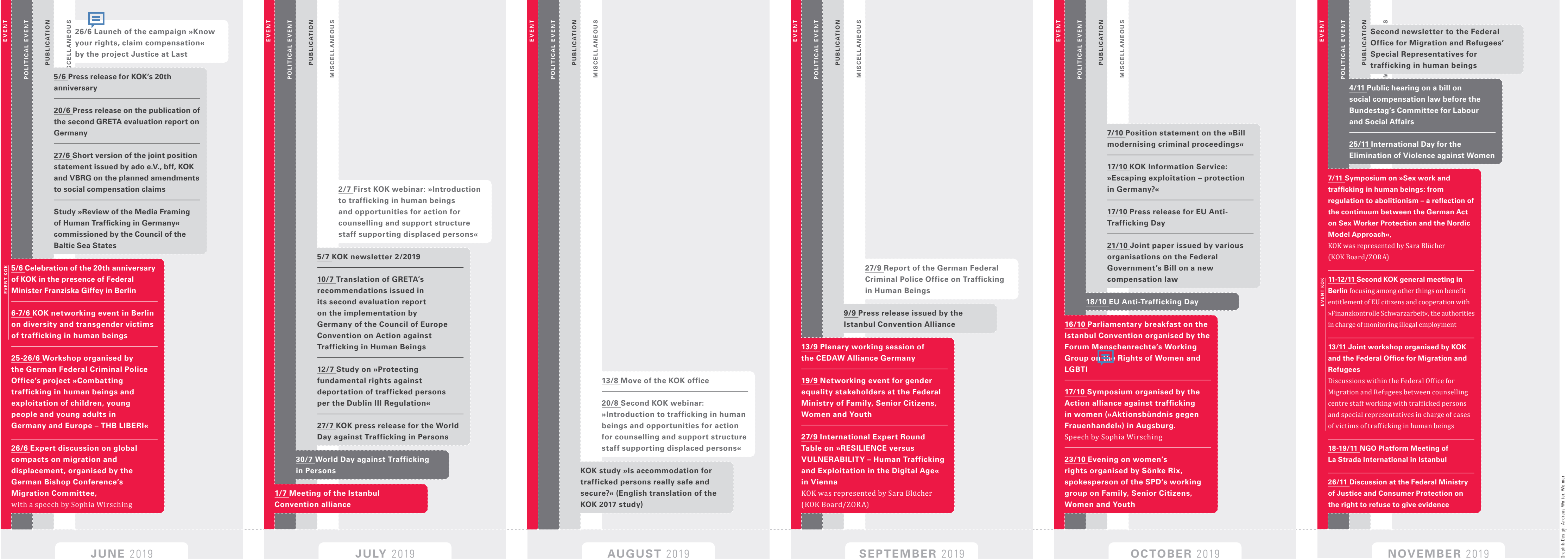




Graphic Design: Andreas Wolter, Weimar

LÜTZOWSTR. 102-104, HOF 1, AUFGANG A // 10785 BERLIN // T 030.263 911 76 // F 030.263 911 86 // INFO@KOK-BUERO.DE // WWW.KOK-GEGEN-MENSCHENHANDEL.DE

DECEMBER 2018 – NOVEMBER 2019

20 YEARS

KOK
German NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings

ANNUAL REVIEW 2019



Dear readers,

The German NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings has been a registered organisation for 20 years now. Last summer, we took advantage of this anniversary to celebrate our journey in the House of Democracy and Human Rights in Berlin with our members, cooperation partners and many others who have accompanied us along the way. Franziska Giffey, the Federal Minister of Family Affairs, confirmed in a speech that “to efficiently combat trafficking in human beings in all its forms, we must know what the situation is like on the ground. What is the practical impact of the measures we decide at federal level? [...]Through their work, the German NGO Network against Trafficking in Human Beings provides answers. They are a valuable partner for our Ministry.”

Our anniversary happened during an eventful year. Once again, many new bills were debated in parliament. KOK took a critical stance on the proposed German Code of Criminal Procedure reform and on the fact that the mandate of the authorities in charge of monitoring illegal employment (“Finanzkontrolle Schwarzarbeit”) was extended and now includes the identification of cases of trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation.

The “Displacement and trafficking in human beings” project produced a study which confirms the worrying developments observed by specialised counselling centres. Indeed, particularly vulnerable persons in need of protection and who have been victims of exploitation and trafficking in human beings in another EU member state are increasingly ordered to leave the country, exposing them to yet more risks.

