

Human Trafficking Media Summary

GLA Conservatives

Friday October 21st, 2016

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Human Trafficking: Transnational Partnerships

Experts from across Europe debate how countries and organisations can work together to stem the trafficking of human beings across the continent in this high profile panel discussion.

Convened and Chaired by George Papadimitrakopoulos, Adviser and UK Liaison to the Greek National Rapporteur for Trafficking in Human Beings and Alexander S. Onassis, Public Benefit Foundation Scholar, Institute of Criminology University of Cambridge.

Please refer to the following link for more information:

<http://www.festivalofideas.cam.ac.uk/news/programme-launched-cambridge-festival-ideas-2016>

Main Stories

Police identify 11 potential human trafficking victims in day of action

Eleven potential victims of human trafficking, including six children, have been identified by police following a national day of action. Five adults and six children under 18 who displayed indicators of trafficking were found working in nail bars during the multi-agency operation on Tuesday and are now being offered support.

One person has been detained for human trafficking offences and two others arrested for immigration offences by Police Scotland, with an additional 12 arrested by Immigration Enforcement.

£8.5m fund to help police tackle modern slavery

The announcement comes after concerns were raised about efforts to tackle the crime. Last week, the UK's anti-slavery commissioner warned that victims were being failed by "substandard" crime recording which risks allowing perpetrators to offend with impunity.

Kevin Hyland criticised "chronic weaknesses" as he demanded that law enforcement agencies step up their response to the issue. Home Secretary Amber Rudd described modern slavery as a "barbaric crime". She said the Government has taken "world-leading action" to tackle it but added: "We must do even more".

[**More than 50 victims of modern slavery rescued in Staffordshire over the past year**](#)

MORE than 50 victims of modern slavery have been rescued in Staffordshire in the last year, new figures reveal on National Anti-Slavery Day today.

In 2015 there were more than 3,000 potential victims of trafficking identified in the UK. This is an increase of 40 per cent on 2014 referrals but these are just the victims who are known about. Slavery's hidden nature means actual numbers are likely to be much higher.

[**Police raid brothels in crackdown on modern-day slavery**](#)

Police have raided dozens of brothels across Kent and Sussex as part of a national crackdown on the criminal gangs trafficking young women into the sex trade. Four eastern European girls are being offered the help of welfare services after the raid in Ashford. In many cases victims are forced into prostitution, in what police describe as a form of modern-day slavery.

Detective Chief Superintendent Rob Fordham from Kent Police issued an appeal for the public to report any suspicious activity.

[**Pop-up brothels targeted in Cambridge as hotels and landlords put on alert**](#)

Pop-up brothels appearing in Cambridge are being targeted by police who are set to alert landlords and hotels to the phenomenon. Cambridge Community Safety Partnership will hear today how Cambridgeshire police have launched an operation to smash the illegal sex trade in the city, as reported in the News.

Now officers are inviting hoteliers and landlords in the city to warn them how their properties can be rented out for a few days to open a pop-up brothel.

[**Nottinghamshire Police and partners join forces to tackle modern slavery**](#)

A multi-agency operation has taken a stand against modern slavery and human trafficking across Nottinghamshire. Operation Perceptual has seen Nottinghamshire Police work in collaboration with Immigration Enforcement and other partners to tackle the issue. The joint initiative, spread over a number of days including today's UK Anti-Slavery Day, was split into two parts comprising of visits to premises potentially being used as brothels and visits to a selection of car washes in the city and county.

[**Oxford Walks for Freedom at worldwide event**](#)

THE streets of Oxford were draped in black this weekend as local residents gathered together to join a global march in a bid to stamp out slavery. For the third year running anti-human trafficking group A21 organised the fundraising and awareness event called #WalkForFreedom.

The march distinguished itself by featuring a single-line of participants dressed in black, with tape covering their mouths to represent the 27 million slaves across the world who have no voice.

[**Police stop 152 drivers during enforcement day in Newport**](#)

MORE THAN 150 vehicles were stopped by Gwent Police on Monday as officers targeted illegal drivers in Newport. The enforcement day came as part of Modern Day Slavery Week, in a bid to tackle the perpetrators and offer support to victims of slavery.

