



## IASC advisory panel: Minutes (8 July 2019)

Date: 8 July 2019  
Time: 16.00 – 18.00  
Location: Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Globe House, 89 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1PN

### Members

The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern	Chair, The Clewer Initiative (Advisory Panel Chair)
Lara Bundock	CEO and Founder, The Snowdrop Project
The Rt Hon. the Baroness Butler-Sloss GBE	Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
Michael Clarke	CEO, The Passage
Julia Mulligan	Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, North Yorkshire
Sir Tom Phillips KCMG	Director, Centre for the Study of Modern Slavery, St Mary's University
Gillian Rivers	Partner, Penningtons Manches Cooper
Sir Bernard Silverman FRS	Professor of Modern Slavery Statistics, Rights Lab, University of Nottingham
Yasmin Waljee OBE	International Pro Bono Director, Hogan Lovells

### Apologies

Cindy Berman	Head of Modern Slavery Strategy, The Ethical Trading Initiative
Dr Paul Rigby	Lecturer in Social Work, University of Stirling
The Baroness Young of Hornsey OBE	Co-Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sport, Modern Slavery and Human Rights



**In attendance**

Dame Sara Thornton DBE QPM	Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (Commissioner)
Rebecca Baumgartner	Chief of Staff, Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
Tatiana Gren-Jardan	Victims and Partnerships Lead, Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
DCI Jenny Bristow	Law Enforcement Lead, Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
Katherine Lawson	Communications Officer, Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

**1. Introduction (Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Chair, IASC advisory panel)**

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those present. He invited members to introduce themselves.

Dame Sara stated that the value of the advisory panel is in bringing together different perspectives and challenge to the Commissioner.

She gave apologies for those unable to attend.

**2. Terms of reference**

The Chair asked members to consider the terms of reference and asked for any comments.

It was suggested that the Commissioner could call upon members for advice in small groups, or one-on-one, further to proposed quarterly meetings. Members agreed.

Members agreed on the terms of reference.

**3. Membership**

The Chair noted that membership comprises a mix of members from the former Commissioner's advisory panel, and new members. He asked members present if they thought there were any gaps in membership.



### Survivor representation

It was asked if someone representing a survivor voice could be included. Panel members discussed how this could be done in an appropriate way.

It was noted that involving survivors in such fora can be re-traumatising.

It was pointed out that organisations providing support to victims of modern slavery, such as The Snowdrop Project and The Passage, are represented on the panel.

It was suggested that panel members could instead meet with survivors periodically, and in smaller groups, to keep them updated.

Dame Sara said that she has been listening to survivor voices as part of her work as IASC.

### International perspective

It was asked whether it would be useful to include someone with an overseas perspective on modern slavery, especially on issues such as reintegration and support for returnees.

Dame Sara noted that the Modern Slavery Act Review had recommended that Government appoint an envoy or ambassador to represent the Government's modern slavery agenda overseas, and that Government has accepted this recommendation. Dame Sara added that she will consider the international aspects of modern slavery but focus on the UK.

### Final comments

Members expressed positive views on the diverse shape of the advisory panel. Closing this section, the Chair and Dame Sara agreed to keep the suggestions under review.

## **4. Discussion of the Strategic Plan (Dame Sara Thornton, IASC)**

Dame Sara gave an overview of the relevant part of the Modern Slavery Act which outlines the duties of the Commissioner, including preparing and submitting to the Home Secretary a strategic plan. This must set out how the Commissioner proposes to exercise her functions for the period to which the plan relates.

Dame Sara said her strategic plan will have four focus areas: improving victim care and support, supporting law enforcement and prosecution, focusing on prevention, and getting value from research and innovation. The plan will be for 2019 to 2021.



### Improving victim care and support

Dame Sara gave an outline of proposed themes for this part of the strategy, and areas of policy change and trends.

Members raised issues for consideration in the strategy, primarily:

- Wrap-around support before, during and after the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and longer-term support post-NRM;
- Monitoring quality and effectiveness of support provided during the NRM, including access to legal advice. Members noted the importance of collecting evidence on “what works” to ensure victims receive effective support;
- The role of First Responders, and the interplay between local and national responses to victim identification and care;
- Achieving a balance between victim identification and care, and the law enforcement response to modern slavery;
- Providing adequate support for child victims was discussed. Dame Sara highlighted proposed work on this issue which would be included in the strategic plan;
- Effective application of the Modern Slavery Act legislation, including ensuring correct use of the statutory defence.

### Supporting law enforcement and prosecution

Dame Sara gave an outline of proposed themes for this part of the strategy, noting the need for a holistic approach across the whole criminal justice system.

Members discussed different aspects to the law enforcement and criminal justice response to modern slavery and use of the legislation.

There was discussion on how to increase prosecutions, and how the criminal justice system could best support victims. There was consideration of victimless prosecutions, use of the statutory defence and access to compensation. Training in the criminal justice system on modern slavery was highlighted, to raise awareness of the legislation and on related issues such as trauma-informed interviews and age determination.

The impact of Brexit on cross-border operations and data sharing was highlighted.

### Focusing on prevention

Dame Sara gave an outline of proposed themes for this part of the strategy, with emphasis on tackling transparency in supply chains.



Members discussed section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act and challenges to encouraging and enforcing business compliance with legislation on transparency in supply chains.

Alternative regulatory frameworks were noted. The effectiveness of modern slavery statements was considered, as were moves towards bringing the public sector within scope of the legislation.

Public awareness and consumer attitudes were discussed.

Members suggested the Commissioner consider specific deliverables for this wide-reaching area, within a time frame of immediate concerns and long-term issues.

#### Getting value from research and innovation

Dame Sara gave an outline of proposed themes for this part of the strategy.

Data and evidence on modern slavery were discussed, including differing methodologies for determining prevalence nationally and internationally.

It was suggested that the Commissioner could use her convening power to encourage research by academics on modern slavery, to better inform policy as well as providing input into Government research priorities.

Dame Sara noted the importance of developing partnerships in this space, to join up the gaps between policy, research and practice.

#### Final comments

Members noted that the strategic aims of the Commissioner must be deliverable within the time frame and subject to anticipated budgetary constraints.

The importance of the Commissioner's communications strategy was raised, and how to use communications to enhance profile and impact of the Commissioner's work.

### **5. Update on IASC office, structure and staffing (Rebecca Baumgartner, Office of the IASC)**

Rebecca Baumgartner gave an overview of the structure and staffing of the Commissioner's office.

She noted that the MOU between the Commissioner and the Home Office was ready for sign-off. Resourcing and anticipated pressures on the Commissioner's office were discussed, with reference to recommendations for the Commissioner arising from the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act.



Members suggested stakeholders and potential partners whom the Commissioner could work with to bolster resources, such as academics or legal experts.

## **6. AOB and closing remarks**

Members asked for an outline of who was supporting the drafting of the strategic plan:

- The Victims and Partnerships Lead has supported drafting of the section on improving victim care and support;
- The Law Enforcement Lead has supported drafting of the section on supporting law enforcement and prosecution;
- The Private Sector Lead has supported drafting of the section on focusing on prevention;
- The Communications Officer has supported drafting of the section on getting value from research and innovation.

It was noted that the team who led the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act will shortly be launching a separate inquiry into sexual exploitation and human trafficking.

The Chair thanked the members and closed the meeting.