

Anti-Trafficking Bulletin

Vol 3



A regular digest of information and research related to human trafficking into and within the UK.

Produced by the Research and Development Unit, on behalf of The Salvation Army's Anti-Trafficking Co-ordinator.

We are pleased to announce that Major Anne Read has assumed responsibility for The Salvation Army's co-ordinated response to the issue of Human Trafficking. She has succeeded Lieut-Colonel Dawn Sewell in the role following Dawn's retirement at the end of July 2009. As The Salvation Army's Anti-Trafficking Response Co-ordinator for the UK and the Republic of Ireland, Anne counts it as a huge privilege to be given the responsibility of building on the work that Lieut-Colonel Dawn Sewell began. We give thanks for the work of Lieut-Colonel Dawn Sewell and our prayers are with Major Anne Read for this new task.

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1. Research, reports and journal articles.

1.1 ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) UK report (2009) - Stolen Futures: Trafficking for forced child marriage in the UK.

Research from ECPAT UK and Wilberforce Institute for the study of slavery and emancipation (WISE) University of Hull has found that children are being trafficked out of and into the United Kingdom for forced marriage. This includes British born children trafficked out of the UK to be forcibly married abroad and children who have been trafficked to the UK on the basis of a false promise of marriage who end up in sexual exploitation. The research for the report documented 48 cases of suspected trafficking for forced child marriage. Professor Gary Craig, Associate Director of the Wilberforce Institute said "It has long been recognised that the UK is a country of destination and transit with regard to human trafficking but this report demonstrates that it is also a source of trafficking of both British-born children and migrant children." The report highlights that forced marriage is both a method of recruitment for trafficking and forced marriage occurs as a result of trafficking.

1.2 Economic Social Research Council (ESRC) (2009) Project: Migrants in the UK Sex Industry, first findings. London Metropolitan University

The research consisted of 100 interviews with migrant women, men and transgender people working in all of the main jobs available within the sex industry, and from relevant areas of origin (South America, Eastern Europe, EU and South East Asia.) The research's conclusion was that although some migrants are subject to coercion and exploitation, a majority are not. Further conclusions document that the majority of the migrant workers in the UK sex industry interviewed were not forced or trafficked. Most interviewees felt that the criminalisation of clients would not stop the sex industry and that it would be pushed underground, making it more difficult for migrants working in the UK sex industry to assert their rights in relation to both clients and employers. Finally, it concluded that all interviewees thought that legalising sex work and the people involved and making it easier for all migrants to become and remain documented would improve their living and working conditions and enable them to exercise their rights more fully. Criticism should be given to the report as trafficked victims are not likely to be able to take part in research such as this, and therefore assumptions on trafficking should not have been made. Also it was felt that some of the questions may have been leading, for example it is perhaps not surprising that sex worker migrants would

advocate that their work be made legal and they themselves become documented.

1.3 Zhang, S. (2009) 'Beyond the Natasha Story – a review and critique of current research on sex trafficking' *Global Crime 2009 Vol 10:3 Pgs 178-195*

A review of literature on sex trafficking since 2000 revealed that numerous articles have been published in journals about Human Trafficking but few are based on systematic primary data collection. The article argues that much of our current knowledge, including statistical estimates and characteristics of the trafficking business, derives from a handful of reports issued by government and non-governmental agencies. With few empirical studies available, the article argues that imagination has filled the gaps of our knowledge.

1.4 Yakushko, O (2009) 'Human Trafficking, a review for mental health professionals' *International Journal for the advancement of counselling. Vol 31:3 pgs 158-167 Springer Science and Business Media, NETH*

The article highlights mental health consequences of trafficking along with suggestions for treatments of survivors, direction for counselling services, prevention, policy work and international involvement are also discussed.

2. Political and legislative.

2.1 Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) Strategic Threat Assessment – Child Trafficking in the UK, 2007

In April 2009 CEOP's Child Trafficking Unit launched the Strategic Threat Assessment on Child Trafficking in the UK which identified 325 children and young people who were potentially trafficked into, within or from the UK from a total of 52 countries between 1st March 2007 and 29th February 2008. In order of frequency, children originated from China, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Romania and Vietnam. The sexual exploitation of UK national children was also included in the assessment as a significant problem. Most types of exploitation encountered were hidden, occurring in private residences. The most commonly identified type of exploitation was sexual abuse and most victims were girls aged between 14 and 17. Other types of exploitation identified included forced labour, street crime, forced marriage, benefit fraud, domestic servitude, illegal adoption, drug smuggling and application of residence. Concerns were also raised about potential child trafficking hidden within private fostering arrangements. Children recruited were generally from vulnerable and deprived backgrounds duped

into exploitation after receiving promises of a better life. Children and young people were also often bonded to large amounts of debt. This was used as a highly successful form of control by traffickers over the young victims.

2.2 UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) National Referral Mechanism Statistical Data 1st April – 30th June 2009.

In the last bulletin we reported on the UK's ratification of The Council of Europe Convention against Human Trafficking. Part of that ratification process implemented the National Referral Mechanism in which potential victims could be identified and supported. The UKHTC has published statistical data regarding Human Trafficking received through the National Referral Mechanism. The National Referral Mechanism is a multi-agency system which is managed by UKHTC and the UK Border Agency. From the 1st April to the 30th June 148 victims were referred, of which 17% were Chinese, 14% were Nigerian and 13% were Vietnamese. The 148 victims were made up from a total of 31 countries. As time passed the National Referral Mechanism received more referrals; they received 35 in April, 44 in May and 69 in June. Of 148 victims, 107 were from non EU countries. The majority of victims were women, although there was a rise in male victims in June. The ages of victims were diverse. Most were between 21-25 (25%), followed by 16-17 (14%), 26-30 (14%) and 12-15 (11%). The highest proportion of victims were those aged either 16 or 17. The majority of victims had been sexually exploited, (54, although no male victims). The other exploitation types included domestic servitude and forced labour, although some types of victim exploitation were not made known. The majority of first responders to victims were the UK Border Agency, (39%), followed by Police Services (35%), Non Governmental Organisations (14%) and Local Authorities (12%).

2.3 UKHTC Statistical Quarterly Report in relation to defendants and victims of trafficking of human beings for sexual exploitation in the UK from 1st January – 31st March.

The UKHTC reported that in 2008/09 there were 80 trafficking defendants. Of which, 50 were male (62.5%) and 30 were female (37.5%). In the period of January – March 09 there were 13 trafficking defendants. 4 guilty convictions were achieved, 3 in Plymouth and 1 in Warrington. 3 cases were awarded not guilty, 5 cases were sentenced to prison but on other offences and 1 was deported on a Lithuanian Trafficking Warrant. In this same period the number of victims in relation to defendants amounted to 18, the majority being from Romania (32%). Over 2008/09 most victims in relation to defendants were from the EU (131 EU compared with 96 Non

EU). During the period January – March 09 the report states that the predominant age of victims was 18 – 30, accounting for 78% of the total. Two victims were juveniles, aged 13 and 14 years of ages, one trafficked for Domestic Servitude, and the other undetermined. Most victims in 2008/09 were involved in forced labour (111), followed by sexual exploitation (82) and domestic servitude (26). This indicates that it may be easier to bring court cases against exploiters of forced labour than exploiters of sexual exploitation or domestic servitude.

2.4 Parliamentary Questions

16th July 2009

In response to Ashok Kumar (MP to Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, Labour), Alan Campbell (Parliamentary Under Secretary, Home Office) stated that figures provided by the UK Human Trafficking Centre indicated that within the UK since 1997 there have been a total of 384 people dealt with by the criminal justice system on arrest for human trafficking. A total of 106 people have been arrested for trafficking for sexual exploitation, three for conspiracy to traffic and seven for trafficking for forced labour. Of these, seven people have to date been arrested within the north east with two convicted of human trafficking.

14th July 2009

Clause 55 regarding Trafficking People For Exploitation from the Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill was debated on the 14th July 2009. Discussions included Amendment 26 regarding a code of conduct to guide entry clearance officers in their treatment of applications for entry which they suspect involve Human Trafficking.

