

Meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Tuesday 16 July 5pm

Room U, Portcullis House

Attendees:

Vernon Coaker MP
Louise Haigh MP
Jim McMahon MP
Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss with intern
Lord Ian McColl
Heidi Allen MP
Maggie Throup
Rachel Smith, Human Trafficking Foundation

Introductions and Overview

It was suggested that a survivor would attend this meeting but they were unavailable on the date. It was agreed would invite back to attend a future meeting.

Actions: HTF to arrange for survivors to come to upcoming APPG.

Inquiry into experience of survivors

There was a suggestion to pursue an inquiry into the experience of survivors going through UK support systems. Would involve: Interviews with survivors, visit schemes, clash between immigration
This would need support from the Foundation. A suggestion was made for HTF to act as a secretariat if it was done. This would require approval from Head of Office, Chairman and the HTF Treasurer. **Action:** To discuss at HTF Trustee meeting

Concerns raised that this inquiry would duplicate the work of the Home Affairs Select Committee.

Jim McMahon MP chairs the Co-Operative parliamentary group and is Vice Chair of LGA

There was a round table at LGA conference examining:

1 - life after modern day slavery. What is the lived experience?

2 - barriers to international cooperation

- Fear for themselves
- Fear for their families

Action: Rachel to circulate report from roundtable

Other points raised re inquiry:

- Vernon Coaker MP is on the Council of Europe and the rapporteur to produce action on tackling HTMS
- This will involve victims, law enforcement
- Council of Ministers have agreed to make tackling Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking a priority across Europe
- Timescale set for January 2020 but more realistically March 2020
- Vernon trying to go to North Africa to look at the experience of unaccompanied children and what work is being done. This will be an opportunity for evidence to feed in. 'Concerted Action on Human Trafficking' on Council of Europe [website](#)

ACTION: Vernon Coaker MP to send through timetable for European work

Setting up APPG enquiry into experience of victims of modern slavery and human trafficking

Vernon Coaker met with American ambassador re modern slavery. Suggestion made to put the ambassador in contact with No. 10

NHS and Survivors of Modern Slavery

Elizabeth Butler-Sloss chaired the Human Trafficking Foundation's Advisory Forum in July, where an A&E doctor raised that the NHS should be modern slavery first responders

Elizabeth Butler-Sloss put forward there should be a meeting based on the NHS as they are integral to the experience of survivors.

Action: Rachel to Invite NHS representative to future meeting

Action: Maggie Throup MP to speak with Matt Hancock to make him aware

Action: Elizabeth Butler-Sloss to speak with the Home Office

Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act ([link here](#))

Additional work following the review

Elizabeth Butler-Sloss shared that the Modern Slavery Act Review team are starting an inquiry into trafficking for sexual exploitation. This is not a review of prostitution

Northern Ireland 2015 legislation made the selling of sex legal but buying of sex illegal. There has been a suggestion that the UK most is the most easy-going of Western European countries.

Vernon Coaker is responsible for legislation in Europe and stated that if someone knowingly purchases sex from someone **who is trafficked** it's an offence

Government Response to the Independent Review ([link here](#))

Government published its response to the Independent Review, which included:

Transparency in Supply Chains

- Government will establish a register for modern slavery statements and will extend responsibility to produce modern slavery statements to the public sector.
 - The government has launched a consultation on transparency in supply chains.
- Action:** APPG to consider actions in response to consultation

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

- Recommendations on the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC) – The newly appointed IASC, Dame Sara Thornton has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Home Office and this was considered positive
- Recommended a new international envoy which has been agreed but the timescales are unknown
- The IASC Will continue to be sponsored by Home Secretary

Detention raised as an issue. No actions decided.