

A note from the Special Adviser to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery following the inquiry into the impact of Covid-19 on survivors and services.

A big thank you to those of you who kindly responded to my request that NGOs advise the APPG exactly what's happening on the frontline in the current pandemic and how they might make representations to the right people within Government as to what is needed for victims and those who work with them. I received a good response from a number of individuals and organisations, some writing detailed papers. All very useful, thank you.

After reviewing the points raised in submissions to the inquiry, the Chair of the APPG, Rt Hon. Karen Bradley MP, former Minister for Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery, decided with her Co-Chair, Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, that the first port of call must be to the Commissioner, Dame Sara Thornton. They selected four points which they thought were both relevant and timely.

Karen Bradley spoke to Dame Sara suggesting areas which she felt could be well-received by the Home Office. Following the meeting, the Commissioner sent this letter to the Minister, Victoria Atkins MP. I enclose it in full.

To date, there has been an acknowledgement but no detailed response. I can tell you that Karen Bradley won't let this lie and has already been in touch with Victoria Atkins. We await further developments. I wanted to thank you personally for responding so promptly, effectively and constructively.

My thanks also to Rachel Smith of HTF who has helped bring so many views together and present a unified voice.

Anthony Steen, Executive Chairman