22nd June 2009

In response to Shailesh Vara (Deputy Shadow Leader, Parliament; North West Cambridgeshire, Conservative), Alan Campbell (Parliamentary Under Secretary, Home Affairs) stated, as at the end of April there have been a total of 35 referrals to the competent authorities based in UKHTC and UKBA. Of these 27 were female with nine referrals being of people under the age of 18.

3. Campaigns

3.1 Anti-Trafficking Day of Prayer – 27th September 2009.

On Sunday 27th September 2009 Salvationists all around the world were united in prayer for the issue of Human Trafficking. This year thought was being taken for every single person who has been enslaved against their will, living in hopeless and desperate situations who are in real need of our

prayers and God's love right now. Prayers were made for all captives to feel some example of that love and that they would be freed from captivity, that they will be given the care and support that they need to recover and move on with their lives and that this horrendous trade in human life can be stopped for good. To help people pray for this issue The Salvation Army has provided a number of resources which can be used individually, in a small group, or within your church/corps setting. Visit http://www1.salvationarmy.org.uk/uki/www_uki.nsf/vw-dynamic-arrays/45CB74BE3DED96FA80257627004F9B01?openDocument

3.2 Stop The Traffik's: Start Freedom, a campaign for young people.

Start Freedom is a global campaign for schools and young people to become aware of the issues surrounding human trafficking and realise the power to make a difference. Start Freedom launches with a live broadcast from the United Nations HQ in New York on the 14th October 2009. Start Freedom will equip people to tell their communities what trafficking is, how it can affect them and what they can do to stay safe and help others. Community presentations will be created, from theatre to art to dance.

3.3 ECPAT UK and The Body Shop join forces in a new campaign to stop trafficking of children.

ECPAT UK in partnership with The Body Shop launched a three year campaign in August to stop the trafficking of children and young people by raising awareness of the issue and empowering people to make a difference. The Body Shop UK has produced a special campaign hand cream called 'Soft Hands, Kind Heart.' The hand cream is sold for £5.00 and for each sale £3.15 is donated directly to ECPAT UK to help fund campaigns and prevention projects against child trafficking in the UK. Research commissioned by the Body Shop UK found that over a third of Britons were completely unaware of the extent of trafficking in the UK. The findings, collated from 1255 respondents, suggest that people do not believe that child trafficking happens in their local area.

4. In the News

4.1 10th May 2009 The Guardian: 'Child traffickers find it easy to operate in UK, says MPs'

Child traffickers are targeting the UK because of the ease with which they can move victims through British ports and local authority care homes, the chairman of a parliamentary inquiry into human trafficking has warned. Keith Vaz, head of the home affairs select committee, said he and colleagues were very concerned about low levels of funding for law enforcement agencies to fight trafficking, and he called on government to hold an urgent review of the number of foreign children missing from local authority care. Cautious estimates suggest five suspected victims of child trafficking go missing from care around ports and airports in the UK every week.

4.2 15th September 2009 The Daily Telegraph 'Police should stop taking DNA of innocent immediately.'

Ten months ago, human rights judges called for an end to the policy of holding on to samples from nearly a million people arrested but never convicted of any offence, saying it breached their privacy. But it emerged last month that officers were told to ignore the ruling, carry on adding new samples and to resist requests to have them deleted until the law was changed. This has implications for victims of Human Trafficking who have initially been treated as illegal immigrants. Their data would be on file, irrespective of their actual status as victims.

4.3 5th August 2009 The Daily Telegraph 'US journalists return home from North Korea with Bill Clinton'

Euna Lee and Laura Ling, the two US journalists were freed after 140 days in captivity in North Korea. They returned home with Bill Clinton to a tearful reunion with their families in Los Angeles. The two women were detained on March 17 by soldiers near North Korea's border with China while researching a report about women and human trafficking for Current TV, a channel owned by the former US vice-president Al Gore.

We rely on contributions from others and would love to hear from you if you have any information to submit. For more information, or to contribute to next month's bulletin, please contact the Research & Development Unit at rdu@salvationarmy.org.uk. However, please note that due to space constrictions, not all contributions may be included.