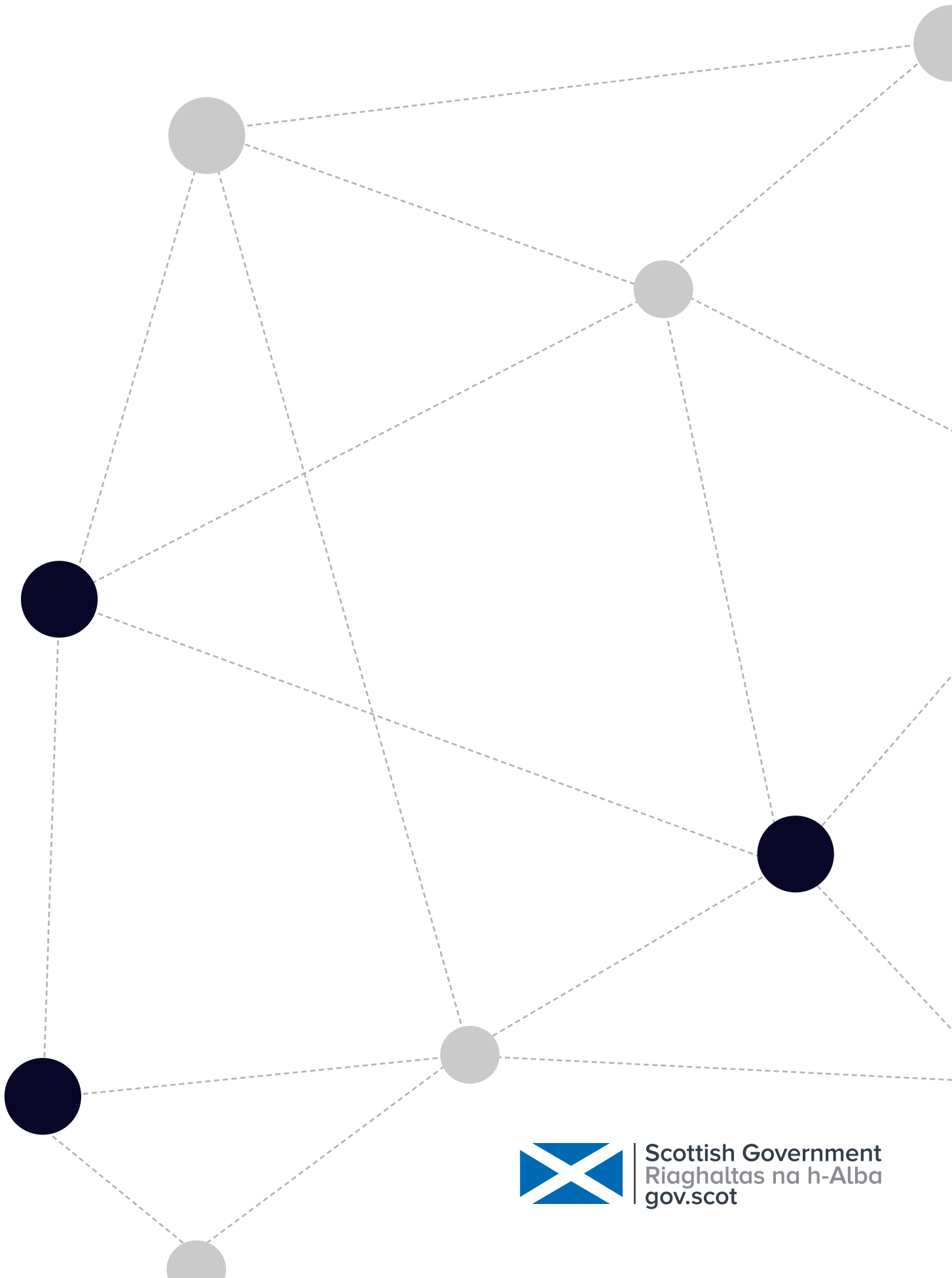

Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy

Review - 2023



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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1. Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy Review – 2023

This report sets out the Scottish Government’s second review of the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, first published in 2017 and reviewed in 2020. The review sought to identify if the Strategy remained fit for purpose and reflected the policy and operational landscape associated with Scotland’s collaborative efforts to tackle human trafficking and exploitation.

Section 36(4) of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 states: “Before preparing or reviewing the strategy, the Scottish Ministers must consult such persons as they consider likely to have an interest in the strategy.” Section 36(5) thereafter states that Scottish Ministers must publish a report following the review.

This report is below and we would like to put on record our thanks for the valued input and time committed by all participants to support this review.

2. Review process

Over a period of six months – October 2022 to March 2023 – the Scottish Government undertook an extensive programme of engagement to seek the views of a wide range of stakeholders on the current Strategy, the progress of work and achievement of the objectives set out within the Strategy’s Action Areas. This also sought whether changes are needed either to the Strategy itself or to the approach to implementation.

