

# Resources Pack

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## Combatting Sport Trafficking

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*"Let us not be deluded into thinking we  
will not succeed, we will."*

*Workshop participant, 2022*

# Welcome to the Resource Pack

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## **What is the purpose of the Resource Pack?**

This Resource Pack is designed to consolidate a range of information, knowledge, and expertise shared during the delivery of the Human Trafficking through Sport project.

This Resource Pack features information from CPA UK's monthly newsletter on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, as well as data and information collected by Mission 89.

You can refer back to this Resource Pack, as well as use it to support your growing knowledge and understanding in tackling human trafficking through sport.

## **What is the best way to use this Resource Pack?**

Make the most of this Resource Pack by downloading our free materials for parliamentarians, border officials, and the general public. Adapt or follow the suggestions on how you can use them.

It also features an infographic of Dr Esson's 10-Step Guide to Football Trafficking. We recommend becoming familiar with the Steps, as well as the 'Questions to Ask' section provided shortly thereafter.

This Resource pack contains a large amount of information, so do bookmark parts that are relevant to you.

## **Where can I find more information?**

For more information, please visit the CPA UK website's page on tackling modern slavery and human trafficking.

[Click here to access the page for more resources.](#)

## **How can I receive the Newsletter on Human Trafficking?**

If you would like to read more interviews of featured guests, or perhaps conduct an interview of your own, please email the CPA UK team at [cpauk@parliament.uk](mailto:cpauk@parliament.uk)

# Animation for Awareness Raising

Below you will find the animation designed to raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking through sport.

Please share this video with your network, as it communicates vital information in a way that is suitable for all ages, languages, and hearing needs.



[Watch the animation on YouTube.](#)

Please share this animated video with:

Schools

Teachers

Social Care Workers

Border Officials

Families

Doctors

Police Stations

Hospitality Staff

Colleges & Universities

Community Leaders

Businesses & Charities

Sports Coaches

Security Personnel

Social or Religious Groups

Sports Ground Staff



# Introducing: Dr James Esson's Work on Human Trafficking Through Sport



## Academic in the field: Dr Esson on his Work on Sport Trafficking

### Why did you choose to look at sport trafficking from an academic perspective?

I became interested in this topic completely by chance. In 2008, I came across a news article on the internet titled 'The scandal of Africa's trafficked players' by Dan McDougall.

The author spoke to youth in West Africa and across Europe in an attempt to expose how their passion for sport was used by fraudsters to exploit them for financial gain.

As a Ghanaian by a birth and parentage, the accounts of my fellow Africans going through hardships touched me on a personal level. Even if it was a small contribution, I wanted to try and shed light on this issue and offer some recommendations.

“The accounts of my fellow Africans going through hardships touched me on a personal level. Even if it was a small contribution, I wanted to try and shed light on this issue and offer some recommendations.”

As a human geographer, I was fascinated by sport trafficking for three reasons. Firstly, I was struck by the importance of place. Football related trafficking is fundamentally underpinned by inequality between regions and/or countries.

In fact, I would even argue that human trafficking and irregular migration more generally are also underpinned by inequality. So I decided to investigate the relationship between uneven development and trafficking in-person, using football as a case study.

“Media accounts tend to depict human trafficking as something that only happens to women and children.”

Secondly, it occurred to me that media accounts and the efforts of NGOs tend to depict human trafficking as something that only happens to women and children. I would even dare to suggest that many of the readers of this newsletter see a woman or young child when they close their eyes and imagine a victim of human trafficking.

So these cases of young West African men as trafficking victims disrupts the stereotypical understanding of who is and is not considered to be a legitimate victim of human trafficking.

I was therefore keen to explore how a person's social characteristics, e.g. race and age, might impact how they are actually treated by organisations and agencies who in theory are supposed to support and protect them.

Thirdly, I wanted to try to understand the behaviour and decision making of young people who might be susceptible to or have been involved in football related trafficking.

More specifically, I wanted to help academics and policy makers try to find answers to an important question. How is one person able to exercise and abuse power over another person? This question is key to understanding and counteracting the recruitment of potential irregular migrants.

### **Why do you think many people have not heard of sport trafficking?**

This is a great question. Unfortunately, I do not have a definitive answer! One possible reason is that human trafficking and modern slavery are commonly associated with certain industries and contexts. For many people, sport is not one of those industries and contexts.

I touched on another possible reason above, which is that the people impacted by this phenomena are not the stereotypical victims of human trafficking. This might have implications for how, if and where stories on this topic are given coverage.

Last and not least, human trafficking involves what are known as 'hidden populations'.

In other words, these are populations that are associated with illegal and/or stigmatised behaviour. For example, young people embroiled in sport trafficking can find themselves staying in a destination country without a legal right to remain.

Drawing attention to their plight could result in detention and/or deportation. So they are unlikely to make publicise their presence.

Similarly, it is well documented that there is an increase in trafficking of young people when mega sports events take place.

“Human trafficking involves what are known as 'hidden populations' - populations that are associated with illegal and/or stigmatised behaviour.”

These young people are often placed in exploitative and illegal positions that make it difficult for their voices to be heard.

That all being said, there have been several high profile news articles and documentaries over the last few years on sport related trafficking. Hopefully policy makers can work with relevant agencies to raise awareness.

## For someone who is new to your work, what would you say they should start with?

My article in the [Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2014.927753) titled 'Better off at home? Rethinking responses to trafficked West African footballers in Europe' is open access and for academic text quite reader-friendly.

It provides a clear outline of the key phases of football related trafficking and provides insights into the experiences and mindsets of young men who claim to have been trafficked through football.



[Access the article here.](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2014.927753)



# 10-Step Guide to Football Trafficking

Dr Esson has conceptualised 10 steps within trafficking through sport. You will find this as an infographic below, which is intended to illustrate Dr Esson's work.

## STEP 1: Talent Identification

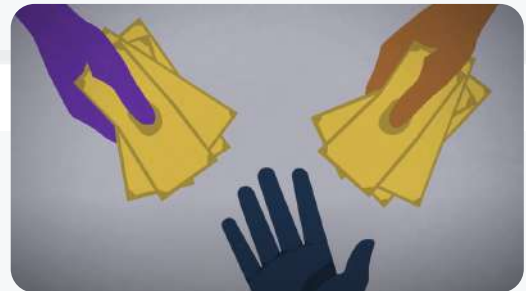
The first step begins when an intermediary claiming to be a football agent or a talent scout identifies a player in a match or trial. They offer the player the opportunity to be signed by a foreign club.

**The trafficker will not always meet the victim, as this can even happen online, such as through social media.**



## STEP 2: Financial Demands

The second step begins when the intermediary asks the player for money in exchange for securing the sports opportunity, akin to a 'finder's fee'. They also ask for additional funds to cover living costs and spending money in the destination country.



