



Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM
Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
5th Floor, Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
London, SW1V 1PN

Tel: +44 (0) 20 3513 0477
Email: sara.thornton@iasc.independent.gov.uk

13 January 2020

Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary,

I look forward to meeting you in February which will provide a good opportunity to talk you through my Strategic Plan which you laid before Parliament in October. I would also find it very valuable to hear your priorities for modern slavery and human trafficking.

I was encouraged to read the background briefing for the Queen's Speech which signalled a continuing commitment to tackling modern slavery:

"The UK promotes and defends the full range of universal human rights, and strongly encourages all states to fulfil their obligations under international law. This includes continuing work to defend and advance Freedom of Religion or Belief, promoting Media Freedom, and tackling Modern Slavery."

The previous Government made several important announcements on transparency in supply chains including creating a central registry of modern slavery statements, publishing a modern slavery statement in 2019, and government departments publishing their own modern slavery statements from 2020/21.

Does the new Government remain committed to these initiatives?

In 2016 the Government also committed to rolling out Independent Child Trafficking Guardians across all Local Authorities (currently only a third of areas are covered). The Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 also recommended full roll out and to consider a needs-based approach rather than an assumption that children with a parent or guardian in the UK do not need a guardian. Support for children who are amongst the most vulnerable victims should be prioritised and I would appreciate an update on the Government's plans.

Finally, you will be aware that the EU Anti trafficking directive 2011 provides the foundation for support for victims and for transnational cooperation on modern slavery. I am hoping that you can reassure me that transposition of this directive is in the EU Withdrawal Bill and that this Government is committed to continuing to implement the directive.

I look forward to our meeting.

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner