

# BEYOND THE MIDLANDS<sup>3</sup>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
**ROME – 29 & 30 JANUARY 2018**

SALA DELLA REGINA – PALAZZO MONTECITORIO (ROME)

January 29, 2018

## PRESS RELEASE

The international conference on human rights “**Beyond the Midlands<sup>3</sup>**”. How to move forward between old and new forms of human trafficking, policies to adapt and human rights to guarantee in Italy and in the world” will be held on 29 and 30 January 2018 at **Sala della Regina, Chamber of Deputies (Rome, Italy)**.

The event is organized by the NGO **On the Road** under the patronage of the **Italian Chamber of Deputies**, the **United States Embassy to Italy**, the **Equal Opportunities Department under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers**, the **Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS)**, and with the support of **CIDU (Inter-ministerial Committee for Human Rights)**.

The Conference intends to be an opportunity to discuss how to re-orient and improve the programming and the implementation of policies and measures to prevent and counteract human trafficking, and to support and protect potential, presumed or identified victims.

**Speakers:** **Giovanna Boda**, Head of Department, Equal Opportunities Department under the Presidency of the Council of Ministers; **Vincenzo Castelli**, President, Associazione On the Road Onlus; **Maria Grazia Giammarinaro**, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children; **Hélène Behr**, Senior Protection Associate, UNHCR; **Michäelle De Cock**, Senior researcher, International Labour Organization; **Mariarita Peca**, National Projects Coordinator, Doctors for Human Rights; **Corallina Lopez Curzi**, Program Coordinator Cild / Open Migration; **Claudio Donadel**, Anti-trafficking Expert; **Laura Bartolini**, Researcher, IOM; **Mark Latonero**, Senior Fellow, University of Southern California; Lead, Data & Society Research Institute; **Debra Budiani-Saberi**, Director, Coalition for Organ-Failure Solutions; **Mario Palazzi**, Public Prosecutor, Rome; **Alberto Andreani**, Programme and Capacity Building Officer, OSCE; **Mike Dottridge**, International Expert on Human Trafficking; **Salvatore Fachile**, Lawyer, ASGI; **Giorgia Serughetti**, Researcher, University of Milan Bicocca; **Giuseppe De Mola**, Researcher, Doctors without Borders Italy, Advocacy Unit; **Katharine Bryant**, Research Manager and Author, Walk Free Foundation; **Norma Negrete Aguayo**, Director, EDIAC/ECPAT Mexico; **Pedro Córdoba**, Director, Capital Humano y Social Alternativo; **R. Evon Idahosa**, Executive Director, PathFinders Justice Initiative; **Norbert Cyrus**, Senior Researcher, Europa University Frankfurt/Oder; **Suzanne Hoff**, International Coordinator, La Strada International; **Fabio Sorgoni**, Responsabile area tratta e progettazione, Associazione On the Road Onlus; **Pina De Angelis**, Social Programs Evaluator; **Isabella Orfano**, Human Rights and Anti-Trafficking Expert.





In Italy, despite the 20-year anti-trafficking system and the 20-year system of protection for asylum seekers and refugees are fully functioning and able to assist thousands of people, the same gaps continue to persist, as the **GRETA and IOM latest reports (2017)** clearly highlight. For example, identification skills are still lacking, reception facilities are insufficient and their diversification is limited, long-term inclusion programmes are insufficient, unaccompanied migrant children continue to flee from the safe houses shortly after their arrival and the measures aimed at them are inadequate, and the inter-agency coordination is not fully operationalized. Furthermore, updated research on human trafficking is lacking and no coordinated crosscutting policies capable of responding to the complexity of highly interrelated phenomena are in place.

***Beyond the Midlands<sup>3</sup>*** will be an opportunity to discuss human trafficking, starting from questioning the role of data on trafficking, clarifying the on-going confusion between phenomena and persons involved (trafficked persons, international protection applicants, refugees, irregular economic migrants), highlighting the daily struggles faced by anti-trafficking workers, the conference aims to broaden the view to understand how to combine the protection of trafficked persons and the enactment of national, European, and international respectful and responsible migration legislation and policies. It also intends to offer the opportunity to exchange knowledge and know-how by sharing practices implemented in different parts of the world, from Nigeria to Peru, from the United States to Nepal, from Mexico to Egypt, to prevent and counteract different forms of trafficking that, in some cases, are unknown in Italy.

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