The Council of Europe’s Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) published its fourth evaluation report on Norway. The report, covering the period 2022–March 2026, evaluates the measures taken by Norway to prevent vulnerabilities to trafficking in human beings, detect and support vulnerable victims, and punish offenders. In doing so, it pays particular attention to the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to commit human trafficking offences as well as the use of technological innovations to prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers.

GRETA found that Norwegian authorities have continued to develop the legislative, institutional and policy framework for combating trafficking in human beings, including the introduction of the new criminal offences of wage theft as well as amendments to the Working Environment Act and the Child Welfare Act. GRETA also welcomed the adoption of the new National Strategy against Human Trafficking for the period 2025-2030. However, GRETA found that Norway still lacks a formal and systematic mechanism for data collection on identified victims of trafficking.

With regard to asylum, GRETA highlighted that asylum seekers and refugees are particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking and asks the authorities to introduce capacity-building measures for the border police to better detect victims of human trafficking. The authorities should also facilitate greater access to the labour market, vocational training and Norwegian language courses for asylum seekers.

GRETA called on the Norwegian authorities to strengthen the identification and protection of victims of human trafficking by establishing a formalised National Referral Mechanism, clarifying the responsibilities of frontline actors and enhancing cooperation with specialised NGOs to improve proactive victim identification.

The report also highlights the low number of human trafficking convictions, particularly in cases involving labour exploitation, and recommends providing specialised police anti-trafficking units with adequate resources and strengthening training for prosecutors and judges. Further recommendations include ensuring victims' access to free legal aid and compensation, improving the application of the recovery and reflection period, and ensuring that victims are not penalised for unlawful activities they were compelled to commit.

Source(s)

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- Council of Europe (8 June, 2026), [GRETA publishes its fourth report on Norway], https://www.coe.int/en/web/anti-human-trafficking/-/greta-publishes-its-fourth-report-on-norway

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