

## VICTIM CARE MODERN SLAVERY STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

**DATE** 14 January 2020  
**TIME** 2:30pm  
**LOCATION** London Fruit and Wool Exchange  
**CHAIRS** Kate Roberts and Tamara Barnett

**PRESENT** Kate Roberts, *Anti-Slavery International*  
Tamara Barnett, *Human Trafficking Foundation*  
Phil Brewer, *Stop The Traffik*  
Hekate Papadaki, *Hestia*  
Victoria Marks, *ATLEU*  
Dave Lamb, *Home Office MSU*  
Ellie Greenwood, *LGA*  
Amber Cagney, *West Midlands Anti-Slavery Network*  
Mihalis Papamichail, *Barnardos*  
Luke Hughes, *Home Office MSU*  
Eliza Stachowska, *Hope for Justice*  
Nicola Simpson, *Home Office MSU*  
Jonathan Graham, *The Salvation Army*  
Isabelle Hammond-Caines, *Home Office MSU*  
Kelly Scott, *Home Office MSU*  
Avril Sharp, *Kalayaan*  
Kat Baldacchino, *British Red Cross*  
Mimi Jalmasco, *The Voice of Domestic Workers*  
Tatiana Gren-Jardan, *Centre for Social Justice and Justice and Care*  
Nadia Burrell, *Care*  
Rebecca Baumgartner, *IASC*  
Rachel Smith, *Human Trafficking Foundation*  
Jennifer Dew, *IOM*

**PHONE IN** Philip Ishola - *Love146*  
Phill Clayton - *City Hearts*  
Sally Wootton – *MSPTU*  
Vicky Lewandoski - *Devon and Cornwall Police*  
Wanjiku Ngotho-Mbugua - *BAWSO*

**APOLOGIES** Anna Sereni, *ATMG*  
Kate Garbers, *Unseen*  
Julia Tomas, *The Passage*  
Cathy Sheehan, *NHS*  
Rosie Riley, *NHS*  
Lara Bundock, *Snowdrop*  
Sian Oram, *King's College London*  
Vicky Brotherton, *Nottingham Rights Lab*

## ACTIONS

1. Co-chairs to redraft and reshare Terms of Reference with the group for comment.
2. MSU to provide project initiation templates to be shared with the group.
3. Co-Chairs to reflect on MSU's offer to provide group secretariat.
4. The group to share with Nottingham Rights Lab suggestions for their research piece evaluating initiatives in place to support survivors long-term and post-NRM.
5. Members to email MSU to RSVP for the Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA) workshop and to provide suggested input for an agenda.
6. MSU to consider whether it is possible to circulate data on the RNA so far with the group.
7. Group to design a matrix with focus on survivor outcomes.
8. Group to provide MSU with relevant literature on identification of potential victims in detention centres.
9. Love146 to provide further information on the First Responder mechanism at ports.
10. MSU to share current safehouse Inspection Regime framework with the group.
11. MSU to provide update on the Local Authority Pilots at a future meeting.
12. Rachel (HTF) to circulate paper on safe returns and reintegration to group.
13. Chairs to draw up and circulate the potential scope of work relating to safe returns and integration to the group.
14. MSU to send updates on workstreams prior to group meetings.
15. Chairs to check with MSU whether any further updates on ODW workers can be circulated within the minutes.
16. Secretariat to circulate minutes to group and allow for one week to review.

## MINUTES

### SURVEY RESULTS AND TERMS OF REFERENCE REVISIT

- 11 responses to the survey have been received. The survey will remain open until the end of the month.
- Thus far responses to the survey have been varied. Feedback so far has included recognition of the group as an opportunity to coordinate approaches and encourage collaboration, welcomed the opportunity to work with the Modern Slavery Unit and to feed into workstreams and have requested clarity in the role of the MSU in the MSSIG.
  - *New areas suggested by members for future focus of the group included:*
    1. Places of safety
    2. Monitoring implementation
    3. Brexit and the impact
    4. Reviewing long term support and role of Local Authorities
  - *Recommended focus of the group moving forward included:*
    1. Scrutiny of the current Statutory Guidance for Section 49 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015
    2. CQC implementation care standards
    3. Looking at amending legislation and guidance
- *Ideas for improvement of the group included:*
  1. Wider representation from Government departments
  2. Wider representation of subcontractors within the group
  3. Formalising processes of the group, i.e. membership
  4. Clarity around the role of the group and interaction with the Modern Slavery Unit

## TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR) FOR THE VICTIM CARE MSSIG

### *Formalising membership procedure*

Group noted the current ToR are out-dated. As such, the Chairs agreed to edit the document in line with discussions and circulate to the group for comment.

### *Projects and tasks*

- The group agreed henceforth to refer to 'projects' as 'tasks'.
- The chairs raised there is a feeling that many projects have been left unfinished and there is a need to tie up 'loose-ends'.

