

Summary Report on the Anti Human Trafficking Forum - Saturday 29th March 2014
(Summary document taken from the full report, collated by the Forum Team)
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A hundred people from the region attended, representing themselves and declaring an interest in 18 separate organisations that they supported. The Forum was convened by Frodsham and Cheshire Churches Together.

A Working Definition on Human Trafficking:

The movement of a person from one place to another into conditions of exploitation, using deception, coercion, the abuse of power or the abuse of someone's vulnerability. It is entirely possible to have been a victim of trafficking even if your consent has been given to be moved. Victims are tracked for forced labour, criminal activity, sex industry, organ removal, forced marriage, slavery and domestic service.

Forum Briefing

Purpose: To share information and raise awareness on Human Trafficking.

Objective: To encourage Churches Together and others to catch the vision and take action in their own area and the wider community.

To be achieved by:

1. Speakers outlining the issues:
 - a) From International, National and local perspective.
 - b) The governments current and proposed view.
 - c) The legal and support position facing victims.
2. Information packs given to delegates.
3. Feedback on discussions and evaluations.

Main points made by Speakers

Since 1st July 2011 the Salvation Army has been the prime contractor managing the support of adult victims in England and Wales. The Salvation Army has a presence in 125 countries, combating Trafficking and helping victims. It therefore has the network in place to work across borders in relation to Human Trafficking. Social Services provide support for child victims.

Trafficking does not always involve crossing borders, it can happen to UK nationals without leaving the UK as identified in recent cases from the courts.

Trafficking is the third highest crime worldwide after drugs and arms and continues to grow annually. Victims can be sold over and over. Estimated profits to criminals are \$32 bn. The complexity of supply chains, different legal systems and cultural expectations make it difficult to identify the traffickers in an efficient and cohesive way.

The vulnerability of individuals through poverty, high demand for inexpensive labour, political instability, the growth of organised crime, lack of family support, vulnerable lifestyles and inadequate law enforcement increase the likelihood that people will become victims of human trafficking.

Indicators that may alert the public to the possibility that someone has been trafficked are:

- Has the individual got control of their travel documents?
- Can the victim freely contact friends and family?
- Have they been harmed or deprived of life necessities?

The International Labour Organisation estimates that 21 million people around the world are in

slavery. In the UK in 2012 it was estimated that there were 2255 victims of Human trafficking and 1200 potential victims were identified to the **National Referral Mechanism** for the UK. In 2014 new evidence to the Joint Select Committee has estimated a possible number of 10,000 victims in the UK. Examples given suggest that it is possible for anybody to become a victim.

The UK Government is planning changes to the laws to fight slavery and seeks to have an action plan in place to reduce the incidence of modern slavery. The Government bill has four parts:

- Existing legislation and new offences will be consolidated and simplified and allow for heavier punishments.
- The restriction of international travel of those convicted, cautioned or suspected of trafficking offences.
- The establishment of an Anti-slavery commissioner who will lead on prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution.

Changes to the reporting process including a legal duty to notify the National Crime Agency about all suspected crimes, resulting in evidence of the true scale of trafficking.

All of the speakers provided examples of victims, both from the UK and internationally, who had been trafficked. The examples outlined the effects on those trafficked and the crimes linked to trafficking.

The difficulty of catching the traffickers results from:

- Countries having different legal systems and problems.
- Police often lack of translators, to clarify the issue legally.
- Prosecutors need training to deal with the trauma experienced by the individuals.
- Judges need to understand background circumstances.
- There is ineffective law enforcement in developing countries.
- Social workers need more resources.
- The issue of online child abuse needs addressing under International Law.

Money, through the victims care fund, is needed to fight slavery by providing professional aftercare, undercover investigation, legal advocacy and the time to achieve successful rescue operations.

The Discussion Groups considered the following questions:

- 1 What are the key issues and what can we do in our area to address the issues.
- 2 What are the three priorities from the list created in answering question 1?
- 3 How can we organise ourselves and involve other strategic partners to make this happen?
- 4 What actions should we take next in our location and who should take them?

Discussions and Evaluation Sheets - Recommendations for Action

1 Organising Ourselves

- a Read up more on the issue of Human Trafficking and learn more through web sites in order to develop our understanding and gain a view of the whole picture.
- b Organise a local group to challenge others on the issue.
- c Encourage Churches Together and make links with other organisations.
- d Support what is going on in our area and through joint activities to increase our effectiveness.
- e Produce a plan of action for the group including a time scale for action.

2 Local Church and Communities

- a Report back to the local church and church groups to make them aware of action and opportunities for action.
- b Increase publicity by using local church news systems and the local press. In addition circulate

- leaflets, make packs of information on Human Trafficking and sell wrist bands.
- c Pass information on actions and achievements to Justice and Peace and similar groups.
- d Give information to prayer groups, pray for front line staff and the Salvation Army.
- e Spread the word on Social Media and through friends and neighbours
- f Arrange for a speakers to visit colleges and schools. Children are at risk and vulnerable so provide awareness raising information in PHSE studies.
- g Organise an event/display/article/drama/poetry for Anti-Slavery Day on 18th October.
- h Support the “Cut it Out”, “Stop the Traffick” and “Purple Tear Drop” (Soroptimists) campaigns

3 Direct Action

- a Raise money for the victims, donate to the Salvation Army victims fund, UK and International.
- b Provide welcome gift packs for rescued people
- c Volunteer to drive trafficked people to places of safety through organisations such as the Salvation Army.
- d Be aware of people in your area and workplace. Look for trafficking indicators.
- e Support the Salvation Army National Day of Prayer for Victims in September - Freedom Sunday.
- f Respond to Anti Slavery Day in October

4 Influencing the Environment

- a Sign the International Justice Mission Petition
- b Check ethical standards of purchases, change shopping habits and support Fairtrade.
- c Find out who has responsibility for Trafficking in the local police force.
- d Ask the Police Commissioner about their actions and policy with regard to trafficking.
- e Write to the M.P. to raise awareness
- f Write to M.P. and Government Ministers about prosecutions and sentencing
- g Support new legislation
- h Petition for amendments that will improve the bill for victims
- i Contact the local council to identify policies on trafficked victims

Key Points in Summary

Prevention - awareness raising

- 1 Set up an active Communities against Trafficking.
- 2 Develop a network system for supporting each other within the active community.
- 3 Galvanise churches and appropriate agencies to respond.

Protection

- 1 Support the victims.
- 2 Donate funds.
- 3 Encourage Government to put victims at the centre of legislation, otherwise they become double victims.

Prosecution.

- 1 Influence the bill going through parliament, that it improves the support for victims and provides

guardianship for child victims.
2 Encourage future bills and related actions to develop best practice.

**Please pray for an Active Community group for Frodsham and Cheshire Churches Together
So that we can pursue the recommendations for action and encourage Churches Together to
set up Active Community Groups across the UK.**

Forum led by:

Major Anne Read, Salvation Army, National Anti-Trafficking Response Coordinator.

**Other speakers: Major Gladys Ljungholm, Salvation Army, North Western Division
Graham Evans M.P. Weaver Vale and Hannah Flint International Justice Mission**

Chair of Discussions: Revd. Denise Harding, Methodist Minister