

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND UK RESPONSES

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# Human Trafficking and UK Responses Panel

- Dr Ruth Van Dyke ([vandykrm@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:vandykrm@lsbu.ac.uk)): Law enforcement response to human trafficking: police and partnership working
- Dr Jennifer Lynch ([j.k.lynch@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:j.k.lynch@warwick.ac.uk)): Humanitarian duties and professional tensions in safeguarding and anti-trafficking at the border
- Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou ([k.Hadjimatheou@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:k.Hadjimatheou@warwick.ac.uk)): The human-rights approach to anti-trafficking – challenges to implementation at the border

# Human Trafficking is composed of three key elements

Action (What is done)	Means (How it is done)	Purpose (Why it is done)
Recruitment Transportation, Transfer Harboursing Receipt of persons	Threat Use of force Coercion Abduction Fraud Deception Abuse of power or vulnerability Giving payments or benefits to a person in control of the victim	For the purpose of exploitation, including: Sexual exploitation Labour exploitation Domestic Servitude Begging Criminality (cannabis cultivation, shop lifting) Benefit Fraud Forced/sham marriage or illegal adoptions Armed conflict Removal of organs Ransom Slavery or similar practices.
Abuse of vulnerability: "there were vans driving around Budapest by all accounts and picking up the drunks and tramp type people and bringing them over here and putting them in houses and working for 20 hours a day for pennies really, if at all. And then being taken back and the next lot coming over." HTU Officer		

# Nature of the Problem

- International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimated in 2012 that almost 21 million people across the world experience forced labour or human trafficking (ILO, 2014, Profits and poverty: the economics of forced labour)
- ILO also estimated that forced labour earns private sector industries a profit of \$150 billion per year (ILO, 2014, Profits and poverty: the economics of forced labour)
- 2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons identified human trafficking occurring across the globe: within countries, across borders and across continents.
  - 'Between 2010 and 2012, victims with 152 different citizenships were identified in 124 countries across the globe.' (UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2014, p. 7)
- Western and Central Europe are the countries of destination for human trafficking victims from all over the world.

The arrows show the flows that represent 5% and above of the total victims detected in destination subregions



Sciences Po - Atelier de cartographie, 2014

Source: UNODC.

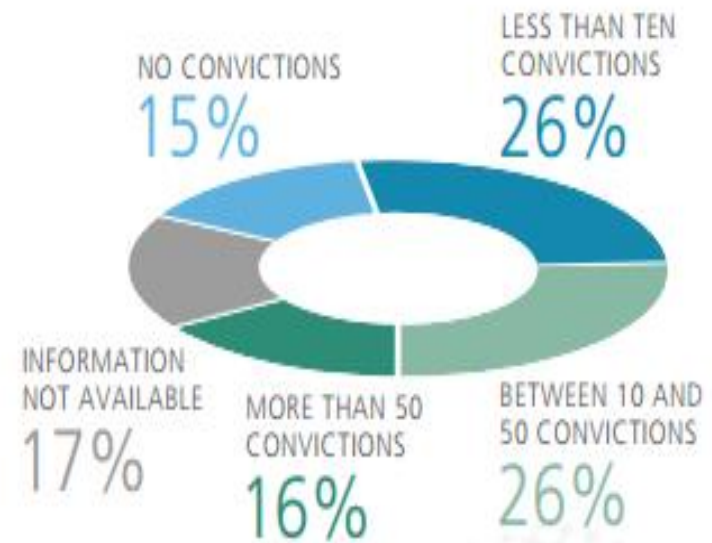
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UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2014, p. 7

# Nature of Human Trafficking continued

- 2014 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons noted an increasing number of victims, but the number of convictions, remains low.
- Criminal justice system failure means there is impunity for those involved in trafficking.
- Human Trafficking is thus a high profit, low risk crime.

