

Karen Bradley MP  
Baroness Butler- Sloss,  
Co- Chairs APPG on Slavery and  
Trafficking

**Anti-Slavery International**

Thomas Clarkson House  
The Stableyard  
Broomgrove Road  
London SW9 9TL

**t** +44 (0)20 7501 8920

**e** [info@antislavery.org](mailto:info@antislavery.org)

**w** [antislavery.org](http://antislavery.org)

30<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Karen Bradley MP and Baroness Butler- Sloss,

**Rapid inquiry into COVID-19 and Slavery**

I am writing in response to your request for information regarding the effects of COVID-19 on people who are vulnerable to, in, or recovering from slavery.

I attach a copy of ASI's briefing, 'Leaving no- one behind'. This sets out how, while COVID-19 does have the potential to affect everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. People in poverty, or fragile work, with unstable accommodation and no access to government support schemes are at greatest risk due to COVID-19.

Our briefing sets out the immediate support measures needed as well as the longer -term measures which are needed to prevent slavery as we re-build after the crisis.

For the UK, it is important to emphasise two points- one immediate, one longer- term.

- in the immediate term it is vital that there is an uplift of £20/ week in the NRM subsistence rate and in asylum support in line with Universal Credit.<sup>1</sup> The current rate of £37.75/ week, or a little over £5/ day is not enough to live on healthily. As services which provide free meals and other support close during the pandemic and it is more important than ever that people are able to buy cleaning product and access phone credit and internet data for information and contact, this uplift is vital

---

<sup>1</sup> As you will know, many asylum seekers have been trafficked

to keep people who have escaped slavery safe and in touch with their support providers.<sup>2</sup>

- In the longer term, we need to ensure that our economy is rebuilt with structures which do not allow opportunities for exploiters and traffickers. It is important that all future UK work visas provide recourse to public funds, meaning all workers in the UK can access support if they are exploited, or are too sick to work.

Please don't hesitate to contact me should you want more information on either of these points, or on the issues raised in ASI's briefing.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Roberts  
UK and Europe Manager, ASI  
[k.roberts@antislavery.org](mailto:k.roberts@antislavery.org)

---

<sup>2</sup> We have had sight of and endorse the ATMG evidence which gives more detail on these points.