



Jess Phillips MP
Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls
Home Office
By email: [REDACTED]

7 August 2025

Dear Jess

Re: Survivor Advisory Council

Following from our last Ministerial meeting I wanted to follow up on how the Survivor Advisory Council can be established.

I have progressed a plan of how a Survivor Advisory Council could be formed in partnership with the Human Trafficking Foundation (HTF). As the secretariat of the APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery the HTF is a neutral convener of the sector and best suited to coordinate a pilot of the Survivor Advisory Council.

I believe this Council remains critical to ensure that there is a trauma-informed forum which allows survivors of modern slavery to share their expertise and help shape policy outcomes to improve our response to tackling this horrendous crime. The positive impact of embedded lived experience involvement in the US, Canada and in international organisations such as the OSCE is clear. In speaking to these international partners and survivors too they have made it clear that they the UK must establish a Council of its own. The creation of a UK Council would signify determination to address injustice, support survivors of crime and improve our response to modern slavery and human trafficking.

I would welcome the Government's shared commitment to this endeavour and therefore I am writing to ask for match funding from the Home Office for the establishment of the Council and a pilot. I would give some of my budget each year and would ask too that the Home Office matches this contribution. This would demonstrate to survivors that the Council is sustainable, and that the Government will be consulting and listening to this Council for years to come. All Government departments would also be able to consult with this Council on relevant legislation and guidance.

The establishment of this Council would represent a new approach to listening to survivors. I am aware that the Home Office has committed to engaging with survivors during its most recent consultation. Joint funding a Council would be a clear, transparent way for survivors to contribute to the Home Office's work.



With your support I believe we can jointly establish a Council in partnership with HTF. My team and HTF are ready to speak to your officials about costs and share our plans of how the Council can be established.

Yours sincerely,

Eleanor Lyons
Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner