

The Anti Trafficking Monitoring Group

The following organisations are Members of The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group: Amnesty International UK, Anti-Slavery International (hosting the project), ECPAT UK, the Helen Bamber Foundation, Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (ILPA), Kalayaan, the POPPY project (of Eaves Housing for Women), TARA (of Glasgow Community and Safety Services) and UNICEF UK. This coalition also works closely with the Anti-Trafficking Legal Project (ATLeP).

Call for Evidence to Document the 1st year Implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings

Launch Date	15th September 2009
Response Date	15th January 2010
Call for evidence to	All organisations, governmental and non-governmental agencies and practitioners working with trafficked victims

The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group is a coalition formed in May 2009 to examine the first year of the implementation of Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (ECAT) in the UK. The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group undertook to gather a diverse range of information and opinions from stakeholders across the UK for two main reasons. Firstly, in order to comprehensively analyse the level of protection and assistance that is available to all trafficked persons in the UK during the first year of implementation of this Convention in the UK. Secondly, to ensure a diversity of voices are heard by the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) and also by those who are responding to the needs of trafficked persons in the UK, both officially and unofficially.

We are pleased to invite you to contribute to this unprecedented evidence gathering to monitor developments and initiate change in policy and practice.

We seek to represent a comprehensive range of views, regarding anti-trafficking policies and initiatives in the UK, following the Government's ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and its entry into force on the 1st of April 2009. It is of utmost importance to ensure that all those concerned about trafficking and those who have been trafficked have an opportunity to input into this collective exercise.

We welcome comments from everyone who is (directly or indirectly) involved in working with trafficked persons. In particular, it would be helpful if you addressed the ten questions below in your response, but we would of course welcome comments on any other aspects.

The main objectives of the monitoring are to:

- Create a robust and independent collection, analysis and reporting of evidence on the implementation of ECAT in the UK
- Examine the impact of the implementation of ECAT on all trafficked persons' access to their human rights
- Identify examples of best practice of anti-trafficking interventions in the UK to determine the most adequate strategies for the implementation of ECAT

Information gathered will be analysed and presented in the form of a report that will be made publicly available in June 2010. The report will be a collective body of evidence that identifies the strengths, weaknesses and omissions of the present system and represents the particular views of stakeholders. The report will be presented to the UK Government, along with recommendations for changes. The report will also be formally submitted to the GRETA Expert body. You may already be aware that within the Council of Europe, GRETA is the official monitoring system of the implementation of ECAT and currently plans to publish their report regarding this in the autumn of 2010.

Why is your participation important?

We are keen to ensure that all relevant stakeholders and individuals are able to add their voice and the voices of those they assist in the process to identify the strengths, weaknesses and omissions of the present system. This will only be possible if information collected by different agencies is pulled together into a strong and representative body of evidence. Through this exercise, you will be able to:

- Contribute to the understanding of the level of protection and assistance that is available to all trafficked persons in the UK
- Contribute to the monitoring of the implementation of ECAT in the UK
- Influence mechanisms and policies currently in place in the UK
- Provide examples of best practice
- Ensure your experiences and concerns, and that of the trafficked persons you represent, are included in the final report which will be published in June 2010

We are particularly interested in the following:

(Please provide information that would highlight differences, if any, between England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales)

1. Is the NRM structure clear and functioning in line with ECAT? If not, what amendments would you make?
2. Are trafficked persons being adequately and effectively identified? If not, how could it be improved?
3. What are the differences between identification procedures for EU and non-EU nationals?
4. Since the 1st of April 2009, what changes have you seen in the practice of charging potential trafficked people with criminal offences (e.g. for soliciting or for being in possession of false documents, etc.) that they have committed while trafficked?
5. What is, in your experience, the relationship between the referral of a trafficked person through the NRM and success of asylum claims or residence permits?
6. What is, in your experience, the relationship between the referral of a trafficked person through the NRM and the success of a police investigation and conviction of offenders?
7. Can you describe instances where NRM decision positively or negatively influenced the asylum procedure or residence permit application?
8. What evidence do you have about the level of assistance and protection that trafficked persons receive under ECAT?
9. Do you have examples of work in prevention linked to the other areas?
10. Were the changes brought in on 1st April 2009 beneficial to your work? Please provide an explanation to your answer.

In addition, it would be helpful to hear about:

- examples of good and bad practice
- anonymised case studies that show how services helped trafficked persons or highlight problems they are facing in the current system
- information about projects, strategies and initiatives that you think should be included in the monitoring including contact details if possible
- anything else you would like to share for the purposes of monitoring

How to respond

Both written and electronic responses to this call for evidence will be accepted.

Please include your name, organisation (if any), postal address and email address.

Name	
Address	
Email address	
Contact Number	
Name of Organisation (if applicable)	
Position (if applicable)	

Closing date for responses: 15th January 2010

Responses can be sent by post to:

The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group at

Anti-Slavery International
Thomas Clarkson House
The Stableyard
Broomgrove Road
London
SW9 9TL

or electronically to the Coordinator, Rebecca Wallace: r.wallace@antislavery.org

Responses: Confidentiality & Anonymity

The information gathered during this call for evidence will be kept strictly confidential and will be available only to staff of the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group. We will consider every individual response received.

No statements/evidence will be attributable to any agency/actor unless expressly indicated. The analysis of the data to be published in the report in June 2010 would reveal the type of agency/actor who submitted the evidence (for example, voluntary organisation, health service provider, statutory social work provider, legal practitioner, law enforcement, etc.) and the location in which the agency/actor operates in the UK but no other details would be given regarding staff names or specific departments, unless expressly allowed to do so by the individual submitting the information.

All contributors to the call for evidence will be acknowledged, unless they wish to remain anonymous. The report will be also sent to all contributors.