



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION UK



Modern Slavery Project Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop Closing Report



26-28 April 2017
London, United Kingdom



In partnership with:



HM Government

Contents

Project Overview	3
Workshop Aim & Objectives	4
Workshop Overview	5
Acknowledgements	6
Delegate List	7
Programme Summary	8
Final Programme	12
Monitoring & Evaluation	16
Key Achievements	17
About Us	19

Project Overview

The Modern Slavery Project is a two-year multilateral project providing practical advice and support to Commonwealth legislatures in the pursuit of combating modern slavery. Jointly funded by the Home Office's International Modern Slavery Fund and by CPA UK, the project aims to encourage and facilitate a greater understanding of the national and international benefits of introducing modern slavery legislation through highlighting the value and subsequent lessons learnt from the passing of the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop was the first of two regional workshops, the second being tailored for the Africa region, aiming to raise awareness of modern slavery and develop networks of legislators committed to tackling modern slavery across the Commonwealth and beyond.

The Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop took place in Westminster, London from 26-28 April 2017. Relevant parliamentarians from across the Asia-Pacific region were invited to attend the three-day workshop focusing on modern slavery issues in the area and the benefits of introducing robust modern slavery legislation in their own jurisdictions.

The workshop incorporated contributions from key stakeholders, including UK parliamentarians with relevant experience from the passage of the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015 and a range of civil society organisations, to proliferate best practice in the development of modern slavery legislation.

Alongside the main programme the workshop also included separate consultation meetings and engagement with key stakeholders. The workshop aimed to not only increase awareness of modern slavery and related issues but also to facilitate long-term engagement with partner parliaments and commitments from individual parliamentarians to champion the issue in their own jurisdictions.



Parliamentary participants of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop

Workshop Aim & Objectives

Aim

To increase awareness of all areas of modern slavery, providing momentum to build networks across the region to support the development of modern slavery legislation in individual jurisdictions.

Objectives

The core objectives of the workshop were to:

- Proliferate knowledge of modern slavery and related issues between UK parliamentarians and parliamentarians from across the Asia-Pacific region, seeking a common working definition for the term Modern Slavery.
- Share good practice between parliaments to contribute to the process of modern slavery legislative analysis and development.
- Build networks of informed and motivated parliamentarians with a commitment to developing modern slavery legislation.
- Secure commitments from partner parliaments in how best to take outcomes forward

Workshop Overview

The Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop was attended by parliamentarians and officials from Australia, Bangladesh, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom.

The workshop programme comprised of plenary and interactive breakout sessions; meetings with representative from civil society, the judiciary and law enforcement; and keynote speeches from Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate and Kevin Hyland OBE, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Over the course of three days, delegates had the opportunity to hear from experts and fellow parliamentarians to discuss the role of parliaments, parliamentarians and officials in:

- Proliferating knowledge and raising awareness of modern slavery-related issues from across the Asia-Pacific Region;
- Developing new and updating existing national legislation to combat modern slavery;
- Strengthening regional and international cooperation with partner parliaments and intergovernmental organisations in combatting a transnational issue;
- Promoting collaboration with civil society, the judiciary and law enforcement to effectively and holistically tackle modern slavery;



UK Houses of Parliament, venue of the Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop

Acknowledgements

CPA UK and its partners thank the following organisations for their support in the development of this workshop (in alphabetical order):

1. Anti-Slavery International
2. Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group
3. All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dalits
4. British Asian Trust
5. Crown Prosecution Service
6. Dalit Solidarity Network UK
7. Home Office
8. International Labour Organization
9. Justice for Domestic Workers
10. Office of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner (IASC)
11. Walk Free Foundation

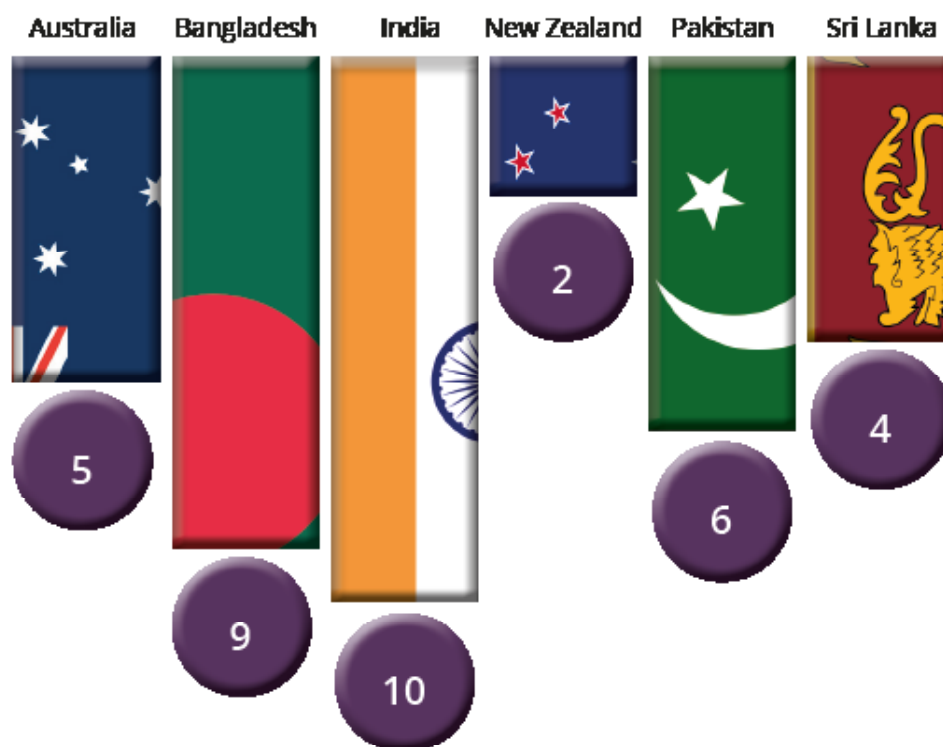
Special thanks must also go to Nicole Bonner and Diem-Tu Tran for taking time out of their studies to act as the workshop's summary writers, and whose output has contributed to this report.

Delegate List

Australia: Sen. Alexander Gallacher
Australia: Hon. Chris Crewther MP
Australia: Sen Linda Reynolds CSC
Australia: Sen. Malarndirri McCarthy
Australia: Dr. Joshua Forkert
Bangladesh: Dr. Md. Abdur Rob Howlader
Bangladesh: Hon. Dr. Md. Rustum Ali Faraji MP
Bangladesh: Hon. Begum Firoja Begum Chino MP
Bangladesh: Hon. Safura Begum MP
Bangladesh: Hon. Sanjida Khanam MP
Bangladesh: Hon. Md. Ayeen Uddin MP
Bangladesh: Hon. Mir Mostaque Ahmed Robi MP
Bangladesh: Hon. Dr. Md. Afsarul Ameen MP
Bangladesh: Hon. ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury MP
India: Rimjhim Prasad
India: Hon. Anju Bala MP
India: Hon. P.K. Sreemathi Teacher MP
India: Hon. Bhupender Yadav MP

India: Hon. A.T. Patil MP
India: Hon. Ramen Deka MP
India: Hon. Jagdambika Pal MP
India: Hon. B.K. Hariprasad MP
India: Hon. Satish Chandra Misra MP
India: Ravindra Garimella
New Zealand: Hon. Kelvin Davis MP
New Zealand: Hon. Joanne Hayes MP
Pakistan: Hon. Zeb Jaffar MNA
Pakistan: Hon. Babar Nawaz Khan MNA
Pakistan: Muhammad Maqbool Khan
Pakistan: Hon. Sen. Pervaiz Rashid
Pakistan: Hon. Mian Abdul Manan MNA
Pakistan: Muhammad Asad Majeed
Sri Lanka: Hon. Roshan Anuruddha Ranasinghe MP
Sri Lanka: Hon. Mohamed Mujeebur Rahman MP
Sri Lanka: Hon. Mayantha Yaswanth Dissanyake MP
Sri Lanka: Hon. Mano Haran Ganesan MP

Participant Country Breakdown



Programme Summary*

Day One Wednesday 26 April 2017

The aim of this workshop was to build networks, support the development of modern slavery legislation and inform and empower parliamentarians and officials to take the lead on combating exploitation and upholding human rights.