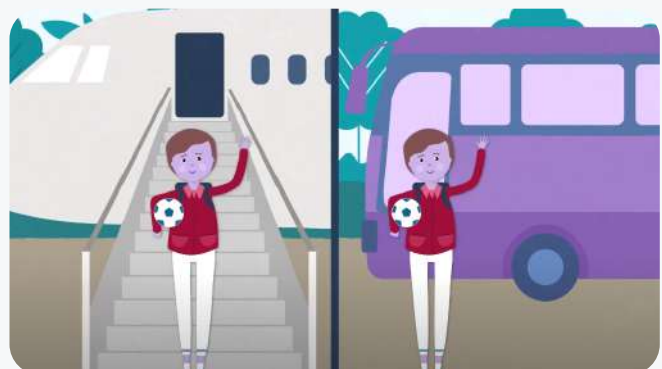
## STEP 3: Financial Exchange

To meet the cost, the player's immediate and extended family often sell family possessions, remove siblings from schooling, or take out a loan.

## STEP 4: Transit

The player arrives in a destination country, often on a short-term tourist visa.

**The travel conditions are not always illegal or dangerous. Players often arrive using legal channels. If they arrive using illegal channels, it is often using conventional modes of transportation with false travel documents.**



# 10-Step Guide to Football Trafficking

## STEP 5: Confiscation of Documents

On arrival in a destination country, the intermediary often takes the player's documents and any spending money for 'safekeeping'.



## STEP 6: Trial

While in a destination country, the player may or may not attend a trial with a club.

## OR STEP 7: Abandon

In some cases, the agent abandons the player on arrival in a destination country.

## STEP 7: More Trials

If the player is not abandoned on arrival, they might be taken to multiple trials until a contract is offered, and the agent is satisfied with the terms.

## STEP 8: Exploitative Contracts

If the trials are successful, the player signs a contract with the club. Problematically, the contract is typically exploitative with unfavourable terms for the player.



## STEP 9: Abandonment

If the player is unsuccessful at their trials or their contract is not renewed, and another club cannot be found, the intermediary abandons the player.

**The intermediary will often take their 'finder's fee', the player's documentation, and any remaining money with them.**

## STEP 10: Victim lives in Precarity

Once the player realises the precarious nature of their situation, they are often reluctant to return to their country of origin. They may decide to remain in the destination country illegally without any means of subsistence.



# Dr Esson's 10 Steps: Questions to Ask

During the workshop, Dr Esson discussed the 10 Steps in Football Trafficking in detail and provided some insights into how we can think about preventing sports trafficking.

The information below is a summary by the team at CPA UK.

## **STEP 1: Talent Identification**

- How can we ensure teachers are aware of human trafficking through sport?
- Where do young people spend their time? How can we interact with them in their space?

## **STEP 2: Financial Demands**

- How can we equip parents and guardians with the best information to protect themselves and the sportsperson against exploitative financial demands?

## **STEP 3: Financial Exchange**

- How and where are the financial exchanges happening?
- Are there ways we can intervene in these transactions?

## **STEP 4: Transit**

- How are the players getting visas to cross the border?

## **STEP 5: Confiscation of Documents**

- How can we protect sportspeople from being tricked into giving away their passport, money, and important documents?

## **STEP 6, 7, AND 8: Trials and/or Abandonment**

- How can we communicate and connect with organisations, clubs, and businesses that may have come across trafficked sportspeople?

## **STEP 9 AND 10: Living Precariously**

- How can we distinguish between trafficking and smuggling, especially since many victims of trafficking may not be aware of their situation.
- How can we assess what our image or profile of a victim is? How can we address any cognitive biases against victims, such as those who are young men from West Africa?

*"Not in our game, not in our parliaments,  
not in our countries."*

*Workshop participant, 2022*

# Speaking with: Ambassador Ibukun Olatidoye



## Through an Ambassador's lens:

Read the Insights of Ambassador Ibukun Olatidoye throughout his extensive career

### What was your previous role and what is your role now?

I was a Foreign Service Officer in the Nigerian Foreign Service for 35 years. I retired recently as an Ambassador. I am retired from the Federal Government Service of Nigeria, but not tired! So, I joined the Pan-African Institute for Global Affairs and Strategy (PAIGAS), a think-tank, training, research, consultancy, and advocacy centre for the promotion of affirmative Pan-African narrative of global issues.

As part of its mandate, the Centre is fully engaged in the advocacy works on the knotty issues of Human Trafficking and Migration generally. I am the Director of the Centre.

“

My last Diplomatic Posting in Turkey offered a unique experience.

The strategic location of Turkey as a gateway into Europe and a football-loving country made it a perfect choice for unscrupulous criminals who engaged in trafficking of various forms.

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## How did you use your role as a High Commissioner or Ambassador to address the issue of Trafficking through Sport?

### Was trafficking through sport an issue you encountered regularly?

My last years in the Diplomatic Service witnessed an unusually high surge in reported cases of human trafficking.

Unfortunately, and strangely, a sizeable number of Nigerian Youths became victims.

My last Diplomatic Posting in Turkey offered a unique experience. The strategic location of Turkey as a gateway into Europe and a football-loving country made it a perfect choice for unscrupulous criminals who engaged in Trafficking of various forms.

With regards to Trafficking in Sports, the victims are deceived into believing a fake offer to play in the popular Turkish Football League as preparatory to recruitment into notable football clubs in Europe.

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The dream of earning a mouth-watering salary from playing soccer in Europe, and ignorance of or blindness to the issue, often prevent the victims from critical thinking.

”

The dream of earning a mouth-watering salary from playing soccer in Europe and ignorance of or blindness to the issue often prevent the victims from critical thinking.

The common trend is largely deception through coercion; resulting in illegal migration based entirely on fraud. The unsuspecting victims are immediately stranded upon arrival and placed in voluntary captivity to survive.

Usually, the Embassy is deliberately kept in the dark until things get very rough and out of control. Even when faced with the reality of their misadventure, the victims are often not willing to return home.

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My conclusion is that there is a need for a collective effort by the government and other stakeholders to actively come out with a solution to tackle this new scourge, which is highly underestimated by governments, before it gets out of control.

**Currently, what would be your recommendations to High Commissioners and their staff when trying to tackle the problem of trafficking through sports?**

**a.**

Effective and frank collaboration between the High Commissioners and their host authorities in addressing the new scourge: trafficking in sports,

**b.**

There are common denominators in all forms of human trafficking, namely: exploitation; forced labour; slavery or similar practices; harvesting of organs; and prostitution. Trafficking in sports is not exempt.

