

Anti-Trafficking Bulletin

Vol 9



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 Equality and Human Rights Commission (Scotland) presents findings of its inquiry into human trafficking

On 28 November, the EHRC (Scotland) launched its report detailing the findings of its inquiry into human trafficking in Scotland, the consultation period for which ran during the early part of 2011. The findings of the inquiry include a number of recommendations for future action regarding anti-trafficking measures by a number of stakeholders in Scotland.

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/news/2011/november/commission-in-scotland-present-findings-of-its-inquiry-into-human-trafficking/>

1.2 'In whose name? Migration and Trafficking in the UK Sex Industry: delivering social interventions between myths and reality', 31 October

ESRC-funded research conducted by London Metropolitan University which aims to explore the links between migration, the sex industry and exploitation.

http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/fms/MRSite/Research/iset/Nick%20Mai/In%20Whose%20Name_Findings%20Report.pdf

1.3 'On the Safe Side: principles for the safe accommodation of child victims of trafficking'

ECPAT UK report which lays out safety and protection standards for the placement of children who are known or suspected to have been trafficked.

http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/on_the_safe_side.pdf

1.4 'Watch over me: a system of guardianship for child victims of trafficking'

Report which supports ECPAT's call for the UK Government to develop a system of guardianship for child trafficking victims.

http://www.ecpat.org.uk/sites/default/files/watch_over_me.pdf

1.5 CEOP report into child trafficking

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre publication which includes the most recently-available data on child trafficking in the UK.

http://ceop.police.uk/Documents/ceopdocs/child_trafficking_update_2011.pdf

This bulletin covers material produced during the period 22 September 2011 – 29 November 2011 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. Political and legislative

2.1 ACPO Strategy & Supporting Operational Guidance for Policing Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation, October 2011

Revised and updated Association of Chief Police Officers strategy launched:

http://www.acpo.police.uk/documents/crime/2011/20111102%20CBA%20Policing%20Prostitution%20and%20%20Sexual%20Exploitation%20Strategy_Website_October%202011.pdf

Blog by ACPO lead for prostitution and sexual exploitation, Simon Byrne, can be found here:

<http://www.acpo.police.uk/ThePoliceChiefsBlog/SimonByrnePolicingProstitutionandSexualExploitation.aspx>

2.2 Rape Crisis launches National Service Standards

To coincide with International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women 25 November 2011, Rape Crisis (England and Wales) and Rape Crisis Scotland have launched their new National Service Standards for Rape Crisis Centres.

http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk/news_show.php?id=59

2.3 Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking group: international seminar

The PAHT group held their first international seminar on 24 November at the House of Commons. For further information visit the ECPAT website:

<http://www.ecpat.org.uk/media/parliamentarians-against-human-trafficking-group-holds-first-international-seminar>

2.4 London Safeguarding Children Board / Greater London Authority

Joint event held on 1 November to raise awareness and take stock of publication launched earlier in 2011 to help professionals who may come into contact with trafficked children. Details of upcoming training events around safeguarding and the Olympics can also be found here:

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/>

2.5 Parliamentary questions

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

Written responses (10 October)

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what ways she expects the UK Border Agency to contribute to (a) reducing the number of and (b) identifying victims of human trafficking.

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency has a vital role to play in disrupting trafficking attempts abroad and detecting trafficking both at the border and within the UK. Border staff are trained in child protection issues and to spot human trafficking; multi-agency child safeguarding and investigation teams are in place at the UK's major ports; overseas border controls stop criminals and illegal immigrants before they get to the UK; people's identities are fixed using biometrics; and alerts and intelligence tools are used to give officers the information they need to intervene. The UK Border Agency also supports the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in pursuing organised criminals involved in trafficking.

The UK Border Agency is one of the key agencies involved in the national referral mechanism (NRM), the UK's framework

for identifying and supporting trafficking victims. Together with other front line agencies such as the police, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations, the NRM shares information and expertise that can be used to confirm victim status and ensure appropriate care is provided.

House of Commons Debate (11 October)

Lisa Nandy (Wigan) (Lab): What recent discussions he has had with the Director of Public Prosecutions on the prosecution of cases involving allegations of human trafficking or slavery.

