

Anti-Trafficking Bulletin

Vol 10



A regular digest of information and research related to human trafficking into and within the UK.

Produced by the Research and Development Unit, on behalf of The Salvation Army's Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator.

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1. Research, reports and journal articles

1.1 An evidence assessment of the routes of human trafficking into the UK, 14 March

Home Office occasional paper which presents findings of an evidence assessment exploring the routes of (both adult and child) trafficking to the UK and the economic dimensions of human trafficking.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/immigration-asylum-research/occ103>

1.2 'No Way Out': a briefing paper on foreign national women in prison in England and Wales

<http://www.prisonreformtrust.org.uk/Portals/0/Documents/NoWayOut.pdf>

2. Political and legislative

2.1 Introduction of the Eradication of Slavery Bill, 29 February

Fiona Mactaggart introduces the Eradication of Slavery Bill, for the full text refer to:

<http://www.parliamenttoday.com/>

2.2 Debate on human trafficking – Scottish Assembly, 1 March

For the text of the full debate refer to:

<http://www.parliamenttoday.com/>

2.3 Welsh Minister calls on UK Government to follow Wales's lead in tackling human trafficking, 6 March

Welsh Minister for Local Government and Communities Carl Sargeant has called on the UK Government and the devolved administrations in the UK to follow Wales's lead in tackling human trafficking. In April 2011 the Welsh Government appointed the first Anti-Human Trafficking Co-ordinator in the UK, with the main aim being to co-ordinate support for victims and to make Wales a hostile place for human trafficking. Carl Sargeant said he would continue to encourage the UK Government and other devolved administrations to follow Wales's lead in this area and ensure they have appropriate mechanisms in place to tackle human trafficking.

2.4 GAATW report on trafficking in Europe, March 2012

The Global Alliance against Traffic in Women publishes a working paper detailing findings of their research into anti-trafficking initiatives outside of the sex industry in Europe.

<http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/news/2012/gaatw-report-trafficking-exploitation-europe>

This bulletin covers material produced during the period 30 November 2011 – 26 March 2012 although it should be noted that, due to space limitations, not all relevant material may have been included. The bulletin includes links to material and sources and is provided by way of information. The information included is not necessarily endorsed or supported by The Salvation Army.

2.5 'ECPAT calls on UK to sign up to "Optional Protocol" on international children's rights legislation'

ECPAT calls on the UK to sign up to the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which will allow children and their representatives the right to bring complaints to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

<http://www.ecpat.org.uk/media/uk-must-sign-latest-optional-protocol-international-childrens-rights-legislation>

2.6 Care of child trafficking victims to be reviewed

The Children's Commissioner for England has been commissioned to undertake a review of how child victims of trafficking are cared for in the UK.

<http://www.ecpat.org.uk/media/care-child-victims-trafficking-set-be-reviewed>

2.7 Parliamentary questions

The following section, drawn from the Hansard Commons debates, has been divided into written answers and debates / oral responses, with each section following chronological order.

Written answers

19 December

Mr Bone: To ask the Attorney-General what guidance he provides to the Crown Prosecution Service on people who might be involved in illegal activities but are also the victims of human trafficking.

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) issued revised policy guidance to prosecutors on 1 June 2011 on the prosecution of defendants (children and adults) charged with offences who might be trafficked victims. The policy advises prosecutors that they should be alert to the possibility that the suspect may be a victim of trafficking in certain types of cases and advises on the steps they should take when dealing with them.

The policy has changed from a test that a suspect is a credible trafficked victim to one where there is a credible suspicion that a suspect might have been trafficked. Where young people are involved and where there is a credible suspicion that a child or youth might have been trafficked and exploited through criminal activity, that may provide a defence of duress. Evidence of exploitation overrides the need to prove the means. This guidance has been published more widely (to the Law Society and through presentations/seminars with barristers) to ensure a wider understanding of this issue.

24 January

Mr Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to provide financial support to victims of human trafficking who wish to return to their country of origin.

Damian Green: The Government's Assisted Voluntary Returns for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) programme is available to non-European Economic Area (EEA) victims of trafficking in the UK. This programme is run in partnership with the Choices service of Refugee Action. The AVRIM scheme can provide support in acquiring travel documentation, a flight to their

country of origin and onward domestic transport, and airport assistance at departure and arrival airports. In some cases, Choices will arrange referral to appropriate partners in the country of origin. Victims may also be eligible for reintegration assistance of up to £1,000.

The Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP), also run in partnership with Choices, offers assistance to eligible non-EEA victims who have raised trafficking as part of an asylum claim and want to return permanently to their country of origin.

Assistance is also available under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC) programme where the victim is an unaccompanied child or part of a defined family unit in the UK with at least one child.

Further details can be found on the UK Border Agency website at:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/modernised/returns/assisted-voluntary-returns.pdf?view=Binary>

28 February

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools teach pupils about human trafficking.

Mr Gibb: Personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education provides opportunities for schools to teach about human trafficking. In secondary schools pupils are taught ways of recognising and reducing risk, minimising harm and getting help in emergency and risky situations. PSHE education is not compulsory and the Department does not collect information about the topics taught in each school.

13 March

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the effect of appointing an independent national rapporteur on human trafficking on levels of information about human trafficking available to (a) the Government, (b) the UK Border Agency and (c) police forces.

Damian Green: The Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking will be the UK Government's national rapporteur mechanism. It will assess trends in human trafficking using data provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre as the central intelligence hub.

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which countries (a) within and (b) outside the European Union the Government funds projects to tackle human trafficking.

Damian Green: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently funds the Malawi Anti-Child Trafficking project, run by The Salvation Army. This project aims to improve knowledge of and access to rights for children in Malawi who have been trafficked or are vulnerable to being trafficked.

DFID is also currently designing a new South Asia regional programme which will focus especially on reducing trafficking of women and girls in India, Bangladesh and Nepal, focusing on the garment and domestic work sectors.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC), part of the Serious Organised Crime Agency, is working with others on, and partly funding, a UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) led project focused on Nigeria as a source country.

Debates / Oral responses

16 January

Mr Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): What steps his Department is taking to raise awareness in schools of domestic and international human trafficking.

The Minister for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning (Mr John Hayes): Tackling human trafficking is a key priority for the Government. Last October the Department for Education and the Home Office issued updated practical guidance on safeguarding children who may have been trafficked. This will help practitioners, including school staff, identify children who may have been trafficked and find support and advice. Schools may also cover human trafficking within personal, social, health and economic education if they judge that topic to be relevant to their circumstances.

Mr Bone: I congratulate the Government on what they have done so far, but there are a number of non-governmental organisations and charities which would like to go into schools to make pupils aware of human trafficking, the evil of modern-day slavery and, particularly, internal trafficking within the United Kingdom. Would the Minister welcome such moves?

Mr Hayes: My Hon Friend has a noble record on this subject, as co-chairman of the all-party group alongside the Hon Members for Slough (Fiona Mactaggart) and for Liverpool, Riverside (Mrs Ellman), and the former Member, Mr Anthony Steen. My Hon Friend's suggestion is most welcome. He is right. I wrote in 1998 that there is no doubt that human trafficking is today's slave trade and that we will not rest until it is dealt with. I will write to charities as my Hon Friend suggests and invite them to do precisely what he proposes.

Mr Speaker: I am sure we would all in any case have remembered the precise phrasing of what the Minister of State wrote in 1998, and I cannot imagine why he would suppose otherwise.

Lisa Nandy (Wigan) (Lab): Despite efforts to improve awareness, many trafficked children still wrongly believe that their trafficker is their friend. Given that the Minister has rejected the idea of guardianship for trafficked children, can he tell me who is able to instruct a child's lawyer in cases where the child is too young, too confused, too traumatised or too afraid to do so themselves?

Mr Hayes: The Hon Lady will know that local authorities retain their responsibilities in this regard and, indeed, allocate a responsible person to deal with such children. I am aware of continuing doubts and problems concerning children being re-trafficked. Indeed, my Hon Friend the Member for Wellingborough (Mr Bone) — he was too polite to mention this — wrote to the Secretary of State on this subject only a couple of days ago. We will look closely at bringing what the Department does into line with Home Office and local authority practice. We should not rest until this matter is addressed, and we will not rest until children are freed, victims are protected and those who trade in pain and persecution are made to suffer.

18 January

Mr Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): What discussions she has had with the First Minister for Wales on cross-border human trafficking.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales (Mr David Jones): The Secretary of State met the anti-human trafficking co-ordinator for Wales in December. Combating human trafficking is a key priority for the Government and we fully recognise the importance of tackling the issue in Wales.