Hence, the solution is transparency and collective action by all and sundry. The High Commissioners should recommend the subject of trafficking to their governments be given priority attention by the international community. For instance, strict legislation to control the cartel before it gets out of control.

**c.**

Globally, the sporting industry is a multibillion-dollar investment, hence successful clubs in the UK should be encouraged to invest in poor Commonwealth countries to dissuade their citizenry from getting desperate to travel abroad in search of better opportunities abroad.

**d.**

In the aftermath of COVID 19, the situation may get worse. The UK government must be ready to lend concrete support to Commonwealth countries to properly organise their sporting authorities and organisations for optimum performance.

## Words From: Ambassador Martin Uhomoibhi



In 1984, I defected from academia to diplomacy where I joined the Foreign Service of Nigeria and I spent three decades serving in different countries including the US and Switzerland.

In Geneva, I was the President of the UN Human Rights Council. I left Geneva in 2010 and came back to Nigeria to the Foreign Ministry as Permanent Secretary. I held this office for five years and retired in 2014. I was then invited by Ban Ki-moon to be his special envoy in Sudan to help the UN mission. I returned in 2017 and upon my return I

founded and presided over the Pan African Affairs Institute for Global Affairs and Strategy, which is an institute I created to house retired Nigeria career ambassadors so they can share their experiences.

As a diplomat, I was able to intervene in the issue of trafficking. In academia, I studied history, so I was aware of the situation. My career allowed me to see this issue in its raw form and what it meant to be trafficked. We partnered with the national youth service in Nigeria, a programme that houses graduates from all the universities. We, therefore, work with all the camps of the National Youth Service Corps to help sensitise them to this issue, by sending them to the grassroots. We have had 5000 ambassadors, from the NYSC graduates called PAIGAS Ambassadors who have helped us to do this. We have addressed over 2.1 million people, who are now sensitised to this issue. People do not know much about sport trafficking and therefore sports traffickers are carrying out evils that the world is not aware of. We, therefore, have a responsibility to increase awareness of this issue and understand how this can be dealt with.

High Commissioners have a huge role to play. In Africa, High Commissioners are seen in very high esteem due to their history and relationship with the Commonwealth. We need High Commissioners to interact with all the different stakeholders, including border force. High Commissioners need to use their own integrity and dignity and deploy appropriate services. They can display more transparency in their work, we need due diligence and integrity of the admission staff and travel agents. In addition, they can help to prove at grassroot levels that one can pursue a career in sports legally. This means showing clear guidelines. It would also help to have cooperation with event organizers to help share information and raise awareness. Strong relationships with NGOs can also be very useful. High Commissioners therefore need to get out of their safe havens and see what the situation actually is. We can promote awareness with the big sporting leagues and football companies. Why can't we encourage them to invest in African countries to minimize the amount of people desperately trying to play in Europe?

# An Interview with Baroness Young of Hornsey OBE



## Peer and Parliamentarian: Baroness Young on Modern Slavery

**What can Parliamentarians do ahead of mega sporting events to help prevent Modern Slavery through sport?**

That's a really big question, because I think part of it is that we need to raise awareness among parliaments, as I am not convinced that Members are aware of what can drastically go wrong in sport.

I also think it is about MPs checking in their constituencies, particularly those that surround Birmingham, where the Games are taking place, and making sure where possible they can liaise with local authorities who have a responsibility for checking out modern forms of slavery.

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million people  
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Slavery  
”

**As the co-chair of the APPG on Sport, Modern Slavery and Human Rights, what role do you see APPGs playing in eradicating Modern Slavery in the run up to mega sporting events?**

The APPG on Sport, Modern Slavery and Human Rights was formed because of a concern that was beginning to grow around the World Cup in Qatar, and other incidents happening in and through sport. Sport and human rights are really under-served, and we are just getting to grips with it.

“  
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implement it  
”

With this APPG, the idea is to raise awareness among parliamentarians but also people outside and give a space to people who are engaged with trying to illuminate human rights abuses. We discuss a range of topics that include Modern Slavery and its different forms. It includes human trafficking, supply chain issues with sportswear, sessions on equality, women in sport and racism in sport.

There are a range of activities which the group can cover, but importantly, we must make sure that these abuses are not routinely happening within the form of entertainment that we love.

**Why do you think that many countries around the commonwealth are struggling to tackle Modern Slavery, despite the rising awareness on the issue?**

The reason why countries struggle with the issue of Modern Slavery is because it is so huge. When we are talking worldwide, there are 40 million people whose lives are being destroyed by one form of Modern Slavery or another, so it is a huge task to think of, particularly when it happens in virtually every country around the world.

Therefore, legislation needs to be produced, but legislation is no good if you cannot implement it. It then needs to be monitored and made sure that the relevant punishments are ready to hand out. But a lot of it is unseen and hidden away, so it is easier to deal with the most extreme cases that come into view, but not those that are hidden away. For example, forced labour in industries like construction is more covert, where people are hired on a piecemeal basis, on a casual contract, making it harder to keep track of them. The way in which Modern Slavery operates makes it difficult to combat.

The good news, if I can put it that way, is that what works best in my experience, is an alliance and collaboration between Governments, NGOs, businesses and voices in those contexts. Once these groups of people have come together, you can find ways of mitigating the worst aspects of Modern Slavery.



# Speaking with Hon. Jared Okelo MP



## Raising the Red Card to Trafficking: Hon. Jared Okelo MP on Human Trafficking Through Sport in Kenya

**How did you become aware of the issue of trafficking through sport?**

Trafficking is interlinked with slavery - and growing up as a kid - you know about slavery and how football can be used as a means to traffic people. Sometimes, people realize that the contract they were given is not what they were expecting. When such issues happen, they are put on our radar.

Although trafficking is a common term, I have a deep knowledge due to the UK Modern Slavery project with CPA UK in 2018.

I come from a region where football is loved and everyone wants to play it, with people playing the sport as young as three years old. Women's football is also becoming

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increasingly common, so when we talk about trafficking through sport, we need to think of both genders.

“  
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trafficking.”

As well as this, constituents have come to my office asking if a particular agent is eligible enough to take their children to Europe. They want me to do a background check. Every organization in Kenya has to be registered. You can therefore find out if it is a legitimate organization or agent. You then have to take a further step and look at their revenue, and their tax regime.

It is very important to carry that out for due diligence. Sometimes they will visit me when it is too late; after they have paid money or been abandoned. This is when they ask for background information, even if they have already committed to an agent.

I am at an advantage compared to other parliamentarians in Kenya because I have learnt about trafficking. This is how I can communicate well and advise my constituents. I know other MPs will be giving some advice, but it won't be as in-depth.

