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23 January 2018

Concerted action on human trafficking

Motion for a resolution

tabled by Mr Vernon COAKER and other members of the Assembly

This motion has not been discussed in the Assembly and commits only those who have signed it

In light of the mounting evidence that the migrant and refugee crisis in Europe is being exploited by gangs and human trafficking networks to target the most vulnerable individuals, the Parliamentary Assembly should examine the already ground breaking Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (CETS No. 197) with a view to making possible recommendations to ensure that all member States do more to identify and prosecute traffickers, resulting in convictions. In addition, the Assembly should set out proposals to strengthen legislation to ensure that victims, once encountered, are readily identified and are provided with practical, legal and medical assistance to speed their recovery and reduce risks of further exploitation.

In light of this new and developing situation, the Assembly should consider how best the Council of Europe can ensure that all member States work together at an operational level and through sharing of intelligence, information and data in order to better intercept trafficking networks and ensure that traffickers are less likely to profit from the vulnerabilities of people seeking safety who are caught up in the migrant and refugee crisis.

Furthermore, the Assembly should consider taking further initiatives to support victims and speed their recovery, whilst recognising the pioneering work of the Council of Europe Convention and the essential work of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA). It is unlikely that the current migrant and refugee crisis will prove to be a short term issue.

Signed (see overleaf)



*Signed*¹:

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