

Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Advisory Panel Meeting

18:00 – 19:30, 17th December 2015

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

ATTENDEES

Board Members:

- Rt. Revd Dr Alastair Redfern (AR)
- Sir Matthew Baggott CBE (MB)
- TJ Birdi (TB)
- Francis Campbell (FrC)
- Mick Clarke (MC)
- Fiona Cunningham (FiC)
- Eamonn Doran (ED)
- Gillian Rivers (GR)
- Sandra Horely CBE (SH)
- Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo (MSS)
- Yasmin Walijee OBE (YW)

Apologies

- The Rt. Hon Baroness Elisabeth Butler-Sloss GBE

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)
- **Harry Hennigan**, Criminal Justice Adviser (HH)
- **Chris Ansell**, Office Manager and Training Lead (CA)
- **Camilla Monckton**, Policy and Projects Officer (CM)

ITEM 1: Welcome and Introductions: Kevin Hyland

KH opened and thanked attendees for joining the meeting and for all the assistance and expertise individuals on the board have offered so far.

KH outlined his priorities as commissioner as detailed in his Strategic Plan 2015-2017: Victim identification and care, driving an improved law enforcement and criminal justice response, promoting best practice in partnership working, private sector engagement to encourage supply chain transparency and combat labour exploitation and international collaboration. He stressed that it is only if these five priorities all work together that real change can be achieved.

FiC: Agreed that the Panel is working well and credited this to the Commissioner's leadership and professional background.

ITEM 2: Overview of progress of the Office of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner: Tim Weedon

- The immediate aims of the Commissioner are to work to push the police and NGOs to increase identifications and increase investigations, prosecutions and convictions. Improvement in this area can already be noted:
 - There has been a 35% increase in victims identified has been noted over the last year, from 2,340 in 2014 to 3,170 in 2015.
 - Ministry of Justice data on prosecutions has shown that between April - Nov 2015 / 2016 prosecutions were up to 233 compared to 176 in 2014/2015 period.
- The Commissioner has engaged with police chiefs from every force and is maintaining constant engagement and always pushing for more. One mechanism to push this engagement has been the establishment of a Police & Crime Commissioner's modern slavery network.
- When it comes to the NCA's approach to tackling modern slavery, there is room for improvement - they signed up to commitments in Modern Slavery Strategy that are still to be fulfilled. The National Crime Agency (NCA) modern slavery threat group has now been set up and change is starting to happen through that. There had been an issue over compliance with crime recording procedures. KH raised this issue with the NCA who are now starting to understand the gravity of the issue and are working to rectify it.
- The Commissioner succeeded in placing modern slavery on the UN Global Agenda - in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by lobbying and forging allies across the globe. The addition of 'end human trafficking and modern slavery' to goal 8.7 was the only substantive amendment that made it into the final document. Having a target to end modern slavery is a huge success that will help co-ordinate and push global efforts to tackle slavery. The change is already evident - in December the UN Security Council had its first debate on human trafficking.
 - *There will be an event at the UN in April that we look at the implementation of goal 8.7.*
- The Commissioner has done considerable work in upstream prevention, targeting issues at source and countries from where significant numbers of potential victims are trafficked to the UK.
- The Commissioner has conducted two visits to **Nigeria** and has developed a plan for which CSSF funding is being applied for. The plan has three strands:
 - Community Awareness
 - Targeting remote regions and villages where trafficking is endemic and making entire communities aware of the risks of human trafficking.
 - Sustainable Development: *Providing alternative economic means to dangerous/forced migration.*

- Working to create jobs in the areas where people are at a high risk of being trafficked in partnership with the Catholic Church who have land that can be used for agricultural purposes and with the expertise of Harper Adams University in agribusiness.
 - Criminal Justice / Law enforcement capacity building
 - Working with the Nigerian Anti Trafficking Agency (NAPTIP)
- On the request of No. 10, IASC carried out a scoping visit to **Vietnam** which unearthed a plethora of information and shows the need for more research, particularly on the situation here in the UK. There are lots of opportunities to be followed up 2016.
- **Romania**, There is an excellent relationship between the UK and Romanian authorities but the Commissioner has identified the need for improving intelligence sharing and strategy. The Romanian Government have agreed to second a senior official to the Commissioner's office for an initial one year period (working two days a week) to develop and carry out an action plan.
- A new **EU** strategy is currently being developed and there is opportunity to have significant input into this strategy.
- In order to drive forward progress in the eradication of slavery labour in supply chains the Commissioner has had high level engagement with numerous companies and trade bodies. The Transparency in Supply Chains legislation is recognised as world leading and has been praised internationally.
- Chris and Harry have been working on developing training, with the International Bar Association for prosecutors across the country and with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development for training the judiciary.
- Harry has arranged for the US Defence and Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to come to the UK and showcase their Memex Software to UK police forces which they are offering free of charge.

ITEM 3 Questions and discussion

SH asked for further information on the DARPA technology.

TW/FiC explained that DARPA run a programme called Memex, which is a package of cutting edge tools that will allow law enforcement to 'join the dots' and uncover a wealth of information that might otherwise be difficult or time-intensive to obtain. The tools developed have advanced online search capabilities and can scan the dark web and then visualise data and connections to track organised criminality. The software is used by the FBI among others. The Home Secretary has seen it and is in favour of its use and sees possibilities for it to be used to help assist in monitoring data around the migrant crisis.

MSS Do you have estimations on repatriation and re-integration?

KH stated that there isn't a huge amount of comprehensive data on this topic and explained that a lot of 'myth busting' needs to be done in this area. Often people say that they cannot possibly return when in reality, sometimes they can return with no risk to their safety. Of course we need to ensure that returns are safe but we must be clear that it can be possible. More research is needed here.

