

OCTOBER 2021

Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Newsletter

In this issue:

BARONESS YOUNG FROM THE UK HOUSE OF LORDS

What can Parliamentarians do?

TALKING TO:

HON. JARED OKELO MP

We talk to the Kenyan MP who is tackling modern slavery at the grassroots.

ANTI-SLAVERY RESEARCH WITH DR AKILAH FROM THE RIGHTS LAB

See the research which powers the anti-slavery effort.

CPA UK'S INTERNATIONAL CONSULTATION

The opportunity to collaborate across the Commonwealth is here.

"Several parliamentarians identified abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices as a mechanism for trafficking"

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An Interview with Baroness Young



Peer and Parliamentarian: Baroness Young on Modern Slavery

What can Parliamentarians do ahead of mega sporting events to help prevent Modern Slavery through sport?

That's a really big question, because I think part of it is that we need to raise awareness among parliaments, as I am not convinced that Members are aware of what can drastically go wrong in sport.

I also think it is about MPs checking in their constituencies, particularly those that surround Birmingham, where the Games are taking place, and making sure where possible they can liaise with local authorities who have a responsibility for checking out modern forms of slavery.

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As the co-chair of the APPG on Sport, Modern Slavery and Human Rights, what role do you see APPGs playing in eradicating Modern Slavery in the run up to mega sporting events?

The APPG on Sport, Modern Slavery and Human Rights was formed because of a concern that was beginning to grow around the World Cup in Qatar, and other incidents happening in and through sport. Sport and human rights are really under-served, and we are just getting to grips with it.

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”

With this APPG, the idea is to raise awareness among parliamentarians but also people outside and give a space to people who are engaged with trying to illuminate human rights abuses. We discuss a range of topics that include Modern Slavery and its different forms. It includes human trafficking, supply chain issues with sportswear, sessions on equality, women in sport and racism in sport.

There are a range of activities which the group can cover, but importantly, we must make sure that these abuses are not routinely happening within the form of entertainment that we love.

Why do you think that many countries around the commonwealth are struggling to tackle Modern Slavery, despite the rising awareness on the issue?

The reason why countries struggle with the issue of Modern Slavery is because it is so huge. When we are talking worldwide, there are 40 million people whose lives are being destroyed by one form of Modern Slavery or another, so it is a huge task to think of, particularly when it happens in virtually every country around the world.

Therefore, legislation needs to be produced, but legislation is no good if you cannot implement it. It then needs to be monitored and made sure that the relevant punishments are ready to hand out. But a lot of it is unseen and hidden away, so it is easier to deal with the most extreme cases that come into view, but not those that are hidden away. For example, forced labour in industries like construction is more covert, where people are hired on a piecemeal basis, on a casual contact, making it harder to keep track of them. The way in which Modern Slavery operates makes it difficult to combat.

The good news, if I can put it that way, is that what works best in my experience, is an alliance and collaboration between Governments, NGOs, businesses and voices in those contexts. Once these groups of people have come together, you can find ways of mitigating the worst aspects of Modern Slavery.

Commemorating Anti-Slavery Day

UK Human Trafficking Foundation: What is Anti-Slavery Day?

“Anti-Slavery Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery, and encourage government, local authorities, companies, charities and individuals to do what they can to address the problem.

It was created by the Anti-Slavery Day Act, a Private Members Bill introduced by Anthony Steen CBE, now Chair of the UK Human Trafficking Foundation”

To commemorate this day, the UK Human Trafficking Foundation held an awards ceremony recognising those in the public,

private, and voluntary sectors who have gone beyond expectations in fighting Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking within their field.

View the winners of each nomination [here](#).

Speaking With: Hon. Jared Okelo MP



Raising the Red Card to Trafficking: Hon. Jared Okelo MP on Human Trafficking Through Sport in Kenya

How did you become aware of the issue of trafficking through sport?

Trafficking is interlinked with slavery - and growing up as a kid - you know about slavery and how football can be used as a means to traffic people. Sometimes, people realize that the contract they were given is not what they were expecting. When such issues happen, they are put on our radar.

