

Supporting Victims of Human Trafficking in the UK

Susan Fawcus

Director of National Operations



(A charity founded in 1963)

A Centre of Excellence for distressed migrants and victims of modern day slavery

Who are we? What do we do?



- Celebrating 50 years of services for migrants
- Assisting Asylum Seekers on arrival in the UK
- 'One Stop' Services for Asylum Seekers and Refugees
- Advice sessions to Foreign Nationals/detainees in 8 prisons and immigration removal centres
- Support and advice to EU Migrants in the UK
- Interpreter service (Clearvoice)
- **Support to Victims of Human Trafficking across the UK**

Types of Trafficking / Trends



- **Sexual Exploitation**
- **Domestic Servitude** – *personal servants and slaves*
- **Labour** – *agriculture, fisheries, meat processing factories, garment industry, packaging factories, retail, catering, car washes, construction industry, charitable clothing collection*
- **Marijuana cultivation/security**
- **Organised petty crime** – *pirate CD/DVDS, shoplifting, mobile phone theft, pick pocketing, dog stealing*
- **Street Scene' crime** – *begging, newspaper & Big Issue sales, 'scouting', squeegee work*
- **Identity theft** – *Benefit and tax credit fraud*
- **Money laundering** – *multiple bank accounts*
- **Forced marriages** – *bride slavery*

The EU Convention and supporting Victims of Trafficking in the UK



- The National Referral Mechanism (NRM) is a framework for identifying victims of human trafficking and ensuring they receive the appropriate protection and support.
- The NRM was introduced in 2009 to meet the UK's obligations under the Council of European Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

How do Victims of Trafficking access support?



A potential victim of trafficking must consent to a referring authority, known as a First Responder, completing an application.

First responder agencies include:

- Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)
- Police Forces
- Home Office (formerly UK Border Agency)
- Local Authorities
- Gangmasters' Licensing Authority (GLA)
- Migrant Help
- Salvation Army

Who is a Competent Authority?



The first responder will complete a referral form to pass the case to the Competent Authority.

Competent Authority is either UK Human Trafficking Centre or Home Office (formerly UK Border Agency).

Once a referral has been made the Competent Authority will assess the case and make a decision on whether an individual is a victim of trafficking.

There are several stages in this process:

Stage One – "Reasonable Grounds"



- First decision by the Competent Authority is 'Reasonable grounds'

"From the information available so far I believe but cannot prove"

- Potential victim will be granted a recovery and reflection period of 45 days. This allows the victim to begin to recover from their ordeal and to reflect on what they want to do next, for example, co-operate with police enquiries, return home etc.

Stage Two – Conclusive Decision



- *"it is more likely than not that the individual is a victim of human trafficking"*
- Information gathered during the 45 days is used to make a conclusive decision on whether the referred person is a victim of human trafficking
- The Competent Authority's target for a conclusive decision is within the 45 day 'Recovery and Reflection' period.

Cooperating with Police Enquiries

Granting discretionary leave



- Victims may be granted discretionary leave to remain in the UK for one year to allow them to co-operate fully in any police investigation and subsequent prosecution.
- Period of discretionary leave can be extended if required.

If the referred person is not found to be victim?



- If the Competent Authority decides that the person was not trafficked, and there are no other circumstances that would give them a right to live in the UK, he or she may be offered support to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

Migrant Help Victim Support in the UK



- In England and Wales, Migrant Help is a sub contractor for The Salvation Army, providing support of all adult victims of human trafficking.
- Migrant Help secured funding from the Lankelly Chase Foundation to identify and support potential victims of trafficking in prison, who were not identified during the criminal justice process.

Migrant Help Victim Support in the UK

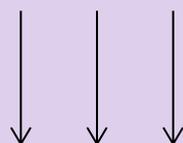


- In Scotland, Migrant Help is contracted by the Scottish Government to deliver support services to all victims of trafficking a safe house to support a variety of needs (with the exception of female sexual exploitation).
- In Northern Ireland, Migrant Help is contracted by The Department of Justice as the principal service provider and gateway for the support of all adult victims of human trafficking.

Victim Support



INFORMED DECISIONS



Crisis Intervention

Multiple Interventions

Resettlement



CARE PLANNING



How does Migrant Help support victims?



We provide our clients with:-

1. Physical, psychological and emotional support
2. Spiritual support when appropriate
3. Sign posting to specialist services
4. Accommodation
5. Legal representation
6. Financial support
7. Referral to medical professionals
8. Guidance through the process of decision making
9. Education
10. Interpretation and translation
11. Assistance with ID documents
12. Assistance to return home if client wishes

Raising awareness



Participating in working groups and committees to inform Government policy e.g.

- Centre for Social Justice Slavery Review (published in February 2013)
- Advisory group on NHS Response to health needs of adult and child victims of trafficking
- International projects e.g. International Organisation for Migration (IOM) project to Foster and Improve Integration for Trafficked People (FIIT)

National Awareness

Blue Blindfold Campaign



Crime Stoppers campaign

DON'T GET LOST IN TRAFFICKING



CONTROLLED AREA



NO FOOD



CHILDREN ABDUCTED



SLAVES AT WORK & HOME



ABUSE AND VIOLENCE



INHUMANE CONDITIONS



NO ESCAPE