ATLEU raised concerns around the timeframes set for response to tasks. Other members agreed with this point, although recognised the difficulties on this front. Chairs noted the importance of planning tasks going forward and would prefer MSU to consult the group on upcoming projects, regardless of the timeframe. Overall, the group reflected on the importance of the revised ToR reflecting the need for timing, planning and consultation, wherever possible.

### *Secretariat*

MSU volunteered to provide secretariat to the group, as MSU currently provide such support to other thematic MSSIGs. Co-chairs agreed to decide on this following the meeting, and a concern was raised relating to the group's independence.

### *Minutes*

It was agreed that minutes from the current meeting onwards will be published on the HTF website in order to encourage transparency and co-working between groups.

*Actions arising from these individual updates are found at Actions 1-3 above.*

## MSU UPDATES

*MSU provided updates on the following areas, per the request of the group.*

1. **Recovery Needs Assessment (RNA)** – MSU discussed the roll out of the RNA and the intention to publish an updated version of the guidance. Members requested for MSU to expand further on survivor outcomes, what the RNA means in practice and the ways in which recovery needs assessments are conducted. MSU offered to host a workshop on embedding a needs-based approach to support in February. The intention of the workshop was to discuss the RNA process from decision makers' perspective and survivor's recovery needs in more detail. The group noted the importance of understanding what information was being collected on individuals, in particular recording how many have exited support following the assessment, how many have been granted an extension of support, and for how long.  
MSU stated they are in constant conversation with TSA around how RNA is going in practice.  
The group suggested putting together a matrix/framework with a particular focus on outcomes for survivors.
2. **First Responders Review** – An up-to-date list of first responders can be found [here](#). MSU has worked with stakeholders to review the role of First Responders, looking at who should be First Responders, how non-statutory organisations can apply to be a First Responder Organisation and how First Responders should be trained. MSU continues to examine how to best take the recommendations of the review forward. There was discussion around the importance of ensuring there are First Responders in detention centres and IOM raised that the inspectorate of prisons have certain expectations around information provided on detention that may be of interest.

Available [here](#).

3. **Inspection Regime** - MSU are currently working with CQC to finalise the inspection regime framework. To note, the deadline for the final framework is in February and the group will be given an opportunity to comment. The regime will be in place by the start of the new Victim Care Contract.
4. **Digitalisation of the NRM** - The digital case-working system was launched on 13th January 2020, following an extended period of testing and approvals.
5. **Places of Safety** - MSU were unable to discuss this further given the commercial process currently underway.
6. **Reconsideration Policy** - The reconsiderations policy as set out in the Competent Authority Guidance (published 2 September 2019) was altered on 15 November 2019, and is set out [here](#). The opportunity to request a reconsideration is explained and included in negative NRM decisions sent to legal representatives and survivors.
7. **Local Authority Pilots** - The aim of the pilots was to identify effective ways to support individuals in accessing local authority support. At present four pilots have stopped taking referrals, and two are in the process of closing. The Home Office have been conducting interviews with stakeholders in each of the pilot sites and collecting quantitative data in each of the sites. These findings are currently being analysed.
8. **Victim Care Contract**- MSU discussed the progress of the VCC and flagged the expectation that the contract is expected to be awarded in Spring/Summer 2020.
9. **Statutory Guidance**- MSU continues to work towards publishing the guidance in the near future.
10. *There was a discussion around upcoming Projects and tasks.*

*Actions arising from the above updates can be found at Actions 4-11 above.*

### **Safe Returns and Integration**

Jennifer Dew, IOM - IOM and HTF in 2018 did a light-touch online survey and workshop with care providers, police and other actors to understand what arrangements are in place when a survivor would like to return home voluntarily to their country of origin but needs support in the process, and what the gaps are. Findings were that there were inconsistent approaches, particularly around risks assessments and limited use of in-country partners for reintegration assistance.

On this matter, there was a proposal for the group to have an in depth look at what improvements can be made in relation to returns for VOTs.

- Chairs agreed to send a scope of the potential work to the group. Following this, there could be an opportunity for members to volunteer and set up a sub group, which would explore some of the issues raised around barriers to accessing the current voluntary returns system.
- Hope for Justice raised the **need to look at returns prior to Conclusive Grounds decisions as well as with a positive CG.**

*Actions arising from this update can be found at Actions 12 and 13 above.*

### **DWP Assessments**

Chairs asked the group whether they are encountering victims of trafficking with a positive CG being re-assessed for Universal Credit within a year of the initial assessment. Members flagged that they are seeing a practice whereby a CG decision is not considered as carrying any weight

but just a piece of paper. MSU noted that further information was needed on the scale of this issue.

### **AOB**

1. **Future Meetings** – the group agreed to in the future taking an in-depth look at specific issues.
2. **ICTGs** – Members asked for an update on national roll out. MSU’s current focus is on evaluating the current service model which is rolled out in one third of local authorities across England and Wales. The Government will publish a further paper before Parliament ahead of national roll out, setting out our response to the recommendations from the Modern Slavery Review.
3. **ODW Information Sessions** – MSU noted that this would sit within the MSU prevention team.

*Actions arising from this update can be found at Actions 14-16 above.*