### What do you see as the role of a parliamentarian in tackling trafficking through sport?

As a parliamentarian who has a voice, I have an unlimited platform to raise awareness. This can be done through parliament, putting through motions, petitions, and private member questions.

The media also plays an important role. I do lots of TV and radio interviews on topical issues around trafficking since I was involved with CPA UK. People listen to parliamentarians as we have a large following. I therefore organize rallies and events in my region.

In 2019, just before the coronavirus hit and having benefited from wider knowledge from the CPA, I organized a sporting event in the Western part of Kenya. When you organize a football event, many people will turn up because people love football. We started by having a tournament with different communities.

Before the final game began, I explained and spoke on trafficking through sport, the dangers involved and how they could get lured into such things. This was highly effective.

However, people did become disillusioned. If they are approached by an agent, having a member of parliament tell them it's fake is discouraging and disappointing. It has always been their dream. I know people that have received prior knowledge but would still do it. Some are very proactive, and will come to my office for background checks, but others won't.

I also sit on the Implementation Committee, where we try and ensure that all the laws are fast tracked and implemented.

This gives me an advanced position to look at laws that are friendly to trafficking and to stop them. It will ensure that people who want to take advantage of our children are punished. We have very beautiful laws but some need amendments.

### **Is the topic of trafficking through sport part of the Kenyan national curriculum in schools?**

Children will learn about slavery but only a very shallow historical background. I have not seen our curriculum trying to marry past events to what is happening now.

It would be very important to tweak the curriculum to make it clear about the current forms of Modern Slavery. You have brought up a very solid point, to marry the history with what is happening at the moment. This is a transnational problem that requires many stakeholders.

“It would be very important to tweak the curriculum to make it clear about the current forms of Modern Slavery.”

*"The problem [of human trafficking through sports] will mutate, so we need the cross communication to know when it has mutated and how we can arm ourselves against it."*

*Workshop participant, 2022*

# Speaking with Rt Hon. Karen Bradley MP



**We speak with the Right Honourable Karen Bradley MP about her role as a parliamentarian concerned with issues of human trafficking.**

**As the co-chair of the APPG on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in the UK Parliament, what relevant discussions have there been around the Commonwealth Games and trafficking?**

In the Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery APPG, we have touched on the issue of trafficking through sport, but we have not done a specific piece of work on it.

However, I am very keen to use the 2022 Commonwealth Games as an opportunity to do a good piece of work and have a panel discussion using the legislative power we have in Government, as well as future legislation to raise awareness of this issue.

All the APPG parliamentarians have been briefed beforehand on how sport can be an enabler for traffickers, and the act of making people believe they are going to be successful athletes.

CPA UK, with their push on this issue, is giving us the impetuses that we need.

“  
CPA UK, with their push on this issue of human trafficking through sport, is giving us the impetuses that we need.  
”



**As a parliamentarian concerned with the issues of modern slavery, how have you raised awareness of the topic in your Parliament, as well as in your local constituency?**

As I took the Modern Slavery Act through the UK Parliament, I do get invited to speak at lots of things which many parliamentarians won't have the opportunity to do.

I have raised the issue recently, for example, on trips in Washington. I have also had opportunities in debates and question times, where I try and raise awareness of Modern Slavery as much as possible to keep it in the political agenda.

Passing the Act is not enough. We need to keep the topic heard in Parliament. By speaking in Parliament on this issue, it allows other members, who may not have the time to focus on this issue, to be made aware of it.

In my constituency, as I was the Minister for Trafficking, constituents often come to me proactively, coming forward to brief me on their Modern Slavery work.

We have a new Chief Constable appointed in my constituency, and he came to a meeting with local stakeholders. This was an example where I was able to raise the issue and press to him the need to carry on the focus on Modern Slavery in the police force.

“

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**What advice would you give to a parliamentarian trying to help draft and push for anti-slavery legislation similar to the 2015 Modern Slavery Act?**

In the case of the UK, it was the Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery APPG that was set up by Anthony Steen and other concerned MPs, that instigated the Modern Slavery legislation.

They started working on it by conducting joint debates and questions. It is very powerful when you get a question on an order paper with multiple people jumping on the back of it, as it shows real concern for that issue.

However, the Act was only one part of the strategy. If you look at what can be done in schools, children's homes, immigration

authorities, these are all really important parts of the process to help identify victims.

What we looked for was where we needed legislative solutions. For us, we need criminals on the offenses, to allow the police to bring together evidence to charge an offender. When doing so, you have to have a victim-focused approach.

“

The Act was only one part of the strategy.

If you look at what can be done in schools, children's homes, immigration authorities - these are all really important parts of the process to help identify victims.

”

The fact that a criminal is prepared to traffic human beings the same way they traffic drugs shows that we should be using the same techniques to break into these criminal gangs.

This is not an immigration crime. Paying someone to smuggle you into a different country is a different crime to trafficking, which is where someone is moved and exploited against their will.

People seem to confuse people smuggling and people trafficking. It is not the same thing and the business model in the case of the trafficking is that the human being is a commodity for which they make money. We need to find a way to stop them from making money, by breaking this business model.

Victims need to be made safe, and provided with care, so that evidence can be collected. Therefore, victim support, identification, and mentoring need to be put in the centre of the process.

The final point I would make is that you need to take a step back and see it as a financial crime. We need to break the business circle, because the business for the criminal is financial gain.

# An Interview with Jess Phillips MP



## The Constituencies of the Commonwealth Games: Talking to Jess Phillips MP

**As a Birmingham based MP, you must be anticipating exciting changes and developments in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games in 2022.**

**But what sort of changes, whether they are positive or negative, do you see in your constituency in the run up to the Games?**

Every day in my constituency we experience the grass not being cut in the parks, and our playgrounds falling into rack and ruins. The children have very little places to play. I think there is a jarring nature about why this 'fancy' event is happening.

Of course, it is not the same government money, but that doesn't stop people feeling less positive about it. For example, the number 11 bus, which is one of the longest

bus routes in Europe, has been diverted due to the construction of the Games. It is now a longer route, which stops in my constituency, off-loading a lot of confused people.

However, I do think it will positively touch the whole city in many ways. Considering every school in my constituency has a student from a different Commonwealth country, it is something we need to celebrate.

### How were you first made aware of the issue of trafficking through sport?

I was first made aware of this issue when CPA UK reached out to me. It is when you are made aware of the issue that you understand how aspirational young people can be exploited in this way. It will not just be young people, but anyone with aspiration, especially individuals without resources.

“  
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to me.  
”

I think what a lot of people fail to realise is that being an elite sports person costs a huge amount of money and investment, and this creates a barrier for talented people around the world. Hope can be a dangerous currency.

### How do you think other Parliamentarians can be made aware of trafficking through sport? What do you think is most effective?

