

Cross Party Group Human Trafficking

Wednesday 26th October 2016 5.00 – 6.30pm

Scottish Parliament Digital Meeting Rm Tg.20-21

Attendees

Jenny Marra MSP
Christina McKelvie MSP
Ruth Davidson MSP
Ash Denham MSP
Clare Haughey MSP
Ross Greer MSP
Sheri Johngrass
Julie Loncar
Billie Wealleans (Women's Equality
Party Highlands and Islands Branch)
Lydia Moore (UN House)
Bronagh Andrew (Trafficking
Awareness Raising Alliance)
Paul Rigby (University of Stirling)
Kirsty Thomson (Legal Services Agency)
Kathy Betteridge (Salvation Army)
Iain Whyte (Anti Slavery
International/The Iona Community)
Karen McIntosh (Edinburgh City
Council)
Nicola Weir
Gordon McDonald (Care for Scotland)
Heather Newman
Jane Stewart (Edinburgh City Council)

Jim Laird (Inverclyde City Council)
Jill Sutherland

Apologies

Aileen Fleming
John Merralls (Migrant Help UK)
Jacci Stoye
Hazen Watson (Action Together
Churches in Scotland)
Pam Cairns (Soroptimist International)
Ann Henderson
Megan Farr (Children and Young
People's Commissioner Scotland)
Janice Wilson (Soroptimist
International)
Andy Bevan (International Justice
Mission UK)
Rebecca Wallace (Robert Gordon
University Aberdeen)
Steve Malloch
Sean Bell (Edinburgh City Council)
Moirra McKinnon (Glasgow City Council)
Graham O'Neill
Margaret Mowat (Soroptimist
International)
Catriona McSween (Scottish
Guardianship Service)

Agenda:

1. Open & Introduction
2. Elect office bearers
3. Discussion of CPG for next term
 - a. Direction & expectation
 - b. Areas for interest for future meetings
4. AoB
5. Close

Agenda item 1

Jenny Marra MSP (JM) and Christina McKelvie MSP (CM) opened the meeting. JM and CM confirmed the CPG on Human Trafficking intention to reform.

CPG registration form signed by Jenny Marra MSP, Christina McKelvie MSP, Ash Denham MSP, Clare Haughey MSP, Ross Greer MSP and Ruth Davidson MSP.

Agenda item 2

Christina McKelvie and Ash Denham MSP agreed to co-convene the group. Jenny Marra and Ross Greer agreed to co-convene the role of deputy convenor.

Jill Sutherland agreed to continue as secretariat for the purposes of reforming the group and the next meeting.

Agenda item 3

Direction & Expectation

Kirsty Thompson (Legal Services Agency) stated the interest in defining the expectation of coming together and highlighted the importance of a shared expectation.

JM confirmed this has been a topic at CPG meetings in the past and confirmed that the CPG on Human Trafficking is a forum for all involved and organisations to come together and it is useful to discuss expectation.

JM confirmed it is for the CPG members to facilitate.

Iain Whyte stated that the last group was last co-convened by JM and CM and created information and inspiration for the campaign against slavery.

Ian Whyte confirmed that previous themes have featured the supply chain, police accountability and look to what is being done with a broad brush whilst questioning experts and learning the regulations.

Areas of Interests and Future meetings

Bronagh Andrew (Tara) suggested a question and answer session in light of the commencement and regulation of the Act.

It was suggested that Kevin Hyland OBE be invited to the next meeting.

Kirsty Thompson advised that a report has been published by Greta in relation to gaps in legislation.

Kirsty Thompson suggested that future meetings should be based on the thematic groups provided in the Greta Report, such as children and issues in the press, to facilitate broader discussion.

Lydia Moore (UN House) suggested that Gangmasters Licensing share information and questioning what are Police Scotland and DIFID doing in Scotland in relation to Human Trafficking. It was noted IJM are working with DIFID.

Bronagh Andrew advised she has a contact within DIFID procurement. Bronagh Andrew also questioned whether Tear Fund and DIFID and what is being done in terms of Tear Fund for FGM.

CM confirmed FGM is a serious danger and should be raised directly with the Scottish Government.

Gordon MacDonald (CARE) noted that asylum and refugees were worth discussion as Europol reported a 10,000 children missing across Europe.

CM suggested to bring the Scottish Government officials back in the New Year however noted that the timings do not work well and the Scottish Government may bring a debate and if relevant there could be a joint meeting.

CM suggested evening meetings for future meetings starting from 5.30pm.

Agenda item 4

Bronagh Andrew questioned whether the group is able to write to Government and stated for the law to operate there should be a focus on good regulation and writing could influence on how to take thoughts and feelings from the process.

Bronagh Andrew advised this was done or the Cross Party Group on Violence Against Women as there was a tangible action.

CM and JM advised that convenors do commit to writing to Government and do so on occasion. CM and JM advised that the CPG is not designed for scrutiny of Government but writing to the Government can maintain laws and provide knowledge to ministers.

CM mentioned the Lord Advocate and the opportunities to work together to change.

Iain Whyte referenced the UN boxes at the commonwealth games and stated that the Scottish Parliament took it this far but need to press for further.

It was stated that funding arrangements aren't in place in local authorities and it is not possible to transfer to England or Scotland and there is a funding gap from children who are 18 to 24-26 year olds.

It was confirmed the Scottish Government set up committee is still on going. The Chair of the Equality and Human Rights Commission is working on this. There are gaps in Scotland in relation to the UN concluding observations and questioned whether this should be an on going theme throughout the year as there are lot more gaps in relation to Trafficked Children.

Nicola Weir stated that children are trafficked into the UK constantly and are in the care of Local Authorities but there is a lack of knowledge in relation to the NRM process. Nicola Weir stated there is a need to check authorities for markers to strengthen local authorities and how NRM works.

Kirsty Thompson stated that age assessment is linked in, the role and job is difficult in any local authorities to ascertain what age children are and how they should be accommodated.

Sheri Johngrass stated that there is a gap in relation to housing support.

Paul Rigby stated that there is no gap for children as legislation is in place but the gap appears once the child turns 18. Paul Rigby stated that there is no evidence that specialist care is needed in local authorities.

Bronagh Andrew stated that provision of adult support meets needs in terms of recovery and referred to the HT Foundation Day 46 report relating to the difficulties for adult survivors after 45 days.

It was stated that the Scottish Government are brief on legislation and brief on re-settlement programmes.

Paul Rigby stated that settlement and trafficking are different and noted there is a Cross Party Group relating to Refugees.

Bronagh Andrew noted that the public funds tackling prevention of human trafficking closes in December. Bronagh Andrew referred to the strategy about children and the issue of training which many people have responded to.

Bronagh Andrew noted Anti Trafficking Monitoring offences and the Lord Advocate operation instruction electronic copy. Bronagh Andrew advised that there will be Statutory Guidance on Protection Mechanism and National Protection Mechanism Pilots.

Agenda item 5: Close

The meeting was closed with the following actions:

- CM to complete CPG registration form and return to standard clerks with CPG Annual Return of 24th June 2015
- Bronagh Andrew to email JS contact from Police Scotland, Victims Voices and DIFID procurement contact.
- JS to contact Police Scotland, Victims Voices, DIFID procurement, Scottish Government Officials for review at next meeting.
- JS to arrange future meetings for 5.30pm.
- JS to arrange next meeting for January/February 2017.