

INDEPENDENT ANTI-SLAVERY COMMISSIONER'S ADVISORY PANEL MEETING

Minutes

18:00 – 19:30, 22nd November 2017

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

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

- Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern (AR)
- The Rt Hon Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss GBE (EBS)
- Mick Clarke (MC)
- Professor Bernard Silverman (BS)
- Yasmin Waljee OBE (YW)
- Sandra Horely CBE (SH)
- Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo (MSS)
- Sir Matt Baggott CBE (MB)
- Eamonn Doran (ED)

Apologies

- TJ Birdi
Gillian Rivers
- Francis Campbell

Office of Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner:

- Kevin Hyland OBE, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (KH)
- Ian Sweet, Director of Operations (IS)
- Tatiana Gren-Jardan, Director of Strategy (TJ)
- Chris Ansell, Office Manager (CA)
- Annie Kyei, Communications Officer (AK)
- Caroline Beaujet, International Lead (CB)
- Emily Kenway, Private Sector Engagement and Labour Exploitation Lead (EK)
- Vicky Brotherton, Protection and Partnerships Lead (VB)

Bishop Alastair Redfern: Welcome and review notes of meeting 05/04/2017

- AR welcome Advisory Panel members
- No comments/actions from previous minutes

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner: Update on key current issues

- KH thanked Advisory Panel members for engagement, including looking into homelessness with Mick Clarke, and research with Bernard Silverman
- KH gave an update on the PM's Taskforce, with Ministers, police, security agencies, Europol and Interpol

- KH explained that ministerial changes – Minister for Crime, Vulnerability and Safeguarding, have been made and having worked well with Sarah Newton MP he hopes to do the same with her successor, Victoria Atkins MP
- KH outlined NRM update with positive changes based on recommendations made following stakeholder consultations
- KH explained the need to push for professionalism, to ensure the response to modern slavery is embedded in existing systems
- KH gave Panel the IASC Annual Report
- KH provided overview of increased Government funding and Global Modern Slavery Fund

SH – commented on strong letter to Sarah Newton MP in regards to the National Referral Mechanism reform, and stressed the need to prevent victims needing to prove themselves as victims, as well as responding in similar manner to domestic violence.

SH noted the nexus between modern slavery and domestic violence.

SH echoed the need for more funding for community based engagements, as outlined in the letter to Sarah Newton MP.

MC – commented on the need for translating all of this into action

MB – asked if there is a role for the Victims' Commissioner

KH confirms there is indeed a role and IASC has an MoU with the Victims Commissioner, but more needs to be done to advance action

AR encouraged IASC that the work is commendable; a growing number of reports and debates show the increase in engagement on this issue

Ian Sweet (Director of Operations): Overview of IASC team changes and on-going recruitment

Recruitment

- IS explains IASC has undergone recruitment throughout the summer – autumn months
- Each new team member introduced themselves, including Caroline Beaujet, International Lead; Emily Kenway, Private Sector Engagement and Labour Exploitation Lead; Vicky Brotherton, Protection and Partnerships Lead
- IS informs Panel the Private Secretary will also join the team shortly, leading to a total of 10 staff members, plus IASC

Structure

- IS stresses that much has been achieved on a small team;
- IS highlighted the importance of preventing the team from becoming a “long hours culture”;
- IS explains there are currently 3 posts advertised, and going forward IASC will grow to 18 staff members, building resilience across all priorities;

Future headwinds

- IS mentions that for a bigger team we need a bigger budget and we will also need a larger office;
- IS notes it is important for IASC's independence to remain protected
- IS informs Panel IASC has received more Freedom of Information requests – one of which is for communication between IASC and Advisory Panel members

Tatiana Gren-Jardan (Director of Strategy): Overview of IASC annual report

TJ shares key achievements including:

- changes to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- victim support inquiry by the Department for Work and Pensions
- culture change by the UK Border Force due to inspection in partnership with ICIBI – materials/training have been changed, new approach with stakeholders introduced
- Immigration Enforcement is now doing an internal assessment as seeking advice from IASC
- improved support in migrant camps, engagement with Calais and Greece
- training of 1500 judges in England and Wales, with Northern Ireland/Scotland keen for the same, as well as similar programme through CPA
- launch of partnerships research
- private sector engagement increased, with collaboration with Unilever, GLAA
- IASC provided advice to Australian government on modern slavery legislation
- international collaboration has continued in Nigeria and Vietnam, including publication of IASC report on Vietnamese trafficking
- IASC presented at UNGA, including speaking to 37 leaders at PM's side-event

