



The fight against sexual exploitation in the European Union – The English Model

Vulnerable Persons Team

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- Support NCA and partner law enforcement investigations, especially Human Trafficking and Slavery.

United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre statistics for 2012

- 2255 potential victims. This figure is up by 178 (9%) from 2011.
- 402 (52%) confirmed as having conclusive decision via NRM. Another 376 were still in the process.
- 71% were adults; 24% were children
- Five most prevalent countries: **Romania; Poland; Nigeria; Vietnam; Hungary**
- Sexual exploitation (35%); labour exploitation (23%) were the most prevalent forms of exploitation

Prior to the NCA:

- There was no single focused strategy on how to best investigate human trafficking
- SOCA; Police Forces; Border Force; Metropolitan Police Service all investigated this type of criminality, but there was little cohesive effort
- Often investigating teams were ill informed; lacked knowledge; were unsure of who to ask for help
- A new strategy was required after conducting a comprehensive review
- Operational arrangements are deficient; awareness of the problem and how to address it is low; and the means for leading and coordinating a comprehensive law enforcement response is lacking.

Recent hurdles

- Various contractors in countries where victims are managed by NCA. They can have difference of opinion and priorities
- Different governments have their own agenda, and there is no consistent theme to support victims across the UK
- Victims may be interviewed on several occasions to satisfy each government departments requirements (UKBA; NCA; solicitors)
- Pressure on investigators by UKBA relating to decision making

NCA – A new strategy

The CONTEST model

It has four main areas of activity:

- prosecuting and disrupting people engaged in serious and organised criminality (**Pursue**)
- preventing people from engaging in this activity (**Prevent**)
- increasing protection against organised crime (**Protect**);
and
- reducing the impact of serious and organised crime where it takes place (**Prepare**).

Tackling Human Trafficking in the NCA

- We will address this by improving our understanding of traffickers, the routes and methods they use and the organised crime groups involved. We will prosecute more of those responsible and support those providing evidence.
- We will work to prevent people from becoming victims.
- Assessment of human trafficking will become a responsibility of the NCA's intelligence hub. The hub will improve understanding of the threat through its access to new intelligence feeds.
- Border Force will also use its international network of risk and liaison officers to provide advice on the risk profile of potential victims before they enter the UK.

Going forward...

- The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) will become part of the NCA and will provide expert advice to policing on the disruption and prosecution of offenders.
- It will develop and share new approaches to tackle human trafficking and will conduct targeted operations.
- The NCA will work collaboratively with ROCUs to tackle trafficking.
- **To ensure police officers can identify offenders and victims, the College of Policing will deliver public protection training to all frontline officers.**
- **Border Force will also ensure all staff are trained to spot the signs of trafficking and know how to respond accordingly.**

Overseas partnerships

- Through the NCA overseas network, we will tackle human trafficking in source countries notably **Vietnam, China, Albania, Nigeria, Romania** and **Poland**.
- DFID programmes will tackle the factors which put people at risk of becoming victims (building on current anti-trafficking projects in India, Bangladesh and West Africa).
- The FCO will work with Governments to raise the profile of human trafficking and to lobby for changes in countries' laws and practices

Private sector support

- We want the **private sector** to play their part. Companies must be confident that they do not do business with suppliers involved in trafficking.
- The Home Office will work with businesses to ensure they take steps to protect their workforce, particularly through their supply chains.
- Travel operators also have a role to play in identifying and reporting suspicious travel activities that may be linked to the movement of people for trafficking.
- We will widen the Home Office training scheme to help airline staff, including check-in and cabin crew, to recognise possible signs of human trafficking amongst airline passengers.
- A confidential reporting number means airlines can advise Border Force before the plane lands in the UK.

National legal instruments for handling THB victims

- National Referral Mechanism (NRM)
- Requires consent to enter by adults
- Children automatically entered
- Managed at the United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC)

National Referral Mechanism

- 'First responders' – Police; NGO's; Local authority's
- 'Competent authority'
- 5 days reasonable grounds decision
- 45 days Conclusive decision
- EEA & EU countries managed by UKHTC
- UKHTC manage referrals from NGO's, law enforcement and local authorities

Assistance for victims and witnesses of trafficking

- Previously managed by 'Poppy Project'
- Since 2011, Salvation Army awarded the contract from the Ministry of Justice
- 12 further sub-contractors spread across the UK, who manage various levels of risk posed to the victims (Migrant Help; Unseen UK)
- Scotland – managed by TARA project
- Northern Ireland – managed by Migrant Help (non sexual offences) and Women's Aid (sexual offences)

Best Practice:

- Detailed information on the NRM form can assist in RG and CG decisions being made quickly
- Relationship forming with main contractor and sub contractors to gain additional support and knowledge of the victim
- Organise a multi agency strategy liaising with local council to offer additional support (housing; welfare; education)
- Multi agency NRM team (UKHTC/UKBA) working together, not separately

Reference websites

- www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk
- www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk
- www.salvationarmy.org.uk

- UKHTC – 0044 121 345 5511

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Any questions?

