

MODERN SLAVERY STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION GROUP – PREVENT MINUTES

Date	Thursday 13 th June 2019
Time	14.30-16.00
Location	2 Marsham Street
Chairs	Ella Cockbain, <i>UCL</i> Emily Kenway, <i>FLEX</i>
Present	Marissa Begonia, <i>The Voice of Domestic Workers</i> Sarah Brown, <i>Stop the Traffik</i> Steve Carey, <i>MSPTU</i> Justine Currell, <i>Unseen</i> Michael Drew, <i>Home Office</i> Euan Fraser, <i>International Justice Mission</i> Eleanor Girling, <i>Just Enough</i> Phil Knight, <i>Just Enough</i> Debbie Lloyd, <i>Justice and Care</i> Gavin McCullagh, <i>Home Office</i> Amanda Read, <i>Border Force</i> Philippa Roberts, <i>Hope for Justice</i> Imogen Schon, <i>Home Office</i> Rachel Smith, <i>Human Trafficking Foundation</i> Ruth van Dyke, <i>St Mary's University</i> Sally Wootton, <i>MSPTU</i> Andrea Hallam, <i>NCA</i> Sarah Shaw, <i>NCA</i>
Apologies	Pinky Badhan, <i>Cabinet Office</i> Carmel Bagness, <i>Royal College of Nursing</i> Tamara Barnett, <i>Human Trafficking Foundation</i> Blair Buchanan, <i>SWARM</i> Paul Elms, <i>GLAA</i> Samantha Ferrell-Schweppenstedde, <i>Equality Now</i> Andy Munday, <i>MSPTU</i> Charles Reed, <i>Clewer Initiative</i> Avril Sharp, <i>Kalayaan</i> Hardeep Walker, <i>NCA</i>

ACTIONS ARISING

1. Home Office to provide feedback to group on the recommendations presented by the Prevent MSSIG to the Ministerial core MSSIG
2. Co-Chairs to update terms of reference for sign off by members at next meeting

3. Home Office personnel to provide information to the group regarding on what projects the MSIF is currently funding.
4. Home Office personnel to provide an update to the group on what the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery is doing.
5. Co-Chairs to circulate proposed minutes for publication to members.
6. Home Office personnel to provide information at the next meeting regarding the nature of the programme to tackle child labour in Africa announced by the Prime Minister on 11 June 2019.
7. Home Office personnel to provide updated statistics, learnings and opportunities for MSSIG Prevent members to provide advice regarding the Cabinet Office's communications project to tackle modern slavery.
8. Data collection should be an agenda item on the next meeting with members of relevance providing input into what is needed. This should be joined up with the MSSIG on Victim Care.
9. Members should agree a list of the crucial elements still needed in NRM digitisation to present back to the Home Office, aligning with other MSSIGs where relevant.
10. Home Office personnel should provide members with an update on NRM digitisation (including copy of latest form) to identify whether the group can feed into final shaping and provide a list of the items currently included within it; update on this plan to be provided at next meeting with actions undertaken in the interim.
11. Rachel Smith and co-chairs to circulate MSSIG Victim Care minutes regarding NRM digitisation.
12. Relevant members to provide information and presentations at next meeting regarding domestic workers.
13. Sally Wootton to present to group regarding MSPTU's work at next meeting.
14. Members to provide to co-chairs their key issues on which they would like the group to focus; co-chairs will collate these and circulate for views on prioritisation.
15. Gavin McCullagh to circulate a Doodle poll for the next 3 bimonthly meetings.

NOTES

1. Welcome and introductions

Welcomes to new members and new co-chair Emily Kenway, *FLEX*.

2. Brief message from outgoing co-chair

Phil Knight, *Just Enough*, thanked the group for their work during his time as chair/co-chair.

3. Strategy, funding and remit

Ella Cockbain (EC), *UCL*, briefed attendees on the Ministerial MSSIG (19th March) and the MSSIG Chairs Meeting with Miriam Minty of the Home Office (7th May).

The next steps for MSSIG Prevent agreed at these meetings were:

- To identify priority areas and develop a plan of action
- To expand membership as relevant for aims (EC noted this has already been achieved to some extent with the inclusion of new members such as Marissa Begonia, *The Voice of Domestic Workers*, and Amanda Read, *Border Force*)

EC also highlighted that Home Office had committed to provide feedback to MSSIG groups on their recommendations (Action 1)

Terms of Reference

EC noted that the Terms of Reference are out-dated due to personnel changes and the lack of funding available must be updated (Action 2).

Discussion regarding funding for MSSIG Prevent

- EC noted that these meetings provided clarity that there is currently no funding available for MSSIG Prevent work from government.
- EC noted that, without funding, the MSSIG Prevent group will likely need to take a 'constructive advice and challenge' approach to government policy-making, rather than undertaking discrete pieces of work for the group.
- Michael Drew (MD) noted that this is the current situation but may change in the future depending on the Spending Review; however, no guarantees can be provided.
- EC noted that members of MSSIG Prevent could provide advice to the Home Office in support of its aims to secure funding for prevention work, such as examples of projects which could be undertaken.
- Members asked about whether other government departments might have money which could be apportioned to MSSIG Prevent. MD noted DFID and the Modern Slavery Innovation Fund (MSIF) have money but this is likely to all be allocated. The group agreed it would be of interest to know on what the MSIF is currently spending (Action 3).
- Sarah Brown (SB) requested Home Office personnel to provide information at the next meeting regarding an update on the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery (Action 4).