Although trafficking is a common term, I have a deep knowledge due to the UK Modern Slavery project with CPA UK in 2018.

I come from a region where football is loved and everyone wants to play it, with people playing the sport as young as three years old. Women's football is also becoming

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increasingly common, so when we talk about trafficking through sport, we need to think of both genders.

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As well as this, constituents have come to my office asking if a particular agent is eligible enough to take their children to Europe. They want me to do a background check. Every organization in Kenya has to be registered. You can therefore find out if it is a legitimate organization or agent. You then have to take a further step and look at their revenue, and their tax regime.

It is very important to carry that out for due diligence. Sometimes they will visit me when it is too late; after they have paid money or been abandoned. This is when they ask for background information, even if they have already committed to an agent.

I am at an advantage compared to other parliamentarians in Kenya because I have learnt about trafficking. This is how I can communicate well and advise my constituents. I know other MPs will be giving some advice, but it won't be as in-depth.

What do you see as the role of a parliamentarian in tackling trafficking through sport?

As a parliamentarian who has a voice, I have an unlimited platform to raise awareness. This can be done through parliament, putting through motions, petitions, and private member questions.

The media also plays an important role. I do lots of TV and radio interviews on topical issues around trafficking since I was involved with CPA UK. People listen to parliamentarians as we have a large following. I therefore organize rallies and events in my region.

In 2019, just before the coronavirus hit and having benefited from wider knowledge from the CPA, I organized a sporting event in the Western part of Kenya. When you organize a football event, many people will turn up because people love football. We started by having a tournament with different communities.

Before the final game began, I explained and spoke on trafficking through sport, the dangers involved and how they could get lured into such things. This was highly effective.

However, people did become disillusioned. If they are approached by an agent, having a member of parliament tell them it's fake is discouraging and disappointing. It has always been their dream. I know people that have received prior knowledge but would still do it. Some are very proactive, and will come to my office for background checks, but others won't.

I also sit on the Implementation Committee, where we try and ensure that all the laws are fast tracked and implemented.

This gives me an advanced position to look at laws that are friendly to trafficking and to stop them. It will ensure that people who want to take advantage of our children are punished. We have very beautiful laws but some need amendments.

Is the topic of trafficking through sport part of the Kenyan national curriculum in schools?

Children will learn about slavery but only a very shallow historical background. I have not seen our curriculum trying to marry past events to what is happening now.

It would be very important to tweak the curriculum to make it clear about the current forms of Modern Slavery. You have brought up a very solid point, to marry the history with what is happening at the moment. This is a transnational problem that requires many stakeholders.

“
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”

PHOTO OF THE MONTH GHANA

View of a football game after the Expert Committee Workshop on the Role of Parliamentary Committees in Combatting Human Trafficking, June 2019.
Photo by CPA UK



If you have raised awareness of human trafficking through sport in your constituency, region or local area, and would like to share photographs of your work, email us at cpauk@parliament.uk

CPA UK Launches an International Consultation to Prevent Trafficking by Recruitment Agencies

Following the successful delivery of the CPA UK Modern Slavery Project, several parliamentarians across the Commonwealth identified abusive and fraudulent recruitment agencies and agents as an important issue not captured in trafficking in persons-related legislation.

The existing gaps in the legislative framework alongside the lack of understanding of fraudulent recruitment practices - as a mechanism to trafficking - have rendered law enforcement agencies and the judiciary powerless.

CPA UK has therefore launched an international consultation to understand the existing situation in each Commonwealth jurisdiction, support the strengthening of legal knowledge on that subject, and encourage learning exchange across the Commonwealth.

If you wish to take part of this international consultation, which will last until 19 November 2021, [please click here](#).



An Interview with Dr Akilah Jardine



Introducing Dr Akilah Jardine, Visiting Fellow in Anti-Slavery Business, Rights Lab, University of Nottingham

What does Rights Lab do and what are their main over-arching objectives?

The Rights Lab is one of the University of Nottingham's six Beacons of Excellence, areas the University has identified as having the capacity to be world-leading and to deliver research solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing the world today.

The Rights Lab is the beacon that focuses on modern slavery. It is the world's largest group of modern slavery researchers and home to many leading experts in the field.

