

# Cross-Party Group Minutes

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## Meeting Minutes:

<b>Cross Party Group Title:</b>	Human Trafficking
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	15.11.21
<b>Location:</b>	MS Teams

## In attendance:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joyce Watson MS (JW)</li><li>• Mike Hedges MS (MH)</li><li>• Nitesh Patel (Support Staff) (NP)</li><li>• Ryland Doyle (Support Staff) (RD)</li><li>• Kim Ann Williamson, Coordinator - Wales, Civil Service Local (KAW)</li><li>• Rakshanda Shahzad, BAWSO (RS)</li><li>• Joshua Vulgar – Head of Modern Slavery &amp; Workers' Rights (JV)</li><li>• Alison Ussery, Haven of Light (AU)</li><li>• Elin Hywel (Support Staff) (EH)</li></ul>	

## Apologies:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Joel Joel MS</li><li>• Owen Griffiths MS</li><li>• Rhys ab Owen MS</li></ul>	

## Summary of Meeting:

JW started the meeting by thanking Stephen Chapman for his years of service as the Modern Slavery & Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and for working hard to make Wales a
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hostile place for preparators and BAWSO for their work as the secretariat of the CPG and for their tireless work to help survivors.

MH nominated JW as Chair of the Cross-Party Group. No objections were raised. JW nominated BAWSO as Secretariat. No objections were raised.

JW congratulated JV on his new role.

JV shared slides on data and trends in 2021, priorities for Welsh Government and wider activity, including illegal labour exploitation also being added to his remit. JV said he would work collaboratively for progress.

JW thanked JV for the delivery of the presentation. JW asked JV about the exploitation in the labour market and the industries of concern, including whether there are any concerns of exploitation in the Construction industry and procurement practices.

JV said Construction was an important sector in the modern slavery field. There is report that looks at the risk in the construction sector of modern slavery. Blacklisting of union members, misuse of zero-hour contracts and umbrella companies are also an issue. Not formally modern slavery but there are links. Victims of modern slavery don't recognise it as such as they receive some pay even though it's below the minimal wage. JV is in communication with the UK government departments on the employment bill and colleagues in the department and to share information for reform.

RS explained the work BAWSO does to help survivors of modern slavery, including NRM referral work and helping adult victims of modern slavery.

NRM service were successful with Salvation Army to deliver victim care for male and female victims. Victims get support on an individual needs support after an assessment especially mental health and trauma recovery and some substance misuse and recovery, schools for children, personal development of service users, and language support and about moving them forward. The men's refuse is a 24-hour staff refuse. Service users across Wales in all local authorities, 193 service users supported in last 6 months since April this year. Male and female. 42% male and 58% female service users. RS went through the number of referrals across Wales and the nationalities.

In the comments section of Teams, Elin Hywel wrote:

"I'm here representing Mabon ap Gwynfor MS, we would be really interested on any specific data for our constituency - Dwyfor Meirionnydd. Specifically, we are currently looking at the lack of provision in rural areas because of the physical distance and lack of public transport or other means of accessing support and services and It would be good to include an understanding of the impact of Human Trafficking, modern slavery and Labour exploitation esp. detection and outcomes in this area. I do recognise the figures might be small in comparison."

JW thanked RS and said she went to a safe house years ago and saw the challenges and the hard work being done. Noted the females in the sex industry and males in the labour exploitation market.

RS said almost all victims are found to have further exploitation such as sex exploitation moving to labour exploitation to criminal exploitation. Forced marriage also involves domestic servitude.

JV said it's hard to put victims into one category and every individual has particular needs. JV said he recognises that victims come from different backgrounds and emphasised the importance of collaborative working with the third sector. Noted the increased number of children in the system and 16–17-year-olds on the cusp of adulthood.

JW noted her report on Human Trafficking and the emphasis on children's victims.

KAW said that she transferred over to the cabinet office two years ago and over the last two years the modern slavery training delivery group has been re-established. Standing on the 3 P's board. The training is now on a sector basis. The training delivery is undertaken by the sector. It's no longer generic and now in house. KAW said that unless it's done by sectoral it feels like it's someone else's problems. It's about empowering people. It's about cementing training into departments and people owning it. Brave the Bear campaign is about domestic servitude. About embedding it into education and making the book mainstream. About everyone having responsibility to protect children. Attracts CPD points for teaches, etc focussed on having proper qualification or modern slavery. An academic qualification. The University Wales Trinity now has a Masters on modern slavery and human trafficking.

JW thanked KAW for her work to help survivors of modern slavery.

NP said the Masters students could be invited to attend future CPG meetings after the course starts.

KAW agreed with NP on students being invited to get a practical perspective to their academic studies.

JV asked for information on what the Masters will cover and the structure of the studies.

KAW said the Masters will aim to put together a leaflet with the course information, the speakers and the work that they do.

NP said that the list of invitees should be extended for future meetings and agreed to work with KAW, JV and BAWSO.

JW said there is a Procurement Bill coming up and empathised the need to influence it before it passes and about ethical procurement. Especially with COP26 and where they are buying their goods and the harm. Looking at not just damage to the environment

but to the people we're buying from. JW referred to the sweat shops and fires in India, with workers locked into buildings.

KAW said the focus for the 2022 CPG could be to look at the school curriculum in 2022. To focus on issues around exploitation should be looked at, but not sure if that will be taught across Wales in schools and what does that look like.

JW said trade unions should be involved in future meetings.

Action: Create new contact list, including inviting all unions to next meeting.