Mr Bone: I thank the Minister for that answer. Of course, Bob Tooby is the tsar for human trafficking in Wales. He has warned of the problem of internal trafficking, both into Wales and out of Wales. Can this House learn something from Wales? Will the Minister recommend to the Prime Minister that we have a similar tsar for the rest of the United Kingdom?

Mr Jones: The Government are very supportive of the Welsh Government's introduction of the anti-human trafficking co-ordinator for Wales. He works closely with the UK Human Trafficking Centre and I am sure that he will make his own strong representations in that regard.

Hywel Williams (Arfon) (PC): Does the Minister accept that there has long been concern about the staffing levels at Holyhead, which is the premier port between Ireland and Wales, and between Ireland and the UK? Will he assure the House that immigration and security staffing levels will be maintained at a proper level?

Mr Jones: The Hon Gentleman makes an important point, which I raised in opposition. Holyhead is an extremely important port and the Wales Office co-ordinates closely with the Home Office on that issue.

6 February

Fiona Mactaggart (Slough) (Lab): What steps the police are taking to tackle human trafficking; and if she will make a statement.

The Minister for Immigration (Damian Green): Police forces deal with trafficking as part of core business. Every one of the UK's 55 police forces has had an investigator trained in running human trafficking operations, and human trafficking is now part of mandatory training for all new police officers.

Fiona Mactaggart: Does the Minister accept that targeted police operations such as Golf and Pentameter led to some 1,000 arrests under the previous Government? His human trafficking strategy has no targets for police operations, apart from reporting that the National Crime Agency will lead to better co-ordination. Does that mean we will have to wait until 2013 and after the Olympics for effective police action against trafficking?

Damian Green: No. Moving on from only targeted operations to making anti-trafficking measures part of core police business was absolutely right and something I imagine the Hon Lady's party would have wanted to do if it had stayed in office. She will be aware, I am sure, of the importance of the 'Blue Blindfold' awareness-raising campaign, which has now been spread to all police forces, and 'Stop the Traffik' cards have been issued to 10,000 front-line neighbourhood police officers. That kind of practical action will make anti-trafficking measures by the police much more effective and widespread.

7 February

Andrew Selous (South West Bedfordshire) (Con):

What steps he is taking to increase the number of convictions for human trafficking.

The Attorney-General (Mr Dominic Grieve): The Crown Prosecution Service is working with law enforcement agencies and others in the UK, as well as in source countries, to improve the investigation and prosecution of those involved in human trafficking. The CPS is also encouraging victims of human trafficking to support criminal proceedings.

Andrew Selous: To what extent are prosecutors and police alert to the fact that British citizens are being trafficked both within the UK, as was uncovered shockingly in my constituency last September, and from the UK, as we learned earlier this month?

The Attorney-General: We are very much aware that this is a problem, but part of the difficulty is that trafficking for forced labour is notoriously difficult to establish, and often the victims will not come forward. That said, as my Hon Friend will be aware, there is now a national referral mechanism that alerts the police at neighbourhood level, the UK Border Agency, social services and charitable organisations as to how they can pick up such information and feed it into the specialist units of the police, which can then bring in the Crown Prosecution Service to try to deal with those matters.

Kelvin Hopkins (Luton North) (Lab): If the Government are serious about more prosecutions and, indeed, about preventing trafficking, should we not substantially increase the UK Border Agency's strength, with many more properly based staff so that they can do the job?

The Attorney-General: As the Hon Gentleman will appreciate, with my hat on as superintendent of the Crown Prosecution Service, it would be easy for me to ask for extra resources in all directions outside my own Department, but if he thinks that there are specific instances in which the service may be in some way deficient he should, I suggest, bring them to my attention or to that of my Right Hon Friend the Home Secretary. The evidence that I have from the Crown Prosecution Service is that it receives very good co-operation from the agencies with which it deals.

Mr Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): I thought that the Government were carrying out a review of human trafficking sentences, with a view to reporting to Parliament by now on the changes that would make conviction easier. When is that report going to be published?

The Attorney-General: I am not in a position to give my Hon Friend a precise date. What I suggest I do, as he will appreciate that the issue is outside my departmental area, is to write to him when I have ascertained whether we have further detailed information on it.

