

MAY 2022

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Newsletter

In this issue:

QUEEN'S SPEECH

The Queen's Speech outlined tackling modern slavery and human trafficking as a priority, as well as better targeting those that facilitate and profit from it.

DR MONIQUE EMSER

From the grassroots to the corporate level, Dr Monique Emser discusses the issues of human trafficking through sport through systemic perspectives.

PHILIP HUNTER

We speak to the Head of the Labour Migration Unit at the IOM on why governments and public authorities should join.

RICHARD OMBONO

We speak to the Director of Programmes of Child Helpline International, a global network hearing out victims of sports trafficking, and share what their call collaboration.

"Child Helpline International wants to take this opportunity to launch a call for action to address child trafficking in sport"

Richard Ombono, Child Helpline International

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CONTENTS

- 1 [THE QUEEN'S SPEECH:
TACKLING MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING](#)

- 2 [ACADEMIC IN THE FIELD:
DR MONIQUE EMSER ON SPORTS TRAFFICKING](#)

- 5 [CHILD HELPLINE INTERNATIONAL:
RICHARD OMBONO ON THE GLOBAL NETWORK FOR VICTIMS](#)

- 9 [INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION FOR MIGRATION:
PHILIP HUNTER ON WHY GOVERNMENTS SHOULD JOIN](#)

- 12 [RESOURCES:
USE OUR COMMUNICATION PRODUCTS IN YOUR ROLE TO ADDRESS
SPORTS TRAFFICKING](#)

Queen's Speech on Tackling Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking



Prince Charles delivering the Queen's Speech on the State Opening of Parliament, 10th May 2022. Photo credit: REUTERS

Beginning of a Parliamentary Year: New priorities ahead

In Her Majesty's place, Prince Charles stood in for the Queen for the State Opening of the UK Parliament on 10th May 2022. He outlined the UK Government's priorities for the parliamentary year ahead.

Alluding to tackling modern slavery and human trafficking within the Queen's Speech, the Modern Slavery Bill was specifically referenced in the [Queen's Speech Briefing Notes](#). It details that the Modern Slavery Bill will seek to "strengthen the protection and support for victims of human trafficking and modern slavery"

as well as "increase the accountability of companies and other organisations to drive our modern slavery from their supply chains."

The Bill takes a victim-centered focus. It will grant powers to restrict the movements of unconvicted individuals who are at risk of committing human trafficking offences; as well as requiring increased transparency from businesses, with a turnover of £36 million or more, to publish the steps they have taken to prevent modern slavery in their supply chains and operations.

Academic in the field: Dr Monique Emser



Photo credit: Dr Monique Emser at Freedom Generation

From the grassroots to the corporate Level: Dr Monique Emser on trafficking from a systemic outlook

How did you first hear about the issue of human trafficking through sport?

It depends on how one defines trafficking through sport (as the concept of sports trafficking is complex and multifaceted). I am passionate about human rights issues that affect children, and the dark side of sport has shown us how important it is to protect young athletes.

I first became aware of the issue of using sporting events to traffic vulnerable individuals for diverse purposes in 2008/2009 when we were preparing to host the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa.

Our formal strategy at the time focused almost exclusively on sexual exploitation around mega-sporting events. While much was done to prevent and suppress this, we neglected to focus on other forms of exploitation associated with trafficking through sport. In recent years, we've become more aware of this issue.

What I do find worrisome, is despite a lot of anecdotal evidence suggesting that this form of trafficking is taking place, we don't see much translating into practice to combat this.

A major issue is the dearth of knowledge and research on trafficking through sport in many parts of the world (with the exception of seminal studies investigating the phenomenon in football).

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I am grateful that there are organisations, like Mission 89 (an NGO which deals with issues pertaining to sports trafficking), that raise awareness of this issue at the global level.

It was also through them that I became fully aware of the depth and pervasiveness of trafficking through sport, and this caused me to refocus my research into understanding how this issue may affect my own country.

How much safeguarding or anti-trafficking policy is being implemented by international sporting organisations, particularly around upcoming sporting events?

There are numerous safeguarding policies available, and some of which also incorporate anti-trafficking measures.

However, there seem to be systemic issues with the implementation and enforcement of these policies, as well as the way international sporting body regulations are structured, which often take them outside the realm of the 'normal' legal system.

This is highly problematic where abuse and exploitation occur, and some may argue is rampant (as recent trafficking and abuse scandals in women's football, taekwondo and gymnastics would suggest).

Young athletes are susceptible to abuse and exploitation that often goes unreported or inadequately investigated where environments of seeming impunity have been created in the sporting world and flawed reporting and oversight structures exist.

