoing humanitarian crisis caused by the war against Ukraine. It will provide an interactive platform for an expert exchange among policy makers, practitioners and survivor leaders towards identifying further practical measures and steps to make the OSCE region a safer and child-friendlier space.

We are pleased to **invite one English-speaking representatives of your agency to attend the conference in-person and other colleagues to join online.** Please, kindly note that the conference will be held in blended format with the following interpretation arrangements:

- in the conference room: English language with no interpretation, and
- online: with interpretation into French, German, Italian and Spanish.

The conference's concept note and draft agenda is attached to this letter for your easy reference.

We would kindly request to share the names of confirmed attendees, particularly in-person, along with their contact details by **19 October 2026** with my colleague Liliia Egelriede (Liliia.Egelriede@osce.org). The OSCE OSR/CTHB would appreciate if the costs of the travel arrangements for in-person participants could be borne by your agency. Should this not be possible, the OSR/CTHB stands ready to discuss cost-sharing modalities or make the relevant travel arrangements and cover attendees' travel-related expenses in line with the OSCE rules and regulations.

I would like to sincerely thank you for collaborating with my Office on this important matter and hope that the conference will offer a useful tool to strengthen on-going anti-trafficking efforts across the OSCE region.

Sincerely,



Kari Johnstone, Ph.D.

OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings