



PRESS RELEASE

RENATE HOSTS EVENT IN UK PARLIAMENT WITH POLITICAL LEADERS OF THE ANTI-SLAVERY MOVEMENT, LAUNCHES CCARHT COMMISSIONED REPORT ON CHILD TRAFFICKING IN EUROPE

On 23 January 2019 anti-slavery network RENATE hosted a parliamentary reception in the Churchill Room in the House of Commons. Former Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Lord Hogan-Howe sponsored the event, with contributions from Iain Duncan-Smith MP, Commons sponsor of the Modern Slavery (Victim Support) Bill and Maria Miller MP, co-chair of the Independent Review into the 2015 Modern Slavery Act.

There were two purposes to the reception. First, to help close the gap between front line anti-slavery groups for which RENATE provides a network throughout Europe and UK lawmakers by bringing the two together.

Second, to launch new research commissioned by RENATE Europe, from CCARHT the UK based dedicated Think Tank on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, led by Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford, the Director of the Cambridge Centre for Applied Research in Human Trafficking, with assistance from desk-researchers and RENATE members in the field.

The research documents painstaking field work in seven European countries (Albania, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Slovakia, The Netherlands and Ukraine), where data was sought to establish the processes in place to discern, record, and respond to the problem of child trafficking in the countries in focus. Its findings are a wake- up call. The report concluded that:

“...in none of the countries studied were the measures of protection comprehensively adequate to the special needs of unaccompanied minor migrants.”

Lord Hogan-Howe said

“I am delighted to play a part in bringing the voice of frontline anti-slavery activists to parliament. Westminster can be a bubble, and this often brings about a disconnect between what is happening on the ground and what policy-makers are discussing. Modern slave- Foundation traders are organised criminals. They quickly and cleverly adapt their methods. We need frontline intelligence on the true picture of what slavery looks like, not just for our benefit, but to raise awareness among the general public who often feel far removed from the world of slavery, but in reality, are not. I commend the superb work of RENATE in bringing this invaluable knowledge to the fore.”

Sr Imelda Poole, IBVM, MBE, founder of RENATE said:

“The next step is to translate the findings from the report into concrete policy recommendations. It is hoped that this mapping of child trafficking will lead to more action on the part of all the specialists in the field. RENATE calls on them to work more closely together and to heed the advice given in the many reports quoted in this document and in the research conducted in the field, over the last year. The aim of RENATE, as with the

SDGs and Pope Francis in Rome, is to 'Rid the World of Human Trafficking by 2030'. Let us unite to achieve this goal."

Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford (Director of CCARHT) stated at the launch of the report in the House of Commons 23rd January 2019, that although the UK was in process of leaving the European Union through Brexit, and that this would undoubtedly have an impact on levels of data sharing, and Europol's increasingly frictionless sharing of information in pursuit of criminal gangs embroiling children in their activities, the UK was not leaving the Council of Europe. "This means that the essential standards, and protocols in place requiring minimum standards of procedures in reception, registration and recovery for children as unaccompanied minors, who face extensive risks of having been trafficked or being trafficked in the imminent future, will continue, quite rightly to be demanded.

What has become clear across the seven country mapping exercise, was that there was substantial variation in behaviors of state actors in the essential services of protection which should be available to minors as they come to the attention of the state authorities, with non-criminalisation of trafficked minors not being uniformly observed, a lack of dedicated services in place, and a general failure to observe segmentation of recorded data in relation to ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality and abilities. Transparency and ease of accessing appropriately granulated data, for policy makers, NGOs, and civil society to understand what was taking place, was significantly absent across the board.

Improved recording of data has been called for by the United Nations in this year's UNODC report on Human Trafficking - which this RENATE sponsored report had put in motion in 2017 by the commissioning of this break-through report by CCARHT. Recent publications from UNICEF echo the work which this report profiles in detail, with the question on the suitability of protection services available in Greece, Spain, Italy, and Bulgaria under scrutiny. With around one third of those seeking asylum in Europe being minors, and with recent challenges emerging in the UK itself to the abilities of the State to keep children in its care, safe and secure, this is clearly a Children's Rights and humanitarian challenge which needs our best efforts, and humanitarian capacities working through state instruments, civil society and faith based organisations, to respond to."

ENDS

CCARHT press contact: press@ccarht.org

Dr Carrie Pemberton Ford can be accessed through the CCARHT offices.

phone 0044 1223 891765

to access a copy of the report please see

www.ccarht.org/site/library

(<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/glotip.html>)

(<https://www.unicef.org/eca/emergencies/latest-statistics-and-graphics-refugee-and-migrant-children>)

Press Contact for RENATE: Anne Kelleher, RENATE Communications.

Email: communications@renate-europe.net

2

Phone: 00 353 (83) 4593615

Further information on the work of RENATE www.renate-europe.net