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"We need to ask ourselves ... Are the closed systems that exist in sport a hindrance to preventing abuse and exploitation, protecting victims and ensuring access to justice? ... How can we find a synergistic, multi-stakeholder approach to better empower victims to seek assistance and reduce vulnerability?"

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In relation to upcoming sporting events, international sporting organisations do seek to safeguard young and aspirant athletes.

The issues lie with how these policies are implemented and how reports of abuse and exploitation are dealt with. The issue of accountability often comes into play. So, while international organisations may have safeguarding policies in place, they do not always succeed in practice – and this is something that requires more attention from sport regulators and policymakers.

We need to ask ourselves and delve more deeply into two points: Are the closed systems that exist in sport a hindrance to preventing abuse and exploitation, protecting victims and ensuring access to justice?

How can we find a synergistic, multi-stakeholder approach to better empower victims to seek assistance and reduce vulnerability?

In what ways can we raise awareness of the issue, so stakeholders at both grassroots and corporate level are made aware of the issue?

As with the wider phenomenon of trafficking, victims' voices should lead the way. We need to speak more to survivors and share their stories. This is also fundamental to ensuring a victim-centred and evidence-based response to trafficking through sport.

Sporting bodies should host awareness campaigns at the grassroots level, particularly in the run-up to major sporting events. Traffickers prey on the hopes and aspirations of young people, and sporting events often provide an enabling environment. Such campaigns need to be targeted and accessible to those most susceptible to trafficking.

In terms of the corporate level, not only is awareness-raising important but accountability too. The issue of trafficking through sport needs to be aligned with potentially harmful business practices that may foment this form of trafficking, the available safeguarding and anti-trafficking policies that may exist, and a better understanding that positions of power (such as those who directly interact with young athletes) often attract predators.

Leveraging technology and social media are two effective ways of targeting stakeholders - particularly at the grassroots level. Viral challenges and ambassador campaigns, for instance, can make an indelible impression. Well-designed awareness campaigns that generate discussion typically have more of

an impact. In order to consolidate awareness and understanding on the issue, awareness campaigns and strategies need to extend from focused campaigns around major events to more general messaging.

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“...Sensitisation of key stakeholders is vital. Events and workshops like the one hosted by CPA UK are incredibly worthwhile.”
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Some countries have added the issue of trafficking to the curriculum in schools as part of their life orientation programmes and allow for targeted awareness raising by anti-trafficking NGOs.

Similar awareness events could be extended to the club level. Common sites of exploitation should also be targeted, as many victims of trafficking are not aware of their basic rights, or those as a victim of trafficking. Some may not even be aware that the exploitation they are subjected to amounts to trafficking or how to report it. Free hotlines and reporting apps are also useful.

Awareness campaigns need to be carefully curated to have a meaningful impact on the target audience. At the corporate level sensitisation of key stakeholders is vital. Events and workshops like the one hosted by CPA UK are incredibly worthwhile.

Child Helpline International: The Global Network that Listens



Photo credit: Richard Ombono at Global Giving

Richard Ombono, the Director of Programmes at CHI, speaks of first-hand knowledge of both tragedy and triumph.

How did you first hear about the issue of human trafficking through sport?

When I was still playing sports, I often heard people talking about trafficking in sport. For me, and for most of my friends and colleagues in sports, our dearest wish was to make it as professionals and become recognised for our achievements.

This strong desire to succeed attracted a lot of attention from sports agents, many of whom would make all sorts of promise to help us make our dreams come true.

We'd sometimes hear stories about someone who had suffered from trafficking, but my own first experience of this was through one of my relatives with whom I used to play football. He was a very

promising football player, and he was due to travel to Europe to try out for various European football clubs. The family pooled together the necessary amount of cash needed for him to be able to fund his travel and other expenses.

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"We'd sometimes hear stories about someone who suffered from trafficking, but my own experience of this was through one of my relatives with whom I used to play football."

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A few months later, we'd had no news back from him, how his trip was going, or if he'd had any success. His agent was no longer available to answer any questions.

We heard from him later that he'd been abandoned in Europe, without his passport and with no money, and he'd been forced to find work just to survive.

We did everything possible to bring him back to Cameroon, but he has been traumatised about his experience ever since, and has never played again.

What is Child Helpline International?

How does it work to tackle the issue of trafficking through sport?

Child Helpline International is a global network of child helplines, currently with 167 members in 140 countries and territories around the world.

We coordinate information, viewpoints, knowledge, and data from our child helpline members, and from partners and other external sources.