Number of convictions recorded per year, share of countries, 2010-2012



(UNODC, Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, 2014, p. 7)

# UK Policy

- **Modern Slavery Act 2015** – brought four offenses under one act, provided protection for all victims, and established a common criminal justice approach.
  - Slavery
  - Servitude
  - Forced Labour
  - Human Trafficking
- **UK Champions of action to tackle modern slavery**
  - Teresa May, Home Secretary and
  - Her Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime) Karen Bradley.
  - Kevin Hyland, former head of the Human Trafficking Unit of the MPS, appointed as first Independent Anti Slavery Commissioner.
- **HM Government's Modern Slavery Strategy November 2014**
  - 4 Ps: Pursue, Prevent, Protect and Prepare
  - Police forces seen as playing a major role in the Pursue agenda (identifying and combating modern slavery) and the Prevent agenda.
  - The Border Force also to play a role in the Pursue agenda, and but also to play a significant part in the Protect agenda (strengthening capabilities to detect potential victims and traffickers at the border" (2014, p.12).
- Home Office Chief Scientific Adviser estimated that there were between 10,000 and 13,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK in 2013

# Policing and research context: the 4 P's approach to human trafficking and now modern slavery

- The three P's approach to human trafficking has been embedded in human trafficking policy at international and national level:
  - **Prevention** – reduce supply of people vulnerable to human trafficking, and reduce demand which encourages the supply of trafficked persons, which includes raising public awareness.
  - **Protection of victims** – includes immediate support and help, and should include long term social and economic empowerment.
  - **Prosecution** – police investigation and where possible prosecution of a case. Obtain justice for the victim, to punish those involved in trafficking and seek to create a hostile environment to act as a deterrent.
- In addition a fourth P – **Partnership** - was assumed and has now been overtly added to the policy approach
  - 'In order to tackle this crime successfully, we must work in a collaborative way with partners across central, regional and local government, law enforcement and the voluntary sector. ... It is only by combining our efforts in a coordinated way that we can maximise our effectiveness and make the UK a hostile environment for human traffickers' (Home Office and Scottish Executive, 2007, p.2).



# Research on the police response to human trafficking

- Initial research project focused on the specialist Human Trafficking Unit of the Metropolitan Police Service and concerned three research questions:
  1. What are the competencies and knowledge required to undertake police work in relation to human trafficking?
  2. What good practice did staff feel had been developed by the Human Trafficking Unit.?
  3. Who did they work in partnership with, and for what purposes? What were the benefits and challenges of partnership working around human trafficking?
- Second strand of research entailed interviews with statutory sector staff and NGOs that worked in partnership with the HTU about their experience of partnership working especially working with the police: tactical advisor to the NCA, senior immigration enforcement officer for UKVI, RAHAB, Medaille Trust, Hestia, Stop the Traffik, Just Enough UK, British Red Cross, European Communities Against Trafficking Project manager,
- Third strand of research entailed interviews with those involved in other modern slavery partnerships: Safer Peterborough Partnership, Wales Anti Slavery Coordinator, Greater Manchester Modern Slavery Coordinating Unit and partner organisations, and Tri-Borough Modern Slavery and Exploitation Operational Group.

# Police and Partnership Working

- Police as an institution and in their police culture operated in a silo. Police have traditionally been solidaristic and hierarchical, and often seek to take control in spaces where they do need to work with other groups.
- 1998 Crime and Disorder Act formally established partnership working amongst statutory bodies at a local level to promote community safety
- Multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARACs) brought statutory agencies together with NGOs to support high risk victims of domestic violence also encouraged police to engage in partnership working.
- Multi-agency or partnership working has become part of human trafficking and modern slavery response. Growth of partnerships highlighted by Human Trafficking Forum's expanding National Network Co-ordinators' Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Forum. Police forces play a central role in these partnerships.

# Research Findings: Range of Organisations the Human Trafficking Unit Engaged With

Resources	Prevention and Awareness Raising	Victim Identification	Victim Support	Investigation and Prosecution	Strategic
Faith groups	Stop the Traffik	Poppy Project	Poppy Project	SOCA/NCA	UKHTC
Community groups	Community groups	Kalayaan	Kalayaan	UKHTC	SOCA
Barka UK	Just Enough UK	RAHAB	RAHAB	EUROPOL	GLA
Joint Investigative Teams	Human Trafficking and London 2012 Network	60 agencies who use HTU on-line referral form	Medaille Trust	Joint Investigative Teams	Human Trafficking and London 2012 Network
	Front-line workers in NHS or L.A.	Embassies	Salvation Army	Embassies	Bishops Conference of the Catholic Church
ECAT	ECAT	ECAT	ECAT		ECAT
	L.A. and Safer Neighbourhood Teams	NRM	Helen Bamber Foundation	L.A. and Safer Neighbourhood Teams	Anti-Slavery International
		UKBA	Hestia	UKBA	Poppy Project
		The Pavement	Social Services	Other British police forces	Brazilian Olympic Committee
		Thames Reach	Migrant Helpline	CPS	
			Women@the well		

