**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

**Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland**

**2 November, 6pm, Committee Room 4, House of Lords**

**Present:**

Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart MP(Co-Chair) - FM

Anthony Steen (Special Advisor) - ADS

Kevin Hyland (Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner) - KH

Tim Weedon (Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner)

Baroness Cox

Baroness Hamwee

Lord McColl of Dulwich

Alpha Kane (Office of Baroness Young of Hornsey)

Daan van Thiel (Netherlands Embassy)

Eeke Dix (Netherlands Embassy)

Anita Lowenstern Dent (SOAS University of London and Tzedek)

Jenny Lloyd (Focus on Labour Exploitation)

Olivia Rosenstrom (Humanitarian Aid Relief Trust)

Clara Connelly (ATLEU)

Atoosha Khatari (ATLEU)

Ekaterina Shubert (HTF)

Tatiana Jardan (HTF)

Euan Fraser (HTF)

**Apologies:**

Rt Hon Baroness Butler-Sloss (Co-Chair)

Mark Durkan MP

1. **Introduction**

FM opened the meeting by introducing Kevin Hyland – the UK’s first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. She also explained that the Co-Chairs of the APPG and ADS have met and agreed to focus on issues of employment and labour exploitation in forthcoming meetings of the group.

1. **Kevin Hyland, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner**

KH provided an overview of the key elements of his Strategic Plan, published on 16 October to coincide with Anti-Slavery Week, and work he has carried out to date. He explained that a focus on victim identification and care underpinned all aspects of the Plan.

Read the Strategic Plan [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/468729/IASC_StrategicPlan_2015.pdf)

KH provided an overview of areas of focus and key achievements to date:

* Improving crime recording modern slavery cases by police

The manner in which human trafficking and slavery are recorded by police across the country has been identified as a problem. Recording a crime ensures that the crime is investigated. It is also important that a crime report is produced for each victim to enable access to justice. A crime report is necessary, for example, in order to enable victims to access the justice system, to receive reparation or criminal injury compensation, as well as discretionary leave to remain in the UK.

Improved police reporting and sharing of information will also enhance understanding of the problem, enabling the appropriate resources to be allocated to addressing the crime.

* Sustainable Development Goals

KH successfully worked to ensure the inclusion of Goal 8.7 in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations post-2015 development agenda (‘to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking’), which is a major step in helping to provide the political impetus and funding necessary to address the issue globally.

* Modern Slavery Threat Group

KH is working to ensure that the newly created Modern Slavery Threat Group prioritises key issues and develops effective responses. The group will bring together senior operational leaders of law enforcement agencies on a regular basis to discuss key issues, with a clear focus on delivery, and will ensure increased operational accountability. KH is working closely the Group’s leaders, Shaun Sawyer (Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall Police) and Paul Broadbent (Chief Executive, Gangmasters Licensing Authority).

* Police and Crime Commissioners

KH is working with PCCs to create a modern slavery network. A number of PPCs are already committed to fighting modern slavery in their areas by supporting regional anti-slavery partnerships, i.e. in Hampshire and Isle of Wight, West Yorkshire and Cheshire.

* HTF Trafficking Survivor Care Standards

KH is working to promote the implementation of the Trafficking Survivor Care Standards, which have been sent to all police forces in the UK and are now included into on-line police training.

* NHS

KH has opened discussions with the Director of Nursing and the NHS lead for safeguarding to develop a bespoke response within the NHS and tailored training for delivery to NHS staff. KH has also presented to the Royal Society of Medicine and will continue to work closely with this body in order to develop the response of general practitioners, as well as engaging closely with health care bodies in Northern Ireland and Scotland.

* Fishing industry

KH highlighted an investigation carried out by The Guardian into the exploitation of migrant workers in the Irish fishing industry. KH is working with various partners, including Scottish police, to develop a response to the problem of exploitation within the fishing industry.

* Schools

KH has been working with the charity Just Enough UK to develop plans to deliver awareness-raising workshops in schools across Lincolnshire. The aim is to develop a model which can be rolled out more widely.

* Private sector

KH is working with KPMG and a number of other prominent businesses on the development of model of best practice to increase transparency and ensure supply chains are ‘slavery proof’.