TW On the topic of re-integration, Tatiana Gren-Jardin led a report on long term support for survivors ([Life beyond the Safe House](#)) and an essential part of the Commissioner's work on victim care will be ensuring that appropriate sustained support is available across the UK.

TB raised a question about the training of health services and the judiciary and asked for information about who is doing the training and what format does it take?

***Amendment:** TB said that the Helen Bamber Foundation's experience of online training is that it is generally very limited as identification can be so nuanced. TB offered to look at the online training being proposed for health professionals to help IASC critique its effectiveness and noted that in addition to the health sector, judiciary and police, it would be important for IASC to look at the area of Asylum.*

KH said that he has met with the Head of Safeguarding and Director of Nursing who made it clear that modern slavery training is needed. The Department of Health sponsored research called PROTECT (Provider Responses, Treatment and Care for Trafficked People) which identified high-risk areas.

KH highlighted that across the Health sector there is very little knowledge and that we want to hit the entire health service in their basic training, so in agreement with the Director of Nursing we will roll out a short video that all nurses will have to look at. This means that an estimated 600,000 nurses over a period of 6 months will suddenly be aware of modern slavery. Some online training already exists, a course from a couple of years ago which nurses will also be directed to.

KH spoke of a plan to develop bespoke packages for midwifery and A&E. The first part will be developed and then delivered to a mixture of social services, health care professionals. We have funding for that to go ahead in 2016 when we can look more closely at which bespoke services will be developed.

FiC: discussed her experiences as a chair person of panel for National Referral Mechanism (NRM) pilot mentioning how when case work arrives, there is a long list of services that are meant to provide information yet very few actually do. In the case of internal victims occasional information is received, predominantly from the police. She expressed concerns that the NRM will not function until the streams of communication will come in. KH being central across different policy areas can make things happen more quickly than the Whitehall system.

AR said that actually this ability to work across all agencies could be considered a more creative interpretation of the Commissioner's independence.

MC asked if the Commissioner came across any challenges around his independence and asked how the Advisory Panel could assist if this occurred.

KH said that initially he didn't think Home Office officials understood what independence meant and that their interpretation of independent was that they would be able to select his staff but most of the initial challenges such as that have now been cleared up.

MB said that he had never seen a programme up and running so quickly particularly with the breadth of the Commissioner's strategic plan and raised two queries around risk. The first being a concern about the Commissioner's office becoming a hub and whether this was sustainable and the second an enquiry into whether there are any gaps emerging and will other groups start to take ownership of the projects and does the office have an exit strategy?

KH recognised these risks stating that first of all if it is not within the Strategic Plan 2015-2017 then the office will very likely have to say no, and that there is a model for exit strategies in place. The model that the office is aiming to use is to develop a model or a project, initiate it and put in strategic thought but the implementation should lie outside of the office and the Commissioner's office will maintain strategic oversight where needed.

KH highlighted that saying no is not always easy, as things do keep changing and often data comes in very late, for example data received now, 8 months late has shown that there has been a huge increase in potential victims trafficked from Slovakia and addressing something like this cannot be totally ignored because it is not in the plan.

FiC suggested strategic engagement with other departments to share the burden. For example getting in touch with the Cabinet Office etc. More thought needs to go into how we can better engage with the Ministry of Defence as an example.

FrC re-iterated the concern about keeping up with the ever increasing demand and brought up the topic of private sector engagement and questioned how the Commissioner can navigate areas which may be restricted when you come up against vested interest and corruption. He stated that in dealings with some countries the government may be pushing back on engagement on certain issues, for example if certain companies are using labour, minority, slave labour when regime is tacit.

FrC then asked if the Commissioner had investigative powers in a foreign country and if trade could be blocked from that country.

KH said that he didn't but he but he could encourage local NGOs who know the lay of the land to take on this task and that investigative journalists also have a role to play there too. Political interests aside, the transparency in supply chains section of the Modern Slavery Act will have a huge impact on the way business operate as companies will have to look carefully at which countries they can safely operate and invest in.

ITEM 4: Discussion: Role of the panel

AR directed discussion towards the way in which the panel could operate.

TB suggested forming working groups to drill down on key issues, potentially with outside experts.

AR explained that the Advisory Panel need to be advocates of the cause and the work that the Commissioner is doing.

ED agreed with AR, but stressed that the panel need the knowledge to do so and stated that perhaps the Commissioner's office could to more to empower the panel and that a more two way communication stream is needed with both sides receiving regular updates.

- *The Commissioner is appointing a Communications Officer who should be in position by March who will be able to dedicate time to this.*
- *The Commissioner has received news that the office's exemption bid for an independent website to .gov has been approved. The office is waiting for formal written confirmation and will have a website up and running in the coming months.*

AR said that the panel can use their networks to help hand over issues, or drive efforts of others forward so the onus doesn't end up solely on panel and IASC.

TB stated that more direction was need on the structure of the panel and whether it was in fact more of a board.

Amendment: TB asked for further clarity in terms of the role of the panel and has since suggested that a terms of reference is drafted for the Advisory Panel.

KH stated that this meeting proved that having an advisory panel brings great value and after this that perhaps the panel should meet more regularly than he had initially anticipated.

AR concluded the meeting thanking everybody for their time and suggested that the panel should meet quarterly.

Further Updates

- The Westminster Abbey service initially pencilled in for February 17th will now be held on the 12th October, on Anti-Slavery day.
- There will be an event held in the UN headquarters in New York on the 7th April that shall look at means of successfully implementing Goal 8.7 of the Global Goals.
- There are two roles currently being advertised in the Office of the Anti-Slavery Commissioner
 - Senior Research Officer
 - Communications Officer