

ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER'S ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

18:00 – 20:00, 6th October 2016 Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Globe House, 89 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PN

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern (AR)
TJ Birdi (TB)
Gillian Rivers (GR)
Sandra Horely CBE (SH)
The Rt. Hon Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss GBE
Mick Clarke (MC)

Apologies:

Francis Campbell (FrC)
Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo (MSS)
Yasmin Walijee OBE (YW)
Eamonn Doran (ED)
Sir Matthew Baggott CBE (MB)

Other:

Bernard Silverman

Office of Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner:

Kevin Hyland OBE, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (KH)
Tim Weedon, Chief of Staff (TW)
Tatiana Gren-Jardan, Partnerships and Victim Care Adviser (TGJ)
Claire Brickell, Senior Research Officer (CB)
Annie Kyei, Communications Officer (AK)

1) Bishop Alastair – Welcome and review of minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed
All present were introduced, particularly for potential new panel member, Bernard Silverman

2) IASC Update

Thanks:

Thanks to Bishop Alastair for support, and to all panel members
There is not a single panel member who isn't doing something with the team

Biggest challenge:

The main challenge to progress is our law enforcement response (CB shared police data tables)
Police data will be published in annual report and has been shared with ministers, policing leads, PM
The data shows how many victims are referred for support, crimed and detected
Results have shown significant under-reporting of modern slavery crimes by police eg. South Wales – not a single crime report
Yet PSNI has 100% crime rate, therefore we know it can be done

Moving forward:

In the coming year we will push forward in specific areas, as detailed in the annual report

We have big opportunities eg. PM completely committed to this

We have good allies and friends to push in the right direction with good diplomatic considerations

The events on the 12th will aid this with high level attendees– all of whom commit to this agenda

Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern asked if the panel has a role in encouraging best practice/culture change, since the panel is a less threatening group and can have an open discussion

IASC explains he wants completed reform of the NRM

NRM was created for 100 cases a year; now we see 3500 so this needs to fulfil law enforcement requirements also

The panel could meet with the National Police Chief Council

This doesn't have to be attached to the Met, but maybe the midlands eg. NCA have accommodation in Derbyshire, or Birmingham

ACTION: Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern to organise a meeting

Bernard Silverman asked if there is scope for those who have done well to explain to others in order to encourage best practice

IASC agreed and gave example through work with Gill and partnerships

But ultimately, as when IASC met with Peter Fahey (former GMP), it should be integration rather than partnership among statutory agencies and NGOs; through integration, there would then be no need for meetings and people will respond naturally, with systems embedded as part of statutory responsibility

3) AK – Overview of Anti-Slavery Day events

What?

Annual Report Launch, Hogan Lovells, London, 12/10

A wreath laying to commemorate the work of William Wilberforce and mark the United Kingdom's commitment to combat modern slavery, Westminster Abbey, London, 12/10

Why?

Both events have been organised in order to:

- Bring focus to the crime of modern slavery
- Communicate achievements, aims and focus for IASC
- Galvanise action to improve UK efforts
- Highlight leadership of UK in global fight
- Bring together all key actors
- Bridge the gap between those on the ground and policy makers
- Strengthen partnerships across the UK, including with devolved administrations
- Provide an opportunity to engage with NGOs, allowing them to feel heard

Who?

Both events bring together key actors in the anti-slavery sector; with this being the first time all will have joined together for such an event.

Gillian Rivers asked how the IASC team would capture and consider ideas

AK explained that the team will take minutes and follow up with a snapshot and next steps

Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern asked if there are specific individuals to give attention to and what specific message should be shared

ACTION: AK to share guest list and messaging briefing note with panel

4) TW – Overview of IASC Annual Report

TW shared highlights, as detailed in annual report [here](#)

Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern asked if DFID is leading on 8.7/Nigeria work

TW explained it is led by the Modern Slavery Unit in the Home Office. The Office should get a full response from Home Secretary in next 2 weeks following Commissioner's report, but there have been delays in this getting to ministers. TW explains there will be a relatively senior person from DFID to sit across international work (someone who previously worked for DFID in Nigeria) but we do not yet know exactly how they will drive this forward

Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss asked what can be done in the Lords. Since it is hard to find time for a debate and asking questions does not always produce results, she suggested convening a meeting and using the parliamentary group to see if something can be done. She also noted a meeting with Shawn Sawyer later this term (15/11, Committee Room 3)

TW suggested also going through the APPG on Nigeria

ACTION: Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss to convene something with the APPG on Nigeria, and will invite Fiona; TW to liaise

Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern suggests operating in smaller groups within the panel and the IASC team, eg. Claire and Bernard to scope research done in the UK and internationally

Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss informed group of Romanian judges who have been invited to come to London to be hosted by inner temple to discuss modern slavery; this would be a good opportunity to bring an IASC member of staff to assist at the inner temple on the programme.

5) Bishop Alastair – Discussion on IASC activity

Helpline:

The helpline is due to be launched 18/10 but it looks like this date will be pushed back

Unseen have been given the all clear but have now raised complaint against IASC

Polaris are keen to engage with IASC

The APPG have asked IASC to look at the design of the central repository

IASC is, and always has been, of the opinion that there needs to be an ethical, transparent helpline that focuses on assistance and data collection

ACTION: Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern explains he has raised this with ministers and he will now chase

ACTION: Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern to set up a meeting with Brad Miles, CEO of Polaris, when in London 17/10

Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss notes that the helpline must be separate from the repository. This is not about making money, therefore IASC and the panel must be careful when it comes to supporting such an initiative; at this stage we must stand back from recommending anyone.

Funding:

IASC just received this year's allocation of funding and it does not amount to what was previously agreed in the contract

IASC is due to speak to the Home Secretary soon to discuss

ACTION: Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss, as Chairman of the APPG, to write a letter on behalf of the panel to say that promises have been made but not fulfilled and we need better

ACTION: Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern to also write a letter

ACTION: Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss, to share letter that Alastair Redfern writes with Fiona Hill

6) Bishop Alasdair – Proposals for new Panel members

Two potential new panel members/advisors:

Bernard Silverman (in Home Office until March)
XXXXXX (survivor of modern slavery)

KH explains that firstly, Bernard Silverman is an expert on data, he led the UK's first estimation of the number of victims of modern slavery in the UK and he is soon to step down from the Home Office; secondly, XXXXXX is a survivor of slavery who is now part of the community and an excellent spokesperson who could add knowledge and insight in a different way. Alternatively, XXXXXX could chair a separate group of 4-5 survivors.

TJ Birdie suggests having XXXXXX as a special advisor on certain issues instead, such as victim care in the UK, with clear instructions on what would be expected. TJ notes the group would need to be careful and ensure care/management needs are thought through

KH agrees it would be best to have XXXXXX as special advisor to panel/KH who feeds into the group at appropriate times, and could attend on occasions

ACTION: Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern to see that XXXXXX becomes an advisor, and to work closely with TJ Birdie to consider what a group of survivors would look like and how they might contribute

Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern suggests we invite Bernard to join the panel in principle but allow him to make the decision on when. Bishop Alastair explains that we will be writing a letter from the panel to the Home Secretary, but to prevent a conflict of interest he could join after the letter is sent

Bernard Silverman agrees to this, but also notes that he can declare a conflict of interest and step out

AOB

Issue of Calais raised during discussion, with panel members questioning how we can assist those who have a right to be in this country especially in light of the camp closure

ACTION: TGJ to send Calais letter to panel members

ACTION: Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern and Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss to discuss who to ask questions to and what interventions to make

Modern Slavery taskforce: during discussion, IASC explained that he will sit on the high level taskforce