Officers on the day worked closely with colleagues from Trading Standards, VOSA, DVLA, DWP and licensing officers from local councils. All parties have worked together by gathering intelligence, visiting businesses, carrying out patrols, and conducting vehicle checks across Gwent.

[Cambridge prepares for the first bumper weekend of Festival of Ideas](#)

The Festival will see over 60 events on Saturday being hosted at the Sidgwick site and venues across the city centre. In addition, there are numerous events relevant for children and families.

It is estimated that there are more victims of human trafficking today than there were during the transatlantic slave trade. Victims include men and women, the old and the young and they can be exchanged multiple times for profit. This pervasive crime has been a priority for law enforcement agencies, governments and policymakers in several countries for over a decade, but none has managed to eradicate or even curtail it so far.

[13 arrested as police carry out human trafficking raids on Wearside](#)

Northumbria Police today made 13 arrests around the region as part of Anti-Slavery Day, which aims to tackle human trafficking. Officers carried out search warrants at five addresses in the Cowgate area of Newcastle, and three others at Washington, Easington Lane in Houghton-le-Spring and Consett in County Durham. Eight men and five women have been arrested - one at the Easington Lane address - on suspicion of trafficking people into the UK for exploitation, and currently remain in police custody.

[Modern Slavery Act boosts supply chain engagement](#)

The UK's Modern Slavery Act has led to increased engagement from directors on issues of risk within supply chains, and a greater focus on policy development, risk assessment and monitoring of modern slavery, according to a new survey.

When it comes to data collection and measurement, very little useful data beyond immediate tier one suppliers is collected about supply chains and supply risk, according to the survey by supply chain mapping consultancy Historic Futures and Ergon Associates.

[Children found in Scotland-wide trafficking crackdown](#)

Police say they have identified 11 potential victims of human trafficking - including six people under the age of 18 - in a major Scotland-wide operation. About 500 officers from every police division took part in the day of action, which resulted in 15 arrests.

Officers were joined by colleagues from HMRC as they visited businesses, including nail bars.

[Clydebank police raise awareness of trafficking victims for anti-slavery day](#)

Officers visited businesses to raise awareness with employers, workers and the general public to be aware and report any suspicions about trafficking. The action was part of UK Anti-Slavery Day and included more than 500 officers across Scotland.

Detective Inspector Allan Kelly, with the offender management unit in Clydebank, said victims of trafficking were exploited for labour and/or sex crimes – and were both adults and children.

[WATCH: Cornwall Police 'Lead Fight' Against Modern Slavery](#)

Police in Cornwall and Devon will lead the fight against modern slavery. The Home Secretary has announced eight and a half million pounds to tackle it.

More than fifty analysts, specialists and investigators will be drafted in, with extra resources in the south-west. The funding, granted until 2018/19, follows a bid to the Police Transformation Fund.

[Guardian investigations win anti-slavery media awards](#)

The Guardian's role in highlighting the human cost of modern slavery, trafficking and sexual exploitation has been recognised in a series of awards marking Anti-Slavery Day. They include Kareem Shaheen's work on how Syrians were being forced into sexual slavery in Lebanon, which won the award for best investigative newspaper article dealing with trafficking for sexual exploitation.

The award for best investigative article on child trafficking was won by Oliver Holmes for his work in the Philippines, while Felicity Lawrence received the award for best investigative article on forced labour following her report the gangsters on England's doorstep.

[Police Scotland raise awareness of human traffickers in Peebles](#)

OFFICERS from Police Scotland have visited 86 businesses across the Borders as part of a major human trafficking awareness-raising initiative. The force has been out in Peebles to highlight the exploitation of vulnerable people, give details of how to report concerns and the support available to victims.

Visits were made to businesses across the four local authority areas, including premises such as restaurants, care homes and car washes. In addition to Peebles, officers also gave leaflets and advice to shops and other businesses across Dalkeith town centre, and general awareness raising patrols were carried out in Hawick and Kelso.

[Combat Project Aims to Tackle Hotel Industry's Role In Human Trafficking](#)

A major new project, known as COMBAT, has revealed the extent to which Europe's hotel industry is vulnerable to trafficking in human beings, often described as a modern-day form of slavery. It has displayed the shocking reality that a significant proportion of human trafficking occurs within hotels which, by their very nature, can involuntarily facilitate movement and accommodation of perpetrators and their victims. The project provides a practical toolkit designed for hotel businesses to help them prevent their premises being used by human traffickers.

[Law Centre welcomes 'modern slavery' convictions](#)

Law Centre (NI) has welcomed the conviction of two men for human trafficking offences. Ioan Lacatus was given a sentence of two and a half years while Samuil Covaci was given a conditional discharge for time already served.

The convictions arose out of a PSNI operation in August 2014 when 15 people were recovered from a house in Portadown. The workers had been duped into coming to Northern Ireland on the promise of good pay, food and accommodation.

[Police run anti-slavery operation at Doncaster's airport](#)

A police operation was run at Doncaster's airport to try to identify potential victims of modern-day slavery. To mark national Anti-Slavery Day, South Yorkshire Police and partner agencies looked for possible victims and raised awareness of the issue. Superintendent Bob Chapman said: "It's a sad fact that airports and ports across the UK provide a channel for traffickers or organised crime groups to bring vulnerable individuals into our country for sexual exploitation.

['It can happen to anyone walking down the street': Actress who was sex trafficked by a 'model scout' in central London stars in a film about her ordeal to show women that everyone is vulnerable](#)

A chance encounter with a man on the streets of London led to an aspiring actress being captured and held as a sex slave for three horrifying days. Frida Farrell, now 36, was forced to have sex with at least five men during the horrifying ordeal, which has now been turned into a film *Selling Isobel*.

The actress wrote and starred in the movie which tells the story of the terrifying events which took place 14 years ago

[Potential 16-year-old victim rescued from modern slavery](#)

A vulnerable teenager has been rescued from suspected modern slavery during a day of police action in Chester and Ellesmere Port. Believed to be just 16-years-old, the youngster has been taken to a place of safety.

Cheshire Police visited six businesses, primarily nail bars, in Cheshire West during an operation on October 18. They had joined forces with the council, health and housing agencies as well as Immigration Enforcement to carry out the investigations.

[Chinatown and Soho: 18 arrested in prostitution and slavery raids as police storm six 'massage parlours'](#)

Police arrested 18 people and seized £35,000 in cash during night-time prostitution and slavery raids in Chinatown and Soho last night. Six “massage parlours” thought to be running as brothels with trafficked women were stormed by officers on Thursday night.

Police swooped in and rescued 10 women as part of an ongoing operation to tackle human trafficking, prostitution, firearms, immigration offences and money laundering.

[Police visit 16 addresses as part of major human trafficking awareness-raising initiative.](#)

Police in Edinburgh have visited 16 addresses in the area as part of a major human trafficking awareness-raising initiative. Officers from across the country took part in the national day of action yesterday to highlight the exploitation of vulnerable people, how to report concerns and the support available to victims.

Visits were made to businesses and other addresses in the city, and officers also spoke to travellers at Edinburgh Airport and Haymarket and Waverley railway stations to make people aware of the issue of human trafficking.

[Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement Eversheds LLP](#)

Our Policies on Slavery and Human Trafficking - As a business we recognise our responsibility to be aware of the risks of Modern Slavery within our own organisation and supply chain. We have, therefore, taken the following steps:

- In October 2016, we introduced a new Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy. Our policy outlines our zero tolerance approach to Modern Slavery of any kind within our operations and supply chain and has been approved by the Partnership’s Executive. Our policy sets out the standards we expect of everyone working with us or on our behalf to support and uphold our policy commitments and provides guidelines for employees, partners and agency workers to report any suspicions or concerns relating to compliance with the policy;
- We also have a clear whistleblowing policy which is published on our intranet site and if there are any concerns relating to Modern Slavery these concerns can be raised in confidence without fear as part of our whistleblowing procedure. Our whistleblowing policy has been modified to take account of the Modern Slavery Act 2015. All reports of Modern Slavery will be fully investigated and appropriate remedial actions taken.

[International Stories](#)

[Human trafficking: more than 20 million victims worldwide](#)

More than 20 million people living today around the world have been trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labour and other activities across the world, generating a profit of €117 billion a year. It is also a very lucrative crime in Europe. On the occasion of the EU's Anti-Trafficking Day on 18 October, check out the facts in our infographic and discover what the EU and Parliament have been doing to tackle human trafficking.

[Majority of Europe-Bound Refugees Trafficked and Enslaved: UN Report](#)

An alarming number of refugees said they were held against their will, often in slave-like situations. A staggering 71 percent of migrants fleeing war and insecurity in North Africa have been victims of exploitation and human and organ trafficking while on their way to Europe, according to a new report released by the U.N. Tuesday.

[Over 1000 Nigerians trafficked in Europe-Ambassador](#)

The Ambassador of the European Union to Nigeria Mr Richard Young, said on Tuesday that 1,300 registered Nigerian citizens in the EU are victims of Human Trafficking. Young said this at the EU Anti-Trafficking Day in collaboration with the NAPTIP and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

He said that every 18th of October was set aside to mark the day and that it is hard to find the actual number of those affected by the scourge.

[Mauritania stifling jailed anti-slavery activists - U.N. experts](#)

U.N. human rights officials accused the Mauritanian government on Wednesday of stifling anti-slavery campaigners jailed for up to 15 years for their alleged role in protests against forced eviction in the capital. The West African country jailed 13 members of the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement (IRA) in August for taking part in protests by residents of a slum in Nouakchott in June, many of whom were former slaves.

The activists said they were not present at the protests and that the trial was an attempt by the state to discredit the IRA.

[Human trafficking: more than 20 million victims worldwide](#)

To mark the European Union's Anti-Trafficking Day on October 18, the European Parliament released a statement describing the extent of this global phenomenon. It said more than 20 million people living today around the world have been trafficked for sexual exploitation, forced labour and other activities across the world, generating a profit of €117bn a year. As for the situation in the EU, the statement said it is "a very lucrative crime in Europe".

In 2012, EU countries reported 11,000 registered, identified and presumed victims of human trafficking. Women and girls comprise 95% of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation, men comprise 70% of registered victims of labour exploitation. The majority of identified victims and suspected traffickers in the EU are EU nationals.

[44 nabbed in NJ, Philadelphia-area in human trafficking bust](#)

The FBI says dozens of pimps, prostitutes and associates have been arrested in the Philadelphia area and New Jersey under international efforts to combat underage human trafficking. The Philadelphia Inquirer reports federal authorities say 15 pimps and associates have been arrested in the Philadelphia area as part of Operation Cross Country X.

Authorities in Newark, New Jersey say a 17-year-old was rescued in that state as part of the operation, and 29 prostitutes and pimps were arrested.

[San Jose police: Human trafficking crackdown nets 13-year-old girl among victims](#)

San Jose police sex-crimes detectives involved in a nationwide anti-human trafficking operation found two teenage girls they believe were coerced into prostitution. One of the girls was 13 years old, the youngest victim found in the Bay Area during the FBI-led "Operation Cross Country X." In all, local authorities reported finding six underage victims and arrested or cited 14 people suspected of acting as pimps. Six adult prostitutes were also found to be forced into the sex trade.

"It's huge because it doesn't happen all the time," said SJPD Sgt. Eric Quan, who ran the San Jose portion of the operation. "We don't get a lot of these minors. It's a great feeling, and it's what we strive for."

[Catholic Mission steps up campaign against human trafficking](#)

The powerful message that every person can make a difference in the fight against human trafficking has inspired more than 70 attendees at the second Is She Safe? gathering hosted by the Catholic Mission Perth Office. Held on Tuesday, 11 October to coincide with the International Day of the Girl-Child, the event at St Thomas More College brought together experts and everyday supporters to advocate against the trafficking of humans and recognise the life changing benefits of girl-child education.

According to Catholic Mission, human trafficking is the second biggest illegal enterprise in the world, after the illegal arms trade, and Australia is a prime destination for people trafficked from countries such as India, Thailand, Korea, the Philippines and Malaysia.

[Comment Pieces](#)

[Will Theresa May's fight against slavery inform her trade and migration policies?](#)

Theresa May was recently asked what makes her angry. She was succinct in her response: "Injustice ... child sexual abuse, modern slavery. When we see the powerful abusing their position."

The prime minister has been public in her concerns around slavery for some time now. She appears particularly proud of the Modern Slavery Act, which she and her team brought on to the statute books in 2015. She has established a £33m fund focused on "high risk countries where we know victims are regularly trafficked to the UK". She has repeatedly stated that her government will lead the way in defeating modern slavery.

[British Business Is Failing Modern Day Slaves](#)

On the face of it, a construction site, nail bar, car wash or cannabis farm don't have much in common, do they? Well, the answer is more than you might think, as they're all industries that are implicated in modern day slavery.

And it's not just these sectors that are affected. In the UK, an estimated 13,000 people are working as slaves in hospitality, domestic servitude, agriculture, retail, organ harvesting and the sex industry. And if there is any doubt as to the magnitude of the problem globally, the UN says modern slavery and trafficking is now the second-largest criminal industry in the world, with the International Labour Organisation putting annual profits from forced labour at \$150bn.

[What is Anti-Slavery Day and why does it matter?](#)

Chances are an image comes to mind of historical slavery, before its abolition in the UK 183 years ago.

But slavery is still all around us – from the goods we buy being produced by low- or no-wage workers, to the house down your road that’s secretly a brothel housing trafficked women and girls, or even your cleaner or au pair. Today, October 18, is Anti-Slavery Day – a day first created in 2010 for charities, individuals, local authorities and police forces to raise awareness of modern slavery and take action.

Modern Slavery Act gives UK companies a free pass to profit from slavery overseas

While the Modern Slavery Act consolidated and improved our modern laws on trafficking and slavery, it didn’t create any jurisdiction for the crimes of slavery or forced labour that are committed by UK nationals or companies overseas.

If a British person or company holds a person in slavery or forced labour abroad – such as on construction sites in the Gulf states or in the fishing industry – they can do so with impunity, unless their behaviour is criminalised in that state.

Modern Slavery: The Battle Of Our Time

Mrs May has led the way in tackling Modern Slavery, but there’s much more work to do. The Prime Minister last week described human trafficking as ‘barbaric evil’. Hard words, but not hard enough. No words are quite enough to describe the inhuman travesty that is modern slavery.

The cold, hard, shameful truth is that there are more slaves today than ever before in the entire history of mankind. Human trafficking is the biggest travesty of our age. It is happening in our country, in our towns, on our streets.

"I WAS SEX TRAFFICKED AND THIS IS HOW I ESCAPED"

When actress Frida Farrell was 22-years-old, she was held against her will and sold as a sex slave. Fourteen years after her ordeal, she's written and starred in a film, *Selling Isobel*, about her experience. Here she tells us what happened, and how it could easily happen to anyone...

"Fourteen years ago, I was living in London having grown up in Sweden. I'd just finished drama school and was looking for work, going to auditions anywhere from people's homes to theatres. I never thought of myself as naïve – I'm well educated and had lived in various cities around the world since leaving school at 16 - but after a terrifying experience, I'll think twice about everything I do from now on.

Is the Modern Slavery Act Changing Anything for UK Supply Chains?

Now that companies in the U.K. are required to find and eliminate any instances of modern slavery in their supply chains, most are paying much closer attention to potential supply chain risk issues, though few are doing much about it.

Modern slavery is happening now

Look closer and modern slavery could be happening right in front of you – that’s the message from Lancashire Constabulary as part of their week of action. Until Friday October 21, 2016, officers will be out in force carrying out checks on premises such as nail bars, car washes, massage parlours and properties suspected of being used as brothels, in a bid to find any potential victims and to ensure that our communities have a better understanding of what modern slavery is.