

Cross-Party Group on Human Trafficking

17 May 2022 6.00 pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Rhoda Grant MSP
Bill Kidd MSP
Jeremy Balfour MSP
Ruth Maguire MSP
Russell Findlay MSP

Invited guests

Andy Bevan, Chief Advocacy & Impact Officer, IJM UK

Non-MSP Group Members

Alison Raybould, The Salvation Army
Andrew Brown, UN House Scotland
Ann Hayne
Anushya Kulupana
Catriona MacSween, Scottish Guardianship Service
Fil Capaldi
Ella Higgins, UN House Scotland
Emma White, Restore Glasgow
Gari Donn, UN House Scotland
Gemma Corbett
Hana Shono, UN House Scotland
Hannah Lawrence, UN House Scotland
Jacci Stoyale
Janet Warren
Janice Wilson
Jenny Olson
Joy Gillespie, SOHTIS
Lauren Agnew
Linda Thompson (Women's Support Project)
Michael Veitch, Care for Scotland
Naya Koulocheri

Pat Black, UN House Scotland, Soroptimists International
Rebecca Wallace

Stephanie Beard
Steve Rawbone

Apologies

Katy Clark MSP
Beatrice Wishart MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Stephen Healy, Police Scotland
Iain Whyte, Iona Community
Susan McKellar, The Scottish Women's Convention
Gordon Smith, Scottish Government Human Trafficking Team
Katie Lang, Crieff Soroptimists International

Adopt Minutes of the previous meeting

Accepted

Presentation on the work of International Justice Mission (IJM), their European Anti-Trafficking Programme and their response to the Ukraine crisis – presented by Andy Bevan

Introduction to International Justice Mission – Andy Bevan

- With a goal of protecting people in poverty from violence, International Justice Mission (IJM) partners with local authorities in 23 different countries in order to combat trafficking and slavery, violence against women and children, and police abuse of power.

- The partnerships with local authorities aim to strengthen justice systems, rescue and bring restoration to victims, bring criminals to justice and scale the demand for protection in these areas.

IJM's European Anti-Trafficking Programme – Andy Bevan

- The vision for the European Anti-Trafficking programme is that “vulnerable populations are protected from cross-border trafficking by strengthened and coordinated criminal justice systems across Europe”.

- The establishment of the Cross Border Programme concluded the following through a thorough gap analysis:

1. A lack of continuum of care for survivors
2. A reluctance from survivors to engage in the Criminal Justice System
3. A lack of coherent and sustained cross-border cooperation

- Current vs. Future operations

- IJM is currently operating in Romania and offering support in cross-border trafficking cases as they relate to the UK, Germany and the Netherlands.
- The Ukraine crisis has accelerated the Programme, and IJM has started assessments for expansion into Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria. It will also be expanding operations to Spain, Italy and France.

IJM's response to the Ukraine Crisis – Andrew Bevan

- Crisis Overview:

Pre-existing research from IJM aided the identification of the many high risk trafficking destinations which Ukrainian refugees are travelling to. This has been the basis for immediate intervention and safety programme implementation by IJM.

- IJM's response so far:

- Emergency shelter, food and medicine (Romania, Moldova and Ukraine)
- Safe transport and placement for refugees
- Recruiting protection officers and provide training for local partners/NGOS
- Intelligence gathering: digital analysts evaluate suspicious online activity, with a targeted focus on social media in relation to women in Ukraine
- ANITP Partnership trainings on the best practices for safeguarding, recognizing trafficking in persons and reporting
- Further engagement with local authorities and border police to support them in their endeavours.

- IJM's response going forward

- IJM is hiring eight protection officers at each crucial border point and in Bucharest overflow centres.
- Ongoing replication of the IJM model in Poland, Hungary and Bulgaria

Post-presentation Questions

- Several queries into IJM's activity in and surrounding Scotland in relation to the Ukraine Crisis were asked. These were responded to with explanations that IJM's activity here was comparatively limited, given the geographical distance acting as a deterrent for many Ukrainian refugees who are able to choose closer relocation sites.

- Attention was drawn to the Soroptimist International Network and their members in Poland and Hungary who would be keen to support IJM in their endeavours. This was highlighted as a connection to follow up on.

Date of Next Meeting

6 September 2022