

2 February 2022

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Dear Ministers,

**Vietnamese nationals arriving by small boats**

I write further to our previous email exchange on Vietnamese nationals arriving by small boats. Whilst I am assured that the number of Vietnamese nationals arriving by small boats has declined, we still need to take action. In my letter of 19 October 2021, one of the three recommendations I made was to ensure there is culturally sensitive support for victims. I am pleased that cultural competence training to support Vietnamese migrants has been delivered to The Salvation Army first responders.

I recently met with the organisation that delivered this training, Pacific Links, an international NGO working throughout Vietnam and in destination countries to prevent trafficking and help trafficking survivors build new lives. I would recommend that the Home Office also considers this training for relevant staff from the Borders and Enforcement directorates. It would be particularly beneficial for Border Force Safeguarding and Modern Slavery (SAMS) Officers and those in Immigration Enforcement who may interact with Vietnamese nationals during the course of their duties.

I also understand from officials that they are in the process of arranging a workshop with The Salvation Army to identify gaps in the process and improve communication between Immigration Enforcement and the Modern Slavery Victim Care Contract (MSVCC). I am glad that discussions have begun, however, it is important that this work is progressed in a timely manner.

I look forward to receiving your response. In the interests of transparency, I request that you respond in a way that enables me to publish your letter on my website.

Yours sincerely,



**Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner**