

# Cross-Party Group on Human Trafficking

22 February 2022 6.00 pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Rhoda Grant MSP  
Bill Kidd MSP  
Jeremy Balfour MSP

Invited guests

Kirsty Thomson, Just Right Scotland

Non-MSP Group Members

Alison Raybould, The Salvation Army  
Ann Hayne  
Bronagh Andrew, TARA  
Jillian McBride, Scottish Refugee Council, Scottish Guardianship Service Anushya  
Kulupana, JustRight Scotland  
Fil Capaldi  
Gari Donn, UN House Scotland  
Hana Shono, UN House Scotland  
Hannah Lawrence, UN House Scotland  
Janice Wilson  
Jenny Olson  
Joy Gillespie, SOHTIS  
Katie Lang, Soroptimists International Scotland North  
Laura, Glasgow Anti Slavery Group - Anti Slavery International  
Lauren Agnew  
Margaret Mowat, Soroptimists International Scotland South  
Megan Farr, CYPSCS  
Pat Black, UN House Scotland, Soroptimists International  
Paul Rigby, University of Stirling  
Rebecca Wallace  
Sarah Stanger, SOHTIS  
Sheila Murie  
Steve Rawbone  
Susan McKellar, Scottish Women's Convention  
Wojtek Krakowiak, UN House Scotland  
Ruth Maguire

Katy Clark  
Joy Gillespie  
Susan McKellar  
Tandy Nicole

## Apologies

Stephen Kerr MSP  
Dr Sarah Kyambi, Migration Policy Scotland  
Jacci Stoyle  
Chris Murray, COSLA  
Stephen Healy, Police Scotland  
Emma White

## Adopt Minutes of the previous meeting

Accepted

## Briefing on Nationality and Borders Bill (NABB) - presented by Kirsty Thompson

- A new bill is being introduced - the Nationality and Borders Bill (NABB) which is aiming to change immigration law.

- There is significant concern from the civil society sector, particularly in Scotland, as it effects our ability to identify, protect and prevent human trafficking in Scotland.

- There are two predominant areas of concern:

1. Criminalisation of Unlawful Arrival: Creates a new immigration offense of knowingly entering the UK without having leave to enter the UK. This will limit one's ability to arrive in the UK to seek safety and will drive individuals to the margins of our societies where exploitation awaits.

2. Inadmissible Asylum Claim: If one has managed to get to the UK and claim asylum, their claim could be inadmissible, particularly if they didn't claim asylum in the first country possible. Therefore, they could be penalised based on *how* they arrived.

- Some other areas of concern:

- Introduction of Asylum Accommodation Centers

- Refugee protection made more difficult

  - Standard of proof is higher, victims of human trafficking are disproportionately affected

- Two Tier System of discrimination

- Allows Home Office to treat refugees differently based on *how* they arrived
- Human trafficking specific concerns:
  - Trauma deadlines: If someone doesn't say immediately that they are a victim of human trafficking, they will be penalised for that. This impacts how Scotland identifies victims (which is a devolved matter).
  - Age Assessment: Age will be assessed at Border, not by local authority specialists. This paves the way for using techniques which are condemned internationally.
- Summary
  - o This Bill creates conditions for trafficking and exploitations
  - o Harder to identify victims and capture perpetrators
  - o Is it time that Scotland considers its own identification system?

## Date of Next Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> May 2022