



Expert Regional Workshop:
Role of Parliamentary Committees in Combatting
Human Trafficking & Forced Labour

Final Report



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COMMONWEALTH
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OVERVIEW

From 11-13 June (inclusive) the CPA UK Modern Slavery Project in partnership with the Parliament of Ghana hosted an Expert Regional Workshop on *The Role of Parliamentary Committees in Combatting Human Trafficking and Forced Labour* in Accra.

The programme was tailored for Parliamentarians and Clerks who have been leading on these issues and working with the CPA UK project from 2016 onwards, and focussed on the different ways that parliamentary committees can combat human trafficking and forced labour in their respective jurisdictions.

Participants included the Parliaments of Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Uganda and the UK, exchanging experiences and ideas on this topic.

Impact- Parliamentarians and officials from Commonwealth Parliaments will be knowledgeable and motivated on utilising their parliamentary committee system to combat human trafficking and forced labour in their jurisdictions.

Outcome 1- A discussion of the challenges of different contemporary forms of exploitation, and different committee systems around the Commonwealth

Outcome 2- Discussion on ways different aspects of the Committee oversight process can gather information, scrutinise policy, and pressure government to act on issues of human trafficking and forced labour.

Outcome 3 – A network of parliamentary champions are elected from among workshop participants. This network will meet regularly to recruit additional champions on these issues, share updates and challenges and lobby at regional fora for prioritisation of this agenda.

Outcome 4 – Awareness of human trafficking and forced labour issues are raised in Ghana and more widely, by communicating the workshop aims and the continued work of champions.

OUTCOME 1 - A discussion of the challenges of different contemporary forms of exploitation, and different committee systems around the Commonwealth

DISCUSSING CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF EXPLOITATION

The workshop programme began with a site visit to the Don Bosco Rehabilitation Centre, which supports children who have been trafficked.

The site visit was an opportunity for delegates to hear the experiences of those working on the front-line with victims about emerging and contemporary forms of exploitation. Particular issues of **'trokosi'** (young girls placed in shrines to atone for the sins of family members) and **'kayaye'** (head porters, who are commonly trafficked while in this job) were highlighted.

Following a session providing a global overview of human trafficking and forced labour, delegates met subject experts and discussed the following issues in depth:

- *The difference between 'child help' and 'child labour'*
- *Internal and external trafficking*
- *Forced labour and debt bondage*
- *Domestic servitude*
- *Child marriage*
- *Transparency in supply chains*
- *Exploitative recruitment agencies*

These discussions provided a foundation for delegates to build their understanding and exchange insights on existing parliamentary structures in place to combat exploitation, including parliamentary committees, working groups, governmental task forces and parliamentarians working in constituencies.



Workshop participants and the Don Bosco Child Protection Centre team

DISCUSSING COMMITTEE SYSTEMS AROUND THE COMMONWEALTH

Lord Purvis (UK House of Lords) led a discussion on different committees and how they can have an impact, stressing that committees are one of the strongest elements of our parliaments.

Delegates explored the key functions of different committees and how these can be utilised to combat human trafficking and forced labour in four key ways:

- *Gathering information on the prevalence of human trafficking / forced labour and which form it takes, as well as regional hotspots*
- *Scrutinising governmental policy/implementation*
- *Scrutinising existing or proposed legislation for gaps to be addressed or opportunities for strengthening/consolidation of laws*
- *Raising awareness of human trafficking / forced labour in parliament, communities and the public*
- *consciousness*


Throughout the Expert Regional Workshop, participants drew on their national committee systems and explored how these could be used to understand the most prevalent issues of human trafficking / forced labour and sharing ideas and experiences on this topic.



Lord Purvis of Tweed , UK Parliament



Hon. Eunice Ipinge MP, Hon. Gotthard Kasutu MP and
Hon. Agnes Limbo MP, Parliament of Namibia



Michael Aniekan (Parliament of Nigeria), Moses Lemuna (Parliament of Kenya) and Beatrice Geria (Parliament of Uganda) participating in a Pre-Legislative Committee Scrutiny Exercise

OUTCOME 2- *A discussion on ways different aspects of the Committee oversight process can gather information, scrutinise policy, and pressure government to act on issues of human trafficking and forced labour.*

In addition to the wider discussions during the programme, *two interactive committee exercises* explored how the different scrutiny functions of parliamentary committees can engage with issues of human trafficking and forced labour, by gathering information and scrutinising government and draft legislation respectively.

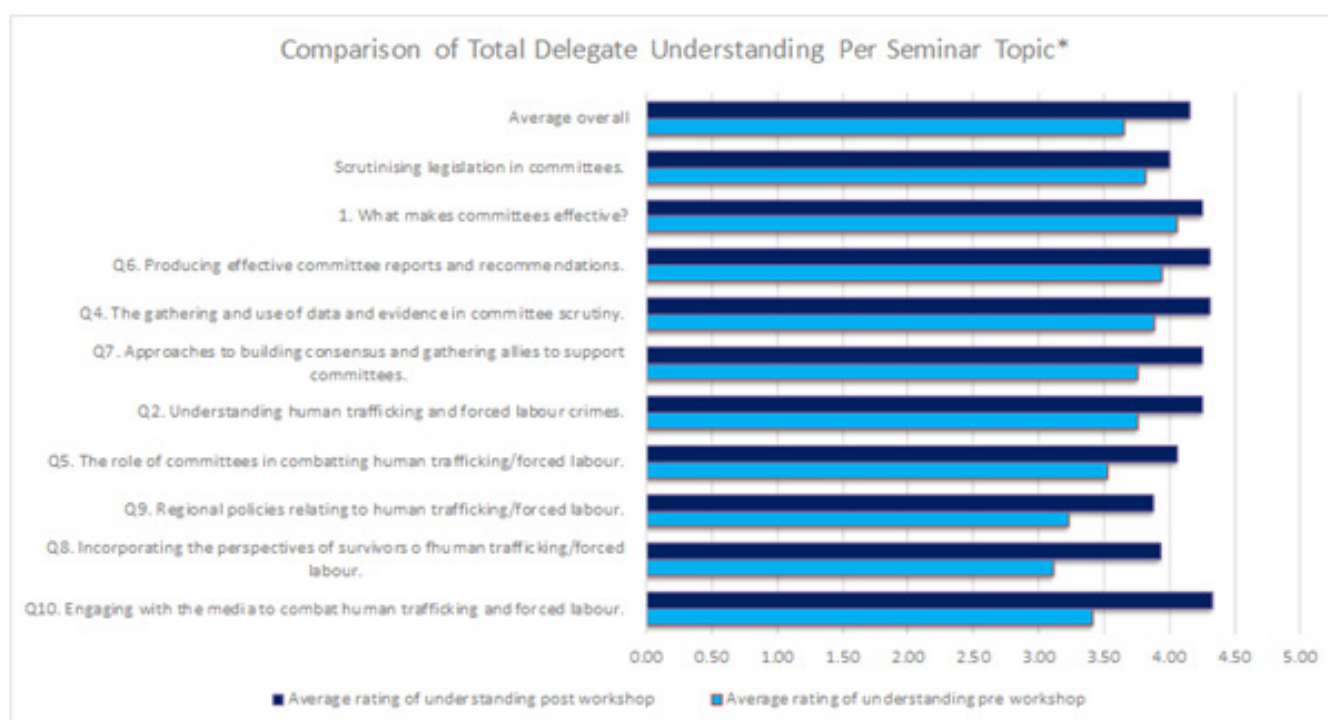
- A **committee inquiry on ‘trafficking in or through football’** heard evidence from experts about this historic and continual trend of predominantly young men being exploited either in bogus football contracts or by false agents, ending up in exploitative situations or unemployed in a foreign country, sometimes having forfeited a large fee paid to the football agent.
- In this Committee Inquiry Exercise (oral evidence session), **participants constituted the committee hearing evidence, and also honed their questioning techniques** facilitated by a UK Clerk.
- As a result of this committee hearing, a Ghanaian MP will be reading a statement on the floor of Parliament on this issue of football trafficking, and a Kenyan MP organised an awareness-raising football tournament involving 88 teams in 5 regions of Kenya.
- A second Committee Inquiry Exercise took the form of a **pre-legislative scrutiny session in the style of a Committee of the Whole House**. Following an **oral evidence session with the ‘Minister for Employment’**, **the committee scrutinised a fictional piece of legislation**, aiming to curb the increasing trend of **exploitative recruitment agencies**. Exploitative recruitment agencies were defined as agencies who are based in source countries, charging individuals a fee to find them high-paying jobs in other countries, but whose workers often end up in a different destination country in exploitative conditions, with little recourse to leave their situation.
- **Participants exercised their role as legislators in ensuring laws dealing with these issues are fit for purpose**, and tackle not only traffickers themselves but other individuals and agencies who support them. Discussions on this topic also included **which state agencies have a responsibility to identify and protect at-risk workers** (a Ministry of Employment screening contracts, border staff being alert for signs of trafficking etc.) as well as closing down businesses who are complicit in these routes to exploitation and making this a dangerous, non-lucrative business model.
- At the conclusion of the scrutiny session, **participants proposed changes to the fictional legislative clauses, and also took advice from the clerks and legislative drafters** in the room as to the feasibility of these proposals.

