

**Equality and
Human Rights
Commission**

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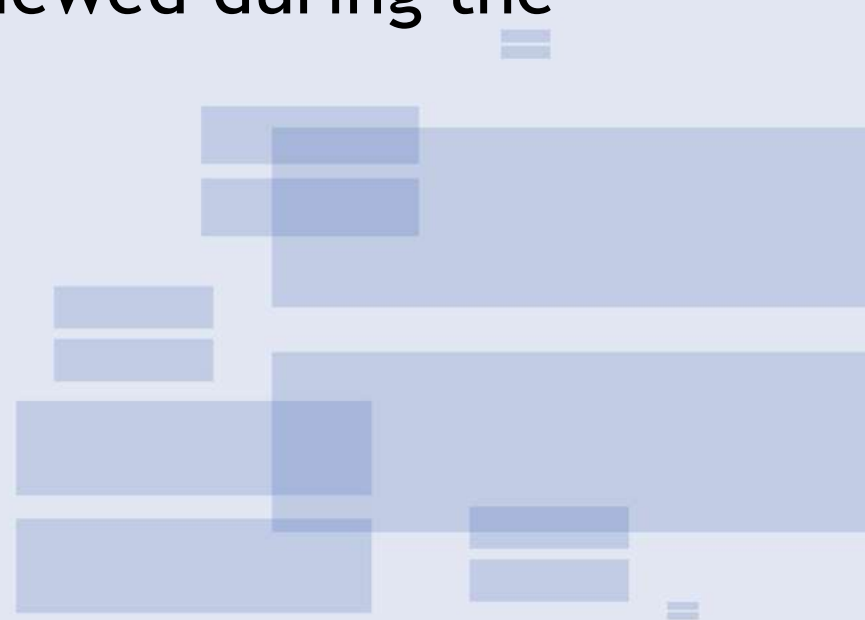
Human Trafficking Awareness Raising Event

15 August 2012

**Claudia Bennett,
Senior Solicitor**

EHRC Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland

A story based on the experiences of the victims that were interviewed during the course of the Inquiry.

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EHRC Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland

- Launched in February 2010
- Led by Baroness Helena Kennedy QC
- Focus on main purposes: mainly trafficking for the purpose of sexual commercial exploitation, but also forced labour, domestic servitude, criminal exploitation

EHRC Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland

- Why human trafficking - reasons for doing it

Human trafficking is modern day slavery, is a growing organised and lucrative crime, and above all else, is a gross violation of a person's dignity and human rights.

- Focus on extensive, robust evidence

Labour Exploitation

Two sons and their mother brought nine men from India and Pakistan to work in their restaurant over a three year period. The men were promised good jobs in the UK but when they arrived their passports were taken and they were made to work for long hours for very low pay at their restaurant. They were subjected to verbal abuse and violence.

“I had to take an Oath, I was given this mark on my hand. I was told that if you tell anyone what has transpired you are going to die. They gave me a razor blade to eat, they took my armpit hair, they removed my nails from my toes and my fingers...they removed the hair on my body, they tied it up and put it in this shrine, then they tear my body and told me that if I tell anyone...you will just die...when I saw the shrine, it was so big, I was so scared...I know that this has had a very bad effect on me, I live in fear...I think that if anything is happening I am going to die”

Recommendations made in 10 areas

- Strategy
- Public and professional awareness.
- Legislation
- Intelligence on human trafficking
- Prosecution of traffickers
- Asset recovery against traffickers and organised crime
- Regulation of legitimate sectors where traffickers operate
- Involvement of the private sector against human trafficking
- Independent system in decisions on and support for victims
- End-to-end service for victims from identification to recovery

Findings and recommendations - Examples

Finding 1 - There is a need for a strategic approach. Scotland needs to have a comprehensive strategy to prevent and tackle human trafficking: the Scottish Government should build on its work on research, guidance, funding, and legislation and develop a strategic plan to tackle human trafficking. It should demonstrate leadership in devolved areas and proactively seek cooperation on issues within the competence of the UK Government and international and transnational agencies.

Findings and recommendations - Examples

Finding 2 -There is little public or professional awareness in Scotland of human trafficking or its indicators: the Scottish Government should: run an anti-trafficking campaign to raise awareness with the public in Scotland; organise accredited anti-trafficking training for all First Responders and relevant front-line professionals; and encourage front-line agencies to develop their own guidance on human trafficking, particularly on trafficking indicators.

Evidence to the Inquiry from a senior SCDEA representative

“People are getting muddled up thinking it is an immigration issue, its not. It is about people. Just because you are trafficked doesn’t mean you are an illegal immigrant. It is not an immigration crime. How can it be an immigration crime if for example you are a Romanian or a Polish person.”

Findings and recommendations - Examples

Finding 10 - The need for end to- end services for victims Scotland does not yet have comprehensive, end-to-end services for victims of human trafficking: the Scottish Government should develop a Trafficking Care Standard and introduce an end-to-end service for trafficking victims. This should include arrangements for systematically tracking the progress and outcomes for each victim.

EHRC Inquiry - What next?

- Inquiry report published in November 2011
- SG Response - Key quotes from Cabinet Secretary for Justice from the Chamber Debate on trafficking (29 February 2012):

"I can say straight away that the Scottish Government accepts the principle of almost all the recommendations that are directed to us."

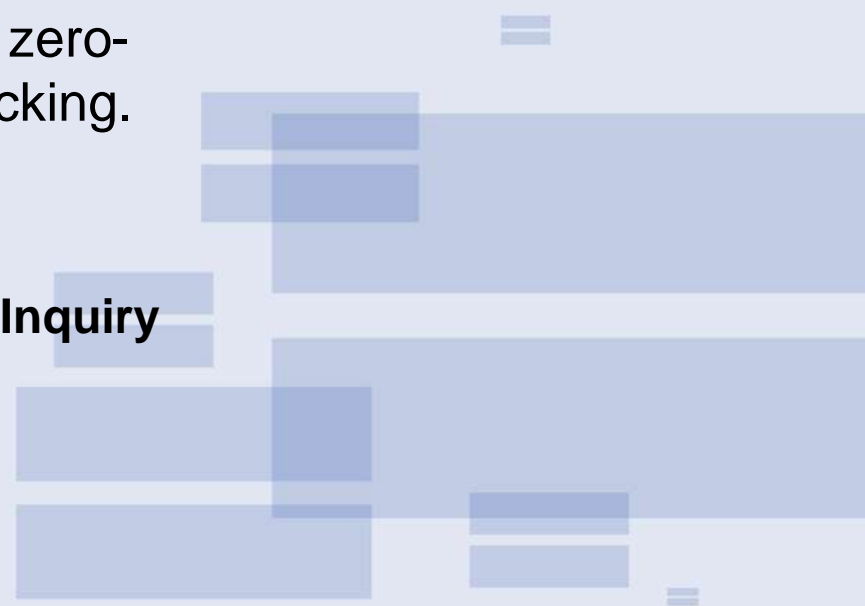
"The Scottish Government intends to host a summit with key delivery partners to refresh the strategic direction for policy and delivery in this important area."

- EHRC: One-year-on review

EHRC Inquiry into Human Trafficking in Scotland

Human trafficking is one of those pressing contemporary issues which speaks to the nature of our societies. It tests the value we attach to the humanity of others. It speaks to who we are as a people. Confronting it involves collaboration. I am hoping that Scotland will pioneer a zero-tolerance approach to human trafficking.

**Baroness Helena Kennedy QC,
Investigating Commissioner, EHRC Inquiry
into Human Trafficking in Scotland**



More information on the Inquiry

Please go to:

www.equalityhumanrights.com/humantrafficking

Or contact me:

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