

Anti-Trafficking Bulletin 2¹



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.

The Salvation Army is pleased to document in its second Anti-Trafficking Newsletter that the government has ratified the Council of Europe Convention Against Human Trafficking. The ratification of the convention means the UK will formally become part of a Europe-wide agreement about setting minimum standards for protecting and supporting trafficking victims. This is a step The Salvation Army has fought for and is proud to be a part of this ratification, see the News Section for more details.

The Salvation Army's Anti Trafficking Coordinator and International Development Unit will be speaking at the upcoming 8th National Capita Conference, supported by the Home Office, on Wednesday 25th March in Central London, entitled 'Tacking the Trafficking of Women and Children'. Please see

<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/OurConferences/Police/Trafficking+Mar+09.htm>

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¹ This bulletin covers material produced during the period 16/09/08 to 05/01/09 although it should be noted that, due to space limitations, not all relevant material may have been included. The bulletin includes links to material and sources and is provided by way of information. The information included is not necessarily endorsed or supported by The Salvation Army.

1. Research, reports and journal articles

- 1.1 **"An academic response to "Big Brothel." 27 academics responded to the Poppy Project report "Big Brothel: A survey of the off-street sex industry in London (Sept 08)" (detailed in the last newsletter).** The response was also supported by UKNSWP.

The authors expressed concerns about the information in the Big Brothel report, the assumptions made and the methods used to gather information for the report. They also had grave concerns about the lack of ethical protocols and procedures followed in the study and also the weak methodological rigour through which information was gathered.

- 1.2 **Poppy Project (Aug 2008) Routes in and Routes out, Quantifying the Gendered Experience of Trafficking to the UK, Eaves Housing for Women.**

The report responds to 'the need for more detailed research data to provide information about the types of experiences women trafficked into the UK had prior to, during and after escaping their trafficking situation.' The report provided a snapshot analysis of women's cases and made policy recommendations aimed at finding durable solutions for preventing and combating human trafficking in the UK. The data analysed in this study was collated from the case files of 118 women supported by the POPPY Project, on either an acute or outreach basis.

- 1.3 **Goodey, J.(Nov 2008) ' Human Trafficking, Sketchy data and policy Responses' Criminology and Social Justice, Vol 8, No. 4 421 – 442 Sage Journals.**

With examples drawn from intergovernmental organisations, the EU and the UK, the article begins by outlining legal recognition of and current responses to trafficking and what we know and don't know about the extent of the crime. The article concludes by asking where the focus on trafficking is heading, and if it will be supported in future by more robust evidence for policy development.

- 1.4 **Cree, V.E. (Nov 2008) 'Confronting sex trafficking, lessons from history' International Social Work, Vol. 51, No. 6, 763-77 Sage Journals.**

This paper discusses the lessons raised by the National Vigilance Association's response to Human Trafficking. ('W .T. Stead in the Pall Mall Gazette increased pressure for tighter legislation of public morals and the National Vigilance Association was formed in August 1885 "for the enforcement and improvement of the laws for the repression of criminal vice and public immorality" with Stead as a prominent member of its General Council.'

(<http://www.litencyc.com/php/stopics.php?rec=tr ue&UID=5481> - last accessed 05.01.09)

- 1.5 **Logan, T.K. (Jan 2009) 'Understanding Human Trafficking in the United States' Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, Vol. 10, No. 1, 3-30 Sage Journals.**

This article describes and synthesises nine reports that assess the U.S. service organisations' legal representative knowledge of, and experience with, human trafficking cases, as well as information from actual cases and media reports.

- 1.6 **Jago, S. & Pearce, J. (Sept 2008) Gathering evidence of the sexual exploitation of children and young people: a scoping exercise, University of Bedfordshire.**

The government commissioned a scoping exercise to provide insight into the progress being made to challenge the perpetrators of child sexual exploitation, to report on the emerging good practise and to identify the barriers and challenges that local partnerships are facing. Its conclusions document that;

- 1) The definition of child exploitation is central to the way in which local partnerships tackle the sexual exploitation of children and young people.
- 2) The importance of a proactive and co-ordinated multi-agency approach when tackling perpetrators.
- 3) The improvement of gathering, sharing and recording information, especially when building a case against a perpetrator.
- 4) Developing a disruption plan to dislodge coercive & exploitative relationships between victims and perpetrators.

They also argued that focussing on the offender is crucial to prevent successive generations from becoming targets of sexual exploitation yet there had been little exploration of the role of local partnerships in challenging perpetrators.

Finally they concluded that a national plan that draws together the different strands of work with sexually exploited and missing young people is long overdue and should be advanced under a commissioner for missing and exploited children and young people.

2. Political and legislative

- 2.1 **Tackling the Demand for Prostitution: A Review, 19th Nov 2008**

The Home Office (HO) report sets out the conclusion of a six month review undertaken to assess what further measures could be taken to reduce the demand for prostitution and makes recommendations for action, including measures to prohibit the purchase of sex from someone controlled in prostitutions. This would include individuals who have been trafficked.

2.2 Policing and crime bill: putting people first, 18th Nov 2008, HO Press Release

The bill contains measures to protect the public, increase police accountability and effectiveness, and tackle crime and disorder. New measures include creating a new offence of paying for sex with a prostitute who is controlled for gain, alongside changes to loitering offences, kerb-crawling offences and brothel closure orders. In addition, lap dancing clubs will be reclassified so they require a sex establishment license to give local people a say in their establishment and location.