Participants attending the regional workshop did so as experts on human trafficking / forced labour and largely having attended previous programmes with the CPA UK Modern Slavery Project on this subject.

Participants **reported an increased average understanding of 14%** (each topic ranged from 5% to 27% increase). The top four areas of increased levels of understanding were:

- **Engaging with the media** to combat human trafficking and forced labour (27% increase)
- **Incorporating the perspectives of survivors** of human trafficking/forced labour (26% increase)
- **Regional policies** relating to human trafficking/forced labour (20% increase)
- **The role of committees** in combatting human trafficking/forced labour (15% increase)

Overall increases in understanding:



OUTCOME 3 - A network of parliamentary champions are elected from among workshop participants. This network will meet regularly to recruit additional champions on these issues, share updates and challenges and lobby at regional fora for prioritisation of this agenda.

On the final day of the programme, participants **discussed existing and potential regional policies and opportunities for close collaboration** on these issues. **12 participants from 5 countries nominated themselves** to represent their legislatures in a **Network of Parliamentary Champions**. This included ten MPs and two clerks representing Ghana, Nigeria, Namibia, Kenya and Uganda. This Network is convened by WhatsApp and managed by the CPA UK Modern Slavery Project.

Since the Expert Regional Workshop, **additional Parliamentarians have joined the Network** from the **Parliaments of the UK (x3), Uganda (x2) and Nigeria (x1)**. Champions from Malawi are also expected to be nominated in the coming months.

OUTCOME 4- *Awareness of human trafficking and forced labour issues are raised in Ghana and more widely, by communicating the workshop aims and the continued work of champions.*

The workshop was officially opened by Rt Hon. Professor Aaron Michael Oquaye, Speaker of the Parliament of Ghana. Mr Speaker emphasised the importance of regional collaboration to combat human trafficking and forced labour as well as addressing the root causes of these crimes, not just the symptoms.

This high-level opening and keynote speech, as well as an awareness-raising football match (to highlight the issue of trafficking in sport) led to several press articles calling attention to human trafficking /forced labour issues and work of parliamentary champions on the topic.

Print and online media coverage included:

Ghana 🇬🇭

Modern Ghana, Speaker urges Commonwealth MPs to join forces against Human Trafficking:

<https://www.modernghana.com/news/938474/speaker-urges-commonwealth-mps-to-join-forces-against-human.html>

Ghana News Online, Understand the plight of your former colonies Oquaye to British Government:

<http://ghananewsonline.com.gh/understand-the-plight-of-your-former-colonies-oquaye-to-british-government/>

Uganda 🇺🇬

PML Daily, Commonwealth MPs participate in football match to raise awareness of Human Trafficking:

<http://www.pmldaily.com/news/2019/06/commonwealth-mps-participate-in-football-match-to-raise-awareness-of-human-trafficking.html>

Namibia 🇳🇦

Namibia Press Agency, MPs participate in Human Trafficking Awareness Football Match:

http://www.nampa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=19067312&catid=1&Itemid=1

Namibia Lela,

<https://www.leramobile.com/content/80558/MPs-participate-in-human-trafficking-awareness-football-match/>



Mr Speaker, Rt Hon. Aaron Michael Oquaye and Hon. Abena Durowaa MP (Parliament of Ghana)

Social media coverage included:



Following passionate discussions of the issue during the workshop, the Modern Slavery Project **also produced a video overview of 'trafficking in or through football', as narrated by workshop participants.** This video can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=mDQ-JFWSTwU.