A way to get parliamentarians involved and engaged is by having one-to-one meetings and talking to them directly about the project you would like them to be involved with.

There is also great power in using real life examples from survivor advocates, as their stories are always the most impactful when thinking about the issue of trafficking.

Modern slavery is something I personally come across week in week out in Birmingham, but for some parliamentarians, it won't happen in or around their constituencies. Therefore, telling these stories is important to help portray to parliamentarians the issues that can occur, from the people who are most knowledgeable on the issue.

### How do you think other parliamentarians can be made aware of trafficking through sport? What do you think is most effective?

The best and quickest thing I can do is to talk to the organisation running the Commonwealth Games to discuss trafficking through sport, and the ways the organisation are addressing this issue. My city is a great place, and we don't want to talk about dark things, however this issue still remains important.

It is also vital to talk to the young people in colleges and schools in my constituency, as this is another powerful way to promote the issue. Your communication materials, such as the poster and leaflet, are the sort of campaigns that my constituents will learn from and will encourage them to report any suspicious cases to me as their parliamentarian. This is what we want to encourage.

# Matthew: Facing Human Trafficking on the Front Lines



## Edafe Matthew Eseoghene: Survivor, Ambassador, and International Advocate for Fighting Sports Trafficking

### How were you trafficked through sport?

Someone who claimed to be an agent came to where we were staying in Delta State and said he can take me to a club in England where multiple trials were happening. He claimed that I was very talented. I was surprised when I caught the attention of these people as I didn't think I was a good enough football player.

I had to raise money for a Visa, flights, interviews and invitation fees. At the time, it cost 350,000 Naira, which is less than \$1000 dollars now, but at the time it was a lot of money. My mother had to take out a loan which had a large interest rate on it.

“We ran for miles on the beach each day. It quickly escalated from hard work to suffering. There was a lack of food, so many people started working at the food market.”



Eventually the process began, and he took me to the passport office to collect my documents and visa. We travelled from Nigeria to Senegal and then to Cape Verde. As we were travelling, we stopped off at Senegal to collect a British visa.

The agent took my passport in Senegal, and we ended up training there for a couple of months, to acclimatise and prepare for Cape Verde.

We ran miles on the beach each day. It quickly escalated from hard work to suffering. There was a lack of food, so many people started working at the food market. This consisted of transporting the fish from the nets, down to the marketplace. Occasionally you get paid with fish and other times in currency.

**As a survivor advocate, what do you think is the most important prevention to trafficking through sport?**

I would say it is education. The primary reason people are trafficked from Africa is poverty. Let me give you the parallel. Boys from the United Kingdom may not get excited if you offer to take them to Barcelona, Madrid or Milan. None of those cities offer them anything different. Everything in Africa is about money. Because of poverty and lack of information, it puts everyone in a desperate position to get out of the country. Anything would be better than staying in the country.

In order to stop trickery, people need to be educated. We can educate people to make them understand that they don't need to fall for this terrible life.

I have been around many schools, and they do not teach on the issue of trafficking through sport in Nigeria or surrounding countries.

In 2018 and 2019, I visited every Nigerian academy, campaigning to raise awareness on the issue of trafficking through sport and the dangers of fake agents. This included background checks and the ability to talk to the people around you.

I noticed that such a large percentage of young people are on social media. If we can get campaigns on these platforms, and share signs of trafficking through sport, this could become more prominent in people's awareness.

— “ —

Because of poverty and lack of information, it puts everyone in a desperate position to get out of the country...

...I noticed that a large percentage of young people are on social media. If we can get campaigns on these platforms, and share signs of trafficking through sport, this could become more prominent in people's awareness.

— ” —

## What is your involvement with Mission 89?

I started as the content creator, running campaigns for Mission 89 around football academies and helping to sensitise people to fake agents. We had a very successful campaign that reached 726 footballers.

Last year in July, I was asked to be Mission 89's Ambassador. In this role, I am the face of the campaigns and ensure the message of sport trafficking is being carried along.

I help build relationships between victims and the Mission 89 team. I complete many of these tasks through my radio studio and YouTube channel, [Elegbete TV Sports](#).



[Access the radio show here](#)



Lerina, Founder of Mission 89, broke the news recently that a footballer player from Ghana, who had been trafficked, had been returned to his country. This is an example of how our work is making an impact and it gives me such joy.

# Fighting on Several Fronts: Richard Lancashire



**We speak with Richard Lancashire, a police officer with extensive experience in tackling human trafficking.**

**As the manager of Organised Immigration Crime and Migration for the Sussex Police Force, when were you first made aware of the issue of trafficking through sport?**

**Is human trafficking through sport an issue you encounter frequently in your role?**

The potential for human trafficking within the sporting sector first came to my notice many years ago when working in organised crime intelligence.

Regular collaboration with the Home office, and other counterparts, led to the recognition that criminal networks also used sporting events as a cover for their activity.

My current role includes developing training and awareness of organised immigration crime (OIC) to our workforce and partners.

The recognition of, and response to potential indicators of Modern Slavery Act offending is clearly crucial and a justified procedural obligation. The more scenarios I can provide the better the vigilance is. This includes trafficking in sport.

“

My current role includes developing training and awareness of organised immigration crime to our workforce and partners ...

The more scenarios I can provide the better the vigilance is.

”

**If possible, could you give an example of a time you have experienced or heard about a case of sport trafficking occurring at the borders?**

**Is there a noticeable difference in the number of these cases around mega sporting events?**

There aren't cases I can share here, but National Crime Agency and Home Office partners have a thorough understanding of where the risks and indicators can be found.

They have specifically trained personnel who can both effect early intervention and provide expert advice. Using sport as a method of offending means that primary ports are the most relevant gateways.

Whilst I don't personally see trends of activity or intelligence around different event types, all agencies working at ports and 'in-country' are well versed in collecting and sharing intelligence for subsequent expert and upstream analysts, who would know.

**What do you think needs to be done in order for border officials around the globe to better spot the signs of trafficking and successfully intervene to stop traffickers?**

Border force and multi-agency teams working at UK ports already invest heavily in developing skills to recognise indicators. This of course is not purely connected with the

arrival of a person at the controls but includes a great deal of vigilance around back-office information and other intelligence.

“  
Always a key consideration  
is the degree to which  
victims of trafficking  
actually understand their  
fate.”

It is clearly important that all law enforcement agencies continue to gather and disseminate relevant intelligence to remain current. This includes community information from those working in sport, communities and NGOs.

Continuing to share models of intelligence flow with other countries is obviously important but of course, taking into account operational security and the resources available to them. Overseas liaison personnel for the various UK law enforcement agencies provides superb support in this area.

Always a key consideration is a degree to which victims of trafficking actually understand their fate. The penny may not have dropped for them at the point of being encountered or they may be instructed to actively deny their predicament.

# Speaking with: Donna Fraser OBE



**Donna Fraser OBE was a Four Times British Olympian, and now leads as Head of Inclusion & Engagement at Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games**

**What does your role consist of as Head of Inclusion at the Commonwealth Games 2022?**

My primary role is to deliver against our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion priorities which involve supporting and guiding our teams to embed inclusive and diverse behaviors to ensure that our Games are delivered in an inclusive and accessible way.

My role also involves working with our Community Engagement team to build relationships with community leaders and key regional stakeholders.

“My role also involves working with our Community Engagement team to build relationships with community leaders and key regional stakeholders.”

**What actions have been taken to mitigate the risks of people being trafficked in and through sport ahead of the Commonwealth Games?**

Our vision is to be a 'Games for everyone' where athletes, spectators, officials, and anyone attending the Games are safe.

We are the first Games to have a Head of Inclusion and Engagement and a Safeguarding Lead, which highlights our commitment to addressing equality, diversity, and inclusion. We have developed an internal Human Rights Strategy, an important aspect of delivering the Games.

In the delivery of our Games, we always have the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights front of mind, and we respect, protect, and promote those rights and freedoms guaranteed to all individuals under law.

We are working with UNICEF and on a campaign to raise the awareness of exploitation and human trafficking, which we hope to give more details about next year.

“  
We are the first Games to have a Head of Inclusion and Engagement and a Safeguarding Lead, which highlights our commitment to addressing equality, diversity, and inclusion.  
”

**Why do you think the role of mega sporting events organisers' is so important to help combat sport trafficking?**

This is an important issue to address globally, and unfortunately, a major sporting event gives an opportunity for trafficking, therefore it is the responsibility of organizers of these events to be vocal and proactive to raise awareness so that people are educated and in turn be more vigilant.



# Kwame: The Footballer who saw Human Trafficking Happen



Ben Radford @ Getty Images

## Introducing Kwame Ayew: Former Professional Footballer who saw and Fought Sports Trafficking

**How did you first get into your career as a professional football player for Ghana?**

I grew up with many siblings in a small village. My older brother is a three-time best footballer. He has two sons playing football, including one for Crystal Palace in the UK. He was approached by scouts who watched him play and eventually took him to the big city.

This is where he became the best young football player in the whole of Ghana. He got a scholarship to a secondary school in the Northern part of Ghana and was playing for a club called Real Tamale United.

“  
My brother was  
my agent and  
safely took me  
to France.  
”

I later joined Ghana Secondary School, where I also played football. My brother saw me play and encouraged me to play football in Europe.

At the age of 16, when I was still at school playing football, I was approached by a team from the Western part of Ghana. I ended up playing with them for two years, until Africa Sports heard about my skills.

It was my brother and his team in France, who watched me play football. My brother was my agent and safely took me to France. My performance in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games encouraged other clubs to offer me professional contracts. I was awarded the second top scorer (securing six goals), a bronze medal and an Olympic silver boot.

It was whilst I was playing in Qatar that I was then approached by an Italian agent, saying they needed a striker. Despite the frustration from my club chairmen, it was my ultimate goal to play in Italy, so I did.

**When playing football, were you exposed to people being trafficked through or around sport?  
What were the red flags?**

It was in Italy when I first experienced trafficking through sport. I would often be training and receive a call from the club saying there were individuals at the stadium, asking for me.

Most of the time they were footballers who had been trafficked and left hopeless by their agents.

I would often find that they had been abandoned by their agents after not having got into the team. They contacted me, as a recognisable Ghanaian football player, as they felt they could trust me. I saw the desperation and anger in their eyes.

“  
They contacted me,  
as a recognisable  
Ghanaian football  
player, as they felt  
they could trust me.  
I saw the desperation  
and anger in their  
eyes.”

I took care of these victims, often taking them to the Embassy and making sure they got return travel tickets. Visas are more likely to be granted if you are an athlete. Many of the athletes would therefore receive one-to-two-month visas, which would then expire in Europe.

I have looked after some of these victims in hospital, including some who have had frost bite from when walking between Turkey and Greece. Many others will refuse to go home, and I will not hear from them again.

Many of the victims were African nationals, particularly from Ghana and Nigeria. In Africa, there is huge pressure to support your family and earn money. The dream of playing football in Europe, and living a wealthy lifestyle, causes trouble for good Samaritans.

One red flag is fake agents. Anyone who claims to be an agent is often not and is just looking to exploit people. Agents are looking for interest and vulnerability, and this is high in Africa.

These fake agents will often linger at training sessions, particularly at young clubs that need money. These clubs need the transfer fees to operate. Most federations in Africa do not have due diligence. Even if they spot a red flag, the small teams will not say anything and instead prioritise the need for money.

**What would you say to a young aspiring football player to raise their awareness of trafficking through sport, and ensure they take the right and safest routes into becoming a professional footballer?**

Everyone has different personalities; some become successful football players, whilst others don't. Although there were better players than me, it was my destiny and I worked hard to do it the right way. You have to enter a football career in the right way, and you must not be deceived by other people's lifestyles.

You must not  
be deceived by  
other people's  
lifestyles.

Education is also important. Many footballers from Africa will not take education seriously and therefore fail to express themselves.

It is important to be able to read your contract and check it's the same as what your agents have promised. No one will offer a translation. People are therefore signing contracts they have not understood.

These fake agents  
will often linger at  
training sessions,  
particularly at  
young clubs that  
need money.

I always say to take your lessons seriously. You can rely on education. Take advice from people that know your sport.

People need to understand that not everyone can play football in Europe otherwise there would be no league in Africa.

Everyone wants to play in Europe, so train hard alongside education as football has no guarantees. I would tell them the truth and nothing but the truth

*"It's really important to establish communication between stakeholders than would not usually communicate"*

*Workshop participant, 2022*

# Awareness Raising Materials

CPA UK has teamed up with Mission 89 - expert consultants on sports trafficking - to design informative communication products that can help anyone detect and prevent human trafficking through sport.



These resources are completely free to download and easily printable. They can be used at any time, at your own discretion. We ask that you keep intact the CPA UK, Commonwealth-in-Chair, and Mission 89 logos on the leaflets and posters.

They are displayed and linked in the following pages.

The animation video is also a resource produced by the team at CPA UK in partnership with Mission 89.

Do share the animation with as many people as you would like. The animation has been designed to be suitable for all ages.



[Share the animation from YouTube](#)

**Together, we can raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking through sport.**

# How to use our Materials

## Animation

CPA UK and Mission 89 have designed an animated video depicting the story of a young sports person who is trafficked through sport. This video provides advice and information about how to spot and prevent traffickers.

