Cross-Party Group on Human Trafficking

12 September 2023 6.00 pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Bill Kidd MSP
Rhoda Grant MSP

Invited guests

Non-MSP Group Members

Agnes Tolmie
Alanya Smith
Alison Raybould
Ann Hayne
Anushya Kulupana
Bronagh Andrew
Chris White
Ella Higgins
Gari Donn
Gemma Corbett
Janet Warren
Janice Wilson
Julia Muraszkiewicz
Karen Murdrasi
Laura Nacyte
Michael Gough
Pat Black
Sheila Miller
Iiris Aliska

Apologies

Joy Gillespie
Gordon Smith
Ian White
Jackie Stoil?
Steve Rathbone
Susan McKellan
Rebecca Wallace

Adopt Minutes of the previous meeting

Accepted, with a correction from Gordon Smith to amend named persons in the minutes

Presentation

Using Ethical Artificial Intelligence to Combat Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation. Presentation by Dr. Julia Muraszkiewicz, head of the Human Trafficking Programme at Trilateral Research.

Introduction to Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz – Rhoda Grant MSP

- Dr Muraszkiewicz is the Head of Human Trafficking and Human Rights at Trilateral Research and is on the editorial board for the Journal of Human Trafficking and has published several peer-reviewed papers. She has previously worked as a support worker for human trafficking survivors.
- Dr Muraszkiewicz will be presenting on how ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI) can be harnessed to prevent human trafficking and child exploitation, whilst supporting identification and recovery.

Welcome - Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz

- Dr Muraszkiewicz shares thanks for being invited to participate in the CPG meeting and welcomes attendees to contact her after the meeting to learn more about her work.

- Dr Muraszkiewicz has previous experience working in safe housing for human trafficking victims in Manchester and has research experience interviewing over 200 human traffickers and 300 human trafficking victims to gain a robust understanding of how to address human trafficking.

Identifying Trends And Patterns - Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz

- Whilst working in Manchester, Dr Muraszkiewicz and a colleague discussed the high-frequency trend of Polish victims who were accessing human trafficking support in comparison to victims of other nationalities. These patterns were recognised by discussions between colleagues, however, highlighted the importance of using digital technology to recognise trends and patterns within data to gain insight into human trafficking.
- Currently working at Trilateral Research, an ethical AI development company, Dr Muraszkiewicz works to scan thousands of texts to recognise patterns and trends within a data science team on human trafficking statistics. This work can include building models which extract information from case notes, police notes and statements to recognise key information recurring with human trafficking. For example, recognising key trafficking routes can be highlighted by identifying patterns in transport methods, intermediary spots in travelling and recruitment locations of victims.

The Honeycomb Project - Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz

- This model of data extraction was initially commissioned and funded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, forming The Honeycomb Project. This project enables data to be shared in safe, anonymised methods.
- The two key aims of the Honeycomb Project are to combine data across human trafficking organisations and recognise how this can be utilised to support and safeguard human trafficking victims.
- By working alongside Greater Manchester Police, Trilateral Research has been able to extract data from a wide range of organisations to gain robust insights into human trafficking concerns, with these findings then used to tailor support to the nuanced needs of human trafficking victims. For example, the project identified that victims in Manchester wished to receive a free bus pass to improve mobility and accessibility across Manchester, identifying to Greater Manchester Police that collaboration was needed across transport organisations to support victims.
- The Honeycomb Project is coded to help support the unique research aims and questions of each organisation that collaborates with Trilateral Research to ensure the patterns identified are effectively helping that organisation's support services to human trafficking victims.
- The Honeycomb Project is working alongside the Policy Evidence Centre to
- Extracting data across human trafficking material allowing the voices of

- The Honeycomb Project is also working alongside Lincolnshire Police to identify children who may be at risk for exploitation through their data. This is called Project Cezium.

Conclusion – Rhoda Grant MSP

Post Presentation Questions

Question 1 (Rhoda Grant MSP): What program is used to gather this information?

Answer 1 (Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz): The data program is called Honeycomb, which collects and anonymises this sensitive data within an algorithm built by Trilateral Research. The data analysis then displays this data in different methods, including mapping, graphs and timelines in the most appropriate method. These findings build upon the support which is provided to

Question 2 (Bill Kidd): Can you always ensure that victims will not be identified and that victims won't be

Answer 2 (Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz): Causeway, an organisation whom we work with, may work alongside us and have data which can be replicated if not cross-referenced. The Honeycomb algorithm holds a risk of double counting,

Question 3 (Bill Kidd): Can these findings be 'put into the wrong hands'?

Answer 3 (Dr Julia Muraszkiewiczme): Security, data, protection and ethics are at the heart of Trilateral Research, which is formed of high-level professionals. This data is anonymised before publishing, and every step is taken to protect the information extracted.

Question 4 (Name): Do individuals have to provide consent to their data being shared? Have there been any difficulties in gaining this?

Answer 4 (Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz): PEC is formed by 58 victims who have consented to their data being shared, where victims are piloting a journalling scheme to gain new data from victims as a trial model for gaining new information from victims. Data collected from NGOs can be published from the past, where victims will have consented to their data being published. If this consent is limited to that organisation, this will not be shared with Trilateral, however, if their consent extends to research organisation

rights then this will be used and collected to improve Trialter's insights and services. An informed legal team provides

Question 5 (Rhoda Grant): The Cezium helps identify potential victims, but how is this data collected amongst minors? Is this applied outside the UK, and can these prevention services help mitigate trafficking?

Answer 5 (Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz): The data collected helps to build a broad understanding of preventing trafficking across a variety of communities. For example, there was an increase in Hungarian women being exploited recognised by Greater Manchester Police. Research was then conducted to identify key trafficking routes, transport methods and recruitment strategies. This helped to understand the trends and patterns to build the appropriate prevention methods to eliminate that recognised pathway of trafficking. Lincolnshire Police have helped provide data for the Cezium Project, which is safeguarded and exclusive to their own data collection to ensure that the risks of exploitation and trafficking amongst young people. More information on safeguarding practices for collecting data on minors can be provided by contacting Dr Muraszkiewicz.

Question 6 (Gari Donn): Does Trilateral majorly research within the UK? Can we use data from outside the UK to recognise global patterns?

Answer 6 (Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz): The Honeycomb Project is still in its pilot stage in the UK, however, funding has recently been secured from the Home Office Innovation Fund to research risks of forced labour in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Whilst there's a lot of controversy surrounding the Immigration Bill in the UK at the moment, many countries look to the UK on their human trafficking prevention services as a springboard for their own research.

Question 7 (Gari Donn): Would different countries warrant their own AI coding to collect their own data?

Answer 7 (Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz): Every country, area and region will have its own interests in using AI to best support victims. There are two things which determine the outputted results; what data is being inputted, and what questions are being asked. Each organisation will have their own goals and their questions may change over time to help identify the patterns and results they are searching for.

Question 8 (Chris White): Did Manchester and Lincolnshire contact you directly for your services? could these services be requested in Scotland? And as the project is in its trial phase, when do you envision this being rolled out more broadly?

Answer 8 (Dr Julia Muraszkiewicz): Greater Manchester opened a bid for tenders via a contract finder, which we applied for. For Lincolnshire Police, we partnered together and sought funding from Innovate UK, and they are currently seeking a license for the technology we use. There are many funding streams available in the UK and globally. The Honeycomb is piloted in Manchester but should be licenced in six months, however, the insights they're researching may differ from other organisations. A new model has to be created to appropriately answer the research questions and aims of each organisation that contacts us.

Date of Next Meeting

7.11.2023