

INDEPENDENT ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER'S ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

Minutes

18:00 – 19:30, 5th April 2017

Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner,
Globe House, 89 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PN

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern
TJ Birdi
The Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-
Sloss GBE
Mick Clarke
Gillian Rivers
Francis Campbell
Professor Bernard Silverman

Apologies

Yasmin Waljee OBE
Sandra Horely CBE
Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo
Sir Matt Baggott CBE
Eamonn Doran

Office of Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner:

Kevin Hyland OBE, Independent Anti-
Slavery Commissioner
Tim Weedon, Chief of Staff
Tatiana Gren-Jardan, Partnerships and

Victim Care Adviser

Chris Ansell, Office Manager

Camilla Monckton, Policy and Projects
Officer

Annie Kyei, Communications Officer

Apologies

- **Dr. Claire Brickell**, Senior Research
Officer
- **Harry Hennigan**, Criminal Justice Adviser

Introductions

- The minutes from the previous meeting (06/10/2016) were agreed.
- IASC welcomed the panel members and thanked them for their work.

IASC OFFICE UPDATES:

Law Enforcement (IASC)

- Last year The Home Secretary commissioned HMIC to do an inspection of all police forces responses to modern slavery. IASC had a significant role in advising HMIC on the inspection. The report is due to be published in June ahead of the second phase of the inspection.
- The NCA is stepping up their response under new leadership from Will Kerr and Lynne Owens and are carrying out more operational activity.
- The Police Transformation Fund for modern slavery is now being delivered and IASC is monitoring its implementation.

Comments from the panel

- **Butler-Sloss** asked whether many PCC's had modern slavery in their crime and policing plans.
 - **IASC** said that letters were sent to all PCC's, when IASC's Strategic Plan was published and again after new PCC's were elected in May 2016, urging PCC's to include modern slavery in their plans. The Commissioner has helped establish a PCC modern slavery network with Mark Burns-Williams, the PCC for West Yorkshire. The network meets quarterly.

Victim Identification and Care (Tatiana Gren-Jardan)

- After IASC raised his concerns about lack of benefits and adequate long term support and treatment of modern slavery victims the House of Commons Select Committee for Work and Pensions launched an inquiry into the Department for Work and Pensions' policies in relation to recognized victims of modern slavery. IASC submitted written evidence and Tatiana Gren-Jardan and IASC both gave oral evidence. The report is likely to be published when parliamentary recess is out.
- The Independent Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration finalised their inspection of UK Border Force's effectiveness in identifying victims at the border and the government have published their response accepting 9 out of 12 recommendations and partially accepting 3.

- The report on the links between homelessness and modern slavery that IASC commissioned The Passage to draft has received a positive response with local authorities asking what they can do to help and the West Yorkshire anti-slavery partnership piloting the recommendations. No.10 have also shown interest in the piece of work.
- The Coop have launched the 'Brighter Future Initiative' with City Hearts who are service providers in the Salvation Army contract and have a number of safe houses across the north west of England. The initiative provides a four week placement for victims of modern slavery with a guaranteed non-competitive interview at the end. IASC is looking to see how this could be scaled up both within the Coop and in other businesses. In October Coop will also be running an awareness raising campaign amongst their members and customers.
- IASC has been in discussion with the Local Government Association and is looking at the opportunity of providing a guide for local councils on their duty and responsibilities under the Modern Slavery Act and other pieces of legislation.

Comments from the panel

- **Butler-Sloss** said that she raised the issue of modern slavery at a debate in the homelessness reduction bill and the Minister hadn't considered the connection between modern slavery and homelessness.

IASC Research (Tim Weedon on behalf of Dr. Claire Brickell)

- IASC's report on examining the dynamics of Vietnamese national's exploitation on route to and while in the UK will be disseminated across HMG internally in May with a view for a public version to be published in June.
- IASC is working with Nottingham University to carry out research on mapping multi agency partnerships across the UK to see which are effective and those which aren't as well as mapping partnerships geographically. The second part of the research will be identifying good practice and what makes a multi-agency partnership successful and what could be replicated in other parts of the country. A final conference with partners will be hosted in November.
- IASC is continuing to bi-annually request data from Police forces asking them to provide IASC with information on how many of the NRMs that their force have referred have been crimed. The latest returns are currently being quality assured.

Private Sector (Camilla Monckton)

- Despite the fact that Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act has clearly pushed modern slavery up the business agenda into the board room, the quality of statements remains weak. IASC laid out his views on the impact of the Modern Slavery Act and HMG's efforts to tackle slavery in supply chains in [written evidence](#) to the Business and Human Rights inquiry held by the Joint Committee on Human Rights. The committee [published their report](#) on 5th April 2017.
- On the anniversary of the Modern Slavery Act, through the UN Global Compact, the Commissioner reached out to over 1000 companies detailing his expectations of compliance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act.
- IASC put out a call for written submissions for the best model for a central repository model for statements under Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act and wrote to all those submitted summarising his conclusions. Discussions are ongoing with those running existing central repositories.