The engagement process was formally launched on 18 October 2022, Anti-Slavery Day, with the launch of a public survey open from 18 October to 16 December 2022. This was followed by consultation with stakeholders from the three Action Areas and the Child Trafficking Strategy Group, with tailored questions for each line of activity.

This review builds upon a previous review in 2019-20, the outcome of which was published in the [third annual progress report](#) and which concluded that, at that stage and in its current form, the Strategy provided a broadly effective framework for delivering and coordinating action against trafficking in Scotland, and that fundamentally redesigning it would be unhelpful at that stage. The first review committed to a new Strategy when circumstances allowed. However, due to the impact of COVID-19, work to refresh the Strategy was paused and in line with statutory requirements, a further review has now been concluded.

2.1 Online public survey

The public survey, launched on 18 October 2022 via social media, ran for two months and received 45 responses. The questionnaire provided and a summary of the responses received are included in Annex A.

2.2 Targeted stakeholder engagement

In addition to the public questionnaire, the Scottish Government utilised a series of questionnaires provided to stakeholders within each of the three Action Area groups and members of the Child Trafficking Strategy Group. The questions issued are provided at Annex B and were tailored based on each stakeholder’s interests under the Action Areas. Responses were collected and analysed to inform this review.

In addition to these questionnaires, the Scottish Government undertook a programme of one to one meetings with key partners to discuss the Strategy in more detail, with participants including:

- Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS)
- COSLA
- Justice and Care
- Scottish Refugee Council
- Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland (SOHTIS)
- NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde (Glasgow Psychological Trauma Service)



- Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance (TARA)
- Migrant Help
- Scottish Government (various policy areas)
- Scotland Against Modern Slavery (SAMS)
- Police Scotland
- Home Office
- JustRight Scotland
- Barnardo's
- Glasgow City Council
- Social Work Scotland

Stakeholders were unanimous in their view that the Strategy should be refreshed, with many providing input as to the particular areas of focus for any proposed refresh and some of the drivers of change which should be captured. The responses received also suggested that the focus of the three Action Areas remained broadly correct, but that several of the outcomes embedded within them required amendment or updating and there was an opportunity to review the strands of work nested under each Action Area. Stakeholders also suggested where they felt opportunities existed to make additions to the outcomes outlined in the Strategy.

2.3 Stakeholder event

At the conclusion of the questionnaire and stakeholder meetings, the Scottish Government then closed the review with a full-day stakeholder engagement session held on 7 March 2023 in Glasgow for members of the three Action Area groups and the Child Trafficking Strategy Group.

The event provided stakeholders with an overview of the review findings to date and the next steps to consider the responses received. Stakeholders were then invited to reflect on the current Strategy, what key indicators and objectives remained relevant, what had been achieved and what within the Strategy required refresh and refinement as part of a potential new Strategy, alongside identifying any changes the Scottish Government and partners should make in a collective approach to tackling human trafficking. The opportunity was also provided for partners to outline what they would like to see in a refreshed Strategy.

A summary of the key findings is provided at Annex C.



2.4 Lived experience

As part of the Review, and running in parallel to stakeholder engagement, the Scottish Government also sought to incorporate views from those with lived experience of the trafficking support system and those who had interacted with the criminal justice system in Scotland as victims and survivors of trafficking and exploitation. In order to incorporate the experiences of victims and survivors, the Scottish Government approached Migrant Help and the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance to support this vital input.

The Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance Advisory Group (TAG), comprising women who had previously been supported by TARA, and Migrant Help's Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP), provided significant contributions to this review.

LEAP offered responses to a series of questions provided to them and have registered a clear ask to be involved in the development of any future Strategy. The responses can be reviewed at Annex D. Through Migrant Help, the review also liaised with LEAP members to collate input on the Strategy. Five members of the LEAP fed in to the review, and responses were provided as a consolidated report in March 2023.

The responses received centred around 10 key questions (Annex D) and will be taken forward for consideration and incorporation into the proposed refresh of the Strategy. The following key themes emerged which have shaped the Scottish Government's conclusions with regards to the review. The feedback outlined:

- some of the factors which make victims susceptible to trafficking and exploitation and how they should be reflected in the Strategy.
- how could prevention be focused to enhance awareness of trafficking perpetrators?
- how to identify the signs of trafficking.
- the key aspects of support once identified.
- the interventions that will help facilitate long term recovery.
- training and how it can assist in recognising the signs of trafficking.
- what more the Scottish Government could do and how survivors feel the Strategy should evolve to reflect this.

In addition to the responses provided by LEAP to targeted questions, the TAG provided responses to the public survey questions provided in Annex A – these answers are provided in Annex D.

3. Review conclusions and next steps

The review sought to answer several fundamental questions.

- To what extent has the Strategy been implemented and complied with?
- What elements of the Strategy remain fit for purpose in 2023?
- What elements are now out of date and require refreshing?
- Should a new Strategy be published and, if so, what changes are needed in a new Strategy?

The main conclusions of the review are set out here for each of these questions. However, behind these high level conclusions there is a wealth of information and reflections which will be retained to inform our future approach.