We have a transdisciplinary research culture, drawing from across all of the University's faculties and leveraging theories and methods from numerous disciplines to

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”

progress understanding of the problem and solutions needed to address modern slavery.

Through our research programmes, the Rights Lab delivers new and cutting-edge research that provides rigorous data, evidence and discoveries for the global antislavery effort.

What inspired Rights Lab to write a report on trafficking through sport? What has it found?

Through conversations with Mission 89, an organization focusing on the exploitation of young athletes, we realized that trafficking in and through sports had received relatively little attention from governments and sports bodies.

We recognized that there is a growing body of literature on this problem, however, there was a lack of data and evidence on the nature and scale of the problem.

It remains an area that is poorly understood, with uncertainty around its nature and scale, and the effectiveness of current anti-slavery and anti-trafficking approaches in addressing this unique type of exploitation.

Our report therefore aimed to set an agenda for future investigation and action in this area. It aimed to progress understanding of the problem of sports trafficking (which captures both trafficking in and through sports), migration patterns, nature of recruitment, nature of exploitation, and current response and challenges to addressing this issue.

We found various forms of exploitation and abuse associated with trafficking in and through sports, which predominately impacted young athletes and children.

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For many young people, playing sports is more than a leisurely activity and many have aspirations and dreams of becoming a professional player. For those facing limited opportunities, sports is seen as an opportunity to better their livelihood.

However, the recruitment of athletes can involve a deception by fraudulent sports agents who take advantage of the athletes and their families' aspirations.

We found that while the majority of research on sports trafficking focused on football, there were other sports such as hockey, baseball, basketball, rugby, where individuals may be trafficked for, though research is still very limited.

Considering the scale of Modern Slavery through sport, why do you think the issue still persists around Mega sporting events?

Further research is needed to understand the true scale of sports trafficking and whether this problem is fuelled around Mega sporting events.

However, Mega sporting events add to the popularity of sporting activities, attracting the interests of not only fans and supporters, but also of young people with aspirations to professionalise their technical skills so that they can be successful.

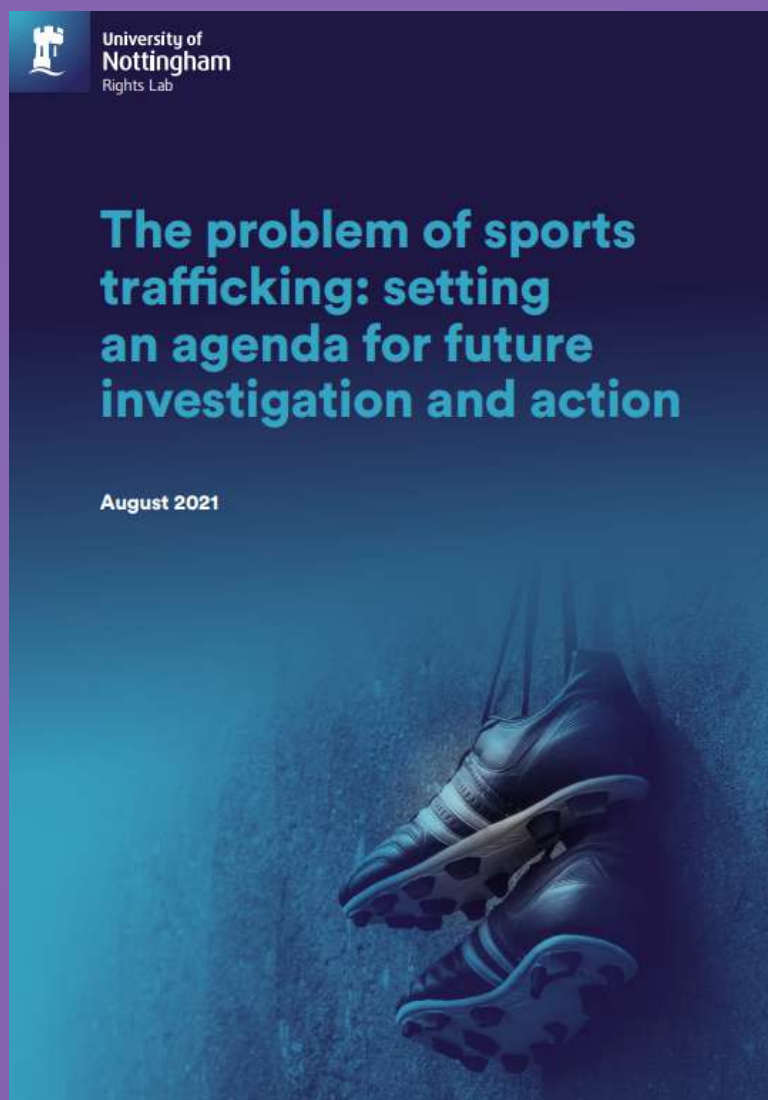
Many aspiring athletes admire professionals taking part in these events, particularly those from their home country or those coming from similar circumstances who have become internationally recognised sports figures.