* International Collaboration

*Nigeria*

The state of Edo in south-central Nigeria has been identified as the region from which many women trafficked to Europe originate. KH visited Nigeria twice and established working relationships with various community leaders and authorities in the state, including the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons , and seeks to reduce the prevalence of the practice of Juju. He is scoping out a plan that will focus on community engagement and awareness raising, sustainable development through agri-business to provide economic alternatives and capacity building for law enforcement authorities. He is speaking with the Dutch National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings to look at training for judiciary in Nigeria. He has also engaged with NGOs, such as AFRUCA, in order to reach diaspora communities in the UK.

*Romania*

KH has requested that a member of staff seconded from Romanian police join the Commissioner’s office to facilitate and improve joint collaboration and exchange of information between relevant authorities, which will help disrupt trafficking networks operating between the two countries.

*Vietnam*

KH is to visit Vietnam at the end of November to enhance strategic collaboration regarding victim support and prevention measures.

KH provided details of the five priorities outlined in his Strategic Plan.

1. Victim Identification and Care

KH will provide independent feedback on the NRM pilot and work with frontline professionals to improve victim identification. KH will also seek to identify best practice in victim care across the UK and internationally and promote the implementation of those findings as well as the HTF Trafficking Survivor Care Standards.

1. Law Enforcement Evaluation

It is important to move away from the notion of human trafficking as a ‘hidden’ offence. He will examine the allocation of police funds and assess the effectiveness of their efforts.

1. Partnerships

KH will seek to establish and facilitate partnerships, including international partnerships. His focus is at all times upon outcomes as regards the number of victims rescued and the number of traffickers convicted.

1. Private Sector Engagement

KH will work with companies such as KPMG and the banking industry in order to develop best practice and trace sources of criminal funds.

1. International Collaboration

Building relationships with authorities and civil society groups in other countries is of great importance, with a focus on prevention at source.

KH identified child victims of trafficking as an area of high priority. The UK’s approach must be improved in relation to children, in particular as regards data collection.

FM highlighted the report published by the APPG: ‘[Inquiry into the collection, exchange and use of data about human trafficking and modern slavery](http://humantraffickingfoundation.org/sites/default/files/DataInquiry2014.pdf)’

1. **Discussion**

Lord McColl asked whether instances of violence against women under conditions of trafficking ought to be recognised as an identifiable condition by health services.

KH explained the duty under the Modern Slavery Act, applicable to NHS staff, to report instances of modern slavery to the Home Office. He identified difficulties regarding victim consent, confidentiality and data protection.

FM highlighted Cardiff as an area of good practice in supporting women who have suffered violence.

Jenny Lloyd asked about the role and expansion of the remit of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority and the Government’s proposal to create a new enforcement agency under the Immigration Bill.

KH stated that the GLA is an effective organisation and he would like it to be expanded. However, it must have the resources to match its remit.

Baroness Cox asked if the SDG on human trafficking might encourage UK embassies and High Commissions around the world to take action in the countries in which they are located. She also asked specifically about South Sudan and its significance as a source country.

KH has identified ten priority source countries and is also engaging with countries with a high prevalence of slavery and where the UK has a footprint. He explained that the number of victims identified from South Sudan under the NRM is increasing.

Daan van Thiel asked about collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

KH stated that he would be working with the ILO as well as the International Organisation for Migration.

Clara Connelly (CC) asked if KH would call for the publication of the independent review of the Overseas Domestic Workers visa carried out by James Ewins prior to consideration of the Immigration Bill?

KH stated that the Government are due to receive the report in the course of this week. He emphasised that the report must include prevention.

FM agreed that it is important that the report is published before the Immigration Bill proceeds. However no commitment has yet been made regarding publication.

CC raised the lack of legal aid for victims to secure compensation as an area of concern.

Anita Lowenstern Dent asked what action is being taken to combat trafficking resulting from armed conflict, as in Syria

KH stated the importance international collaboration and the significance of the SDGs. He is working with members of the G6.

Baroness Cox raised the issue of Ethiopian girls who are trafficked to Saudi Arabia.

KH agreed that the Middle East is an important region, in particular Qatar. He emphasised the importance of identifying and understanding new trends.

FM explained the international reach of the Modern Slavery Act through the transparency in supply chains provision. It is important that companies have robust tools with which to investigate their supply chains.

MEETING ENDS 7pm