3.1 To what extent has the Strategy been implemented and complied with?

As set out in each of the four annual progress reports, a significant amount of work has taken place across Scotland since publication of the Strategy in 2017 to improve support for victims, tackle perpetrators and address the causes of trafficking. Meaningful progress has been made towards each of the key outcomes in the Strategy, and the specific short-, medium- and longer-term actions have generally been either completed or moved forward. Some specific areas requiring attention were identified during the review, such as work to implement Duty to Notify and the requirement for a more strategic approach to awareness raising and training opportunities. More detailed information is provided at Annex C.

Later this year, we will publish our fifth annual progress report charting the latest developments in Strategy implementation and this will include a detailed assessment of progress against each action within the Strategy.

It is clear that partners and stakeholders are committed to tackling human trafficking, and to using the Strategy as a framework for this. Section 37 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 enables Ministers, by regulations, to specify which Scottish public authorities should be subject to a duty to cooperate on the Strategy; however, the lack of a statutory duty has been no barrier to bodies engaging with and helping to deliver the Strategy.

Feedback from stakeholders set out that the Strategy remains a key framework for assisting partners in tackling trafficking and exploitation and, as identified in the 2020 review, the Strategy has been largely complied with and adhered to by partners. As outlined in the 2020 review, some of this work has been done by the Scottish Government directly, some has been done by partners on their own initiative, and some has been the result of collaborative working between partners under the Action Areas.



3.2 What elements of the Strategy remain fit for purpose in 2023?

Feedback from stakeholders suggested that the three Action Areas and the Child Trafficking strand remain suitable and appropriate pillars upon which to centre our efforts to combat trafficking and exploitation. However, some stakeholders suggested that within the Action Areas, a new Strategy could refine where responsibility rested to ensure a more coherent approach to certain priorities, such as training and awareness raising. Stakeholders also remarked that a number of the overarching objectives within the Strategy remain core aspirations and continue to provide important guidance. As such, a new Strategy should look to cohere the Action Areas and improve the interconnectedness of work under each Action Area, improving the flow of information sharing, cross-group working and learning.

3.3 What elements are now out of date and require refreshing?

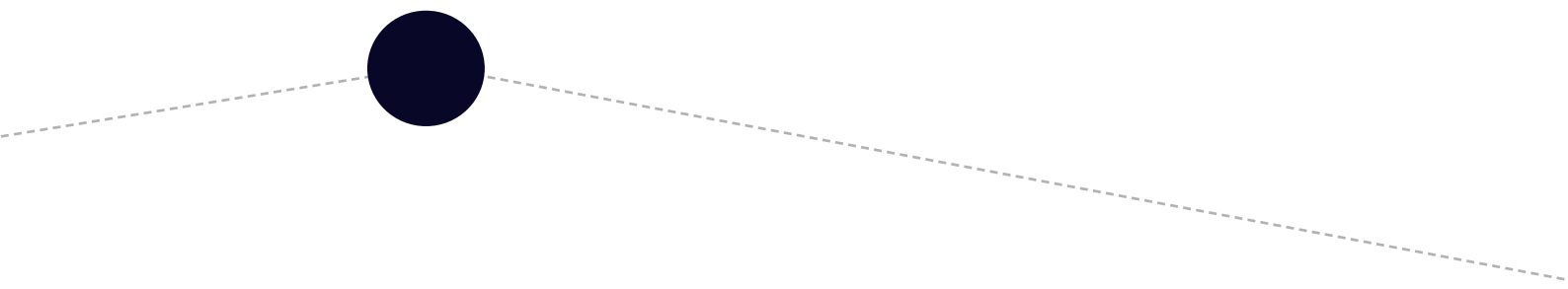
A number of the goals within the Strategy, as set in 2017, are no longer relevant, either as a result of progress or as a result of evolving priorities. As such, it was concluded that the Key Performance Indicators warranted a refresh to bring them in line with policy and operational developments. This will be detailed within the fifth annual progress report.

3.4 Should a new Strategy be published and, if so, what changes are needed in a new Strategy?

From the extensive engagement undertaken, it was clear that stakeholders' unanimous view was that a refresh of the Strategy should be prioritised and this would allow us to reflect the changing landscape and evolving workstreams in our attempts to combat human trafficking. This was a view shared by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) who, in their report of [July 2023](#), raised the potential for a refreshed Strategy and provided a number of indicators and factors they would like to see reflected in a revised framework.

As a result of this programme of engagement, the Minister for Victims and Community Safety has directed that the Scottish Government undertake a refresh of the 2017 Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy following the publication of the fifth annual report. This will look to reflect the operational realities since 2017, progress in Scotland's attempts to combat trafficking and exploitation, and set objectives for the future.

This work will be undertaken in partnership with stakeholders and will be informed by the lived experience of trafficking survivors. It will also utilise information gathered as part of this review. The refresh will also reflect the evolving legislative environment including the UK Government's Illegal Migration Act which has the potential to significantly alter the system of support for victims.



