

# ANTI HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT NEWSLETTER

March 2015

8<sup>TH</sup> Edition

[Cross Border Forced Labour Conference 21 January 2015](#)



*L-R. Aodhán Ó'Riordáin, TD Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, Kevin Hyland, UK Anti Slavery Commissioner, David Forde Minister of Justice Northern Ireland*

The second cross border conference on human trafficking took place on 21 January 2015 in Newry, Co. Down. This conference focused on forced labour. Given the overlaps between human trafficking for forced labour and forced labour in itself, it was decided not to limit the conference to human trafficking alone.

There were three overarching themes for the day

- Challenges for law enforcement in particular cross border investigative challenges;
- Prevention and identification – challenges in trying to locate and remove victims from abusive situations and ensuring they are supported and informed of their rights;
- Awareness raising and training –approaches to raising awareness of this issue on a cross border basis.

This well attended event had an audience of approx. 80 people from State agencies, NGOs, and international bodies from both sides of the border. The Conference was addressed by UK experts as well as representatives from Non Governmental Organisations and State agencies providing supports to victims of trafficking for labour exploitation and forced labour.

The list of speakers included:

Mr Neil Jarman Institute of Conflict Research NI  
Ms Grainne O'Toole Migrants Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI)  
Ms Mariaam Bhatti MRCI (a former victim of labour exploitation)  
Mr Paul Broadbent UK Gangmasters Licensing Authority  
Mr John Kelly NERA  
Mr Kevin Hyland UK Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner (designate)

Presentations from the Conference are available at  
<http://www.blueblindfold.gov.ie/website/bbf/bbfweb.nsf/page/news-publications-en>



**Minister of State, Aodhán Ó'Riordáin, TD with Members of the Migrants Rights Centre Ireland**

### **REACH project - women and girls awareness raising campaign**

An awareness raising campaign targeting vulnerable women and girls is being launched at the end of February. This campaign which is part of the REACH project seeks to reach out to vulnerable women and girls in both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked into prostitution. The poster and online campaign wants to inform all women and girls who find themselves in a difficult situation in the sex trade of the free, safe and confidential support that is available to them.

A REACH Project website [www.REACHProject.eu](http://www.REACHProject.eu) is currently under construction will be available soon.

If you would be willing to display a poster in your organisation please contact [ruth@ruhama.ie](mailto:ruth@ruhama.ie).

### **REACH project - men and boys awareness raising campaign**

Following a competitive tendering process a company has been selected to develop an awareness raising campaign aimed at men and boys. The aim of the campaign is to help create an atmosphere of zero tolerance of human trafficking as a form of violence against women and girls. The campaign seeks to strongly discourage men and boys from purchasing sex from women and girls who have been trafficked into prostitution and those who are vulnerable to being trafficked and will seek to raise awareness of the potential harm caused by the demand for sexual services provided by persons who have been trafficked or are vulnerable to trafficking. Further information on the campaign will be in our next issue.

\*



The Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI) hosted the inaugural meeting of a National Advisory Committee on the delivery of early legal intervention (ELI) to victims of human trafficking for sexual exploitation on the 15<sup>th</sup> of January in the EU Parliament House in Dublin. The project aims to establish best practice in securing the protection of victims of trafficking (VoT) through early legal intervention, thus enhancing their social recovery and their role as witnesses.

The ICI is the lead organisation of the EU funded project and has partnered with organisations in England, Scotland, Croatia, Bulgaria and Lithuania.

The concept of ELI is an important part of international treaties and it can be found under Articles 6(2) and (3) of the UN Protocol from Palermo (2000) and under Article 12 of the Council of Europe's Convention (2005).

The national Advisory Committee meeting was attended by national experts in the area of anti-trafficking from government agencies such as the Department of Justice Anti Human Trafficking Unit, HSE and TUSLA and An Garda Síochána as well as members of civil society, academics and legal practitioners.

Siobhan Mullally, professor of Law at UCC and member of GRETA and Ursula O Hare, Assistant Director of the Law Centre of Northern Ireland were the key speakers.



**Co-funded by the Prevention of and Fight against Crime  
Programme of the European Union**

\*

**Migrant Rights Centre Ireland**

Migrant Rights Centre Ireland (MRCI) welcomed new measures introduced by the Department of Foreign Affairs in 2014 to protect workers in the homes of foreign diplomats in Ireland. Diplomats employing domestic workers must now comply with a list of requirements aimed at preventing trafficking and labour exploitation. MRCI has encountered numerous serious cases of labour exploitation in some diplomatic households in Dublin. Workers – usually young women – are brought into the country and forced to work long hours for little or no pay. Working in private homes, they are hidden and feel isolated. Even if they manage to leave the situation and get help, they have little hope of justice or redress because the perpetrator simply claims diplomatic immunity. That's why these preventative measures are so important. The new requirements are smart and pragmatic; and will help to prevent further cases of exploitation, trafficking and domestic servitude. MRCI will be monitoring the implementation of the measures and their impact over the coming year.