EBS comments on Independent Child Trafficking Advocates scheme; the Bedfordshire report was not accurately transcribed and EBS urges those involved to look at what was said in the Bedfordshire Report, rather than comments from the Minister which were misleading

TJ notes there is an Independent Expert panel, as recommended by IASC, discussing this, monitoring and evaluating the work of the advocates in the early adopter sites

KH highlights the £7 million for Nigeria will focus on livelihoods, preventing victims arriving in the UK

Annie Kyei (Communications Officer): Overview of the Annual report launch events and most recent media coverage/IASC website

Media engagement

- AK updates on media engagement, noting IASC has been featured in approximately 200 media pieces so far this year (double this time last year)
- AK outlines top media pieces, including in The New York Times, The Times, The Evening Standard/The Independent, The Daily Mirror, The Financial Times, plus leading broadcast outlets and coverage in the Devolved Administrations
- AK notes that there has been an increase number of film and documentary requests, including "Why Slavery", due to reach an estimated 700 million worldwide in Spring 2018
- AK highlighted the success of the Evening Standard special investigation, heavily driven by IASC

Website

AK outlines the following new functions on the website:

- Media reports are live as a new page on the website and will continue to be published every Monday
- The public can sign up to the IASC mailing list, with the option given to them on every main page of the website
- The number of news and insights pieces detailed on the homepage has increased

- The IASC twitter feed is streaming at the bottom of each page
- Resources have been divided into subsections, increasing user ease

Events

- AK comments on success of Anti-Slavery Day events in London
- AK notes increase of events this year, with the report launched in North Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland to a variety of stakeholders

Tatiana Gren-Jardan (Director of Strategy): Overview of IASC Strategic Plan 2018-2020

- TJ explains the draft of the next IASC strategic plan is ready, focusing on the same 5 priority areas, together with role of research and communications
- TJ notes the message of professionalism and accountability is throughout the Strategic Plan, and a calling for other agencies to report on the response to modern slavery

Prof. Bernard Silverman: Establishment of a research advisory sub-panel

- BS asks for larger research panel to advise/guide the IASC Advisory Panel, and seeks approval from the Panel to invite members to a sub-panel
- BS explains it is a matter of expanding the network, but may incur small resource request
- BS mentions it would not be advertised, but invitation only

MC and YW agree such a Panel would work

AR summarises that all of the Panel authorise the sub-panel

Bishop Alastair Redfern: Discussion on IASC activity and work of the Panel

AR notes that following BS sub-panel idea, there may be more that Panel members can do to support IASC/add value to the work

KH highlights example for MB to utilise expertise to gather law enforcement leads, supporting views of IASC, and suggests the potential for sub-panels on law enforcement or victims

KH suggests SH chair a group of victims in order to ensure the victims' voices are heard

SH welcomes this idea, noting that Refuge is supporting 6000 victims on any given day, and that there may be overlap with other sub-panels

KH notes these sub-panels should be formally included in the upcoming strategy

KH invites MSS to utilise influence for international engagement

MSS agrees the need for international corporations to improve their response to modern slavery, and utilise Ambassadors (as was achieved with SDG Goal 8.7)

TJ notes IASC understands the need to work with embassies and this will be a priority for IASC's International Lead, working with European countries/utilising the CPA

KH notes he is due to meet with head of the Cabinet Office 23/11 to discuss IASC involvement in the Commonwealth Summit, and has been offered the Jerusalem Chamber in Westminster Abbey to host an event for embassies (which the Home Secretary has agreed to chair)

AR notes that as the team grows, we need to ensure the right interaction is in place between priority leads and Panel members

YW is looking into different research internally on legislation, and has considered utilising other research groups – YW notes the need to bring in IASC's Private Sector Lead

KH notes the need to also utilise faith groups

AR summarises, the Panel will endorse BS subpanel, potentially with further subpanels/work on law enforcement, victims, corporate practice, the role of embassies, faith groups; AR encourages Panel members to look into this further and deliver a proposal to the rest of the Panel

AOB and closing

AR closes, noting the Panel has a renewed sense of direction, and will continue liaising with the IASC team

MSS asks whether the Mayor of London is involved

KH confirms the Mayor has commented as part of the Evening Standard campaign, but the action is not clear. KH intends to look into this further in 2018, together with follow-up from the Standard

TJ suggests moving forward the Advisory Panel will take place every 4 months, with the next meeting to take place at the end of April 2018