This exceptional resource is used to help and support child protection systems globally, regionally, and nationally, to help our members advocate for the rights of children and amplify their voices.

Child helplines are a key mechanism to protect children from violence and to provide mental health support, guidance and easy access to accurate information. Child helplines are a low-threshold, free

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and accessible support mechanism that can be accessed by children directly through different contact modes such as phone, chat and outreach.

Child helplines provide support, guidance, information, and referrals to other organisations and agencies where required.

Child helplines also collect reliable data for trend identification and to inform advocacy, policy and practice.

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"Child helplines provide support, guidance, information, and referrals..."

Child helplines also collect reliable data for trend identification and to inform advocacy, policy, and practice"

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Does the organisation become more visible around mega sporting events?

As you know, big sporting events come with high risk and incidence of child sexual exploitation, and we see an increase in the trafficking of children and young people.

Child helplines have a role to play, both in raising awareness of these risks and functioning as a reporting tool.

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For example, during the FIFA World Cup in South Africa 2010, our member Childline South Africa, with the support from other key child protection stakeholders in the country, developed a programme to safeguard children and young people throughout the competition, by making sure that extra resources were allocated to enable the child helpline to operate 24/7.

Our member Childline South Africa made sure that there were more trained counsellors available to help and support children and young people, as well as their families and caregivers.

They also helped to manage three Fan Fest areas together with partners such as UNICEF and Child Welfare South Africa.

Additionally, they deployed chat room counselling services throughout this period so that children and young people had as many opportunities as possible to contact Childline South Africa.

At the global level, Child Helpline International collects data on child trafficking with the aim of advocating around this particular topic.

In what way is Child Helpline International collaborating with policymakers to ensure the voices of victims and survivor advocates are being included in the policymaking process?

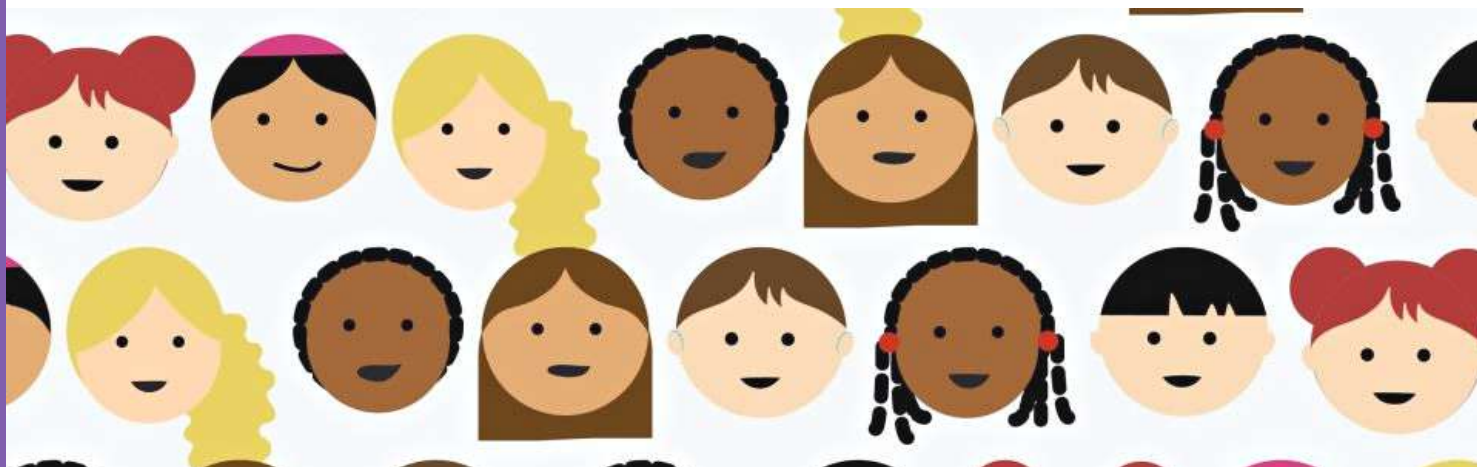
Child helplines all over the world are strongly engaged in making it possible for all children and young people to be heard and to be given support and information by professionals on any specific issue they are facing.

Together with other stakeholders, we can do much more to better protect children and young people susceptible to being trafficked in sports.

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Credit: Child Helpline International, Child Helpline Starter Kit

Namely, we could be reinforcing the collaboration between sports organisations and federations at the national, regional, and global level.

We could also increase raising awareness about child helplines as well as how to contact them.

But it is also important to develop specific data on the phenomena as well as to conduct research to better understand how trafficking is being carried out so that we can adapt our responses to it as well.

Collaboration with regional and global sports federations is especially crucial during big sporting events.