As part of this refresh, we will review membership of the governance structure and the process by which annual reports into the Strategy are conducted and published. Stakeholders welcomed continued annual reporting, but we should ensure that the measures and review methodology deployed are meaningful and representative of the progress made.

Annex A

Public survey questionnaire and responses

Total Number of Responses - 45

Q1 - Are you aware of Scotland's Trafficking & Exploitation Strategy?

Yes	%	No	%	Did not respond	%
27	60	18	40	0	0

Q2 - If you answered Yes to Q1, can you set out what you understand to be the purpose of the Strategy?

Responded	%	Did not respond	%
26	58	19	42

Summary of responses

Majority of those who answered this question cited themes of increasing awareness, reducing/preventing trafficking, protecting victims, supporting response to trafficking and setting out the Government's approach to all of these.

Q3 - Should the Scottish Government continue to report on an annual basis on progress in implementing the Strategy?

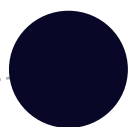
Yes	%	No	%	Don't Know	%	Did not respond	%
39	87	2	4	4	9	0	0

Q4 - Do you think most people understand what is meant by 'human trafficking and exploitation'?

Yes	%	No	%	Don't know	%	Did not respond	%
12	27	28	62	4	9	1	2

Q5 - What does the term 'human trafficking and exploitation' mean to you?

Responded	%	Did not respond	%
42	93	3	7



Summary of responses

Most respondents mentioned things like forced labour, movement of people against their will, using others for financial gain, coercion etc. One person mentioned the smuggling of people between countries having been paid to do so but acknowledged that this might be people smuggling – unsure of the distinction. The difference in terminology between Scottish Government and UK Government was highlighted as being potentially confusing.

Q6 - Do you think human trafficking and exploitation happens in Scotland?

Yes	%	No	%	Don't Know	%	Did not respond	%
43	96	1	2	0	0	1	2

Q7 - In Scotland, which industries/activities do you think might involve adults who are being trafficked/exploited?

Responded	%	Did not respond	%
43	96	2	4

Summary of responses

Most respondents listed a variety of industries. The most commonly cited were nail bars and car washes, followed by sexual exploitation and drugs (farming/selling) then labour such as farming, fishing and hospitality. Other areas mentioned were construction, domestic work, cash in hand economy and takeaways.

Q8 - In Scotland, which industries/activities do you think might involve children who are being trafficked/exploited?

Responded	%	Did not respond	%
42	93	3	7

Summary of responses

As above with the addition of forced marriage, begging, county lines, stealing.

Q9 - How confident would you feel in recognising the signs of human trafficking and exploitation?

Very	%	Quite	%	Learn more first	%	Did not respond	%
14	31	23	51	8	18	0	0

Q10 - Where would you report concerns about someone you suspected of being a victim of human trafficking and exploitation?

Responded	%	Did not respond	%
45	100		

Summary of responses

Almost all respondents said Police Scotland with Social Work being the next largest. Others mentioned were the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline, Crimestoppers, Local Authority, Border Force, Home Office and Unseen.

Q11 - How could the Scottish Government and partners improve awareness of human trafficking and exploitation with the general public/society?

Responded	%	Did not respond	%
41	91	4	9

Summary of responses

Publicity campaigns and different forms of advertising were the most suggested. Raising awareness that it happens to British Nationals, promoting work of organisations such as Unseen, TARA and Migrant Help. Awareness sessions in schools was suggested by more than one person. A central repository where details of all the various charities is available to the public.



Q12 - Do you have any further comments on Scotland's approach to human trafficking and exploitation?

Responded	%	Did not respond	%
16	36	29	64

Summary of responses

Similar responses to the previous question - more publicity. Suggestions also included ensuring punishment fits the crime, increase in specialist resources, making sure victims are not prosecuted, more focus on support for victims from police and criminal justice system, longer-term support for victims and a more joined-up national approach.

Annex B

Stakeholder engagement questionnaire

Action Area 1 Questions

1. Do you agree that the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy has provided an effective framework for joint work in Scotland to tackle trafficking and exploitation?

Yes/No/Comments

2. Do the three general outcomes for Action Area 1 set out in the Strategy still have the correct focus:

- People who encounter victims understand signs, know what to do and have access to specialist advice and support
- Coherent person/child centred support process that enables victims to recover and build resilience
- Victims are aware of support and trust it enough to ask for help?

Yes/No/Comments

3. Of the 12 specific outcomes for Action Area 1, are there any you feel are no longer needed, either because significant progress has been made, or because the issue has become less relevant?

Yes/No/Comments

4. Are there any other key goals that should be added/replace the existing 12 specific outcomes for Action Area 1?

Yes/No/Comments

5. Do you think the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy should be refreshed?

Yes/No/Comments

6. Is there more that can be done to target support at those at risk of trafficking before they are exploited? If so, what?

Yes/No/Comments

7. Are there specific barriers to victims receiving support? If so, what specific actions could we take to address these?