These professional sports figures may exemplify the possibility of attaining success, though the reality of becoming a recognised world-class player is rare.

REPORT OF THE MONTH

This month's report provides the data-driven insights we need in tackling modern slavery and human trafficking. This report also features writings from both Baroness Young and the NGO Mission 89.

[Click on the report to download it.](#)



If you have participated or come across a report that enriches the understanding of tackling modern slavery and human trafficking, and would like to share it on this newsletter, email us at cpauk@parliament.uk

An introduction to All-Party Parliamentary Groups



appg

Introducing the work of: The APPG on Sport, Modern Slavery, and Human Rights, and the APPG for the Commonwealth Games

What is an APPG in the UK Parliament?

The UK All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) are informal, cross-party groups formed by Members from both the House of Commons and the House of Lords who share a common interest in a particular policy area, region or country. APPGs have no official status within the UK Parliament.

Unlike Select Committees, APPGs are not official UK parliamentary bodies, and are far less formal.

Any reports produced by a UK APPG may be co-authored by an external sponsorship organisation and should not be confused with a Select Committee report, which has

been signed off by a Member of The House of Commons. Each APPG must have 20 qualifying members drawn from both Government and opposition and abide to the rules.

You can access the full list of APPGs within the UK Parliament [here](#).

(Updated: 06/10/2021)

APPG for the Commonwealth Games: What is your mission?

The Commonwealth Games APPG aims to support and promote the Commonwealth Games, particularly the 2022 Commonwealth

Games, which are to be held in Birmingham. It focuses on the necessary regional development for such a large event, as well as the different venues and other essential infrastructure elements that are required. The APPG was set up by Preet Kaur Gill, a UK MP who serves for Edgbaston, Birmingham.

APPG on Sport, Modern Slavery and Human Rights: What is your mission?

The APPG on Sport, Modern Slavery and Human Rights has the mission of finding solutions to pressing human rights problems, affecting large scale sporting events around the world, with a focus on three specific areas:

- The human rights impact of the cycle of mega-sporting events;
- The impacts of the UK Modern Slavery Act on professional sport companies and;
- Discrimination in sport in all its forms.

This APPG is chaired by Alex Norris MP and Baroness Young of Hornsey, with the Secretariat provided by the UN Global Compact Network UK and Centre for Sports and Human Rights.

Words from the Secretariat for the APPG on Sport, Modern Slavery and Human Rights




"The UN Global Compact Local Network UK (UNGC-UK) acts as co-secretariat to the APPG, together with the The Centre for Sport and Human Rights. UNGC-UK organises APPG meetings and ensures that they are compliant with the APPG rules. UNGC UK also leads on the APPG's external comms, managing the Group's social media, website and email inbox.

The Centre for Sport and Human Rights provides the content expertise for the group, meaning that it advises on what topics would be relevant for the group to discuss, and puts together each session. The Centre also leads on drafting for session notes and the interim report published by the group with recommendations to government in June 2019.

More recently, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and various Select Committees issued calls for evidence on the impact of Covid-19 on the sport sector. Together with APPG members, the Centre submitted evidence outlining how the pandemic was affecting people linked to sport and made some recommendations to government, two of which were taken forward."





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