Official Opening - Introduction to Modern Slavery

Day One of the workshop introduced delegates to and provided an explanation of Modern Slavery. Delegates were presented with the idea that it was incomprehensible that slavery still existed in one form or another in every country in the 21st century.

Defining Modern Slavery

The Asia-Pacific Regional Workshop began with an introductory session on the term 'modern slavery' and how it is recognised in a global context. The session sought to reach consensus on what is meant by the term while recognising the challenges it poses in individual jurisdictions. It was noted that modern slavery is a harsh label, but that this terminology was necessary to reflect the brutality of the crime. Providing some context, delegates also heard about the process Australia was currently undertaking to review modern slavery and how it is legislated against.

The discussion that followed raised the importance of persuading communities that modern slavery was a present reality, as well as the role poverty and high populations play in creating vulnerable people groups.

Features of Modern Slavery

The remainder of the opening day of the workshop then looked at aspects of modern slavery in more detail, namely human trafficking, bonded labour and supply chains. The session on human trafficking heard from parliamentarians and experts in the field who spoke of the importance of making

the public aware that slavery exists within their neighbourhoods and community and to recognise the signs of exploitation.

The session also heard moving testimonies from members of Justice for Domestic Workers, who shared about the processes and implications of human trafficking. A UK MP on the panel emphasised repeatedly the need for parliaments to work with all echelons of society - law enforcement, non-governmental organisations and the judiciary among others - to effectively and holistically tackle human trafficking, since historically it was an abuse that was difficult to unearth and therefore tackle.

As the most prominent form of slavery in the Asia-Pacific Region, the session on bonded labour asked: why is it so prevalent and what is being done to stop it? With an estimated 11.7 million people in bonded labour in the region, the session highlighted the issue of caste-based discrimination as well as poverty which are key contributing factors to exploitation. A representative from the International Labour Organization discussed the 2014 update to the 1930 Convention on Forced Labour, which sought to address the types of forced labour now recognised as part of malfunctioning of the global economy. The session concluded with a clarion call for delegates to challenge global economies that create fertile ground for forced labour, but also to ensure legislation is in place that defends people's rights and helps them avoid ongoing debilitating poverty and entrapment.

Keynote Address

Next, Nobel Peace Laureate, Kailash Satyarthi, who was a child's rights activist in India, addressed the workshop. Satyarthi, who campaigned on issues related to child labour, commented on the scandal of modern day slavery in a world which has advanced in so many areas. He then implored parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific Region to use their position of influence to prioritise the issue of education and ending child slavery.

Transparency in Supply Chains

The final session of the day then looked at the issue of transparency in supply chains, focusing in particular on the role that companies play in ensuring slavery isn't apparent in their processes.

**As the workshop was held under the Chatham House Rule, the content of this summary will remain non-attributable with the exception of the programme's keynote speakers*

One of the features of the UK's Modern Slavery Act is a clause which requires businesses to publish a statement of what they are doing to combat modern slavery in their supply chains. Delegates explored the clause and some of its merits as well as the scope for replicating it in other jurisdictions. The human rights lawyer on the panel for this session suggested that there was a need for countries to look at the criminal jurisdiction related to human trafficking, to acknowledge the benefits in terms of profits companies are receiving from the recruitment of vulnerable workers. She also suggested that if a company in the UK benefitted from the labour of vulnerable workers in the UK or other countries, they should be subject to the long arm of criminal law.



Day Two Thursday 27 April 2017

Day Two of the workshop focused on the legislative landscape across the region and the specific role of parliamentarians in raising awareness and legislating on the issue.

The Legislative Landscape

The opening session was an opportunity for each delegation to give their perspective on the development of legislation on modern slavery. Delegates from Australia, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, New Zealand and Sri Lanka highlighted some of advancements that had been made in their jurisdiction to tackle modern slavery as well as ongoing challenges.