Yes/No/Comments

8. Should the Strategy do more to highlight gendered aspects of trafficking and exploitation? If so, how?

Yes/No/Comments

9. Should the Scottish Government continue to report on an annual basis on progress in implementing the Strategy?

Yes/No/Comments

10. Do you agree that Scotland provides effective support to survivors of trafficking and exploitation? What more should we be doing?

Yes/No/Comments



11. If you have any further comments on the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, please note these below.

Action Area 2 Questions

1. Do you agree that the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy has provided an effective framework for joint work in Scotland to tackle trafficking and exploitation?

Yes/No/Comments

2. Do the three general outcomes for Action Area 2 set out in the Strategy still have the correct focus:

- Public bodies and others carry out duty to notify obligations
- Intelligence is shared so that local areas and/or other countries are aware of patterns
- Police, prosecutors and courts use all powers and take robust action as appropriate?

Yes/No/Comments

3. Of the 12 specific outcomes for Action Area 2, are there any you feel are no longer needed, either because significant progress has been made, or because the issue has become less relevant?

Yes/No/Comments

4. Are there any other key goals that should be added/replace the existing 12 specific outcomes for Action Area 2?

Yes/No/Comments

5. Do you think the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy should be refreshed?

Yes/No/Comments

6. What changes since 2017 should impact on our approach to tackling trafficking and exploitation?

7. Are there barriers to the disruption of human trafficking and exploitation that a refreshed Strategy should consider?

8. Should the Scottish Government continue to report on an annual basis on progress in implementing the Strategy?

Yes/No/Comments

9. If you have any further comment on the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, please note these below.



Action Area 3 Questions

1. Do you agree that the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy has provided an effective framework for joint work in Scotland to tackle trafficking and exploitation?

Yes/No/Comments

2. Do the three general outcomes for Action Area 3 set out in the Strategy still have the correct focus:

- People know about the extent of trafficking in Scotland
- People and businesses are aware of how what they do and buy can contribute to this crime
- People at most risk get help to increase their resilience against trafficking?

Yes/No/Comments

3. Of the 12 specific outcomes for Action Area 3, are there any you feel are no longer needed, either because significant progress has been made, or because the issue has become less relevant?

Yes/No/Comments

4. Are there any other key goals that should be added/replace the existing 12 specific outcomes for Action Area 3?

Yes/No/Comments

5. Do you think there have been changes in Scotland or elsewhere since 2017 that should impact on our approach to tackling the conditions that foster trafficking and exploitation?

Yes/No/Comments

6. Since 2017, what, if any, changes have occurred to the drivers of human trafficking and exploitation? How could a new Strategy approach these?

7. Do you think the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy should be refreshed?

Yes/No/Comments

8. Should the Scottish Government continue to report on an annual basis on progress in implementing the Strategy?

Yes/No/Comments

9. If you have any further comment on the Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy, please note these below.

Annex C

Stakeholder engagement session – key findings

The event included an assessment of the key performance indicators and objectives set within the Strategy, with an evaluation as to whether an objective has been achieved, partially achieved/ongoing, require significant work or no longer relevant and can be discarded. This assessment will inform the refresh of the Strategy.

The high-level conclusion was that a number of the objectives set out in the 2017 Strategy remain relevant and still to be achieved, with varying levels of progress assessed as having taken place against each. For other objectives, the geopolitical climate or the changing nature of trafficking and exploitation means that they can be removed/significantly amended, with other objectives achieved. Additionally, stakeholders identified new emerging aims and objectives that should be captured within the overarching Strategy document.

The significant quantity of information collated will be taken forward for the refresh of the Strategy.

Key reflections

- Public awareness programmes and efforts need to be sustained, including on highlighting domestic trafficking.
- Trauma-informed training – potentially at a national level and standardised – is required for first responders, procurement officials, public sector bodies and agencies, and should cover from indicators through to how to work with people affected by trauma.
- A survivor’s/victim’s journey should be more clearly mapped out, covering who they engage and when.
- Calls for a more conspicuous overarching body or commissioner to oversee the work in Scotland.
- Reviewed membership of the Action Areas and the associated Terms of Reference, as well as reviewing how the Action Area meetings operate.
- Improved/enhanced learning between Action Areas.
- Issues with silo working and a lack of communication between Action Areas.
- Improved data collection, sharing and analysis would improve implementation and monitor success.
- Desire to see Duty to Notify progressed.
- Scottish Government should outline what it is doing to attempt to mitigate the impact of the Nationality and Borders (UK) Act.
- Potential for Child Trafficking to be branded as a fourth action area, or rebranded as an Action Area and the current fourth Action Area (conditions that foster trafficking) sitting in place over the others.
- Lots of the underlying factors driving trafficking and exploitation are not considered in the Scottish Government’s – or even Scotland’s – control, and should be noted but not considered actions.
- The NRM is considered flawed and Scotland should explore a bespoke end-to-end system.