The video is suitable for young audiences, as well as those who will rely on visual information rather than written or verbal information.



[Share the animation from YouTube.](#)

Share this animated video with:

Schools

Families

Teachers

Doctors

Border Officials

Police Stations

Sports Coaches

Sports Ground Staff

Community Leaders

Social Care Workers

Hospitality Staff

Colleges & Universities

Social or Religious Groups

Businesses & Charities

Security Personnel

Together, we can raise awareness on the issue of  
human trafficking through sport.



# How to use our Materials

## General Public

CPA UK and Mission 89 have designed two specific products for consumption by the general public - a leaflet and a poster. These can be printed out and distributed or shared digitally.



Page 1 of the leaflet plainly and clearly describes what human trafficking might look like.

Page 1 also provides five warning signs to watch out for, and provides a simple instruction for those who believe they know someone who might be at risk of becoming a victim, or is currently a victim of human trafficking,



Page 2 of the leaflet provides more detailed warning signs people should be aware of.

Page 2 also provides clear questions the person should ask, and outlines practical actions they can take.

The poster features six pieces of clear and actionable information, informing the reader of the most important and crucial actions they could take.



Share these materials with:

Schools

Sporting Organisations

Health Clinics

Hospitality

Community Groups

Businesses & Charities

Transport Police

Child Protection Services

Community Centres

Security Personnel

Colleges & Universities

Public Notice Boards

**Together, we can raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking through sport.**

# How to use our Materials

## Parliamentarians

CPA UK and Mission 89 have designed two specific products for parliamentarians - a leaflet and a poster. These can be printed out and distributed within parliaments or shared digitally over email or other online parliamentary spaces.



Page 1 of the leaflet plainly and clearly describes how human trafficking through sport happens, and what it might look like within a community or constituency.

Page 1 also provides a concise description of the human and financial consequences of trafficking to a victim, their family, and their community.



Page 2 of the leaflet provides a succinct list of what parliamentarians can do to prevent and address human trafficking through sport on three levels: on the constituency level; parliamentary level; and country level.

The poster features three actionable suggestions parliamentarians can do to help address and prevent human trafficking through sport.

Share these materials with:

**Parliamentarians**

**High Commissioners**

**Parliamentary Officials**

**All-Party Groups**

**Parliamentary Intranet**

**Committee Groups**



**Together, we can raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking through sport.**

# How to use our Materials

## Border Officials

CPA UK and Mission 89 have designed two specific products for border officials - a leaflet with a checklist and a poster. These can be printed out and distributed or shared digitally over email or other online shared work spaces.



Page 1 of the leaflet plainly and clearly describes how human trafficking through sport happens, as well as what might happen to the victim once they have crossed the border.



Page 2 of the leaflet is a checklist. This checklist has been designed to provide border officials three areas of scrutiny and action:

- The sportsperson;
- The sportsperson's documents;
- The wider steps that can be taken if a border official suspects trafficking.

The poster features four actions border officials can take to help address and prevent human trafficking through sport.

Share these materials with:

**Border Officials**

**Workplace Intranet**

**Passport Offices**

**Airport Officials and Staff**

**Travel Agents**

**Transport Police**

**Airline Officials and Staff**

**Sports Agents**

**Transport Security**



**Together, we can raise awareness on the issue of human trafficking through sport.**

# JOIN THE TEAM



#ENDSPORTTRAFFICKING

## DID YOU KNOW?

HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN HAPPEN THROUGH SPORT

Fake sports agents are targeting young people and children playing sports in your community!

For a fee, fake sports agents offer young people the opportunity to travel abroad to compete at a sports competition, or to play for a big sports club.



The fake agent could scam them and disappear with the money straight away.

But young people are often taken into foreign countries, where they are abandoned or forced into many types of exploitation.



### You can spot the warning signs.

- ❗ An agent suddenly appears and is interested in you or your child.
- ❗ An agent or their staff contact you online but do not meet you in person.
- ❗ They provide little or no information about the opportunity.
- ❗ They demand money to cover travel, accommodation, or other costs.
- ❗ They ask for your passport or travel documents for 'safekeeping'.

**If you believe that someone might be at risk or is a victim of human trafficking, immediately contact your local protection authorities. Do not try to investigate because this can put yourself and the victim in danger.**

**Read more for the steps you can take to protect yourself and your community from sports trafficking.**



# DID YOU KNOW?

## YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY AGAINST SPORTS TRAFFICKING

### **WARNING SIGN 1**

AN AGENT SUDDENLY APPEARS AND IS INTERESTED IN THE ASPIRING ATHLETE

- ? Is the agent registered?
- ? What is the professional reputation of the agent?
- ? Did the agent contact or recruit you online? For example, through social media?

#### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- ✓ Ask the agent to show you their identification and registration from your Sports Association.
- ✓ Ask the agent for proof they have helped other aspiring athletes in the past.
- ✓ Contact your Sports Association or sport's governing body to check the agent is real.

 **Never trust an agent who only contacts you online, even if they post photos with famous athletes.**

### **WARNING SIGN 2**

THE AGENT ASKS FOR MONEY AND TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

- ? Is the agent demanding money to connect you to an opportunity?
- ? Is the agent demanding money to cover travel and accommodation costs?
- ? Is the agent asking for your passport or travel documents for 'safekeeping'?

#### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- ✓ If you have paid money, report the agent to your local protection services.
- ✓ Always keep your passport or travel documents with you.
- ✓ Always register at your embassy if you are in a foreign country.

 **Never give an agent any money, your passport, or your travel documents.**

### **WARNING SIGN 3**

THE AGENT PROVIDES LITTLE OR NO INFORMATION ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY

- ? Is the agent showing you proof that the opportunity exists?
- ? Is the agent talking about big sports clubs, but not providing much detail?
- ? Does the opportunity sound 'too good to be true'?

#### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

- ✓ Check if the opportunity is real by contacting your National Olympic Committee or whichever Sports Association is relevant to you.
- ✓ Ask to speak directly with the agent, not their staff.

 **Never trust an agent who is too busy to meet you and share details about the opportunity.**



# DID YOU KNOW? HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN HAPPEN THROUGH SPORT.



**YOU CAN PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY  
AGAINST SPORTS TRAFFICKING**

## ALWAYS:

- ✓ Ask the agent for proof of registration at your Sports Association.
- ✓ Register at your embassy if you are in a foreign country.
- ✓ Check if the opportunity is real by contacting your National Olympic Committee or Sports Association.

## NEVER:

- ✗ Pay anyone to get a sports contract or opportunity.
- ✗ Give anyone your passport, travel documents, or personal belongings.
- ✗ Trust an agent who offers you an opportunity online, or only speaks to you online. For example, through social media.

