

Austrian National Activities to Combat Human Trafficking

Amb. Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger

National Coordinator on Combating Human Trafficking

*Federal Ministry for European
and International Affairs*

Austrian Task Force on Combating Human Trafficking

- Established in 2004 by decision of the Austrian Council of Ministers
- Under the aegis of the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs
- Objective: Coordination and intensification of efforts to combat Human Trafficking
- Regular meetings
- Elaboration of a National Action Plan on Human Trafficking

Composition of the Task Force

- Chair:
 - National Coordinator on Combating Human Trafficking (Appointed by the Federal Government) – Ministry for European and International Affairs
- Other Members:
 - Relevant Federal Ministries, i.e.:
 - Ministry of the Interior
 - Ministry of Justice
 - Ministry of Health
 - Ministry of Economy, Family and Youth
 - Ministry of Labour, Social Matters and Consumer Protection
 - Ministry for Women's Matters
 - Ministry of Finance
 - Ministry of Defense
 - Ministry of Education and Culture
 - Federal states (*Bundesländer*)
 - NGOs
 - Research Institute

Mission of the Task Force

- Coordination
- Prevention
- Protection of Victims
- Criminal Prosecution of Offenders
- International Cooperation

Mandate of the National Coordinator

- Issuing of an annual Progress Report
- Supervision of the implementation of the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking and reporting thereof to the Task Force
- Convocation of Meetings of the Task Force
- Taking Initiatives regarding focuses of the Task Force
- Information of the Task Force on current issues
- Representation of the Task Force in the public and in international fora
- Contact point for national and international institutions

First Austrian Report on Combating Human Trafficking

- Period under review: March 2007 – February 2009
- Overview on measures and actions taken by Austria to combat Human Trafficking
- Available in English at <http://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/foreign-ministry/foreign-policy/human-rights/main-human-rights-issues/combating-human-trafficking.html>

Challenges ahead

- Improvement of data collection
- Proactive cooperation in developing a practice-oriented monitoring instrument.
- Information/awareness-raising campaigns in order to sensitise the Austrian public
- Elaboration of training concepts for stakeholders
- Development of measures aimed at improving victim protection
- Intensification of international cooperation in the field of law enforcement
- Child trafficking: elaboration of a comprehensive care/support and cooperation concept at the federal and province levels.
- Development of international projects on preventive measures in the countries of origin.
- Provision of access to health care services
- Additional efforts aimed at further enhancing access to the labour market, housing and education for victims of human trafficking.