In its second evaluation report on Germany’s efforts to implement the Council of Europe’s June 2019 Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, GRETA highlighted that notable progress had been made in the past three years, citing for example the criminal law reform or the improved access to benefits for trafficked persons with a legal residence permit. Nevertheless, major issues remain, not only at the interface between displacement and trafficking in human beings. Many specialised counselling centres are also inadequately funded. In most cases, too, it is impossible to obtain compensation and legal redress for victims.

These are the issues we are tackling with our member organisations. This annual review aims to offer you some insight into the work of our organisation.

We thank you for your interest in our work and hope you enjoy reading this brochure.

Sophia Wirsching, KOK Office

THE KOK
IS FUNDED BY



Federal Ministry for
Family Affairs, Senior Citizens,
Women and Youth

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

4-5/12 Meeting of the EU Civil Society Platform in Brussels

4-5/12 Meeting of the joint Government-Länder Working Group on the protection of children and young people against sexual violence and exploitation

DECEMBER 2018

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

7/1 Publication of the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking

28/1 Publication of the KOK symposium documentation: »Trafficking in human beings and exploitation in Germany – taking stock two years after implementation of the EU Directive«

17/1 Joint position statement issued by ado, bff, KOK and VBRG on the bill on regulating social compensation claims

29/1 KOK webinar: »Introduction to trafficking in human beings – understanding the context, identifying and protecting trafficked persons«.

For officers in charge of the registration procedure as per the German Act on Sex Worker Protection

25/1 Training course for staff of the Violence against Women support hotline,

given by Sophia Wirsching and Behshid Najafi (agisra e.V.)

23/1 Expert discussion organised by Weisser Ring on »Victim compensation in Germany«

JANUARY 2019

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

14/2 Policy paper on compensation for trafficked persons issued by the European project Justice at Last

27/2 Expert discussion on the protection of displaced women from violence, at the Federal Chancellery with the Federal Government Commissioner for Migration and Refugees

25-26/2 First KOK general meeting in Berlin

Discussions included topics such as the changes to criminal statutory offences on trafficking in human beings

21/2 Meeting with the initiative for the right to refuse to give evidence before court, led by Paritätischer Gesamtverband

FEBRUARY 2019

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

21/3 Position statement on the bill regarding the 11 June 2014 Protocol of the ILO Forced Labour Convention (No. 29) of 28 June 1930

8/3 International Women’s Day

28/3 Second KOK webinar:

»Introduction to trafficking in human beings – understanding the context, identifying and protecting trafficked persons«.

For officers in charge of the registration procedure as per the German Act on Sex Worker Protection

15/3 Forum on trafficking in human beings, along with a meeting of the joint Government-Länder Working Group on trafficking in human beings, the joint Government-Länder Working Group on trafficking in human beings/ labour exploitation and the joint Government-Länder Working Group on the protection of children and young people from sexual violence and exploitation

19/3 Joint parliamentary evening on labour inspection organised by trade unions and Justitia et Pax

20/3 Evening parliamentary reception of the Bundestag Committee on human rights and humanitarian aid

MARCH 2019

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

17/4 Adoption by the Federal Cabinet of the bill improving enforcement of the obligation to leave the country (Law on the Orderly Return)

3/4 KOK newsletter 1/2019

3/4 Joint open letter by 250 civil society organisations addressed to the Chancellor regarding boat people and the situation in Syria

KOK factsheets on trafficking in human beings

8/4 Plenary session of Forum Menschenrechte

APRIL 2019

EVENT

POLITICAL EVENT

PUBLICATION

MISCELLANEOUS

3/5 Updated position statement on the »Bill against illegal employment and social benefit fraud«

6/5 Hearing on the »Bill against illegal employment and social benefit fraud« before the Bundestag Finance Committee.

KOK as expert was represented by Eva Küblbeck

11/5 PICUM General Assembly, Brussels

13/5 Expert discussion organised by the parliamentary group Bündnis 90/Die Grünen on »Logistics, harvesting, care work & co.: fair work conditions for all«

20/5 Training course on »Cross-border crime: the example of trafficking in human beings – tasks and opportunities for police collaboration at the border«

Talk and workshop for German and Polish police officers given by Sophia Wirsching and Barbara Erritt (KOK Board/IN VIA Berlin)

20-21/5 Joint information stand with IN VIA Berlin/Brandenburg at the 24th German Prevention Day in Berlin

27-28/5 International Exchange Seminar on compensation organised by the project Justice at Last

MAY 2019