

## MODERN SLAVERY STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION GROUP – PREVENT MINUTES

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**Date** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020  
**Time** 10:00am-12:00pm  
**Location** 2 Marsham Street  
Emily Kenway, *FLEX*  
Phillipa Roberts, *Hope for Justice*

Marissa Begonia, *The Voice of Domestic Workers*  
Sarah Brown, *Stop the Traffik*  
Imogen Schon, *Home Office*  
Ruth van Dyke, *St Mary's University*  
Vicky Lewandowski, *MSPTU*  
Avril Sharp, *Kalayaan*  
Ayesha Mohsin, *Kalayaan*  
Hardeep Walker, *NCA*  
Justine Currell, *Unseen*  
Michael Drew, *Home Office*  
Gavin McCullagh, *Home Office*  
Phoebe Blagg, *Home Office*  
Blair Buchanan, *SWARM*  
Emma Crates, *Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner*  
Kate Goldstone, *Home Office*  
Jim Aspinall, *Metropolitan Police*  
Julia Dobbs, *Asylum, Home Office*

**Apologies** Rachel Smith, *Human Trafficking Foundation*  
Ella Cockbain, *UCL*  
Euan Fraser, *International Justice Mission*  
Cristina Gavrilovic, *Justice and Care*  
Amanda Read, *Border Force*  
Carmel Bagness, *Royal College of Nursing*  
Pinky Badhan, *Cabinet Office*  
Paul Elms, *GLAA*

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### ACTIONS ARISING

1. By the time of the next MSSIG Prevent, HO to ensure conversations have been had with

- chairs of all MSSIGs regarding moving publication of minutes to gov.uk.
2. Any members to notify the co-chairs of aspects they would like included in the next meeting which will be on the theme of data collection.
  3. Co-chairs to arrange agenda for next meeting on theme of data collection.
  4. Hardeep Walker (NCA) to present the findings of and assessment into the scale and nature of organised crime in relation to MSHT, with a focus on aspects relevant to this group to consider.
  5. Hardeep Walker (NCA) to share information regarding upcoming NCA event with members.
  6. Home Office to commit to providing informative updates to the membership as soon as these can be announced regarding the status of information meetings for Overseas Domestic Workers. *(rolled over from last meeting)*
  7. The Home Office to investigate Kalayaan's concerns regarding fees levied by Sopra Steria. *(rolled over from last meeting)*
  8. The MSU and wider Home Office to consider the recommendations in Kalayaan's briefing from the last meeting and to have a separate meeting or call with Kalayaan regarding their concerns and recommendations between this meeting and the next.
  9. Vicky Lewandowski to find out whether the new overseas domestic worker guidance can be shared with the membership and to notify the co-chairs for potential dissemination.
  10. MSU to present on MSU prevention strategy at the next meeting.
  11. Co-chairs to flag to the GLAA the recommendation arising from the meeting that the GLAA look at the MSPTU guidance to police on not involving immigration enforcement in the first phase of investigations/raids and to consider creating and implementing similar guidance.
  12. MSU to seek a meeting with the GLAA and immigration enforcement to ascertain whether there can be a trial of this type of guidance.
  13. Co-chairs to work with members to capture information, case studies, best practice and recommendations regarding the intersection of immigration policy and practices and anti-slavery aims in order to create a position paper for submission to the MSU and appropriate other bodies or personnel.
  14. Ruth van Dyke to coordinate a call regarding labour inspection and its role in prevention and therefore this group.

## **NOTES**

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

New co-chair Phillipa Roberts opened the meeting.

### **2. Approval of the minutes**

Approved.

### **3. Actions update from co-chairs**

The members present were updated regarding the actions list from the previous meeting. It was noted that no further information has been provided to Kalayaan from either the MSU or the immigration element of the Home Office (see Actions 6, 7, 8, 9).

Vicky Lewandowski noted that the MSPTU has created new guidance for police regarding overseas domestic workers, including how to identify when uncommon indicators are presented and how to address complaints from employers so that workers' interests are not undermined. This has been created in consultation with civil society stakeholders. (Action 10).

#### 4. Brief updates from attendees

Attendees provided verbal updates on their current work, as relevant to the 'prevention' focus of this body.

#### 5. Updates from the Home Office Modern Slavery Unit

Imogen Schon (IS) provided an update from the MSU, regarding:

- *Progress on the MSU's prevention strategy*
- *The new UK Modern Slavery Operational Prevent Group established by the GLAA*
- *The Policy and Evidence Centre*

The new Government remain committed to the issue of modern slavery which featured in the manifesto.

(Action 11)

#### 6. Thematic session: Immigration

Presentations were made by Phillipa Roberts (PR, Hope for Justice), Blair Buchanan (BB, SWARM), Emily Kenway (EK, FLEX).

