

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
**BUDGET ESTIMATES 2017**

**Australian Human Rights Commission**

**Question No. BE17-079**

**Senator Abetz asked the following question on 25 May 2017:**

Senator ABETZ: Can you take on notice for me, please, how many speeches on human trafficking have been undertaken and how many education campaigns and things of that matter? I will turn to one quick final issue. The president of the Human Rights Commission is quoted in The Australian on Thursday, 11 May as having said about Ms Abdel-Magied's deeply offensive Facebook post that it was a 'relatively minor incident'. I wonder whether the president was reported correctly and whether that is actually her view.

Prof. Triggs: I will have to take that on notice and see exactly what was said. I certainly would not trust the reporting in that newspaper for being accurate. I think it may be the gist of what I was saying, if not precise. The point was—

**The response to the honourable Senator's question is as follows:**

The Commission undertakes and participates in a range of initiatives addressing human trafficking, slavery and labour exploitation including:

- Representation on the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group on Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights led by DFAT;
- Participation in the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery led by the Attorney-General's Department;
- Participation in the Labour Exploitation Working Group (a sub-group of the National Roundtable);
- Working with a pro bono partner on research on Australian company reporting under the UK Modern Slavery Act and the role of Australian financial services in addressing modern slavery, as part of our contribution to considerations of a Modern Slavery Act for Australia;
- We made a submission to the 2016 Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Inquiry into Human Trafficking;
- In 2016 we held the third Dialogue on Business and Human Rights in partnership with the Global Compact Network of Australia, which included a focus on addressing trafficking and slavery in supply chains;
- Also in 2016 we co-convened with HRLC a civil society roundtable on implementation of the UNGPs, which included consideration of human trafficking and slavery issues.

In relation to the Senator's question about the accuracy of the report by the Australian, the answer is yes.