In small groups, delegates then explored in greater detail the legislative landscape of their countries as well as identifying opportunities to work collaboratively with partner parliaments and intergovernmental organisations to combat modern slavery. Some of the issues raised included a lack of education of the risks of exploitation for vulnerable individuals; the need for developed nations to take greater responsibility of human trafficking and exploitation; and the inefficiency of implementation of existing laws that can prevent modern slavery. Some suggested solutions included creating awareness raising campaigns; establishing international networks that share best practice; and the strategic development of legislation that is regionally complimentary.

Role of Parliamentarians

Next, delegates heard from UK parliamentarians about the passing of the UK Modern Slavery Act and the role that parliamentarians play in addressing slavery issues. The UK parliamentarians shared experiences about the immense effort that was required on behalf of MPs and Peers to make the Modern Slavery Act a reality, as well as the ongoing review process of the bill to identify flaws and suggest amendments. One of the issues raised from the discussions with UK parliamentarians was the importance of training and education to ensure legislation is properly understood and enforced.



One UK Parliamentarian said that one needed to tell peoples' stories and engage the public more to make them realise the scope of the issue. When he initially suggested the need for a Modern Slavery Bill, his colleagues dismissed it as addressing an issue of the past. As a result, he brought together a wealth of different actors in the field: police, social care workers, businesses and immigration people. He stressed that modern slavery wasn't just an abstract concept - it exists all over the world in all forms, to the extent that it could be taking place in the house next to yours.

The Role of Supporting Partners

Delegates then explored the role of supporting partners. The session split into three, with groups rotating between representatives of civil society, law enforcement and the judiciary. This allowed for the exchanging of ideas and a greater awareness of the role partners can play in supporting parliamentarians as they work to combat modern slavery.

The discussions raised the benefit of a legal framework specifically set up to deal with modern slavery; international cooperation of law enforcement agencies; and the important role NGOs can play in improving legislation through research and expertise.

Day Three Friday 28 April 2017

The final day of the workshop sought to look beyond legislation to implementation with interactive sessions aimed at unpacking what law on modern slavery looks like in action.

Difficulties with Implementation

The opening session began with a discussion on the difficulties of implementation of modern slavery legislation. The session offered an opportunity for delegates to raise some of the challenges they face in their jurisdictions as well as potential alternative responses to the scourge of modern slavery.

The discussion between delegates raised whether there was an appetite in the Asia-Pacific Region to consolidate existing legislation on modern slavery offences, such as bonded labour and human trafficking, into one overarching legislation. Also discussed was the issue of 'victim-focussed' legislation that stands up for the sufferers of modern slavery rather than 'perpetrator-focussed'.

In summary, the discussion on challenges and difficulties with implementation highlighted prevention, protection and prosecution as the key interrelated areas that parliamentarians needed to

get to grips with to have a meaningful impact on modern slavery.

Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner

After the opening session, delegates heard from Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, Kevin Hyland OBE. The former police officer and Head of the London Metropolitan Police Service's Human Trafficking Unit told delegates about the specific functions of the Modern Slavery Act. These functions included making it easier for prosecutors to convict modern slavery criminals; increasing sentencing for offences; giving preventative powers to police; and a transparency in supply chains clause for companies.

Kevin Hyland OBE then gave an overview of his role as Anti-Slavery Commissioner, which is to encourage good practice in the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act. He outlined his aim of making modern slavery a less profitable and more high-risk criminal activity. He went on to encourage delegates to form partnerships and work with colleagues across borders to implement and enforce strategic measures that curb modern slavery practices. Raising awareness of the issue of modern slavery was also highlighted as parliamentarians are in a unique position of leadership, capable of changing cultures as well as legislation.

Closing

Following the keynote address, delegates had an opportunity to think about what action they wanted to take going forward. Writing pledges, the delegates outlined specific areas where they could take a lead in the fight against modern slavery.

To close, CPA UK Chief Executive Andrew Tuggey CBE, awarded delegates with certificates for the completion of the Modern Slavery Asia Pacific Regional Workshop.