More specifically, Child Helpline International wants to take this opportunity to launch a call for action to address child trafficking in sport.

We are calling upon all stakeholders to:

- Set up child helplines in countries where they are not yet established
- Improve collaboration with national, regional and global sports federations
- Allocate sufficient resources (human, material and financial) to support the operations of child helplines including the development of awareness raising materials, especially during sporting events
- Develop specific training modules and SOP for child helpline counsellors to address human trafficking (in sport)
- Support the implementation of more cross-border cooperation between child helplines
- Include child helpline contact information in all awareness-raising materials produced for sporting events.

Inter-governmental Movement on Migration: IOM



Philip Hunter, the Head of the Labour Migration Unit, speaks on why governments should join their Network.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organisation that supports 174 member states in promoting orderly migration, for improved migration management and benefit for all.

Philip Hunter serves as the Head of the Labour Migration Unit at IOM headquarters in Geneva, where his focus includes migrant worker protection, ethical recruitment as well as the private sector and supply chain engagement. Philip is the primary focal point for the IRIS Global Policy Network. Prior to joining IOM, he served in a variety of capacities at the International Labour Organisation and Verité, a non-profit that promotes safe migration and the rights of migrant workers in the global economy.

What is the International Recruitment Integrity System (IRIS) Global Policy Network (GNP)?

The IRIS Global Policy Network (GPN) was launched in December 2020 as an IOM Member State driven collaboration that brings together policy makers, regulators and government practitioners to:

- (1) discuss key challenges related to cross-border recruitment of migrant workers;
- (2) identify and co-develop solutions to recruitment-related challenges; and

- (3) highlight promising practices in the fields of policy, regulation, enforcement, and migrant protection.

The GPN creates a space for governments to discuss and address the challenges they encounter in regulating recruitment and protecting migrant workers.

It is a vehicle for dialogue and exchange but through its link to the IRIS: Ethical Recruitment Initiative is also solutions- and impact-oriented.

Who is currently involved in the Network?

The Network has more than 50 members from around the world, representing both national and sub-national authorities as well as regional and intergovernmental agencies.

It adopts a “whole of government” approach, meaning that members represent relevant Ministries and Departments involved in recruitment regulation, labour migration, and migrant worker protection.

These include Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Immigration, Justice, Interior, Labour as well as Development Cooperation, including consular authorities, inspection services, counter-trafficking agencies, public employment services, business licensing and registration authorities, etc.

Why should governments and public authorities join the GPN?

Membership in the GPN is free of charge and helps governments implement their commitment to safe, orderly, and regular migration while strengthening migration governance.

The GPN serves to introduce members to leading-edge, innovative, and tested solutions to the common challenges that policymakers and regulators face around the world.

The GPN offers a space for governments to openly discuss the challenges and opportunities they face in regulating recruitment, using Thematic Working Groups to examine specific issues such as

recruitment fees and costs, the role of bilateral cooperation, recruitment in temporary migration schemes, etc.

These working groups allow members to learn from their peers, share their perspectives, and co-develop strategies, solutions, and good practices.

What other support and resources are there for governments on the topic of recruitment?

Linked to the GPN, the IOM has developed a global, modular training programme for public authorities to support greater awareness and capacity on topics related to recruitment regulation and migrant protection. This includes thematic modules on licensing, inspections, the role of consular officials and attachés, bilateral cooperation, among others.

Reinforcing this, the flagship IOM resource on the topic is The Montreal Recommendations on Recruitment: A Road Map Towards Better Regulation, which captures the good practices discussed during the first-ever global conference on recruitment regulation held in Montréal, Canada in June 2019.

More information about the Network and these resources can be found on the following website:

<https://policynetwork.iom.int/>


You can also join the conversation in the GPN LinkedIn Group or you can reach out directly to phunter@iom.int

Resources

To address the issue of human trafficking through sport, CPA UK and Mission 89 have teamed up to produce tailored resources for parliamentarians, the public, and border officials. These resources are completely free to download and easily printable. They can be used at any time, at your own discretion. You will find advice on distributing these materials in the pages below.


We ask that you keep intact the CPA UK, Commonwealth-in-Chair, and Mission 89 logos on the leaflets and posters.

Resources to share with the public

 [Animation video](#)

 [Leaflet for the general public](#)

 [Poster for the general public](#)


 [E-Banner](#)

 [Workshop Resource Pack](#)




For Parliamentarians


 [Leaflet for parliamentarians](#)

 [Poster for parliamentarians](#)



For Border Officials

 [Leaflet for border officials](#)

 [Poster for border officials](#)





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