

MODERN DAY SLAVERY –HUMAN TRAFFICKING Project Action Plan

Background:

At the Soroptimist International Great Britain & Ireland Newcastle Gateshead Conference 2013 a resolution was passed to raise awareness of modern day slavery. The conference report observes [1], that whilst 2007 marked the 200th Anniversary of the 1807 Slave Trade Act, which abolished the slave trade in the British Empire, it did not abolish slavery itself. In 1833, the Slavery Abolition Act granted freedom to all slaves. This act was the outcome of Wilberforce and colleagues, such as Hannah More, raising awareness of how African men, women, boys and girls were being bought and sold as commodities, treated with cruelty and denied freedom. Although many believe that slavery ended at this point in time, research now shows that many more people are enslaved today than at any other time in history [2]. Modern day slavery is the third most lucrative organised crime worth \$32 billion dollars, of which, \$15.2 billion is generated in industrialised countries [1].

SIGBI's resolution requests action on the part of all clubs to counteract this crime. Clubs are urged to undertake:-

- Action – to raise awareness of the scale of slavery
- Education programmes – to inform the public that many of the goods we purchase are produced by enslaved workers, including small children. Further, many such people, most under the age of twenty four years, are forced to work without pay, under threats of violence having been tricked by traffickers into believing that they could expect good jobs or, educational opportunities. Instead they are often brutalised.
- Lobbying to counteract the crime through appropriate legislation – in particular SIGBI members are urged to lobby in support of passage of the draft Anti-Slavery Bill [Dec.2013] [3] into statute

Introduction

Every country in the world is affected by modern day slavery [4] and each year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers. Sometimes victims are enslaved in their own communities or, they may be trafficked across the globe. These acts are done for the purpose of exploitation; to make money at the expense of vulnerable human beings. The exploitation, that is modern day slavery, takes many forms [1]:

- Recruitment, transportation, transferring, harbouring and receipt of persons
- Trafficking, use of force, deception, coercion and abuse of power for exploitation
- forced labour to domestic servitude
- forced marriage to bonded labour
- forced criminality (begging/theft)
- Trafficking for sexual exploitation
- Trafficking for organ removal etc.

It is an evil crime, difficult to detect, thus it requires a strong, coordinated response. The UK Government is committed to tackling the crime at local, regional, national and international levels with the collaboration of all agencies. SI Wales South is committed to play a part, and to this end has formulated a plan, similar to that suggested in the report of the resolution and action plan [1], but one believed to be more specifically appropriate to the SI Wales South region.

In 2012, 1,186 potential victims of this crime were referred to the National Referral Mechanism [5], of these 786 were females and 400 males; of this total, 815 were adults and 371 children. This was a 25% increase on referrals in 2011 and it is estimated there may be as many as 2,255 victims in the UK [6]. The problem is greater now than it was at the time of the first Slavery Bill in 1807. Whereas in the 19th century there were more than 12 million slaves, it is now accepted that internationally the total number of slaves is in the region of 27 million people [2]. It has also been shown that some of the victims are UK born children [7].

Action

Initial Strategy:

Establish a SI Wales South Anti-Human Trafficking Group [SIWSAHT] to co-ordinate the project at Regional level, led by the Regional Programme Action Officer and supported by an agreed group of interested people.

* Current membership – Kay Richmond [Chairman], Anne Kelly, Joan Williams, Ruth McKie and Judith Lewis

Goals:

- In all areas, to scope levels of awareness within all agencies; to determine the level of action already undertaken and establish levels of interest in engaging in further action in accordance with local need.
- To engage all SI Wales South Clubs in the process of raising awareness – by encouraging local public, schools, businesses, churches, men and boys, along with voluntary organisations [e.g. WI, Rotary, Round Table, Inner Wheel, Ladies Circle, Merched y Wawr, Youth Clubs, Scouts, Guides and the Local Press etc] to support SIWS in activities related to increasing awareness of these issues e.g. through distribution of literature/posters/ stickers etc. The Wales Anti - Human Trafficking Group supported by Welsh Government will make these available having used SI Cardiff's Taxi stickers as an example [8]. Material is also available from 'Stop the Traffik' [9], 'Anti-Slavery International' [10] 'The Purple Teardrop Campaign' [11]
- To lobby, liaise and work with agencies involved in combating modern slavery, e.g.
 - **Government**, [Westminster and Welsh Assembly]
 - **Wales Anti-Human Trafficking Group** [Three Multi-Agency Fora based on Police Force Areas within South Wales, plus one North Wales Police Force Area Forum]
 - **Voluntary organisations** [e.g. Barnardo's Cymru, BAWSO Wales, Salvation Army within Wales, Anti-Slavery International, Stop the Traffik, The Purple Tear Drop Campaign, etc.]
 - **Statutory Authorities**, [Police, Health, Education, Social Services, Port Authorities and Local Councils].
- To engage with agencies already participating in the prevention of these crimes and especially those undertaking the support of victims in order to facilitate /support/ or help fund their activities [e.g. BAWSO (Cardiff, Swansea and North Wales), Barnardo's Cymru and The Salvation Army.]

