



**DIE SCHWEIZ
GEGEN
MENSCHEN-
HANDEL**

Wochen gegen Menschenhandel,
Oktober 2021

**LA SUISSE
CONTRE LA
TRAITE DES
ÊTRES HUMAINS**

Semaines contre la traite
des êtres humains, octobre 2021

**LA SVIZZERA
CONTRO LA
TRATTA DI
ESSERI UMANI**

Settimane di iniziative contro la
tratta di esseri umani, ottobre 2021

18oktober.ch



PRESS RELEASE

To be released on 28th September 2021

Switzerland Marks Counter-Trafficking Weeks 2021

Bern – Leading up to the European Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October 2021, the fifth edition of the [Counter-Trafficking Weeks ‘Switzerland against Human Trafficking’](#) coordinated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Bern will focus on the labour exploitation aspect of human trafficking. Over the month of October, 22 events, including conferences, lectures, film screenings, expert panels, webinars and podcasts, will be organised by government and partner organisations across seven cantons and virtually. These events will be partly open to the public or by invitation only.

Allured by false promises of a better life, new opportunities, freedom and prosperity abroad, numerous people become victims of human trafficking. They are confronted with a different, harsher reality and end up exploited and abused. **In Switzerland this is no exception.** Every year, victim protection organizations identify and provide assistance to around **300 individuals** – men, women, trans people and children – who are sold for prostitution or exploited in labour.

Since 2012, [IOM Bern](#) has been contributing to awareness-raising and prevention through various activities in the framework of the European Anti-Trafficking Day, reaching several thousand people in Switzerland to date.

IOM works for these Counter-Trafficking weeks in close cooperation with a Steering Committee made up of the Federal office of Police (fedpol), the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), the Foreign Police of the city of Bern, the Fondation neuchâteloise pour la coordination de l’action sociale (FAS), FIZ, ACT212, Plateforme Traite, Coeur des Grottes, Astrée and Unia. The project is funded by fedpol.

IOM has been working to counter trafficking in persons since the mid-1990s and has assisted over 100,000 victims of trafficking globally. To ensure freedom and a chance at a new life, IOM offers comprehensive direct assistance packages to victims of trafficking in collaboration with its partners. This may include accommodation in safe places, medical and psychosocial support, skills development and vocational training, reintegration assistance, the option of voluntary, safe and dignified return to countries of origin, integration in the country of destination or resettlement to third countries when needed.

For more information regarding the Counter-Trafficking Weeks: www.18oktober.ch

[Facebook](#) (IOM Bern) / [Instagram](#) (iombern) / [Twitter](#) (@IOM_Bern)

Contact persons at IOM Bern:

- Claire Potaux-Vésy, Deputy Chief of Mission and Counter-Trafficking Focal Point, 031 350 82 13, cpotaux@iom.int
- Fabienne Reber, Counter-Trafficking Operations Coordinator, 031 350 82 27, freber@iom.int

-END-



**DIE SCHWEIZ
GEGEN
MENSCHEN-
HANDEL**

Wochen gegen Menschenhandel,
Oktober 2021

**LA SUISSE
CONTRE LA
TRAITE DES
ÊTRES HUMAINS**

Semaines contre la traite
des êtres humains, octobre 2021

**LA SVIZZERA
CONTRO LA
TRATTA DI
ESSERI UMANI**

Settimane di iniziative contro la
tratta di esseri umani, ottobre 2021

18oktober.ch



About IOM:

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is an international, intergovernmental organization founded in 1951 to help displaced persons, refugees and migrants in Europe. Currently, IOM has 151 Member States and 12 other Member States have observer status. As a leading international organization in the field of migration, IOM is working in partnership with governments and migrants to address migration issues. IOM's mission and activities are based on the principle that humane and organized migration benefits both migrants and society. It covers a wide range of migration issues in all areas of the world.

IOM office in Bern has been represented in Switzerland since 1994. IOM Bern has been active mainly in the field of assisted voluntary return of migrants to their country of origin, prevention of human trafficking and assistance to victims of human trafficking, relocation, refugee resettlement and family reunification. Within these and other areas, IOM develops various types of activities, e.g. providing services to migrants, conducting research, information campaigns and raising awareness of migration, training and capacity building of key actors in the field of migration. More information: <https://ch.iom.int/> and www.iom.int.