2.3 New rule to protect exploited women, 19th Nov 2008, HO Press Release

As a result of the six month review on demand (listed above), a new offence will be created to encourage men to think twice before paying for sex, and to protect women who have been forced into prostitution and those who are held against their will. The change in the law will make sex buyers liable for prosecution, even if they didn't know the prostitute they visited was controlled by a pimp or had been trafficked. Those convicted could end up with a criminal record and a £1,000 fine. The government believes the changes are needed in order to deter sex customers who fuel illegal exploitation and human trafficking.

2.4 Parliamentary questions

16th December 2008

Shadow Minister, Home Affairs; Damian Green MP asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people-trafficking related a) investigations, b) resultant trials and c) subsequent convictions have arisen through the activity of the Metropolitan Police Human Trafficking Unit in each year since its inception in 2004. Parliamentary Under- Secretary, Home Office, Tynemouth, Labour, Alan Campbell MP responded that data provided by UKHTC indicated that of the 92 convictions secured for offences of human trafficking for sexual exploitation, 28 had been as a result of operations by the police in the Metropolitan Police Service area.

16th December 2008

Shadow Minister, Home Affairs; Damian Green MP asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the reasons were for the withdrawal of funding for the Metropolitan Police Human Trafficking Unit. Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Home Office, Tynemouth, Labour, Alan Campbell MP informed Mr Green that it had been decided to provide additional funding for the MPS trafficking team. "Human trafficking is part of core police business and this funding, which is a one-off grant, is designed to enable the MPS to mainstream this work into its daily activities in a planned and organised fashion." Alan Campbell MP.

18th December 2008

Shadow Attorney General Dominic Grieve MP Conservative asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the Government spent on a) Operation Pentameter 1 and b) Operation Pentameter 2. The Home Secretary replied that £100,000 had been provided to further support the victim care arrangements under Operation Pentameter 2. Outside of this operation the government has, to date invested £5.8 million in the Poppy Project over the last six years to provide high level specialist support for victims of trafficking for sexual exploitations, and have committed a further £4.9 million over the next three years to support the work of the UK human trafficking centre.

18th December 2008

John McDonnell, Labour MP, asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people who have been trafficked who are a) in the UK and b) working as prostitutes; and on what research any estimates are based? Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Home Office, Labour, Alan Campbell MP responded that it was difficult to provide an accurate assessment of the scale of the problem face by the UK. The latest estimate is that at any one time in 2003 there were up to 4,000 women in the UK who had been trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation. This estimate was part of an internal Home Office document on the social and economic costs of organised crime. Alan Campbell MP expects further analysis of the Pentameter 2 outcomes will further inform this work.

3. Campaigns

3.1 Realities of Human Trafficking – 19th Nov 2008, HO Press Release

As a result of the six month review on demand (listed above), the government has decided to run national campaigns to raise awareness of the realities of human trafficking, and the legal problems facing those who frequent prostitutes.

3.2 Blue Blindfold -

<http://www.blueblindfold.co.uk/>

The Home Office and UKHTC have begun a pilot poster campaign to raise awareness amongst male sex buyers, of the exploitation and trafficking involved in off-street prostitution. The campaign was further publicised at the Signs of Trafficking conference in Birmingham on 12th December 2008.

3.3 World's Largest Fondue Party

STOP THE TRAFFIK called people from all countries around the world to unite during the last week of November 2008 to call for the end of child

trafficking labour in the manufacture of chocolate by hosting social events with a chocolate fondue.

4. In the News

4.1 Government fight against human trafficking boosted by ratification of European Convention, 17th December 2008– <http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=387872&NewsAreaID=2>

A major milestone in the fight against human trafficking was reached when the Government ratified the Council of Europe Convention Against Human Trafficking. The ratification of the convention means the UK will formally become part of a Europe-wide agreement about setting minimum standards for protecting and supporting trafficking victims.

4.2 Anti-trafficking unit saved from axe, David Hughes 4 December 2008, <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/anti-trafficking-unit-saved-from-axe-1051945.html>

The UK's only specialist police unit to combat human trafficking was saved from the axe, said Justice Secretary Jack Straw. The Metropolitan Police's human trafficking team was set to close in April next year due to a lack of money.

4.3 Guardian article response to UKNSWP queries – 8th December 2008

UKNSWP wrote to the Guardian following an article covering an interview with the Home Secretary a couple of weeks ago. They queried some of the statistics and "studies" quoted by the journalist. On Monday 8th December the Guardian published an article written by the Readers Editor Siobhan Butterworth which responded to the issue raised and a correction was printed on the 9th December 2008.

4.4 Tackling Human Trafficking national conference, March 09 – trafficking@connectpa.co.uk

A conference entitled 'Stopping Traffick '09, How can we tackle human trafficking?' will take place

in March 09. This event will explore multi-agency approaches, share best practice, and hope to influence the Government's plans for this area.

4.5 Police rescue of two apparent victims of human trafficking – amenesty.org.uk – 28th November 2008

Amnesty International welcomed the police rescue but remained concerned that there were many undiscovered victims of trafficking throughout Northern Ireland and that many victims were not being properly identified.

5. And Finally...

5.1 Open your Eyes! A poem by Suzan Widmark, The Salvation Army.

Eyes, Eyes, Everywhere
Blank with despair
We stare and wait
Girls and boys – so young, so young,
Soon they come.
You! You! And You! You Too!
We know too well
What we must do – obey!
Don't speak;
No Hugs – No kisses – Obey!
We are here to earn money
But not for ourselves
Pain;
We hurt...Here...and here...
But mostly...*There* – Obey
Our bodies our working
But not our minds
Our eyes are closed
We hurt – all the time
In our bodies – our minds – and our hearts;
But who cares?
Eyes; Eyes; Everywhere!
Blank with despair
We sit – and wait

Please open your eyes - - - to the Trafficking of us children!

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.