\*

**Doras Luimní**

Doras Luimní will launch new research on Human Trafficking and Migrant Prostitution in Limerick in February 2015. The research analyses the anti-trafficking services provided to clients by Doras Luimní staff. It also provides an overview of the street outreach project to women in prostitution which is done in partnership with Limerick sexual health charity, Goshh.

The research captures the social, legal and economic barriers faced by clients who access state support services. In particular, it highlights the systemic issues facing migrants when accessing social protection, health care, training and education.

In 2014 Doras Luimní provided support to victims of trafficking for sexual and labour exploitation, and for forced marriage.

Please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for speaker details, time and venue closer to the date.

\*

**Ruhama**

Ruhama recently provided training to senior members of An Garda Síochána, in the Dublin North Central Metropolitan district. The participants included officers in rank of Chief Superintendent, Superintendent and Inspector.

It was extremely encouraging to see the level of interest taken by the participating gardaí, on how best to tackle organised prostitution, and to do so, in a way that doesn't further victimise or exploit the women, men or transgender people who are for sale in the sex trade.



## Ruhama celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

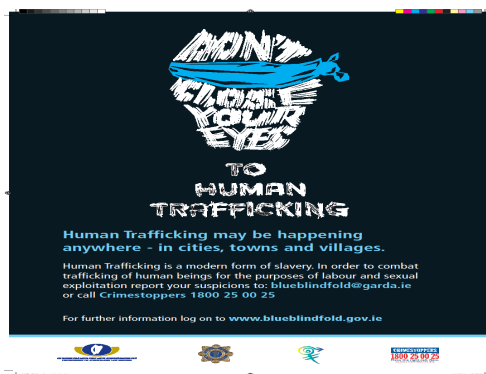


In November, Ruhama launched its 2013 Annual Report and celebrated 25 years of working with women affected by prostitution. During the 25 years, Ruhama has assisted over 2,500 women from over 60 different countries.

The Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald TD was due to launch the Report but due to unavoidable circumstances, could not attend. Senator Ivana Bacik did an excellent job of standing in for the Minister.

\*

## AHTU Update



- The AHTU sent leaflets and bookmarks to libraries nationwide in a bid to raise awareness.
- AHTU gave a range of awareness raising merchandise to Mecpath for their future awareness raising events.
- AHTU sent Mugs, pens, leaflets & posters to St Marys YSI Mallow, Co. Cork.
- AHTU had an awareness raising stand at the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation event in the Gresham Hotel.

\*

## Parliamentary Questions

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/documents/op/Jan15/Questions/pq150115.pdf>

### CSPE packs for schools

AHTU published a notice on their FB page for schools to contact them if they require CSPE packs for their Human Rights studies.

\*

The AHTU have received very positive feedback from the public in relation to the banner they placed on Dublin's Liberty Hall to mark EU anti human trafficking day.



### Children's Hotline

The ISPCC 116 000 Missing Children's Hotline is a very important service for families. The hotline is available to answer calls 24 hours a day. The main aim of this hotline is to provide advice and emotional support to missing children and their families. By dialling 116 000 the caller will be linked to someone they can talk to about the issue. This free phone hotline is not an emergency line and all cases of missing children must, in the first instance, be reported to the Garda Síochána. The hotline will be provided to children and families to offer ongoing support and guidance. This hotline can greatly enhance the emotional and practical support that can be offered to missing children and their families.



### News

The Anti-Human Trafficking Unit were contacted by Polish student Barbara Kleboko who came to Dublin last year to run in the Dublin Mini Marathon. Barbara shared some very interesting ideas regarding raising awareness about human trafficking. Below is a picture of her in her running gear – her t-shirt bore the slogan **"I'm not for sale, Stop human trafficking"** in both English & Polish.



### Presentations

- In November AHTU gave a presentation at the UCC Law Society Conference.
- In November AHTU gave a presentation at a Domestic Violence Conference in Dublin 15.
- In December AHTU gave a presentation to the transition year students of St Marys YSI Mallow, Co. Cork.

\*

### Our Newsletter

If you have / had an event and would like to feature in our quarterly newsletter. Send your notices / photos to [AHTUDivision@justice.ie](mailto:AHTUDivision@justice.ie)

## Anti-Human Trafficking Unit



Do you have or know of an event coming up?

AHTU are available and willing to have an information stand at events to raise awareness of human trafficking.

**For more information please contact [ahtudivision@justice.ie](mailto:ahtudivision@justice.ie) for more information.**

---

**This newsletter includes links to material and sources and is provided by way of information. The information and opinions included are not necessarily endorsed or supported by the Department of Justice and Equality.**

Copyright 2015 Department of Justice & Equality.  
All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is: [AHTUDivision@justice.ie](mailto:AHTUDivision@justice.ie) Follow us on Facebook: Anti Human Trafficking Unit Ireland