Chris Bryant (Rhondda) (Lab): Surely we are going to get many more convictions only if there is much more effective co-operation between prosecutors and police in this country and elsewhere. Given that many such gangs are elsewhere in the European Union, is not the European arrest warrant a vital part of the necessary armoury? Will the Attorney-General tell his Back Benchers that he is not going to step outside the European arrest warrant, even if they want to?

The Attorney-General: I have no doubt at all that mechanisms for co-operation throughout the European Union and, indeed, elsewhere can be very useful in the apprehension of criminals, particularly in this field. How that should best be carried out is, if I may say so to the Hon Gentleman, ultimately, I suppose, going to be a matter for this House, if it ever comes up for review.

22 February

Michael Connarty (Linlithgow and East Falkirk) (Lab):

What steps he is taking to ensure that the findings of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's inquiry into human trafficking in Scotland are discussed by the relevant officials in England and Wales.

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland (David Mundell):

The Government are considering the findings of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's inquiry into human trafficking in Scotland, in line with the ongoing implementation of the human trafficking strategy we launched in July 2011.

Michael Connarty: If the Minister had read the inquiry report, he would have seen that its main recommendation is that there should be a new human trafficking Bill for Scotland. I suggest to him that that would solve the problem of implementing the EU human trafficking directive, which we have signed up to, across the UK. I invite him and other interested parties to attend the all-party group on human trafficking next Monday in Room 7 to hear the inquiry being reported on in the House and perhaps take some advice.

David Mundell: If I am available, I will certainly be delighted to attend.

Fiona Bruce (Congleton) (Con): Does my Right Hon Friend agree that the field of human trafficking, where co-ordination between involved agencies is critical if we are to find real solutions, is yet another practical example of a policy area that is best tackled at UK level?

David Mundell: I absolutely agree with my Hon Friend that the UK can bring great weight to this issue on behalf of Scotland. It is also an issue where we have been able to work with the Scottish Government, demonstrating that the two Governments can work together on matters of great importance on a day-to-day basis.

28 February

Justin Tomlinson (North Swindon) (Con): What steps he is taking to work with his EU counterparts on tackling human trafficking.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne):

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Home Office work closely with other EU member states to try to prevent human trafficking. Three of the countries recognised in the Government's human trafficking strategy — Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia — are EU member states. We are working with partners in these countries to help to combat trafficking at source.

Justin Tomlinson: I pay tribute to the Foreign Secretary for his work in raising awareness of modern-day slavery. Given the international nature of human trafficking, what support has the Minister provided to the European Commission-backed project,

led by the Human Trafficking Foundation, to set up a parliamentary network on trafficking that aims to promote and strengthen a network of parliamentarians and businesses against trafficking in human beings throughout all EU member states?

Mr Browne: I share my Hon Friend's abhorrence of this terrible crime. We are keen to work through the Commission and through other bodies in the European Union, at Parliament-to-Parliament level, and at Government-to-Government level. For example, we share skills, knowledge and experience, and fund projects that help countries to tackle the problem at source.

Tony Lloyd (Manchester Central) (Lab): The whole House will share the Minister's abhorrence of this form of modern slavery. Will he give an absolute guarantee that nothing that this Government negotiate at the European level will make it more difficult for women, in particular, who have been trafficked to be given proper refuge in this country and that nothing will give them an incentive to continue in slavery rather than risk being sent back to their country of origin to be re-trafficked?

Mr Browne: Our intention always is to give paramount importance to the victims of such crime. When we negotiate in the European Union and elsewhere, we try to give those victims the most protection that we can.

3. Campaigns

3.1 Anti-Slavery International and Kalayaan express concern over changes to the rules for migrant domestic workers

Concerns expressed by NGOs that new rules for migrant domestic workers removing the right to change employer could put vulnerable migrant domestic workers at risk of exploitation and abuse.

http://www.antislavery.org/english/press_and_news/news_and_press_releases_2009/29022012_home_office_changes.aspx

3.2 More than Gold

The More than Gold initiative raises awareness of human trafficking and the Olympic Games 2012.