FINAL PROGRAMME

Day 1 - Wednesday 26 April 2017 A day to introduce and debate the topic

Committee Room G, House of Lords

TIME	SESSION
0730	<i>Delegate registration in the Park Plaza Riverbank</i>
0915-1000	Introduction to the project in Committee Room G, House of Lords
1000-1115	Defining the issue: What is Modern Slavery? Without a globally recognised understanding of the term, how do we recognise Modern Slavery? Setting Modern Slavery in an international context – how is it a sustainable development/economic/criminal/human rights issue? What is the role of parliamentarians in implementing, scrutinising and raising awareness of Modern Slavery?
1115-1145	Tea & Coffee
1145-1300	Human Trafficking Human trafficking is the acquisition of people by improper means such as force, fraud or deception, with the aim of exploiting them. How can traffickers be targeted and stopped? What scope is there for cross-border cooperation and how can we work with those most vulnerable?
1300-1430	Lunch
1430-1545	Bonded Labour Bonded labour is the most widespread – yet the least known – form of slavery in the world. The International Labour Organization estimates that 11.7 million people are in forced labour in the Asia-Pacific region, with the majority being in debt bondage. This session will aim to provide an overview of bonded labour in the Asia-Pacific, looking at why it is so prevalent in the region and what is being done to stop it. In particular it will look at bonded labour as a forced labour issue; caste-based discrimination; and the role of the International Labour Organization in helping legislatures combat bonded labour.
1545-1600	Keynote Address Kailash Satyarthi, Nobel Peace Laureate (2014)
1600-1700	Transparency in Supply Chains Transparency in supply chains is a cross-border issue. The question is how can states work together to improve business practises to ensure transparency in supply chains and what is the power of the consumer?
1700	END OF DAY 1

Day 2 - Thursday 27 April 2017

The legislative landscape across the region

Morning: Attlee Suite, Portcullis House | Afternoon: W Rooms & CPA Room, Westminster

TIME	SESSION
0830	<i>Arrive at Portcullis House</i>
0845-1000	<p>An overview of legislation within the region</p> <p>This session will be an opportunity for each delegation to give an overview of the development of legislation under the 'modern slavery' bracket. Delegates will highlight recent changes or ongoing work as well as difficult cultural challenges and splits within the Parliament.</p>
1000-1115	<p>Small groups: Developments and challenges</p> <p>In break-out groups delegates will discuss modern slavery-related developments and challenges in the Asia-Pacific, bringing perspectives and experiences from across the entire region to the table. Groups will then reconvene to present and discuss their findings. This session will provide an opportunity to develop solutions on regional modern slavery issues and identify ways in which legislatures can work together to support each other in tackling cross-border challenges.</p>
1115-1130	Tea & Coffee
1130-1245	<p>Workshop: Your role as a parliamentarian</p> <p>In break-out groups delegates will explore how parliamentarians can ensure legislation is a strong and relevant as it can be as well as the tools within the mechanics of parliament to support legislative change. The session will include input from UK MPs who will give examples of the challenges and opportunities in the UK trying to establish the Modern Slavery Act.</p>
1245-1350	<p>Lunch</p> <p>After lunch, delegates depart Attlee Suite for W Rooms</p>

TIME	SESSION
1400-1600	<p>Workshop: The role of supporting partners</p> <p>Each individual will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from each of the three prospective supporting groups.</p> <p>i. Civil Society</p> <p>A good relationship with civil society can support work of committees and parliamentary reports. How can they best work together?</p> <p>ii. Law enforcement</p> <p>Laws are only effective through proper implementation and understanding from local and international law enforcement. How can different groups and organisations work together? Can cross-border initiatives work? What training can be provided with limited resources?</p> <p>iii. Judiciary</p> <p>An effective judiciary results in consistency in sentencing and appropriate reparation and compensation awards for victims. What needs to be done to ensure the judiciary is fully equipped to penalise modern slavery crimes in the most appropriate way possible?</p>
1600-1715	<p>Delegate feedback and lessons learnt</p> <p>This session will allow for the collation of information gained from engagement with groups in previous workshop session and how this will influence legislatures in their pursuit of modern slavery related legislation.</p>
1715	END OF DAY 2

