

FEBRUARY 2022

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Newsletter

In this issue:

10 STEPS & QUESTIONS

Learn from our infographic of Dr Esson's 10-Step Guide to Football Trafficking, as well as the practical questions you can ask to tackle trafficking at every step.

WATCH OUR TRAFFICKING VIDEO

We have launched an informative animation about how trafficking happens and how to prevent it. The animation is suitable for all ages and is accompanied by a guide on how to use all our resources.

HOW TO GUIDE ON HOW TO USE OUR PRODUCTS

We have produced a guide on what our communication products are designed to do, with ideas of with whom you can share them.

"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."

Ambassador Ibukun Olatidoye

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Speaking with: Ambassador Ibukun Olatido



**Through an Ambassador's lens:
Read the Insights of Ambassador Ibukun Olatido throughout his extensive career, as well as his recommendations to High Commissioners.**

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.

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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 a precursor 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 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?

New Communication Product: Animation Video



 [Share the animation from YouTube.](#)

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

This video is suitable for young audiences, as well as those who will rely on visual information rather than written or verbal information, such as those with hearing difficulties or those who cannot speak English.

Please share this animated video with:

Schools

Families

Teachers

Doctors

Border Officials

Police Stations

Sports Coaches

Sports Ground Staff

Businesses & Charities

Community Leaders

Social Care Workers

Hospitality Staff

Colleges & Universities

Social or Religious Groups

Security Personnel

Leaflets and Posters to Stop Sports Trafficking



CPA UK has teamed up with Mission 89 - expert consultants on sports trafficking in the world - 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.

General Public

[Click here to download the Leaflet](#) (2 pages). [Click here to download the Poster](#) (1 page).

Parliamentarians

[Click here to download the Leaflet](#) (2 pages). [Click here to download the Poster](#) (1 page).

Border Officials

[Click here to download the Leaflet](#) (2 pages). [Click here to download the Poster](#) (1 page).

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

Guide: How to use our Communication Products

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

Guide: How to use our Communication Products

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

Guide: How to use our Communication Products

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

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 our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion priorities which involve supporting and guiding our teams to embed inclusive and diverse behaviours 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.

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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 on a campaign to raise awareness of exploitation and human trafficking, which we hope to give more details about next year.

“
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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 organisers of these events to be vocal and proactive to raise awareness so that people are educated and in turn more vigilant.

10-Step Guide to Football Trafficking

Dr James Esson of Loughborough University has conceptualised 10 steps in football trafficking. This is an important piece of research that can be vitally useful in understanding what human trafficking through sport looks like. You will find this as an infographic below.

STEP 1: Talent Identification

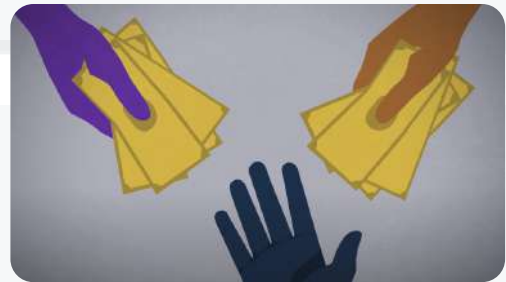
The first step begins when an intermediary claiming to be a football agent or a talent scout identifies a player in a match or trial. They offer the player the opportunity to be signed by a foreign club.

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.



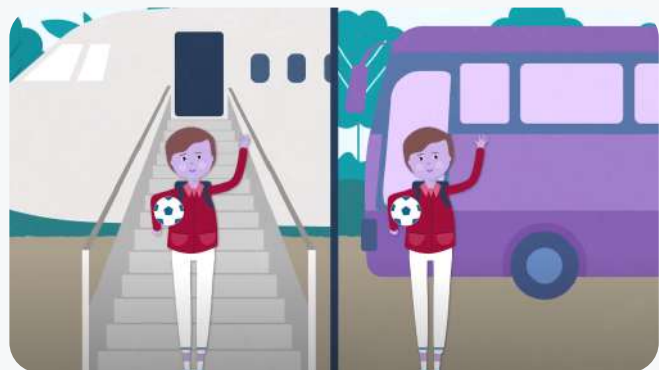
STEP 3: Financial Exchange

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: Abandoned

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.



Questions to ask: 10-Step Guide to Football Trafficking

During Actions to Prevent Human Trafficking Through Sport Workshop, Dr Esson discussed the 10 steps in football trafficking in detail and provided some thoughts about how we can think about preventing sports trafficking. The infographic below is a summary of some questions raised by Dr Esson on how we can address the 10 steps.

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?



Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, UK Branch
Westminster Hall
SW1A 0AA

E: cpauk@parliament.uk