<http://www.morethangold.org.uk/service/social-justice/human-trafficking-and-prostitution.html>

4. In the News

4.1 Trafficking of children

A series of articles documenting the experiences of younger victims of trafficking:

'Three trafficking cases a week in Devon and Cornwall'

BBC, 9 January

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-16456684>

'Lone child migrants returned to France under secret deal'

BBC, 17 January

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-16575331>

'Child trafficking victims bounced back to France within hours of arrival in UK'

The Guardian, 17 January

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/jan/17/child-trafficking-victims-bounced-back?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Why is child abuse tied to witchcraft on the rise?'

The Guardian, 19 January

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/jan/18/child-abuse-witchcraft-exorcism-rise?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Girl, 10, kept as "virtual slave" in Eccles cellar'

BBC, 9 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-16974149>

'Deaf woman tells court how she was raped, beaten and treated as slave for 10 years'

The Guardian, 13 February

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/13/deaf-woman-slavery-sexual-abuse?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Slave case girl "did not understand border staff"'

BBC, 14 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17029654>

'Men "plied girls with drink and drugs for sex"'

BBC News, 21 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17117530>

'Men gave girls alcohol and drugs and forced them to have sex, court hears'

The Guardian, 21 February

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/21/men-girls-alcohol-sex-court?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Accused threatened to have 15-year-old girl killed', Rochdale rape trial hears'

The Guardian, 22 February

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/22/child-sex-trial-threatened-killed-allegations?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Rochdale "child sex-ring" subject "wanted younger girls"'

BBC, 24 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17158657>

'Eccles "slave case" girl: life away from tormentors'

BBC News, 27 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17225250>

'Abused young woman tells court of new life after "cellar ordeal"'

The Guardian, 27 February

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/27/abuse-d-woman-cellar-ordeal-trial?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Rochdale child-sex trial: witness describes alleged rape of girl, 15'

BBC, 1 March

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17225250>

'Rochdale child-sex trial: victim woke up being raped'

BBC, 7 March

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-17291143>

'Child sex trafficking case police arrest 13 in Oxford'

BBC, 22 March

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-17471806>

'Oxford police arrest 12 on suspicion of child exploitation'

The Guardian, 22 March

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/mar/22/oxford-arrests-child-exploitation?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Child prostitution inquiry: six remanded on sex charges'

BBC, 23 March

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-17496490>

'Six men charged over child sex trade'

The Guardian, 24 March

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/mar/24/six-men-arrest-child-sex?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.2 Northern Ireland

A number of reports detailing a reported increase in cases of trafficking into sexual exploitation in Northern Ireland:

'Human trafficking in NI is a "hidden crime"'

BBC, 1 December

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-15996188>

'Police identify 15 potential new sex trafficking victims'

BBC, 2 December

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16005035>

'PSNI to visit men who paid for sex with trafficked women'

BBC, 11 January

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16514720>

'Two women arrested in prostitution and trafficking investigation'

BBC, 19 January

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16630723>

'Northern Ireland sex industry "fastest growing" in UK'

BBC, 7 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-16935379>

4.3 'Call for change in law to protect prostitutes from violent crime'

The Guardian, 16 January

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2012/jan/16/change-law-prostitutes-crime-violent?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.4 'Vulnerable British men used as slaves by criminal gangs'

BBC, 1 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16847561>

4.5 'British men forced into "modern slavery" abroad'

BBC, 1 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-16836065>

4.6 'Trafficking reports "not surprising"'

BBC, 2 February

http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_9692000/9692187.stm

4.7 'Slavery is real – we must protect its victims'

The Guardian, 10 February

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2012/feb/02/rethink-attitudes-to-slavery-trafficking?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.8 'Sex workers: Handsworth convent helps victims'

BBC, 16 February

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-17068418>

4.9 'UK detention of torture victims "inhumane"'

The Guardian, 23 February

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/feb/23/uk-detention-torture-victims-inhumane?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.10 'Three arrested in Leicester people-trafficking inquiry'

BBC, 2 March

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-17241062>

4.11 'Met police sex trafficking investigations criticised'

The Guardian, 19 March

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/mar/19/met-police-sex-trafficking-investigations-criticised?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.12 'Romanian couple jailed for sex trafficking in Birmingham'

BBC, 23 March

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-birmingham-17492852>

We rely on contributions from others and would love to hear from you if you have any information to submit. For more information, or to contribute to next month's bulletin, please contact the Research & Development Unit at rdu@salvationarmy.org.uk. However, please note that due to space constrictions, not all contributions may be included.