Michael Connarty (Linlithgow and East Falkirk) (Lab): What plans he has to increase prosecutions of those involved in human trafficking.

The Attorney-General: I have had no recent discussions with the Director of Public Prosecutions on the prosecution of cases involving human trafficking or slavery. However, the Crown Prosecution Service is working with law enforcement agencies and others, both in the UK and 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.

Lisa Nandy: Having worked with the remarkable children caught up in this appalling trade over many years, I can tell the Minister that the most effective way to increase the number of prosecutions is to provide support for victims. Will he mark Anti-Slavery Day by announcing a formal system of child guardianship, so that we no longer have the appalling spectacle of children as young as five having to instruct their own lawyers, simply because there is no one else to do so?

The Attorney-General: The specific matter that the hon. Lady raises is, I am afraid, outside my immediate remit in terms of my responsibilities for the CPS. As she will be aware, the Government announced the decision to opt in to the EU directive on human trafficking in March 2011. We are now working closely with the Commission on its implementation, which includes the review of our domestic legislation to ensure that it complies with the provisions, and that it does not inhibit our ability to bring successful prosecutions. The Government, the CPS and I will continue to give human trafficking a high priority. For those reasons, I hope that the hon. Lady's point will be given consideration at the same time.

Michael Connarty: I read with interest the CPS report on prosecuting human trafficking cases, and I cannot understand how the Minister can say that the matter is not within his remit, because it quite clearly talks about vulnerable children, the need for adequate support and safeguarding. It is difficult to get prosecutions if those children flee, and we do not know how many are in care or how many are missing. Surely the obvious thing to do would be to have a scheme of guardianship, in which the children are looked after individually. They could then be supported through the process of going to court, so that we can get prosecutions for this heinous crime.

The Attorney-General: I appreciate the hon. Gentleman's point, and for the reasons that I gave in answer to the hon. Member for Wigan (Lisa Nandy), I can see that it has

considerable force, but I do not think that it is the specific responsibility of the CPS to deliver on this. It would require work with other agencies to achieve it and, for those reasons, it is something that I am happy to see taken forward, but it is not something that the CPS on its own can deliver.

Mr Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): The Attorney-General is right that the issue of guardianship is for other parts of the Government. However, he is responsible for sentencing. The Government, in their human trafficking strategy, promised a review by December. Will he update us on how that review is going and congratulate the Prime Minister on marking Anti-Slavery Day by having a reception in Downing street on 19 October?

The Attorney-General: I join my hon. Friend in congratulating the Prime Minister on properly commemorating Anti-Slavery Day. I am afraid, however, that I am not in a position to give my hon. Friend an update. There is a timetable for this report to come out. If I have any further information on the matter, I shall write to him.

Keith Vaz (Leicester East) (Lab): Human trafficking is a crime that crosses borders. What discussions have been held with Europol and Eurojust to try and catch the real perpetrators of this terrible crime?

The Attorney-General: I know that there are frequent discussions between police services and the CPS and its counterparts about co-operation. As the right hon. Gentleman will be aware, the EU directive on human trafficking is designed to provide a measure of co-ordination in this area. I have to say again to him that I would be happy to arrange a briefing for him from either the police or the CPS, if that would be of assistance to him in understanding the details of how that work is carried out. However, I am confident from what I know of the work being done that a high level of co-operation is achieved with our partner countries.

Fiona Mactaggart (Slough) (Lab): The original question was about how the Attorney-General will increase the number of prosecutions. According to an answer that I received not long ago, there have been only six prosecutions for holding someone in slavery since the introduction of that specific offence 17 months ago. What will he do to increase the number of successful prosecutions for holding people in servitude?

The Attorney-General: There has been at least one reference by my office to the Court of Appeal of an unduly lenient sentence in which that sentence has been increased. In addition, I think that the CPS acknowledges that trafficking for forced labour is a particularly difficult area in which to get people to come forward and give evidence. The CPS will therefore continue to work with other agencies, including the police, to try to provide an environment in which that can better happen.