Objectives:

1. To educate the public to be aware of trafficking issues, in particular, the recent 'internal' crimes of grooming and internet crime affecting children within their own communities*, and to report such activities to the authorities.
**[Internal Trafficking' is a term adopted by Barnardo's Cymru to refer to affected children from within local communities].*
2. To support those agencies that provide secure accommodation, support services, medical care and legal advice for victims of trafficking in Wales [see above].
3. To work towards the elimination of slavery and trafficking at local, national and international levels.

Activities:

1. Each club to decide on its level of involvement and commitment and notify the SIWSAHT group of its actions** and, make appropriate PFRF reports to the SI data base
*** [The following are some possible examples of activity]*
2. Distribute stickers/information to local taxis/buses/GP surgeries/A&E departments/STD clinics/hotels/ladies and gents toilets/railway stations etc. (*Information to be supplied. It is intended that SIWSAHT will provide details of how to obtain these items. Also suggestions for how to organise the following activities will be provided in the form of a small booklet*)
3. Engage schools/youth groups in suitable activities, competitions, sponsored walks etc
4. Organise an Anti-Slavery and Trafficking Forum in collaboration with other agencies, at which appropriate speakers [MPs, AMs, Police Commissioners will be able to inform local people of current legislative and local developments] [12].

5. Organise a film night in local hall/ cinema/hotel for showing of appropriate films e.g. Amazing Grace/ CNN's 'Not my Life' or raffle tickets for admission to most recent slavery film e.g. '12 Years a Slave'
6. Lobby MPs and AMs (*Pro-forma letters to be supplied*)
7. Take advice from the Wales Anti-Human Trafficking Group as to how Soroptimists can help within their Locality.
8. Raise awareness with the media on International Anti-slavery Day October 18th, UN Antislavery Day Dec 2nd and any other events held to counter slavery.

Expected Results:

1. All SIGBI members will engage with the 2013 Conference resolution
2. Local communities will be more aware of trafficking and slavery issues and, collaborative action with appropriate agencies and authorities will be increased.
3. Improved information about current and future developments will be received by working with the Wales Anti-Human Trafficking Group– both actual and desired.
4. A decrease will occur in the number of trafficked and enslaved individuals, evidenced by increase in numbers of arrests, prosecutions documented at local, regional, national and international levels.
5. Concerted lobbying on the part of SI Wales South will ensure that all M.P.'s in our region will support the passage into statute of the Dec. 2013 Draft Anti Slavery Bill.

Indicators:

1. More rigorous detection, identification and referral of potential and actual victims of human trafficking to the National Referral Mechanism.
2. Implementation of the Draft Modern Slavery Bill [the first of its kind in Europe]
3. Consolidation and simplification of sentences which currently fall under a number of different Acts of Parliament
4. More prosecutions and tougher sentences for perpetrators of the crime
5. The establishment of a legal duty to report potential victims of trafficking to the National Crime Agency, to build a clearer picture of the nature of this hidden crime
6. The establishment of more victim focussed intervention programmes
7. The establishment of rigorous training programmes for all professionals likely to encounter the crime
8. Increased participation and collaborative working with Wales Anti-Human Trafficking Group and all other agencies involved in the counteraction of trafficking and slavery by all SIWS clubs, through area representatives.
9. Increased reporting of Soroptimists' participation and support in the fight against the trafficking of women and girls by means of PFRF reports to SI data base
10. Increased reporting of SIGBI lobbying activity at local levels as a means of attracting and recruiting interested new members

Critical assumptions:

1. SI Wales South Region will be able to work with the 3 Anti-Human Trafficking Fora (Dyfed-Powys, South Wales and Gwent Area Police Forces) which will demonstrate different problems in different areas of South Wales. Soroptimist attendance at these Fora will provide us with a uniform approach to the issues faced in South Wales and avoid duplication of effort.
2. SI Wales South Anti-Human Trafficking Group representatives will help advise clubs on the most effective way to promote the objectives of this plan and not overburden clubs with too many tasks.

Monitoring:

1. Regular Reports to Regional Program Action Officer from each Police Area Forum representative following each meeting.
2. Collation of these reports to SI Wales South Executive and Regional meetings.

3. Quarterly review of direction and progress of project.

Finances:

It is not anticipated that there will be any significant costs associated with the proposed activities. The Region may wish to consider Regional events to fund raise in order to support those agencies that provide secure accommodation, support services, medical care and legal advice to victims of trafficking in Wales.

References

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