# HTU officers' comments on the value of partnerships to the police

## Partnership to aid victim identification

- “We also work a lot with people like Stop the Traffik to promote what is happening, really for the identification of victims, so if there is a woman next door ...[who] seems to be doing the gardening, but you have never seen her for 4 years, what’s that all about? Maybe there’s a servant next door or a slave. So its raising awareness to help us find victims that are there.” HTU Officer

## Partnership with NGOs who support victims during a police investigation

- “I think the fact that once they see, you’re doing your best and you get a case to court or whatever and you persevere and persevere and get a result, they then see that you are doing your best. So it makes it easier as time goes on, they believe you when you say you’re going to do your best for this victim.” HTU Officer

# Benefits of HTU Working in Partnership

- HTU officers were more likely to learn about victims through partnerships because many came to the attention of NGOs, the UK Border Force, or from Embassies. **Increased victim identification.**
- **Enhanced intelligence gathering** – working with RAHAB, the HTU developed a welfare visit approach to women working in brothels and flats in the boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster. HTU officers enabled to undertake a risk assessment in relation to the women and to gather intelligence that might be linked to an organised crime network.
- Working with organisations supporting victims, officers were able to develop trust and thus were more likely to obtain important evidence that helped build a prosecution case. **Improved police investigations and prosecutions.**
- Organisations like Stop the Traffik and Just Enough UK indicated the value of HTU engagement in awareness raising activities, because of the knowledge they brought and credibility they lent to the activities. **Enhanced awareness raising initiatives.**
- **Increased resources** available to tackling human trafficking (e.g. volunteers, buildings)
- **Enhanced effectiveness** in terms of prevention, protection and prosecution.
- **Developed new ways of working** that were more victim centred, and were about a multi-agency response.

## Law Enforcement Outcomes of Police Investigations by the MPS Trafficking and Kidnap Unit<sup>1</sup> (numbers)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Arrested	69	62	70	114	375
Charged	34	33	35	201	303
Convictions	21	25	16	46	108
Operations	14	25	61	63	164
Victims	50	196	147	186	579

Source: Presentation by Trafficking and Kidnap Unit, MPS, 2014

Footnote 1: Human Trafficking Unit merged with Kidnap Unit and became the Trafficking and Kidnap Unit in 2014

# Well-being Outcomes Arising from Partnership Working in Relation to Modern Slavery

Partnership	Initiative	Outcomes
Safer Peterborough Partnership	Visits to multi-occupancy housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved accommodation</li><li>• Knowledge of different L.A. services</li><li>• Information about wages and working conditions.</li></ul>
Wales Anti-Slavery Operational Delivery Group	Police operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Registered for National Insurance number</li><li>• Enrolled in English classes</li><li>• Helped to access Job Centre to look for work.</li></ul>
Tri-Borough Modern Slavery and Exploitation Operational Group	Welfare visits to flats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Befriending women who are marginalised and stigmatised</li><li>• Providing information and support to enhance their security</li><li>• Aiding women's empowerment.</li></ul>

# Challenges of partnership working

- Where organisations have different goals or approaches
- Where police have little knowledge or awareness of human trafficking (modern slavery) NGOs may be reluctant to have contact.
- When police do not seem to investigate cases and get back to survivor and the NGO supporting them.
- Where police feel NGOs or other bodies are withholding information that may undermine a case because of legal requirements of disclosure.
- Where police feel NGOs or other bodies are identifying people who have not been trafficked.
- Where NGOs or civil society organisations feel taken for granted in terms of providing 'free' resources.
- Where fear of police and need to remain invisible to immigration enforcement officers may mean victims will not seek support from modern slavery partnerships.



# Recommendations

- Partnership to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery is essential as no one organisation has the ability to tackle this problem on its own.
- Partnerships can vary in composition but do need to include the voluntary sector as well as statutory agencies as it is NGOs who generally provide support services to survivors.
- Partnerships are not something that just happen but develop over time: with recognition of common aims, respect for expertise of others, and joint activities.
- More Joint Investigative Teams (JITS) needed which enable law enforcement officers and prosecutors to undertake joint investigations to tackle transnational human trafficking in Europe. JITS are funded by EUROJUST.