Written responses (19 October)

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people trafficked through Northern Ireland in the latest period for which figures are available.

Damian Green [holding answer 17 October 2011]: No estimate has been made of the number of people trafficked through Northern Ireland.

As set out in the Government's strategy on human trafficking, we are strengthening action at the border to improve our ability to identify those most at risk. The Home Office is working closely with the Ministry of Justice in Northern Ireland to strengthen UK borders against serious and organised crime threats such as human trafficking.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases were referred to the Trafficking Victim Support Scheme run by The Salvation Army between (a) 15 and 31 July and (b) 1 and 31 August 2011; and by whom. [73427]

Mr Blunt: The information is as follows:
(a) Between 15 and 31 July, 14 individuals were referred to the Government-funded support service for adult victims of trafficking in England and Wales, which is run by The Salvation Army. The referrals were made by the police, the UK Border Agency, HM Prison Service, charities, and solicitors.

(b) Between 1 and 31 August, 36 individuals were referred. The referrals were made by the police, the UK Border Agency, social services, charities, solicitors, and by individual victims (self-referral).

Oral responses (25 October)

Mr Peter Bone (Wellingborough) (Con): What recent guidance he has issued to overseas posts on implementing the new Government strategy on human trafficking.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to all overseas posts on 19 July welcoming the strategy and outlining its aims. We soon expect to finalise with the Home Office the strategy for priority countries. When that process is complete, the Foreign Secretary will write to ambassadors and high commissioners in those countries, instructing them to incorporate trafficking objectives into their work.

Mr Bone: I thank the excellent Minister for that response. Prevention is better than cure. If a young woman is trafficked into this country, she will be rescued, but it is better that she is not trafficked in the first place so that she does not have to suffer modern-day slavery and all that goes with it. It is our ambassadors and delegations abroad who are our first step in warning people of the dangers of trafficking. Does the Minister agree?

Mr Browne: I strongly agree with my hon. Friend. We are working with foreign governments to build their capacity to disrupt human trafficking – for example, we are working with judges and prosecutors in priority countries to increase prosecutions; we are working with the Serious Organised Crime Agency to prevent trafficking by building capacity; and we are addressing the root causes by alleviating poverty through our work with the Department for International Development.

Keith Vaz (Leicester East) (Lab): The key necessity is to track down and prosecute those who are responsible for trafficking. Four international organisations are involved:

Europol, Interpol, the Southeast European Co-operative Initiative, and the European Union. How are the Government attempting to co-ordinate those organisations?

Mr Browne: I agree that it is desirable to co-ordinate that kind of international work, but we are also working in tandem with countries where our embassies are developing programmes of the type that I have just mentioned. We are not ruling out any ways of trying to achieve our common objectives.

Written responses (7 November)

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many calls were received by (a) the Metropolitan Police's trafficking victim helpline and

(b) the UK Human Trafficking Centre's victim helpline in October 2011.

Nick Herbert: The Metropolitan Police's trafficking victim helpline received one call in October 2011.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) does not have a victim helpline. The public number for the UKHTC is for all inquiries, referrals to the National Referral Mechanism and operational and tactical advice on any human trafficking related matters. A 24/7 tactical advice capability is also available from this number.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to provide safe homes for (a) adult and (b) child victims of human trafficking.

Damian Green: We have introduced a new model for supporting adult victims of human trafficking in England and Wales, which provides accommodation and support tailored to the needs of individual victims. In its capacity as prime contractor under this new model, The Salvation Army has contracted with various organisations to deliver a range of support to meet the diverse needs of victims. This provision includes safe houses across England and Wales. Local authorities have a statutory duty under the Children Act to safeguard and promote the welfare of any child in need. Each child in local authority care is allocated a social worker who assesses their needs and draws up a care plan which sets out how the authority intends to respond to the full range of the child's needs.

For children who may have been trafficked, the social worker's assessment should identify the child's vulnerability to the continuing control of his or her traffickers. The local authority should then place the child with a carer (foster or residential) who has the necessary skills and experience to support them in a safe environment.

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Northern Ireland Executive on separated and trafficked children in Northern Ireland.