Annex D

Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) – question set

To ensure the voices of those with lived experience of the human trafficking support system were fully reflected, the following questions were issued to Migrant Help's Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP). These questions centred on three key themes:

- look at the reasons why a person might be vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation and what we could do to help;
- identify people who were victims of human traffickers, and provide them with safety and support to rebuild their life away from the people who had abused them; and
- take action to stop people abusing other humans as a way to make money.

Questions

Look at the reasons why a person might be vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation and what we could do to help.

1. Does this seem like a correct focus for the Strategy?
2. What do you think can make someone more vulnerable to being exploited?
3. Where should we focus prevention to make potential victims' aware of traffickers' tactics?

Identify people who were victims of human traffickers and provide them with safety and support to rebuild their life away from the people who had abused them.

4. Does this seem like a correct focus for the Strategy?
5. What signs do you think are most important in noticing someone who might need help to leave exploitation?
6. In your opinion, what is the most important support provided once a person has been identified?
7. What do you think is most important in supporting people towards long-term recovery?

Take action to stop people abusing other humans as a way to make money.

8. Does this seem like a correct focus for the Strategy?
9. Are there any organisations that need further training to help them recognise victims of trafficking?
10. What more can the Scottish Government do to prevent or stop traffickers exploiting people?
11. If you were able to send a message to the person responsible for the Scottish Government's strategy on trafficking and exploitation, what would it be?



Answers from the LEAP

Look at the reasons why a person might be vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation and what we could do to help.

1. Does this seem like a correct focus for the Strategy?

- Yes
- Why? If someone (such as an asylum seeker) is running from their country for help and the Scottish Government is giving them like £40 a week to live, that is not enough. If there is a limit for those to work, this amount doesn't meet their needs. That's why you see some of them going out there and begging. They run from their own place to come here hoping it will be a benefit to them, but the government says no, you're not entitled to anything other than the £40 we give to you, some of them live in the hotel where they can't cook - they are just eating noodles. That's no way to live.

2. What do you think can make someone more vulnerable to being exploited?

- Poverty within their own country can cause people to be vulnerable. Traffickers who travel to other countries promise a better life in the UK through false information, e.g., you are going to make this amount of money and you just accept it because of poverty.
- People say that they feel sorry for you and want to help so you just accept the help.

- In most cases poverty makes people vulnerable as everything is about money; you need medication etc. - it costs money.
- Within the UK people are further made vulnerable by the limited financial support provided by the government. Because the government is providing such little financial support, it is making people more vulnerable and forcing them to be re-trafficked/further exploited.
- In some cases, you have the money, but your money can't fight for you. For example, someone has more money than you in a situation, but because they have more money, they can buy the better lawyer or bribe the police, so you are left on the outside/unstable. Money can be used by other people to bribe themselves into positions.
- Pressure from family makes someone vulnerable to trafficking. For example, family need money → put pressure on you → need to find job to work → just accept whatever work they can get and end up being trafficked.
- In my country we must pay everything (bills, homes etc., nothing is free). Extended family must help each other, so if you don't contribute to the support, you can get under too much pressure and once you are offered an opportunity outside your country (in the UK, Canada etc.) you will be, like: ok - bye, bye, poverty. But then you arrive there, and the struggle begins again.

- The desire for a better life for them and their families can make someone more vulnerable.
- For some, religion can make them more vulnerable. For example, if you don't want to follow a religion/want to change religion, e.g., you want to go from Muslim to Christian, your parents are not going to be happy with you. Your family can disown you; you are not going to be part of the family anymore. Your family could kill you, so if you have an opportunity like that (to leave) you must run away.
- Promise of a better life for someone and their family.
- Lack of guidance into UK systems e.g., ignorance/no exposure.
- Less privileged families depending on an individual coming to UK for "greener pastures".
- Quest for International Academic Qualification.

3. Where should we focus prevention to make potential victims' aware of traffickers' tactics?

- How can we answer this when they are in a different country?
- People are trafficked from different countries so don't know how they are going to do it, whether the government is going to go these other countries.

- UK/Scottish government should find out how many trafficking victims there are and why they traffic those victims specifically (e.g., we have 1,000 victims and 50% of them are from the same country).
- Make a stronger law for traffickers, need to make action - if they catch you and they find out this person has been trafficking they should get a double punishment. Won't stop the traffickers but may slow them down.
- We have this information for asylum seekers, need to get the same for victims of trafficking.
- So many beliefs that awareness can be communicated in schools - raise awareness.
- Depends on the people who do the trafficking - you will believe them when you don't have a better life.
- Publish awareness on social media - if they found out someone is being a trafficker, publish them on social media, newspaper etc.
- Point of entry, e.g., airports, seaports and borders. Flyers and professionals to enlighten commuters of what is happening on matters trafficking and exploitation. How to spot potential victim and who to report to or talk to.
- UK and other developed states to share success systems with countries where most victims come from. In other words, make other places conducive to live so that they don't need to run to UK or Europe for "better lifestyle".



- The media should also show the struggles in UK so that people globally stop assuming UK is perfect. Movies and mainstream media don't show people in UK struggling, which is far from reality when immigrants reside in UK.