4. Governance: minutes and their publication

Emily Kenway (EK) noted that increased formalization of meeting processes and points raised would ensure the MSSIG Prevent retains institutional knowledge, maintains coherence between meetings and provides clear recommendations and advice to government and on which government can feed back in future meetings.

EK proposed the publication of formal minutes regarding key points raised and actions to be undertaken, with one fortnight for review of members to gain their approval prior to publication. EK proposed Focus on Labour Exploitation (FLEX) publish these minutes on its own website as co-chair, with any other organisational members also welcome to do so. Future meetings would refer to past minutes to ensure consistency of approach and provide updates on action statuses.

Members voted by show of hands and agreed to pilot this approach. (Action 5)

5. Update on prevention-focused activity within the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit

MD provided an update to the group on these activities. He noted the Prime Minister's speech on 11th June 2019 in which she made several announcements pertaining to modern slavery including:

1. A free central government registry of modern slavery statements, to be developed; use of the registry cannot be mandated under current legislation
2. The government will be launching a public consultation on making changes to Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act which it hopes to launch before summer recess
3. The government is undertaking a programme in Africa to prevent child labour, costing £10m (Action 6)

4. The appointment of an International Envoy on Modern Slavery and Migration to operate in an ambassadorial manner, representing government on modern slavery issues globally and in multilateral forums.

MD noted that government is piloting a project on responsible recruitment in a particular migration corridor in South East Asia.

MD noted that Home Office time on this topic is currently focused on preparing the government's response to the many recommendations made in the final report of the Modern Slavery Act Review.

Gavin McCullagh (GM) provided a brief update on Cabinet Office communications activities regarding modern slavery. (Action 7)

Members discussed progress, or lack thereof, regarding domestic workers and domestic servitude and government action on this sector; members agreed that this topic should be considered more deeply in future meetings.

6. Thematic priorities: discussion, agreement & next steps

EK noted that, without funded work, MSSIG Prevent can work in two ways:

- Reactive – meaning providing advice and constructive challenge to government regarding policies and plans already in motion. This requires government personnel to come to MSSIG Prevent meetings with clear things on which they would value members' expertise and advice.
- Proactive – wherein members raise specific issues or themes which we consider need additional government attention. These would be determined by members, rather than by government.

Based on previous MSSIG Prevent meetings in which a number of areas for action had been identified, EK noted the following fit under these two categories:

Reactive

- Providing evaluation advice to the Cabinet Office regarding modern slavery communications
- Supporting government plans to go beyond awareness-raising and sign spotting
- Advising on unintended consequences of government plans
- Improving data collection – e.g. including recruitment location in digitised NRM; advising on how to promote better data collection without compromising victims' welfare and trust
- Advising on work regarding domestic servitude

Proactive

- Immigration White Paper plans and how these will impact exploitation
- Firewall between immigration enforcement and policing/labour inspectorates
- Domestic servitude

Justine Currell (JC) asked whether this group intended to focus solely on 'prevention' of victimization or also to work on prevention of perpetration. MD stated that this dual focus is appropriate, and we should also consider ourselves to focus on prevention of people becoming 'unwitting facilitators'.

Opportunities for intervention: Victim Care Contract review

Members noted the Victim Care Contract review provide intervention opportunities for this group around improved data collection. Philippa Roberts (PR) noted that MSSIG Prevent should connect with MSSIG Victim Care regarding this. (Action 8)

Opportunities for intervention: NRM reform

Members noted that NRM reform also provides a crucial opportunity for this group to improve practices. Key areas missing from the current form from a preventative perspective include the place where victims were recruited and whether an individual was homeless at the time of recruitment. MD will try to circulate an up-to-date version of the current form and members intend to identify a list of key things needed within the digitized forms and present this to government, in terms of information regarding victims and in terms of functionality. Members to check with other MSSIGs whether they are in agreement and present jointly to government. (Actions 9 and 10)

Rachel Smith noted she has minutes from MSSIG Victim Care which includes a presentation on the digitization. (Action 11)

Domestic workers

Marissa Begonia (MB) and Ruth van Dyke (RVD) noted that there was not enough proactive work happening within government to protect and support domestic workers at risk of slavery and servitude. Members suggested this topic be a key topic at the next MSSIG Prevent. (Action 12)

Modern Slavery Police Transformation Unit

Sally Wootton has begun working at the Unit leading, among other things, new work on prevention and members agreed that she should present at the next meeting regarding this work. (Action 13)

Issues identification

JC noted that the group may need a 'shopping list' of issues in order to prioritise. It was noted that this had been done previously but updating it and agreeing how to proceed would be valuable. (Action 14)

7. Scheduling next & subsequent meetings

Members agreed that they wish to meet bimonthly (every other month). (Action 15)

8. AOB (5 mins)

Members noted it would be valuable to open future meetings with each member briefly providing updates on their work and projects specifically related to prevention to ensure all are aware of complementary and relevant work.