Damian Green: We work closely with the Northern Ireland Executive to ensure a joined-up approach to tackling human trafficking across the UK. The Northern Ireland Executive is a member of the Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group on human trafficking which brings together the devolved

Administrations and key departments across government. The group provides oversight of the UK's anti-trafficking work, including implementation of the Government's human trafficking strategy and its associated actions in relation to trafficked children.

Written responses (23 November)

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 7 November 2011, *Official Report*, column 54W, on human trafficking, what costs were associated with the operation of the Metropolitan Police's trafficking victim helpline in (a) October 2011 and (b) each financial year since it was created.

Damian Green: The Metropolitan Police Service's trafficking free phone line cost £128.40 to install and has been operational since April 2011. The first year costs are currently calculated at £189 or £15.75 per month. Staff costs are nominal. Approximately 40 calls have been received on the line since April, of which five have been confirmed as victims of trafficking and referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

3. Campaigns

3.1 STOP the TRAFFIK and the United Nations launch awareness raising campaign around trafficking and the Olympics

STOP the TRAFFIK launch 'GIFT box' – a project to raise awareness about human trafficking which will be unveiled in London during the 2012 Olympics. The campaign is looking for volunteers to either host or sponsor a GIFT box. For further information email: ungiftbox@stopthetraffik.org

3.2 End Violence Against Women

On International Day to Eliminate Violence Against Women (25 November) the End Violence Against Women lobby call on the UK Government to take action on violence against women at home and abroad:

<http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/index.php>

3.3 Anti-Slavery International holds a series of events to mark Anti-Slavery Day (18 October)

http://www.antislavery.org/english/press_and_news/news_and_press_releases_2009/181011_mike_leigh_supports_antislavery_day.aspx

4. In the News

4.1 'Slovakian couple from Crewe deny slavery charges'

BBC News, 28 November

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-15929766>

4.2 Coverage of the findings of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (Scotland) inquiry into human trafficking

'Inquiry report calls for new approach on human trafficking'
BBC News, 28 November

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-15897846>

'Trafficked people being treated as criminals by officials, inquiry says'

Guardian, 27 November

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/nov/27/human-trafficking-crime-victims?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.3 'The business of human trafficking'

Guardian, 8 November

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/blog/human-trafficking-rights-business?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.4 'Trafficking in Britain: "for five months I asked when I would get a job but all I did was clean their home"'

Guardian, 6 November

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2011/nov/06/trafficking-britain-eastern-europe?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.5 'Most London sex workers "not trafficked" says study'

BBC News, 31 October

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-15522279>

4.6 'Editor for *The Observer* wins Human Trafficking Foundation Media Award'

Guardian, 20 October

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/gnm-press-office/observer-editor-htf-media-awards-2011?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.7 Child trafficking

A series of articles highlighting the plight of trafficked children:

'Children lost from care in human trafficking cases, says council'

Guardian, 18 October

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/oct/18/children-lost-human-trafficking?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Children trafficked for "sex work and drug production"'

BBC News, 18 October

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15352651>

'Joy vanished into Britain's child-sex trade – why aren't we looking for her?'

The Observer, 16 October

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/oct/16/britains-child-sex-trade?INTCMP=SRCH>

'Charities accuse ministers of breaking pledges on missing children'

Guardian, 15 October

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2011/oct/15/charities-ministers-pledges-missing-children?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.8 'Modern slavery: the plight of migrant domestic workers in the UK'

Guardian, 18 October

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/the-womens-blog-with-jane-martinson/2011/oct/18/visa-migrant-domestic-workers?INTCMP=SRCH>

4.9 'African children trafficked to UK for blood rituals'

BBC News, 12 October

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15280776>

4.10 'Cambridgeshire churches unite against people trafficking'

BBC News, 10 October

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-15242223>

4.11 'Two Scots jailed over UK sex trafficking offences'

BBC News, 3 October

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-15150364>

4.12 'Refuge for sex traffic victims set up in north Wales'

BBC News, 2 October

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-15142777>

4.13 'Eleven Greater Manchester men facing sex ring trial'

BBC News, 23 September

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-15039961>

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.