Identify people who were victims of human traffickers and provide them with safety and support to rebuild their life away from the people who had abused them.

4. Does this seem like a correct focus for the Strategy?

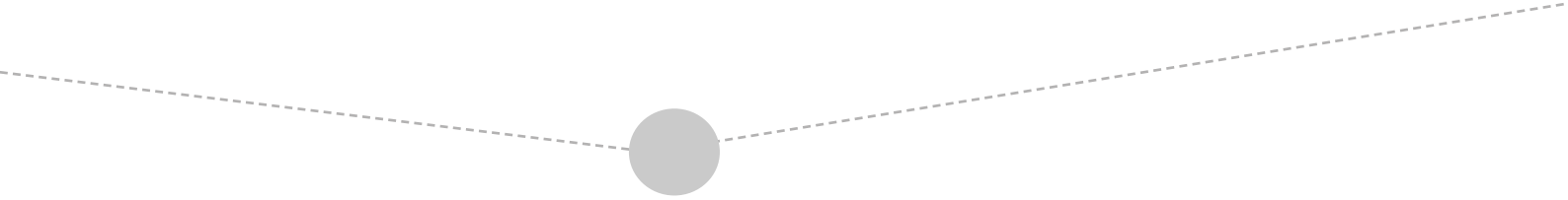
- Really good, saves a lot of lives, good what the government is doing.
- Good idea, helping a lot of people.
- Yes, give them opportunity to heal over time.

5. What signs do you think are most important in noticing someone who might need help to leave exploitation?

- Victims always look scared and worried, language barrier, scars/bruises, looking tired, scared to say anything to the police.
- Really stressed, not able to focus properly, tiredness, the people who trafficked them may have told them that if you see the police don't look scared.
- Always separated from meeting people in the community.
- Constantly being threatened to be deported by the persons or organisation that brought them into UK.

6. In your opinion, what is the most important support provided once a person has been identified?

- Take the victim from the trafficker, can't give support if they are still there.
- Provide food, somewhere to live, somewhere to shower, important to meet basic needs.
- Need to rebuild their life, education, work skills, something to keep them busy rather than sit in the house and keep thinking.
- Therapy - for the person sometimes it has been stressful where they have been, so they need a professional therapist to make their brain come back to life, tell them that everything will be fine, you are not alone, things like that. It takes a while to build trust in people (both needed right away and long term).
- Rescue the person from the exploiter so that he/she can live independently.
- Introduction to legal systems that will make the survivor know they can live without being in the shadow of the exploiter. Convince them exploiter is not a "GOD" to be above the law.



7. What do you think is most important in supporting people towards long-term recovery?

- Therapy is very important and very good.
- Got to go to the doctor and set themselves up if they have any problems, both mental and medical help.
- Protection from being re-exploited.
- Additional life skills to work and sustain themselves in the UK borders.
- Introduction to people in the community of other survivors who have embraced new way of life. They can guide and give hope to the new survivors of trafficking, exploitation and modern-day slavery.

Take action to stop people abusing other humans as a way to make money

8. Does this seem like a correct focus for the Strategy?

- Yes, very good. If they can stop it, it would be brilliant.
- Think it is correct.
- Yes, people are losing their lives through trafficking. If the government is proactive with measures against trafficking, LIVES will be saved.

9. Are there any organisations that need further training to help them recognise victims of trafficking?

- Very difficult to recognise people who are being trafficked unless they come to you and tell you their problem – you won't really know them.
- The organisation that are supporting me are already doing a great job and looking after me well.
- People do need more training to recognise the signs and understand the victim, any organisation, like for example police, Migrant Help etc., as well as anyone working in this area.
- Tertiary learning institutions because there are many migrants who come as students.
- Human resource organisations and recruiting agencies ought to do enough background checks to prevent the companies they work from exploiting people, whether knowingly or unknowingly.

10. What more can the Scottish Government do to prevent or stop traffickers exploiting people?

- If they can have someone from that nationality working undercover with the police and secretly reporting on traffickers.
- Harsher punishment, more awareness of victims and traffickers named on the TV/posters.



- Communicate with the people who are newly coming into the country to get more information – people at the airports/ports, get more information to the people there. These people can recognise something more unusual.
 - Work with foreign embassies to make other countries put measures in place that will create more job opportunities for a healthy work environment and lifestyle to its citizens without the need to travel to UK. Have diplomatic relations that guide these states on erecting companies; technology inventions that will employ the youths in their respective countries.
 - To give the victims more skills to learn and get some work instead of sitting and thinking in the house.
 - As the government they can stop the human trafficking.
 - No public funds to migrants make them vulnerable to the sponsors who bring them into the UK borders. Migrants are obliged to do everything the sponsors says since if they approach the local government, it will be highlighted that they are not citizens to receive government services.
 - The conduct of charities by UK organisations operating abroad ought to be scrutinised to avert any dubious activities that could be taking advantage of the weak legal systems, currencies and unstable governance.
- 11. If you were able to send a message to the person responsible for the Scottish Government’s strategy on trafficking and exploitation, what would it be?**

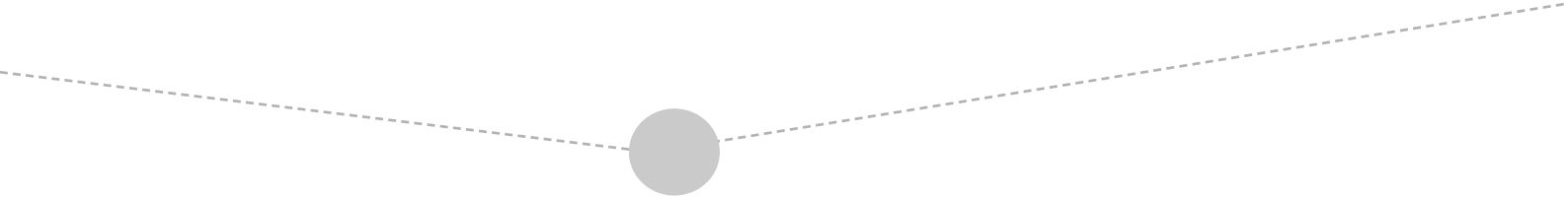
- If each country or nationality can get someone undercover to really know about trafficking – it will reduce the amount of trafficking, nobody will know that person is telling the police. That will be nice if they can do that. Very difficult to identify trafficking victims on the street.
- To give the traffickers a bigger punishment. If someone traffics someone from a different country to another country, nothing you can do other than give them punishment to scare the trafficking people.

In addition to the targeted question responses from LEAP, the Trafficking Awareness Raising Alliance Advisory Group (TAG) provided the below responses to the public survey outlined in Annex A.

Are you aware of Scotland’s Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy and its purpose?

No

Only became aware of strategy in 2022 as we were undertaking research for the TAG awareness raising presentation so know of it only because we were proactively searching for information for our presentation. Some members of the TAG still not really aware of the content of the Strategy.



The TAG felt that the statistics in the Strategy were not clear and not very outcome/achievement focussed e.g. limited statistics from Scottish Government and Police. Not much to draw on for our awareness raising presentation and not enough quantitative data to use.

Given the lack of survivor awareness of the Strategy we therefore do not have a clear understanding of its purpose.

Do you think people understand what is meant by human trafficking and exploitation?

No

We think there is still limited public awareness/knowledge and most people don't think its happening in their communities. Not sure people know signs in less obvious cases or who to report concerns to. Survivors are scared to share with communities for fear of discrimination and prejudice e.g. being blamed for it and/or women being stereotyped. This means people don't hear directly from survivors so think it is a myth in Scotland. People get shocked when they hear. Sometimes, to protect their "image" and not to cause others distress, survivors don't disclose or fully tell their stories. People don't know how to respond so they avoid or ignore or stereotype or lie (blame women). Communities and families judge based on what they hear/myths/lies/stereotypes.

What do the terms mean to you?

TAG prefer "human trafficking and exploitation" as "modern slavery" makes you think of historical slavery or clear cases such as "sweatshops". How does modern slavery reflect exploitative labour such as with the recruitment of "foreign" nurses and employment agencies taking extortionate "fees". Modern slavery doesn't reflect people in poverty needing to do things to survive and then being exploited due to their limited choices.

In Scotland, which industries/activities do you think might involve adults who are being trafficked/exploited?

Agriculture, factories/linework, restaurants, nail/hair salons, car washes, care homes/home carers, so-called "sex industry", construction, cannabis cultivation, shoplifting/petty crime, street beggars, fishing sector, live-in housekeepers with childcare/elder care responsibilities.

In Scotland, which industries/activities do you think might involve children who are being trafficked/exploited?

County lines, child sexual abuse/pornography, cannabis cultivation, domestic servitude.

How confident would you feel in recognising signs of human trafficking and exploitation? (Scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being very confident?)

5. Very confident due to lived experience (all forms).



Where would you report concerns about someone you suspected of being a victim of human trafficking and exploitation?

Police, people like TARA, MS Helpline (there was limited awareness of the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline – 3 out of 4 haven't heard of helpline – 1 saw advert)

How could a Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy best raise awareness of human trafficking and exploitation, both in professional networks and amongst the general public/society?

Support/fund/implement/mandate awareness raising in schools and training elsewhere which is realistic and shocking to ensure the message is heard.

Should the Scottish Government continue to report on an annual basis on progress in implementing the Strategy?

Very clear yes!

Is there an alternative approach to reporting on progress that would be more effective or meaningful? If so, what?

The TAG feel that this question would benefit from a focus group or more time for consideration but they think that there could be a few alternative approaches such as to make data tangible and outcome focussed and targets set for coming years. We should work to find creative ways for survivors to report on their experiences/progress as part of the strategy. Survivors should be the ones monitoring Scotland's progress in its response.

Finally the TAG think that the knowledge of the strategy for those with lived experience and the general public awareness needs to be improved before they can answer on/give suggestions.



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