Comments from the panel:

- **Francis Campbell** suggested the Commissioner target the big six companies and engage closely with companies such as PwC and other leading auditing companies.

Communications update (Annie Kyei)

- There has been a significant increase in media pieces that mention IASC's work in national media, devolved administration media and internationally.
- For anti-slavery day 2017 IASC is likely to organise events in a similar format to 2016, a policy focused event followed by an evening event.

National Referral Mechanism consultations update (Tatiana Jordan)

- IASC sent a letter to Sarah Newton laying out his views on how the National Referral Mechanism should be reformed and is has been carrying out a consultation process with stakeholders. The letter has been well received and No.10 are calling on IASC for further advice.

Comments from the Panel

- **Baroness Buttler-Sloss** asked whether the letters are in the public domain and IASC clarified that IASC's letter to Sarah Newton but it is up to the Home Office if they publically publish any of their communications.
- **TJ Birdie** asked about whether there had been any progress around statutory duty of care. In IASC's letter to Sarah Newton IASC highlighted the importance of ensuring a consistent approach to supporting victim's across the UK following the good practice of Scotland and Northern Ireland in providing access to support before and after the NRM. IASC, through discussions with the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit, is making progress in this area.
- **Mick Clarke** said that the response to the NRM letter highlights the systemic change that IASC can bring and *Tatiana Gren-Jardan* said that IASC would be sending another letter when the consultation process is complete.

International Engagements (Tim Weedon)

- The Modern Slavery Taskforce has mandated an international strategy that is modelled on IASC' advice. The strategy focuses on the major source countries, countries where there is a high prevalence of slavery and the UK has diplomatic leverage, and, on how to increase cohesion across the multi-lateral system and in the UN in particular.
- Modern slavery is now a foreign policy priority and DFID are improving their response.
- IASC is pleased that following the report submitted to HMG on trafficking from Nigeria that £5 million has been dedicated to tackling trafficking from Nigeria. IASC is engaging with the Home Office as it is being decided exactly how these funds will be sent.
- IASC was recently in Romania sharing the work produced following the secondment of the Romanian Home Affairs Attaché to IASC's office. It has now been confirmed that a Romanian labour inspector will be seconded to the Gangmasters Licensing and Abuse Authority.
- Dr. Brickell, IASC's Senior Research Officer is completing a research document examining the complex dynamics of exploitation from Vietnam to the UK. This has unearthed a broader issue that the NCA are sitting on a vast amount of information that is not being used and has highlighted discrepancies in the information held by UKVI and in the NRM.
- Following the completion of this piece of work, Dr. Brickell hopes to dedicate some of her resource to research in Albania.

- Following IASC's call to visit the Hotspots in Italy and Greece in spring 2016 and the IASC's consequent report on improving protection measures against trafficking, DFID have put funding towards greater protection measures for vulnerable migrants.
 - Further discussions are being had about how information can be shared among agencies such as the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), EUROPOL and Frontex, the EU border agency.
 - Yvette Cooper has invited IASC to give evidence before the Home Affairs Select Committee.
- On the multi-lateral level IASC is pushing for UN agencies to work better together and link into broader migration work. Currently anti-slavery efforts are not sufficiently embedded into humanitarian protection work streams. IASC is pushing for initiatives such as the training of UN Peace Keepers.
- IASC is working closely with Alliance 8.7 to drive forward implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 that calls to end modern slavery.
- IASC was asked to represent the UK and address the UN Security Council on slavery in conflict.
- More and more countries are showing interest in improving the anti-slavery efforts. Australia has launched a full inquiry into the feasibility of passing their own Modern Slavery Act and have invited IASC to give evidence in person.

Comments from the Panel

- **Bernard Silverman** noted that the FCO had asked him to talk to the UN statistics commission and that organisations such as the UN University are looking to the UK for leadership.
- **Mick Clarke** asked about what engagement had been had with China. **Tim Weedon** mentioned that the Home Office had been doing some work with China on the operational level and on National Referral Mechanisms.
- **Gillian Rivers** said that she could see the role of an International Liaison Judge being useful in the modern slavery field in the same way it is in the Child Abduction arena. **Butler-Sloss** concurred and the two agreed to discuss this possibility further.
- **Francis Campbell** raised the issue of ensuring that modern slavery remains a focus on the long term and that interest does not fade and also, noted the importance of considering the impact of Brexit, both on limiting Government capacity in the coming years, and on policy related to modern slavery.
 - It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Advisory Panel meeting.

Professionalism and accountability in the anti-slavery sector (IASC)

- According to the Charity Commission there are 154 charities working on human trafficking and we need to ensure that all these organisations are working together and professionally.
 - The National Audit Office (NAO) is currently planning a study of the Home Office's Modern Slavery Strategy. The scope of our work is still under development, but it is expected that it will include an examination of the achievements of the strategy so far, the processes and partners in place to deliver the strategy and the risks to the delivery of the strategy in future and how these are being managed.
 - Next year IASC will look more closely into how the sector can be professionalised.
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