**JOIN  
THE  
TEAM**



**#ENDSPORTSTRAFFICKING**

In partnership with  MISSION 89

[www.mission89.org](http://www.mission89.org)  
[www.uk-cpa.org/modernslavery](http://www.uk-cpa.org/modernslavery)





# PARLIAMENTARIANS

## END HUMAN TRAFFICKING THROUGH SPORT

# JOIN THE TEAM



## #ENDSPORTSTRAFFICKING

### How can human trafficking happen through sport?

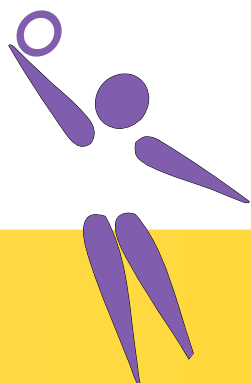
Young people in your constituency, including children, are being targeted by fake sports agents.

Aspiring athletes are offered fake contracts promising successful careers. They are tricked by these fake agents and abandoned or pushed into forced labour, sexual or other forms of exploitation in foreign countries.



Traffickers often ask for large sums of money to secure non-existent opportunities. To pay these fees, families make huge financial sacrifices, such as investing their life savings or taking out large loans.

### How can you prevent trafficking from happening? Read on for more information.



In partnership with  MISSION 89





For more information and guidance, visit  
[www.uk-cpa.org](http://www.uk-cpa.org)





# PARLIAMENTARIANS

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?



### IN YOUR CONSTITUENCY:

-  Learn more about the issue of sports trafficking: How does it start, and why does sports trafficking happen?
-  Lead an educational campaign on the issue of sports trafficking to equip your constituents with the information they need to protect themselves and others from exploitation.
-  Encourage and support schools to address human trafficking in their curriculum.
-  Encourage and support local task forces to coordinate trafficking prevention efforts.

### IN YOUR PARLIAMENT:

-  Engage your government through your parliamentary committees.
-  Engage in a multi-stakeholder approach with NGOs, civil society, and other governments and parliaments to end human trafficking through sport.

### IN YOUR COUNTRY:

-  Take the legislative action required to protect talented players and athletes in your constituency from human trafficking.
-  Ensure that sports organisations, agents, and other relevant bodies are accountable for the wellbeing of talented players and athletes in their care.

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**PROTECT CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES.**  
**JOIN THE TEAM TO #ENDSPORTSTRAFFICKING**

## PARLIAMENTARIANS

# DID YOU KNOW? HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN HAPPEN THROUGH SPORT.



### PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITIES:

- ✓ Learn more about the issue of sports trafficking.
- ✓ Lead an educational campaign to equip your constituents with the information they need to protect themselves and others.
- ✓ Encourage and support local task forces to coordinate trafficking prevention efforts.

# JOIN THE TEAM



## #ENDSPORTSTRAFFICKING

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[www.mission89.org](http://www.mission89.org)  
[www.uk-cpa.org/modernslavery](http://www.uk-cpa.org/modernslavery)



# BORDER OFFICIALS

## END HUMAN TRAFFICKING THROUGH SPORT

**JOIN  
THE  
TEAM**



**#ENDSPORTSTRAFFICKING**

### How can human trafficking happen through sport?

Young people and children playing sports in their communities are being targeted by fake sports agents.

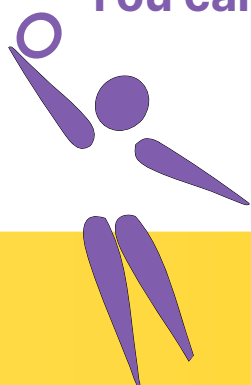
These young athletes are promised the opportunity to travel abroad to compete at a sports competition, or to play for a big sports club.



Fake agents often demand large amounts of money from the young athlete to secure the opportunity. To pay these fees, families and communities make huge financial sacrifices, such as investing their life savings or taking out large loans.

As soon as they arrive in the foreign country, the athletes may find themselves abandoned or forced into severe forms of exploitation.

**You can help protect athletes from exploitation and prevent trafficking at borders.**



In partnership with  MISSION 89

For more information and guidance, visit  
[www.uk-cpa.org](http://www.uk-cpa.org)



# BORDER OFFICIALS' CHECKLIST

## PROTECT ATHLETES FROM TRAFFICKING THROUGH SPORT

### THE ATHLETE

- ? What can the athlete tell you about their destination and participation in sport?
- ? Is the athlete appropriately dressed for the season, route or destination?
- ? Is the athlete travelling with someone who claims to be their parent or guardian, but in fact does not have a relationship with them?
- ? Can the athlete speak for themselves? Or does someone else control what information is being shared?

### THE DOCUMENTS

- ? What type of visa is the athlete traveling with and is it the appropriate type?
- ? Is the invitation letter from the sports organisation authentic? And can the letter be verified?
- ? What other documentation does the athlete have that shows evidence of a sport opportunity?

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT TRAFFICKING THROUGH SPORT

- ? Follow your organisation's anti-trafficking procedures, and check the signs of trafficking with your colleagues and supervisors.
- ? Contact the relevant Sport Federation to check the opportunity is real and confirm the details.
- ? Inform the police.
- ? Get in contact with the National Olympic Committee, relevant Sport Federation, and other key stakeholders in your country.
- ? Learn more about how trafficking happens through sport ahead of the 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games and other large sporting events.

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**PROTECT CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES.**  
**JOIN THE TEAM TO #ENDSPORTTRAFFICKING**

## BORDER OFFICIALS

# DID YOU KNOW? HUMAN TRAFFICKING CAN HAPPEN THROUGH SPORT.



### PROTECT ATHLETES FROM EXPLOITATION AND PREVENT TRAFFICKING AT BORDERS

- ✓ Learn more about how trafficking happens through sport: How does it start, and what are the key signs and indicators?
- ✓ Register and attend training workshops.
- ✓ Scrutinise the evidence of the sport opportunity.
- ✓ Contact the National Olympic Committee or relevant sport federation to verify the sport opportunity.

**JOIN  
THE  
TEAM**



**#ENDSPORTTRAFFICKING**

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[www.mission89.org](http://www.mission89.org)  
[www.uk-cpa.org/modernslavery](http://www.uk-cpa.org/modernslavery)





# Reports & Further Reading

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Below you will find a list of reports and other reading that may be helpful in furthering learning around the issue of human trafficking through sport.

Dr James Esson

***Playing the victim? Human trafficking, African youth, and geographies of structural inequality***

Rights Lab

***The problem of sports trafficking: setting an agenda for future investigation and action***



COMMONWEALTH  
PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSOCIATION UK 



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