Day 3 - Friday 28 April 2017

Legislation to implementation: Law in action

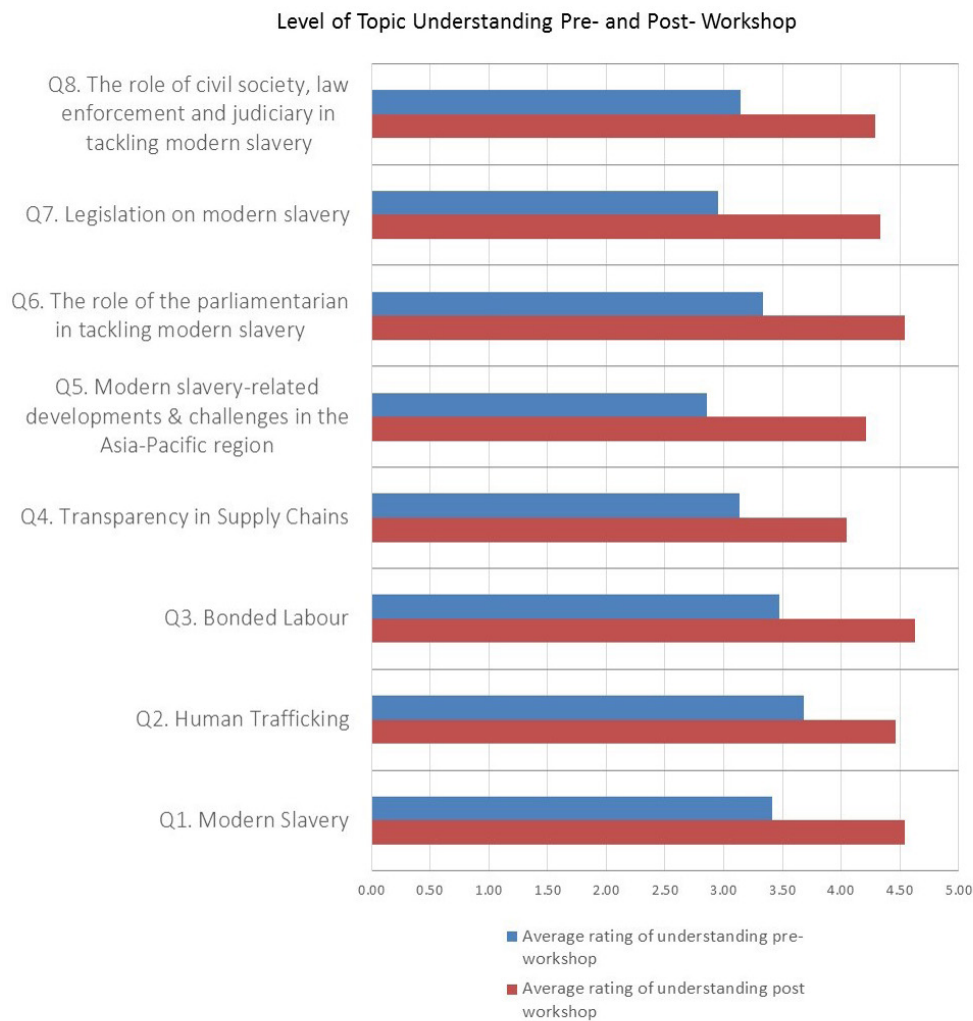
Attlee Suite, Portcullis House

TIME	SESSION
0845	<i>Arrive at Portcullis House</i>
0900-1000	Difficulties with implementation An opportunity for delegates to discuss difficulties they have faced when trying to implement changes to legislation and thinking back to yesterday's break out groups, have any alternative mechanisms been suggested this week that you could consider using. How can we better increase victim support? What mechanisms can be employed to further engage implementers – law enforcement, border agencies etc.
1015-1045	Keynote Address Kevin Hyland OBE, Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner
1045-1100	Tea & Coffee
1100-1200	Feedback and Next Steps Feedback from breakout groups leading to agreement on where possibilities for strengthening/creating legislation are? What support can be offered and by whom? How can this be facilitated? Opportunities for taking this forward and follow-up.
1200-1230	Tours of the Chambers
1230-1315	Certificate presentation and closing statements
1315-1400	Lunch (for those still in attendance)
CONFERENCE ENDS	

