



26th Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons

The Rise of Forced Criminality: Addressing a Security Blind Spot

20-21 April 2026

Hofburg, Vienna, Austria and via Zoom

DRAFT AGENDA

MONDAY 20 April 2026

Registration of participants

11.30 onwards

Welcome coffee

13.00 – 13.30

High-level opening and keynote address

13.30 – 14.30

Panel 1: Criminalized Survival: Exposing a Hidden Dimension of Human Trafficking

14.30 - 16.30

Description: *This first panel sets the scene by examining trafficking in human beings for the purpose of criminal exploitation as a largely hidden yet rapidly expanding threat to human security and safe societies across the OSCE region. Victims - often children, migrants, and individuals in situations of acute vulnerability - are coerced into criminal activities and frequently treated as offenders rather than as victims of trafficking, allowing organized criminal networks to operate with impunity. The panel will explore how forced criminality challenges traditional distinctions between victimhood and criminality, exposing critical gaps in identification, protection, and justice responses. By analysing patterns, drivers, and the security implications of criminalizing victims, the discussion will underscore the urgent need for a paradigm shift toward victim-centred, rights-based, and security-informed approaches that both protect individuals and strengthen the collective capacity to prevent and disrupt organized crime.*

Side events

16.45-17.45

Side events

09.00 – 10.00

Panel 2: From Identification to Protection: Effective and Victim-Centred Responses to Forced Criminality

10.15 – 12.15

Description: *This panel will focus on concrete good practices that enable States to address trafficking for the purpose of criminal exploitation and to respond in a co-ordinated, victim-centred, and security-informed manner. Drawing on operational and policy experience from across the OSCE region, the discussion will examine approaches that strengthen early identification, ensure effective referral and protection of victims, and prevent their criminalization. The panel will highlight integrated responses that bring together law enforcement, prosecutors, social services, labour inspectors, child protection authorities, and civil society, demonstrating how co-ordinated action improves both victim protection and public safety. By showcasing transferable and scalable practices and tools, the panel aims to support participating States in developing responses that protect victims, disrupt criminal exploitation, and contribute to safer, more resilient societies.*

Lunch

12.15 – 13.45

Side events

13.45 – 14.45

Panel 3: Charting the Way Forward: Turning Insight into Impact

15.00 – 17.00

Description: *This closing panel will consolidate the key insights emerging from the Conference and build on the evidence, practices, and challenges discussed throughout the event. The panel will focus on identifying priority actions that can be implemented at policy, legislative, and operational levels to address trafficking in human beings for the purpose of criminal exploitation. The discussion will explore how States and other stakeholders can strengthen prevention, ensure consistent and victim-centred application of the non-punishment principle, enhance cross-sector and cross-border co-operation, and improve accountability for perpetrators. Particular emphasis will be placed on actionable recommendations that reinforce human security and safe societies, including measures to close protection gaps, and integrate a response to forced criminality more systematically into national anti-trafficking, security, and crime-prevention strategies. The panel aims to ensure that the Conference outcomes translate into tangible impact and sustained follow-up across the OSCE region.*

Closing session

17.00 – 17.15