**Report on Pledge** [Responding to humanitarian needs resulting from human trafficking – Statutory Meetings (rcrcconference.org)](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frcrcconference.org%2Fpledge%2Fresponding-to-humanitarian-needs-resulting-from-human-trafficking%2F&data=05%7C02%7CMvandenBerg%40redcross.nl%7Ca6ea202065e84fcc745e08dc83c17357%7Cd3ab97906ae24bd8aa5e02864483e7c7%7C0%7C0%7C638530114092722495%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WAn8EyJ21gn7dn8HQDpWovZap4PQkKam3RcgVyu5adE%3D&reserved=0)

By: Marieke van den Berg, program lead Human Trafficking (and co-chair of European Red Cross Network on human trafficking, ATN)

After signing the pledge in 2019, the Netherlands Red Cross (NLRC) significantly increased its response on human trafficking. The focus was on: assistance and protection of (potential) trafficked persons; strengthening capacities of first responders to recognize and safely respond to human trafficking of beneficiaries; awareness-raising of the risks among at-risk groups, and humanitarian diplomacy to strengthen human trafficking policies.

In cooperation with relevant state and civil society organisations, the NLRC:

* Further developed its human trafficking program in accordance with the mandate, the auxiliary role, the fundamental principles and the PGI minimum standards. NLRC also performed research and mappings, leading to a clear overview of needs, gaps and stakeholders. Referral pathways (internal and external) have been set up and new interventions were developed.
* Due to increasing numbers of asylum seekers and Ukrainian displaced that have sought refuge in the Netherlands, NLRC strengthened its humanitarian assistance for migrants, including setting up and running reception facilities. As these groups of migrants are at risk to human trafficking and exploitation, it has been necessary to strengthen our capacities to recognize and respond to trafficking among staff and volunteers that come into contact with them. In 2022, the short e-learning ‘Recognizing human trafficking’ ([Herkenning mensenhandel (rodekruis.nl)](https://www.rodekruis.nl/elearnings/herkenning-mensenhandel/story_html5.html) has become compulsory for many staff and volunteers and a human trafficking response is incorporated in relevant guidelines and procedures. In 2023, an e-learning ‘Protection’ has been published and also became mandatory for some of the staff and volunteers working in reception of migrants. Also, a centralized system has been set up for management of protection cases (including human trafficking), with national focal points advising local staff.
* NLRC substantially increased the percentage of staff and volunteers that have been trained to recognize and respond to human trafficking. In the reporting period around 6.000 persons (both Red Cross and external) have completed the e-learning e-module. In 2024, the e-learning has been translated to English to facilitate access to English-speaking first-responders: [Human trafficking recognition (rodekruis.nl)](https://www.rodekruis.nl/elearnings/human-trafficking-recognition/story_html5.html).
* Online and face to face training and workshops on recognizing signs of human trafficking among migrants and/or informing migrants about risks of exploitation and where to find assistance reached over 650 staff and volunteers (Red Cross and external). This training too has been made compulsory for certain staff and volunteers.
* NLRC developed training for educators and awareness-raising tools for youth in high schools as part of the ‘Human trafficking (not) in school’ project funded by 3FM Serious Request ([Lesmateriaal VO over seksuele en criminele uitbuiting | Rode Kruis](https://www.rodekruis.nl/wat-kun-jij-doen/samen-in-actie/onderwijs/voortgezet-onderwijs/mensenhandel-niet-op-school/" \l ":~:text=Docententraining%20Mensenhandel%20(niet)%20op%20school,beoordeeld%20met%20een%208%2C2.)). An estimated 2.500 youth were reached with the awareness-raising courses. Almost 700 educators in high schools were trained in the years 2021-2023. Effect measurement (pre and post surveys) showed that for each 100 trained persons, 35 *additional* potential victims of human trafficking were recognized in the six months after the training. The training content was partially integrated into an e-learning for first responders working with youth that was launched in 2023: [Home - BUIT voor professionals](https://buitvoorprofessionals.nl/)
* Coordinated two EU-funded projects in the Netherlands: the FAST project to develop and facilitate in-depth training for first responders in the asylum sector and life skills workshops for trafficked persons ((2021-2023) and the DIRECT project to cocreate training and awareness-raising with migrant-led community based organisations about risks of exploitation and where to find assistance (2023-2025). A psychosocial first aid training for Red Cross volunteers working with trafficked persons was published on the Trafficking Response Hub: [Training module on Psychosocial First Aid for volunteers working with (potential) trafficked persons - Trafficking Response (trafficking-response.org)](https://trafficking-response.org/resource/training-module-on-psychosocial-first-aid-for-volunteers-working-with-potential-trafficked-persons/)
* Together with British Red Cross and Colombian Red Cross, NLRC has taken the lead in the development of a Standard Operating Procedure for case management for trafficked persons that will be shared with Movement colleagues in Q3 2024.
* In the reporting period NLRC has developed awareness-raising materials and methods for different at-risk groups, including youth, asylum seekers, Ukrainian displaced and undocumented (labour) migrants. Community Engagement methods were used to make sure that the interventions matched the needs and interests of the groups. The awareness-raising materials were made available online for other organisations in the Netherlands: [Academy - asielketen - CoMensha](https://www.comensha.nl/voor-professionals/academy-asielketen/#English_version_start)
* Around 450 migrants (asylum seekers, Ukrainian displaced and undocumented migrants) were reached with ‘Know your rights when you work’ workshops that raise awareness about labour rights and the prevention of (labour) exploitation. In addition, thousands of migrants were reached with flyers, posters and key messages shared by trained first-responders.
* NLRC also continued its (legal-practical) assistance to migrant victims/survivors of human trafficking. In the reporting period, around 100 persons were assisted from 30+ countries.
* In 2023 NLRC piloted a new form of temporary direct assistance to migrant victims/survivors of human trafficking that cannot access the regular support structures provided by authorities. In this pilot project a small number of trafficked persons in vulnerable positions were offered shelter and case work support by NLRC in cooperation with partners. The results of the project provided an evidence base for lobby and advocacy to improve access to support. After a successful evaluation and impact assessment, the project is planned to be continued for one more year.
* NLRC continued its confidential dialogue with government officials and implemented humanitarian diplomacy to advocate that victims/survivors must be provided with appropriate support and protection. NLRC also formally joined the Dutch lobby platform for civil society organisations working on human trafficking called SOM.
* Finally, NLRC co-chaired the European Red Cross Action for Trafficked persons Network (ATN), thus facilitating sharing of good practices within the region and wider in the Movement at annual meetings and by organizing webinars on relevant topics. NLRC also had regular peer to peer contact with (mostly European) National Societies to exchange good practices and share knowledge and expertise across borders.