- Multi-agency raids that involve immigration enforcement (IE) leading can mean victims are taken away by enforcement before other agencies/NGOs can engage with them and identify whether they are potential victims (PR)
- The presence of IE in the front-facing parts of raids creates fear and inhibits identification of victims, leading to criminalisation of victims (PR)
- The presence of IE reinforces the fears of victims that have been instilled in them by traffickers – that seeking help will lead to forced repatriation, detention and deportation (PR)
- The geographical spread of first responders needs to be looked at as current access is limited especially in detention centres (PR)
- We are now seeing a shift in immigration threats being made to non-EEA migrants only to EEA migrants too, in the wake of Brexit – therefore, the need for trust in agencies by migrants is even more important going forward (PR, EK)
- Victims send feedback to their community members regarding their experiences of the NRM; if their experience is negative, for example involving immigration repercussions, this will deter victims from entering the NRM (PR)
- Traffickers are purposefully targeting people with criminal convictions and those with outstanding arrest warrants for often minor offences in country of origin. Immigration policy and the removal of people with criminal pasts needs to be examined in the light of this (PR)
- Removals/deportations lead to risk of re-trafficking (PR)
- IE is a cause of modern slavery, not a preventative mechanism (BB)
- Migrant sex workers and victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation do not trust police enough to seek help and therefore abuse is allowed to escalate and exploitation to continue (BB)
- IE should not go with police on 'welfare' checks – currently, raids and welfare checks are experienced as the same thing by sex workers, even if they are perceived as different processes by agencies. There has to be a clear firewall between systems. (BB)
- Operational staff do not have a fully holistic understanding of the potential repercussions – detention and removal can ruin someone's life (BB)

- There needs to be guidance for IE/Border Force staff so sex work is seen as employment (BB)
- A lot of migrant sex workers want support but won't seek it due to fear of deportation (BB)
- Migrants are turned into 'easy prey' by immigration policy, including documented and undocumented workers. Immigration policy is therefore a crucial enabler of vulnerability (EK)
- The illegal working offence and the linkages between labour inspection/policing and IE prevent people seeking help before abuse escalates to the modern slavery threshold, meaning removal of these linkages is key to prevention (EK)
- The public is discouraged from making reports of potential victims due to potential immigration repercussions for those victims as has been demonstrated in two academic studies (EK)

*Links to these studies:*

- <https://www.antitraffickingreview.org/index.php/atrjournal/article/view/407/341>
  - [https://36186b87-e8a9-422e-b620-67790e71e08b.filesusr.com/ugd/db532a\\_4cb0e139c83a442cbd1a1a91e168a250.pdf p.21](https://36186b87-e8a9-422e-b620-67790e71e08b.filesusr.com/ugd/db532a_4cb0e139c83a442cbd1a1a91e168a250.pdf p.21)
  - *Additionally, the recent analysis of the Safe Car Wash app from the Clewer found that of people told by the app to call the Modern Slavery Helpline, few did so. There is no empirical evidence regarding why this is the case.*
- Post-Brexit migration policy includes high-risk short-term migration schemes, expanding the group of workers with whom trust must be built if modern slavery is to be avoided. This creates a larger risk to a wider catchment of workers (EK)
  - We need to introduce secure reporting mechanisms which exist in other jurisdictions so all people, regardless of immigration status, can report abuse and exploitation without risk of immigration repercussions. FLEX has a report on this forthcoming (EK)
  - IE need to have training on indicators of modern slavery, safeguarding and an understanding of the international rights and obligations towards victims (PR).

Actions 12, 13 and 14 above pertain to this section.

Additional points made by civil society groups:

- Business is confused about whether to report people (potential victims) or whether it causes them harm due to immigration repercussions (Emma Crates – EC)
- There are some policies in place but are they being implemented in practice e.g. the National Police Chiefs' Council guidance (Michael Drew – MD)
- If we want to prevent re-trafficking, we need to provide victims with long-term right to remain in the UK e.g. Lord McColl's Bill (Ruth Van Dyke – RV)
- Overseas domestic workers need the visa amended to allow renewal (Marissa Begonia – MB)
- IE should not be going into workplaces / potential environments where exploitation is taking place at first; this should be led by other agencies (Vicky Lewandowski – VL)
- Guidance on the involvement of immigration enforcement for labour inspectorates would be helpful to the Metropolitan Police (Jim Aspinall– JA)

## 7. AOB

The next meeting will focus on data collection (Actions 2 and 3).

RVD raised the issue of under-resourcing of labour inspection in the UK and will convene a

call with interested members to make this part of MSSIG Prevent's work.

## **8. Closing Remarks**