Since David Bowie praised Ozark Henry’s debut album as one of his favorites in 1996, the Belgian artist has produced music ranging from avant-garde electronica and pop to a symphonic album with the National Orchestra of Belgium. In 2015, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) appointed Ozark Henry as its National Goodwill Ambassador against human trafficking. He has been working together with UNODC and local NGO’s ever since to raise awareness about this modern day form of slavery, and to support the Blue Heart Campaign and the Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. Currently, he is working on a 3D sound installation for the United Nations.

Irene Wintermayr joined the team of the ILO Office for the European Union and Benelux countries as a Policy Officer in 2011 and supports the office on issues related to employment and social policy, labour rights, CSR and trafficking in human beings. Prior to her employment with ILO, she worked in the Brussels office of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, gained work experience with the German NGO Weltfriedensdienst and at ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. She has also been involved in several development projects in Latin America and South Africa.

Cornelius Williams is Associate Director and global Chief of Child Protection for UNICEF’s Programme Division. He has over 25 years of experience in managing child protection programmes in Western, Eastern and Southern Africa with UNICEF and Save the Children. Mr. Williams has played a leading role in coordinating UNICEF’s engagement with governments and other partners in the development of programmes for the prevention and response to violence against children in countries in Eastern and Southern Africa.

Madi Sharma is a UK member of the European Economic and Social Committee, representing the Employers’ Group. She is an entrepreneur who founded and runs the Madi Group, a group of international private sector and not-for-profit companies, and NGOs. The philosophy is to create innovative ideas tailored to local action which can achieve global impacts beneficial to a sustainable society. Ms Sharma is a public speaker internationally, particularly in the fields of entrepreneurship, female entrepreneurship, diversity, gender balance and her passion for corporate social responsibility (CSR).

Goedele Liekens television career began in 1986. Before then, Ms. Liekens was a successful psychologist. Ms. Liekens, together with Face to Face International and Belgian Partner Sensoa (formerly CGSO Trefpunt), has produced several made-for-television documentaries for UNFPA. She reported on AIDS and fistula in parts of Africa and on women in the refugee camps of Pakistan. Based on several visits to Botswana, Ms. Liekens produced a special report for Belgian television on the HIV/AIDS crisis in Botswana.
TAKE ACTION! JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO END THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN GLOBALLY:

https://www.soldthemovie.com/take-action/

"Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery which we cannot tolerate or ignore. It’s time for action to deliver on our promises and for action to implement the strategy for the eradication of trafficking in human beings. This strategy cannot be applied without active support from civil society, which often has direct contact with the victims. Victim support associations need financial resources, as do the public services which have to deal with this unacceptable reality."

- Gabriele Bischoff, President of the EESC Workers' Group

In their quest to escape violence, persecution and poverty some migrants coming to Europe for a better life become victims of exploitation and human trafficking. According to 2016 Europol data, 70% of the identified victims and suspects in the EU are EU nationals. Current trends show that migratory flows from North Africa and the Middle East impact the field of human trafficking, but to unknown extent. It is therefore important to distinguish between human trafficking and migrant smuggling. The EESC and its permanent study group on Immigration and Integration emphasize this distinction and draw attention to the importance of meeting international human rights obligations and facilitating humanitarian aid when needed.

What can you do?

Perhaps the most effective thing everyone can do is to make sure that you are using your power as a consumer to only buy from companies that have taken steps to ensure that their supply chain is free from forced labor and labor obtained through trafficking. You can learn about which goods are mined, harvested and manufactured using child labor and forced labor, through published reports and mobile applications. You can contact companies to inquire about their corporate policies and practices regarding human trafficking. Consumers may also purchase goods identified as slavery-free. There are numerous online resources which identify which companies and products have good practices and, conversely, which companies use supply chains and practices that may be associated with trafficking and slavery-like practices. You can also raise awareness by encouraging your friends, family and colleagues to use their consumer purchasing power to address modern slavery.

The 50 for Freedom campaign aims to persuade at least 50 countries to ratify the ILO’s Forced Labour Protocol by 2018. The Protocol is a legally binding treaty that will require governments to take new measures tackling modern slavery in all its forms. It works on three main levels: protection, prevention and access to justice. So far, 4 EU Member States have ratified the Protocol. This is your chance to help end slavery once and for all. Sign up now and call on world leaders to ratify the Forced Labour Protocol: www.50forfreedom.org #50FF

The Blue Heart Campaign: The Blue Heart Campaign is an awareness raising initiative to fight human trafficking and its impact on society. It seeks to encourage involvement and inspire action to help stop this crime. The Campaign allows people to show solidarity with the victims of human trafficking by wearing the Blue Heart.

Link: https://www.unodc.org/blueheart/index.html

UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking: The donations for the Blue Heart Campaign are managed by the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking, under the lead of UNODC. The Trust Fund awards grants to NGO’s that assist victims of Human Trafficking, in countries around the world.

Link: https://www.unodc.org/unodc/human-trafficking-fund.html