



Submission No 75

Inquiry into Slavery, Slavery-like conditions and People Trafficking

Organisation: Australian Federal Police – Supplementary submission

PARLIAMENTARY JOINT COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE

Question one

1. CHAIR: You said community groups and then you said schools. To what degree do you interact with South-East Asian community groups in Australia?

Federal Agent Cullen: We have a number of entities within the AFP that engage community groups, and they may be ethnically specific community groups. But also, more broadly through our direct engagement with a range of NGOs and their outreach to communities, we provide information sessions and pamphlets, and attend discussion forums and panels et cetera, to raise awareness of the issue.

CHAIR: Could you provide us on notice with a list of groups that you have interacted with?

The answer to the Chair's question is as follows:

The AFP actively seeks out opportunities to connect with NGOs and community organisations for collaborative approaches to prevention, disruption, intelligence gathering and harm reduction to combat people trafficking in all its forms.

Recent examples of the AFP's engagement with NGOs are as follows:

- In April 2011, the AFP hosted a collaborative awareness exercise, inviting 30 participants from 19 agencies including:
 - the Fair Work Ombudsman, DIAC, FACHSIA, Centrelink, and
 - Anti-Slavery Project, ACRATH, Red Cross and Scarlett Alliance.
- In June 2012, the AFP, in conjunction with the Australian Institute of Criminology, hosted a discussion exercise titled *Actions to Reduce Demand*, with over 40 participants from government, industry, unions and non-government organisations. The focus of the exercise was on reducing the demand and supply side elements of human trafficking and a number of collective actions were proposed.

Two recent examples of the AFP's engagement with community groups with a view to develop relationships and facilitate awareness of new offences are as follows:

In November 2012 and 8 March 2013, AFP Sydney Office's CT Community Liaison team hosted informal liaison sessions with members from the Sydney Muslim community. At the March session a presentation on the commencement of the forced marriage offences was provided and issues surrounding those offences were discussed.

The list of groups with whom the AFP has interacted is not exhaustive and is provided below:

- Affinity Intercultural Foundation
- Anti-Slavery Australia
- Arabic Community Liaison Officer - Canterbury Boys HS & Kogarah HS
- Auburn Community Development Network
- Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans Victoria (ACRATH)
- Australian Council for Women's Affairs
- Australian Islamic College
- Australian Muslim Women's Association
- Cheltenham Girls School, Sydney – part of a panel
- Consumer Affairs Victoria (CAV) – Sex Work and Rooming House Team
- Daar Aisha Shariah College
- Family Relationship Centre, Dee Why, Sydney
- Federal Youth Advisory Council
- Islamic Council of NSW
- Immigrants Women's Health service Fairfield (Muslim)
- Islamic Science Research Academy
- Islamic Women's Welfare Association
- Korean Consul Sydney
- Lebanese Muslim Association Women's network
- Muslim Women's National Network Australia
- Olivetree Women's Network
- Project Respect
- Red Cross
- Resource Health & Education in the Sex Industry (RhED)
- Salvation Army
- Shakti Community Council Inc
- St George Muslim Community
- Streets of Freedom
- Sudanese Social Society
- Sydney Hospital – social workers/doctors
- Thai Consul Sydney
- 'Think Act Change' – social group – part of a panel
- United Muslim Association Sisterhood
- United Muslim Women's Association
- Victoria Police – Sex Industry Coordination Unit (SICU)
- World Vision Australia
- Youthink Magazine Online

Question two

2. Mr ADAMS: I understand that in world terms the numbers of people that are being trafficked is enormous. I have not got any figures in my head but you may have some. The connections between our agencies and the world agencies is pretty significant. Would you like to elaborate on that and tell us how you have those connections?

Cmdr Hurst: I think what we can talk about there is: the AFP has our international network. We are covered in 29 countries. We have a very large presence in South-East Asia, of course. We have very strong relationships with our law enforcement partners overseas that are working in this space, and obviously they have a very strong interest as well, because it is some of their citizens who are being trafficked and are being subject to this. We have done a lot of work offshore, either ourselves or through our liaison officer network, to work with our law enforcement partners. As Jen has already indicated as well, we have done a lot of training with overseas law enforcement agencies in this area, so we have some natural connections that we have already built up and some fairly solid partnerships in that area. From my perspective, I think, we are fairly well covered in that space.

Mr ADAMS: Do you have any figures? Say from Asia?

Cmdr Hurst: In relation to the problem?

Mr ADAMS: Yes.

Cmdr Hurst: I would have to take that on notice and come back to you, sorry.

Mr ADAMS: It might be handy if we had some, I think. (p. 4)

The answer to Mr Adam's question is as follows:

The AFP's understanding of the size of the trafficking problem in Australia and surrounding regions is informed by research conducted by bodies such as the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

AIC research has focused on understanding the nature and extent of trafficking in persons in Australia and surrounding regions. The following reports by the Australian Institute of Criminology contain some statistics on people trafficking and related issues in Southeast Asia and the AFP would refer the Committee to these reports. (See attached extract from the 2011 report which reviews some of the trends and issues in the region.)

[AIC Trafficking in Persons monitoring report – December 2008](#)

[Trafficking in persons monitoring report: January 2009 –June 2011](#)

The International Organization for Migration IOM developed and implemented the Counter-Trafficking Module (CTM), which is the largest global database containing primary data on victims of trafficking. The AIC has collaborated with IOM in the analysis of aspects that data.

The AFP notes AIC's statement in its submission to the Committee that accurate information and data on many aspects of trafficking in persons is difficult to obtain. This can be explained by the clandestine nature of the crime; the lack of domestic, regional and international data collection standards; and variances in domestic legislation.

In terms of the provenance of persons trafficked to Australia, the AFP can confirm that victims originate mostly from Southeast Asian countries. Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines are primary places of origin for Australian victims of trafficking. Smaller numbers have also come from South Korea, Indonesia, China and India.