

SLAVERY GROUP

<p>1. Members: Rhona Bowler Yvonne Freeman Lindsay Green Brenda Kay Janice Wilson</p>	<p>Isabel Huggett Glenys Hunt Sharon Richardson Bobbi Shel Drake</p>	
<p>2. Discussion Group to be contacted electronically to discuss the way forward. First contact by Janice Wilson (JW) with strategy. Members to email JW with their information and further ideas. JW will write up information and send to members.</p>		<p>Action: JW</p>
<p>3. Modern Slavery is inflicted on millions of people around the world, but often it is not called slavery and many people still do not know it exists. Forms of Slavery: Human Trafficking, Forced Labour, Bonded Labour, Child Slavery, Child Marriage, Descent Based Slavery, Domestic Slavery, Slavery in Supply Chains.</p>		
<p>4. Awareness Days: 12th June – World Day Against Child Labour 30th July – World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 18th October – Anti-Slavery Day (created by the Anti-Slavery Day Act 2010 (England and Wales) 2nd December – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery</p>		
<p>5. Where are we now? Short summary of what ‘Slavery’ projects Soroptimist clubs/regions have completed this year (<u>only if on database</u>) <u>North West England and IOM:</u> 49110 – Multidisciplinary Group/ Freedom March/ Member on PLASP 49110 – Awareness Raising Campaign – five clubs 49409 – Raising awareness, S I Grange over Sands. 49420 – Train the Trainers/Clewer Foundation/Quiz – five clubs 52088 – Anti Slavery March in Lancaster <u>Scotland North:</u> 48634/49132 – Building a Children’s Home in Pune to stop children of Prostitutes being trafficked. S I Perth and S I Dundee 52018 - Human Trafficking Consultation event S I Aberdeen <u>Human Trafficking Foundation</u> – Reports by Liz Dominey <u>Modern Day Slavery Project</u> - SIGBI <u>Modern Day Slavery Quiz</u> <u>Petition</u> – Car Wash Advisory Service – S I Medway Towns <u>Sandu Report and UK Modern Slavery Helpline Appeal</u> – S I Medway Towns <u>S.E.England</u> 51643 – Oasis India (Trafficked Children) – S I Tunbridge Wells 51302 – Raising Awareness. Film ‘Even When I fall’ - S I Canterbury 49929 – Petition and Lobbying M.P. re Legal Guardians – S I Canterbury 49399 – Stop The Traffic, Kent and Supply chains - S I Canterbury <u>Human Trafficking and Modern Day Slavery Conference</u> – S I Canterbury <u>See Campaign 1: ‘Free for Good Campaign’ Letter to Prime Minister and M.P.s</u></p>		<p>Action: Region Programme Action Chairs</p>

	<u>UK Modern Slavery Helpline needs funding – See Campaign 2. (Letter)</u>	
6.	Parliamentary Involvement: Westminster (England and Wales) Holyrood (Scotland)- Cross Party Group on Human Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation - 24 th September 2019 (2 members) Stormont Northern Ireland	
7.	Strategy for Future Planning: Soroptimists on all Regional Anti Slavery Groups.	
	Anti Slavery Day - 18th October March in Blackpool – 12 October. Display re Slavery in Nat West Bank, Kendal 13 – 18 October. Petition re Car Wash Licensing. Letters to MPs re Victim Support Bill. First Soroptimist International Sticker on back of Croatia Truck - John Shirley Ltd. S I Canterbury.	
	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery - 2nd December	

Campaigns:

1. Protect victims of slavery in the UK. Join '**Free for Good Campaign**' and write to the Prime Minister and to your Local M.P. to support the Modern Slavery Bill to ensure proper support for all slavery victims across the UK.

Information re Bill – although not sure what is happening in the present Westminster situation! But, following a recent judicial review case the Home Office urgently needs to address the system of supporting victims in England and Wales. It is thought that the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill brought forward by Lord McColl and Iain Duncan Smith MP provides the best way to provide victims with the pathway to recovery that they need and deserve. The Bill offers all victims support and assistance, the right to work and leave to remain for a period of 12 months, helping them to put in place the building blocks of recovery. The Bill has already passed the House of Lords and is awaiting a Second Reading in the Commons.

Since Lord McColl introduced the Bill, the government has announced plans to provide support for some victims. In February 2019 the government increased the 'move on period' for people confirmed as victims to 45 days. However, this has since been challenged in court and the government is preparing a new system for providing support following a positive determination that someone is a victim. From 2020 New drop-in support services will be available for some victims up to 6 months.

These proposals are a step in the right direction but do not offer victims the full protection they need which is offered by Lord McColl's Bill. Unlike victims of Modern Slavery in Northern Ireland (N.I.) and Scotland, the law in England and Wales currently does not give victims a right to support. This Bill will give all

victims the chance to have support and help for a year to help them get back on their feet.

Scotland and Northern Ireland are not covered by Lord McColl's Bill because these countries already have provisions in law to offer victims short term support. In Scotland this has even been extended to a period of 90 days rather than 45 days.

There are, however, some provisions in Lord McColl's Bill about the rules on allowing victims to remain longer in the UK which the Scottish Parliament and the N.I. Assembly do not have the power to act themselves. At the moment, Lord McColl's Bill does not extend this right to remain to victims in Scotland and N.I. but the governing authorities will be given an opportunity by Westminster to OPT-IN to the relevant parts of the Bill IF the bill becomes Law.

Suggested Letter:

Dear Prime Minister (or, your M.P.)

I am writing to ask you to make supporting victims of modern slavery a priority for the new government and to give your backing to the modern slavery (Victim Support) Bill sponsored by Rt. Hon. Iain Duncan Smith M.P. and Lord McColl of Dulwich.

Being formally identified by the U.K. authorities at the end of the National Referral Mechanism process does not give a victim any entitlement to support, housing or protection from that point forward. This leaves them with an unstable present and an uncertain future. Many will face homelessness and destitution and as such are at risk of re-trafficking. A lack of security about their current and future situations makes many victims reluctant to come forward and engage with police investigations. This means their vital evidence is lost and contributes to the low number of successful modern slavery prosecutions.

Following a recent judicial review case the Home Office urgently needs to address the system of supporting victims in England and Wales. I believe that the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill brought forward by Lord McColl and Iain Duncan Smith M.P. provides the best way to provide victims with the pathway to recovery that they need and deserve.

The Bill offers all victims support and assistance, the right to work and leave to remain for a period of 12 months, helping them to put in place the building blocks of recovery. The Bill has already passed the House of Lords and is awaiting Second Reading in the Commons.

Please would you adopt the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill as a Government priority by making time for the bill to be debated asap.

Yours sincerely,

2. UK MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE

Needs funding or will close on:

30th November 2019

We can support appeal: www.unseenuk.org/helpline-appeal

Suggested Letter to MP's, Prime Minister and MSP's.

I am writing to you as a member of the Anti-Slavery Group of Soroptimist International, as it has come to our attention that the Modern Slavery Helpline has a funding crisis and will close on the 30th November unless it raises £800,000.

The Modern Slavery Helpline is a vital weapon in the fight against modern slavery. Since 2016, over 15,000 potential victims of slavery have been identified through the Helpline. It is an independent organisation supported by the charity 'Unseen', but as it is a national asset, should it not be supported by funds from the Government.

I am writing to ask that this issue be raised with the Home Office so that this vital asset is not lost.

Yours sincerely,