ADDITIONAL POSITIVE OUTCOMES OF THE PROGRAMME

- The workshop was **hosted in partnership with the Parliament of Ghana** and **Mr Speaker delivered a keynote speech** on human trafficking and forced labour
- Emerging issues were identified and explored such as **'trafficking in or through sport', 'trokosi', and 'kayaye'**.
- A Ghanaian MP will be reading a **statement on the floor of Parliament on the issue of football trafficking**,
- A Kenyan MP organised an **awareness-raising football tournament** involving 88 teams in 5 regions of Kenya **to raise awareness of football trafficking**.
- The Modern Slavery Project **produced a video overview of 'trafficking in or through football', as narrated by workshop participants** who discussed the issue extensively.
- The project team arranged an **awareness raising football match where participants took part as players with NGO staff, the CPA UK team and expert speakers**. This was widely reported in the media along with information on the workshop programme and the issue of football trafficking.
- The **Parliament of Namibia are interested in further work on these issues to raise awareness in Parliament and in communities** about human trafficking and forced labour.
- **Staff from the Don Bosco victim rehabilitation centre** and representatives from various international organisations and the British High Commission attended sessions throughout the workshop. This **increased their understanding of emerging global issues and the role of Parliaments** on this topic.
- The workshop programme highlighted the **importance of victim-sensitive media and communications**, with the approach of firstly 'do no harm'. This session had the highest increase in participants' understanding during the programme and was put into practice when participants filmed short video clips on their learnings from the programme.
- **Participants visited a rehabilitation shelter** to hear from frontline support staff about how victims are identified, rescued and rehabilitated, and where the **challenges and gaps often are** in these processed. This was particularly impactful for the Ghanaian delegation, hearing from a local NGO about what needs to be done to improve victim care and the methods of preventing individuals ending up in situations where they may be exploited.
- Participants **networked with expert speakers** representing International Justice Mission Ghana, World Vision, Participatory Development Associates Ghana, the Ghana Human Trafficking Unit, HAART Kenya, Challenging Heights, Don Bosco Rehabilitation Centre, Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in persons (NAPTIP) and Mission 89.



Workshop participants and Hon. Abena Durowaa MP (Parliament of Ghana) taking part in an awareness-raising football match



Site visit to the Don Bosco Child Protection Centre with Francis Adzraku

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Expert Participants:

-  Hon. Moses Anim MP
-  Hon. Dr B.T. Baba MP
-  Hon. Dr Frank Annoh Dompreeh MP
-  Hon. Abena Durowaa MP
-  Hon. Dr Bernice Heloo MP
-  Nana Tawiah Okyir
-  Hon. Jared Okello MP
-  Moses Lemuna
-  Hon. Gotthard Kasuto MP
-  Hon. Agnes Limbo MP
-  Hon. Eunice Ipinge MP
-  George Sanzila
-  Hon. Prof Mojeed Alabi MNA
-  Hon. Samuel Ikon MNA
-  Michael Aniekan
-  Geria Beatrice Gladys
-  Kate Osamor MP
-  Lord Purvis of Tweed
-  Harriet Deane
-  Jake Barker

Expert Speakers:

- Francis Adzraku, Don Bosco Child Protection Centre
- James Kofi Annan, Challenging Heights
- Kwame Ayew, Former Professional Footballer
- Superintendent Mike Baah, Ghana Human Trafficking Unit
- Lerina Bright, Mission 89
- Gregory Dery, World Vision
- Tony Dogbe, Participatory Development Associates
- Matthew Edafe, football trafficking survivor and CEO Elegbe TV
- Josiah Emerole, Nigeria National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)
- Godson Glawu, Survivor Advocate
- Will Lathrop, IJM Ghana
- Steve Miano, IJM Ghana
- Sophie Otiende, HAART Kenya
- Rt Hon. Professor Aaron Michael Oquaye, Speaker, Parliament of Ghana
- Clement Sefa-Nyarko, Participatory Development Associates

