

## The inaugural seminar of the Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking project

London, 24 November 2011

### Participants

45 participants attended the seminar of which there were 16 parliamentarians, including 10 MPs from the UK; 2 MPs from Romania, and one parliamentarian each from Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal. This reflects the project principle that the largest group of MPs will come from the host country. 13 NGOs representatives attended the seminar; 6 of them from the UK, and one each from Austria, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania. Additionally, 2 police officers from Germany and the UK also took part in the event. Other participants were parliamentary clerks and assistants to MPs, interpreters, parliamentary staff (IPU) and project staff.

### Outcomes

16 parliamentarians constitute 16% of the final target – to directly reach 100 parliamentarians. They came from 6 countries - 40% of the final target of 15 countries.

### Venue

The all-day event was held in the House of Commons, in Committee Room 8, Committee Corridor. The lunch, hosted by Baroness Butler-Sloss, Co-Chair APPG on Human Trafficking, was served in the Attlee Room in the House of Lords. The afternoon session was held in the IPU Room.

### Programme

There were two main themes envisioned for the seminar's programme. The first one - **'The concept of prevention in the EU Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings: theory to practice'** was delivered in a keynote speech, by *Aidan McQuade*, director of Anti-Slavery International. That was followed by a discussion on the shared international obligations and issues facing governments tackling the trafficking of adults and children. The second thematic area explored during the afternoon session focused on **prevention of human trafficking and sports events, with case studies presented from ECPAT Germany and ECPAT Austria** with regard to their experience of the 2006 FIFA World Cup and Euro 2008 football championships. This looked at potential challenges facing the UK with regards to its hosting of the 2012 Olympic Games.



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The all-day event, held in the House of Commons, was opened by Baroness Butler-Sloss, who chaired a morning session “What Parliamentarians must do” and introduced opening remarks by *Peter Bone* MP entitled **‘How can parliamentarians build up parliamentary groups as part of an EU parliamentary network?’** It was followed by a discussion.

Also, the morning session programme included a panel discussion and Q&A on **‘How parliamentarians can help establish awareness parliamentary groups in their own parliaments’**. This panel was fronted by Valeriu Zgonea MP, Romania, Ryszard Kalisz MP, Poland, Peter Bone MP, UK, Senator Mihaela Popa, Romania, Senator Alberto Maritati, Italy, Maria Paula Cardoso MP, Portugal, and Athanassios Alevras MP, Greece. The panel was chaired by Anthony Steen, Chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation.

Afternoon programme was divided into three main sections:

1. Lessons learned - two case studies from Austria (presented by Ms Astrid Winkler, ECPAT Austria) and Germany (presented by Ms Mechtild Maurer, ECPAT Germany) on measures of prevention against human trafficking in the context of major sports events.
2. The case studies were followed up by the guided discussion on measures incorporated into preparation for London 2012 Olympic Games).
3. Additionally, there was a session on the areas of prevention that most need addressing, featuring speeches from Klara Skrivankova of Anti-Slavery International, Margot James MP and Heike Rudat, Head of Human Trafficking in the Criminal Investigation Department of Berlin, Germany. This was chaired by Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne.

The final session of the day focused on **“How business and parliamentarians can work more closely together to combat human trafficking”**, which was presided over by Michael Connarty MP and presented by Howard Rosen, the President of the Council of British Chambers of Commerce in Europe.

The seminar was concluded by Anthony Steen, Chairman of Human Trafficking Foundation and wrapped up by Stana Buchowska, PAHT Project Coordinator.

### Networking reception

Was held in the **Intercontinental Hotel, Park Lane**, London and was attended by **28** participants.

After reception the international participants were transferred by coach to their hotel **Park Plaza County Hall** and further assisted by project staff.



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## Outcomes

Many outcomes will only become fully evident once the project is further developed e.g. a raised level of knowledge and awareness amongst decision makers and the general public, increased support for EU Directive and other anti-trafficking initiatives, enhanced cross-border and international cooperation, a network of MPs across Europe

However, the London seminar achieved the following:

### Creating a raised awareness amongst participants

- Parliamentarians have extra resources and knowledge with which to tackle trafficking – including practical information about establishing groups. Debate centred on comparing different systems of groups (e.g. using the contrasting examples of the UK, Italy and Romania) so as not to impose the UK system on others.
- Parliamentarians gathered further information about THB – especially with regard to prevention, sports events and the EU Directive – which will inform work in their legislatures through better informed questions and interventions.
- Parliamentarians requested an online toolkit to provide information on THB to parliamentarians involved in the project. As a consequence, the project staff have developed the project website to create a parliamentary resource centre with useful documents and presentations from the seminar.

### Increased cooperation between MPs, NGOs and public authorities

- Parliamentarians shared views and experiences with leading NGOs from 7 EU countries. The forum for an exchange of ideas helped to start greater cooperation between parliamentarians and NGOs.
- Each parliamentarian who attended commented upon the usefulness of the seminar and remarked that they intend to attend future events. Parliamentarians from Romania, Poland and Greece have already sent details of other parliamentary colleagues who will travel with them to the next event. Other participants will inform their colleagues about the network.
- Parliamentarians from Italy, Poland, Portugal and Romania have offered their political and organisational support for future project events



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## General

- Holding the inaugural event in the UK Parliament has made it easier to secure the use of the Dutch Senate for the following event
- By inviting NGO representatives from across Europe to the first event (notably ECPAT representatives), we will be able to work closely with future events in their countries where we do not already have strong parliamentary links (e.g. in Germany).

## Conclusions

After the success of this seminar, PAHT looks ahead to the Good Practice Exchange to be held on 26 January 2012 in The Hague, the Netherlands. The London seminar was a very good introduction to the Parliamentarians against Human Trafficking project. The number of 16 MPs, both from the UK and other European countries, who are interested in working to raise awareness of human trafficking and to prevent it, is really encouraging. This was the first of 11 events planned across Europe that will enable parliamentarians to learn good practice, share information and expand their contact with specialist NGOs and business leaders in Europe.



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