**All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

**1 December 2015**

**6.15pm, House of Lords Committee Room 2**

**MINUTES**

**Present:**

Rt Hon Baroness Butler-Sloss (Co-Chair)

Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart MP (Co-Chair)

Anthony Steen (Special Advisor)

Mark Durkan MP (Treasurer)

Lord Bishop of Derby

Baroness Hamwee

Paul Broadbent (Gangmasters Licensing Authority)

Margaret Beels (Gangmasters Licensing Authority)

Hannah Jackson (British Red Cross)

Kathryn Baldacchino (British Red Cross)

Ruth Van Dyke (London South Bank University)

Luke de Polford (Talitha Kum)

Ivory Hackett-Evans (Housing For Women)

Aidan Shipman (Rene Cassin)

Irina DoCarmo (Poppy Project)

Samantha Ferrell-Schweppenstedde (Poppy Project)

Dipti Pardeshi (International Organisation for Migration)

Euan Fraser (Human Trafficking Foundation)

1. **Introduction and Welcome**

EBS welcomed all in attendance and introduced Margaret Beels, Chair of the Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA), and Paul Broadbent, Chief Executive of the GLA and Deputy Chair of the Modern Slavery Operational Threat Group.

1. **The Nature and Extent of Labour Exploitation in the Gangmasters Licensing Authority Regulated Sector, Paul Broadbent**

PB provided an overview of the work done by the GLA to tackle instances of labour exploitation.

For full details, see documents attached.

1. **Q&A**

Baroness Butler-Sloss asked for information regarding the extent to which the GLA works with Kevin Hyland, the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Paul Broadbent explained that he has a close working relationship with the Commissioner. He explained that he is working with the Commissioner and GLA equivalents across Europe to establish trends, share best practice, and provide education to prevent trafficking occurring. The Commissioner is also highlighting the issue of exploitation within supply chains, enabling the GLA to then offer assistance to companies in this regard.

The Bishop of Derby asked about the practical implications of granting the GLA further powers to investigate modern slavery.

Paul Broadbent stated that the GLA would require the power to retain evidence, detain suspects and fully investigate instances of potential human trafficking and slavery. To do so, the GLA would also require further resources.

Baroness Butler Sloss requested that PB provide her with information regarding what powers the GLA requires to address modern slavery.

Margaret Beels explained that the Government has not yet revealed its plans for any extension of the GLA’s remit, due to the ongoing public consultation on tackling exploitation in the labour market. This consultation ends on Monday 7th December 2015.

The Bishop of Derby asked about the promotion of good practice in procurement by companies and the use of agencies in supply chains.

Paul Broadbent stated that the GLA is working with, amongst others, the Ethical Trading Initiative in this regard and is able to offer companies vulnerability profiling of their supply chains.

Regarding company statements under the Modern Slavery Act, PB explained that the GLA is not currently involved in developing the website through which such statements can be collated, published and scrutinised.

Fiona Mactaggart underlined the importance of a central website to enable individuals, NGOs and others to effectively compare company statements.

She also suggested that the GLA might look to commercialise its expertise in order to raise additional funds.

Baroness Hamwee asked for details of any particular trends and models and whether the GLA anticipate further changes.

Paul Broadbent stated that in the Netherlands a trend of exploitation has been identified in the warehouse and logistics industries. He indicated that these industries may be vulnerable in the UK too.

He explained the importance of having the funds and powers to act across the full labour market: with a limited remit, there is a risk of pushing exploitation into non-GLA regulated industries.

Mark Durkan asked for further information as to the industries where exploitation is of particular concern.

Paul Broadbent highlighted the catering, cleaning, construction and fishing industries. He also explained that the Modern Slavery Operational Threat Group is examining whether the number of people in situations of exploitation is increasing, or whether individuals and organisations are simply more aware of the problem.

Baroness Butler-Sloss asked for details of areas which could be improved without additional expense, such as the self-employed sector. She also asked if the GLA received sufficient support from the judiciary.

Paul Broadbent agreed to send Baroness Butler-Sloss information regarding where improvements could be made.

He explained that the GLA receives good support from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in Scotland and the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland. He highlighted the problem of a lack of sentencing guidelines, leading to lenient sentences.

Baroness Butler-Sloss asked where the proceeds of crime go and Anthony Steen suggested that the proceeds should go to the victims of exploitation.

Paul Broadbent explained that the proceeds are shared between the GLA, CPS and law enforcement. No reparation orders have yet been made under the Modern Slavery Act.

Baroness Hamwee asked if there are any sentencing guidelines under the Modern Slavery Act.

Baroness Butler-Sloss explained that there are no such guidelines, and indicated a need to approach the Judicial College.

Irina DoCarmo explained that she has previously offered training to the judiciary. However, the response she received was that it was not a priority. She also stressed the importance of securing compensation for victims.

Ruth Van Dyke raised the problem of victims of labour exploitation not considering themselves to be victims. This creates difficulties in securing witness statements, in turn making it harder to secure convictions.

Paul Broadbent agreed that this is a problem with many victims accepting their situation as it being a result of their own choices. He explained, however, that the GLA do not require a victim statement in order to build a successful case.

Luke de Polford asked for further details of the GLA’s work in profiling of companies’ supply chains.

Paul Broadbent explained that the GLA will look at a company’s supply chain and identify areas of risk, as well as looking at individuals within the supply chain who appear to be living outwith their means.

Margaret Beels explained that, although it is easy for large companies to say that they cannot look into every detail, there is scope for good practice to cascade down throughout the supply chain.

Paul Broadbent explained that the GLA has produced minimum standards and companies are beginning to apply these standards throughout their supply chains.

Baroness Butler-Sloss encouraged Paul Broadbent to make use of the APPG to help bring about the necessary improvements.

**ACTION: Paul Broadbent to provide Baroness Butler-Sloss and the APPG with information regarding extending the remit and powers of the GLA and the cost implications. Paul Broadbent to also provide information regarding how the GLA’s remit and powers might be extended at no additional cost.**

**ACTION: Paul Broadbent to provide Baroness Butler-Sloss with draft amendment to the Immigration Bill.**

**ACTION: Baroness Butler-Sloss to work with Fiona Mactaggart, Anthony Steen and Baroness Hamwee, using information provided by Paul Broadbent, to propose appropriate amendments within the House of Lords to the Immigration Bill in January 2016.**

**MEETING ENDS – 7.15pm**