Monitoring & Evaluation

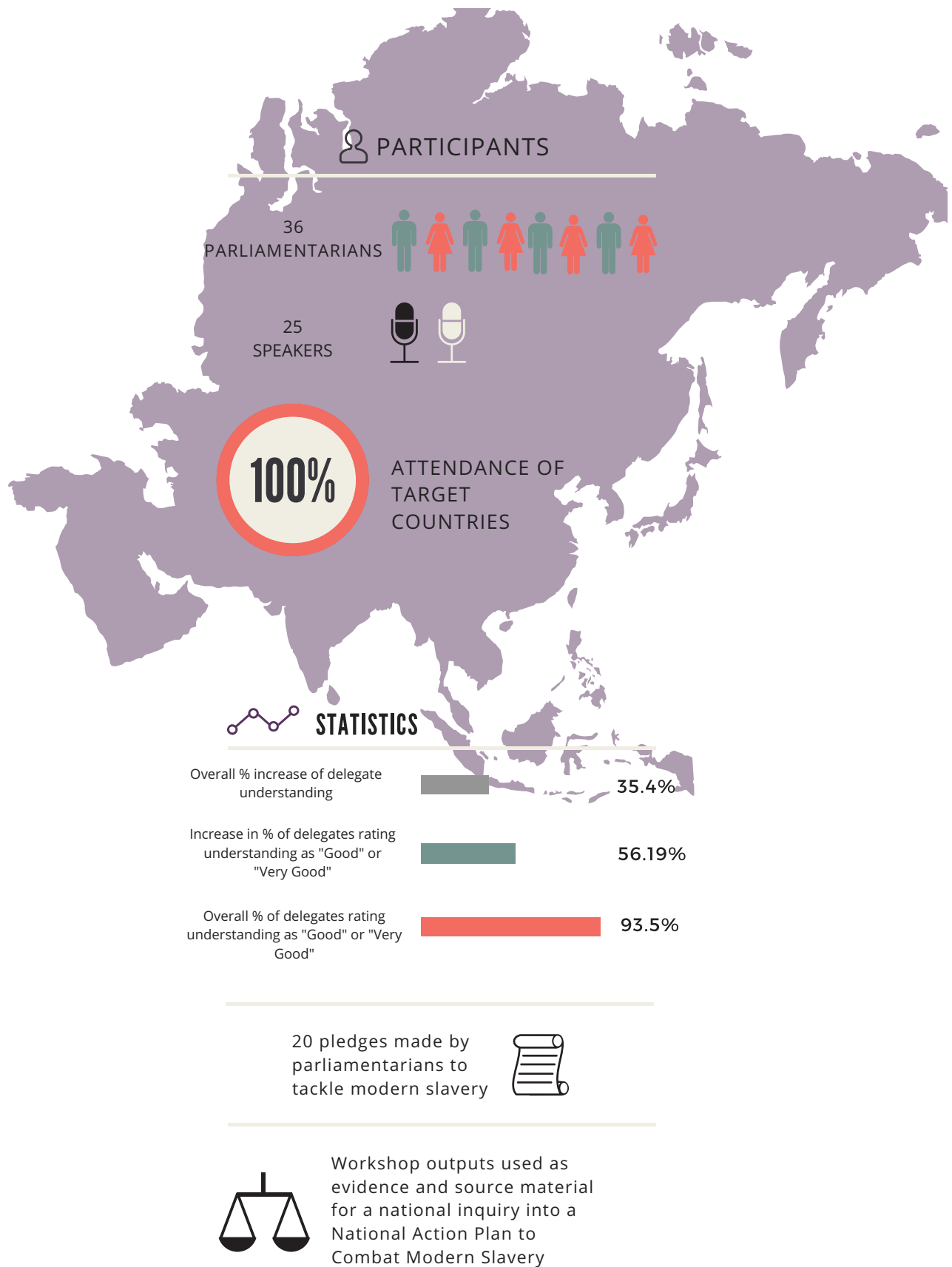
As part of the workshop's monitoring and evaluation process, delegates were asked to complete pre- and post-assessment forms to measure how effective the workshop had been in raising their level of understanding on modern slavery and related topics.

The scoring methodology of the assessment forms is based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 signifying no understanding and 5 signifying very good understanding. The graph below shows the average understanding of delegates substantially increased across the board as a result of the workshop.



35.24%
avg. increase in level of
understanding

Key Achievements



Summary of Delegate Feedback

All aspects of the programme were mentioned as useful. Delegates valued in particular the opportunity to discuss the issue as a regional one and engage with various stakeholders (civil society, judiciary, law enforcement).

A minority of delegates found discussions with civil society less relevant than other elements of the workshop.

Individually delegates believed that they understood what the term “Modern Slavery” meant. As a group there were some common threads of understanding - that it is a global phenomenon and that it refers to the fundamental lack of liberty and equality - but some delegates associated particular crimes with the definition over others. Several delegates said they understood Modern Slavery to be an all encompassing term for disparate human rights abuses, whilst several others said it was an open-ended definition that was open to interpretation.

All delegates stated that they felt more comfortable tackling modern slavery issues following the workshop. Some delegates qualified this further by stating it was a huge issue and appreciated that they still had much more to learn.

After the workshop, delegates stated that they primarily intended to: raise awareness of the issue in Parliament; use the information gained from the workshop as evidence for the inquiry in Australia; sensitising constituents to modern slavery issues.

Workshop Outputs

Delegate and Speaker Video Interviews

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sGPPOEVu5_8
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AafKLOowxdQ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiDKXY4IjSU>

Workshop Photo Gallery

<https://lightningphotography.pixieset.com/modernslavery/>

Communications Impact

Twitter

Tweet impressions – 31,100

MailChimp

CPA UK's daily briefings were opened by, on average, 34% of people they were sent to. Industry average is 23.7%.

- <http://mailchi.mp/51876d7caceb/3czadp0fq6?e=466e20c25f>
- <http://mailchi.mp/4f7545903074/3czadp0fq6-1608645?e=466e20c25f>
- <http://mailchi.mp/069cf701baa7/3czadp0fq6-1609505?e=466e20c25f>

Media Coverage

1. Scoop NZ - Commonwealth nations combine forces to combat modern slavery, <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1704/S00291/office-of-the-speaker-of-the-house-of-representatives.htm>
2. Royal Commonwealth Society – Modern Day Slavery, <https://www.thercs.org/assets/Magazines/CWVoices-Issue8-WEB.pdf>

THE WORKSHOP TEAM



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ABOUT CPA UK

WHO WE ARE

CPA UK is a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), which is a Commonwealth-wide network of some 17,000 national, state, provincial and territorial parliamentarians within 180 legislatures in 52 countries. The purpose of the CPA is to strengthen parliamentary democracy within the 52-country Commonwealth, providing a space for parliamentarians to share, learn, compare and work together to promote Commonwealth values of democracy, rule of law, human rights, good governance and social and economic development.

The Commonwealth brings together a third of the world's population, including a billion people under 25, from the poorest and the richest, the largest and the smallest, developing and developed countries. Within the Commonwealth family there are huge opportunities created by aspects of shared culture, governance commonalities and good diplomatic and trade relations. There are also many challenges, which by acting and working together Commonwealth countries can strengthen their responses and bring about positive change. CPA UK is part of the UK Parliament and is the most active branch in the Association. Its offices are at the very heart of Parliament, off Westminster Hall. All sitting Members of both Houses are eligible to participate in CPA UK programmes.

WHAT WE DO

CPA UK runs exciting, demanding, and far-reaching international outreach programmes of parliamentary strengthening and capacity-building with legislatures across the Commonwealth focusing on the tools by which the Executive is held accountable by parliamentarians. CPA UK's themed international parliamentary conferences and parliamentary workshops run in Parliament and abroad attract international speakers of note from politics, academia, NGOs and governments across the world and the quality of its programmes is internationally recognised. Discussions on a huge range of issues take place between international policy makers in forums conducted by CPA UK such as sustainable development, human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women, climate change, international trade and investment, national security, conflict resolution and peacebuilding.



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