**APPG for Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

**17th November 2020**

**General meeting for parliamentarians to consider the current legislation on supply chains**

The Centre for Social Justice (Tatiana Gren-Jardan, Head of the Modern Slavery Policy Unit) gave an overview of the findings in the report [**‘It still happens here’**](https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/core/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/It-Still-Happens-Here.pdf), which believed there was an estimated 100,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK today. Regarding exploitation in the garment industry in Leicester, their report [**‘Parallel societies’**](https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/library/parallel-societies-slavery-exploitation-and-criminal-subculture-in-leicester) found that the authorities tend to turn a blind eye and workers are punished or deported, instead of the traffickers. There is a need to focus on the integration of vulnerable people into communities, and to support and empower these workers. There is a need to monitor and enforce penalties for business that don’t work to eradicate slavery in their supply chains.

David Camp, Chief Executive of Alliance HR, explained the risks of not having an immigration route for lower-skilled migrant workers after Brexit due to continuing demand. Undocumented workers need more protections in order to reduce exploitation. Recruitment fees also lead to debt bondage to a specific employer. In fashion manufacturing, the real money is made in manipulation of VAT and tax systems, in a ‘collusion model’, whereby victims are made to collude in their own exploitation.

It was suggested that a meeting with the Australian parliamentarians to learn about what they do to combat the risks of a points-based system might be helpful.