

# Prosecutor Commitment

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## **Overarching Commitment:**

The Prosecuting Authorities in the UK will work closely together and with our law enforcement partners to disrupt networks, prosecute traffickers and safeguard victims' rights within the Criminal Justice Process.

## **How will we do this?**

- We will build stronger cases to support these most serious offences;
- We will ensure that the rights and welfare of victims are at the heart of our approach to investigation and prosecution;
- We will continue to deliver training and development to prosecutors and law enforcement to improve our expertise; and
- We will work closely together to learn lessons, exchange good practice and share relevant information, data and contacts.

# Supporting statement

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## **Building Strong Cases**

We will continue to work closely with law enforcement and other partners to ensure that any cases in relation to these types of offences are prepared and prosecuted robustly.

We will:

- Provide appropriate advice and support to reporting agencies at all stages of the investigative process.
- Identify and utilise expert witnesses in relevant cases.

- Consider the use of overseas support and assistance, in particular through mutual legal assistance or joint investigative teams.
- Ensure that financial investigation and proceedings in relation to Proceeds of Crime legislation are pursued where appropriate.

## **Victims and Witnesses**

We will continue to ensure that the welfare of victims, witnesses and potential victims of human trafficking are at the heart of our approach to investigating and prosecuting offences of human trafficking.

We will:

- Treat all victims and witnesses of human trafficking with respect, sensitivity and professionalism.
- Communicate with victims and witnesses clearly and effectively ensuring that information is provided at all stages of the case by the most appropriate means and is translated where required.
- Signpost victims and witnesses where appropriate to help them to access agencies who provide additional support.
- Recognise that victims and witnesses of human trafficking often face complex barriers to giving evidence in criminal cases and proactively explore whether special measures are required to assist those victims and witnesses to give their best evidence throughout the case.
- Endeavour to ensure that support and assistance are available to victims and witnesses who are living in other jurisdictions.
- Use feedback from victims, witnesses and any other relevant individuals or groups to inform changes and improvements to our services.

## **Code of Conduct**

We will adhere to the relevant Code or Code of Conduct for Prosecutors and all other relevant prosecution guidance in our respective jurisdictions when making any decision in relation to the prosecution of Human Trafficking cases.

We will:

- Ensure that the law is properly applied and that the right person is prosecuted for the right crime.
- Be fair, independent and objective at all stages of the case.
- Not let any personal views about the ethnic or national origin, gender, disability, age, religion or belief, political views, sexual orientation, or gender identity of the suspect, victim or any witness influence decisions.
- Not be affected by undue or improper pressure from any source.
- Act in the interests of justice and not solely for the purpose of obtaining a conviction.
- Act in a manner which ensures any prosecution is dealt with efficiently and without undue delay.

## **Training**

We will periodically review and update the provision of training for all staff who may be involved in the investigation and prosecution of Human Trafficking.

Training available on Human Trafficking will include the following:

- A summary of the dynamics found in situations of human trafficking.
- The common indicators that an individual has been trafficked.
- The legislative framework relating to human trafficking and modern slavery.
- Any case law involving human trafficking applicable to the jurisdiction.
- Examples of the specific vulnerabilities of victims of human trafficking.
- Best practice in communicating with victims and witnesses of human trafficking both in and out of the Court setting.
- Any other lessons learned from cases prosecuted across the UK.

## **Non-Governmental Organisations**

We recognise the important role that Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) have in working to eradicate human trafficking and in supporting victims of human trafficking. We commit to developing and maintaining effective means of engagement with NGOs.

The purpose of such engagement is:

- To ensure there is an understanding of the complex nature of human trafficking and the needs and experiences of victims; To enable NGOs to share their expertise to assist with the development of best practice, policy, guidelines and training;
- To provide NGOs with a fuller understanding of the Criminal Justice Process; and
- To facilitate the exchange of information.

### **Exchange of Information**

We will continue to work closely on all aspects of human trafficking and will undertake to exchange information to learn lessons from each other and develop our experience to lead to an improved response across the UK in the prosecution of these cases.

We will:

- Meet on a regular basis to discuss and exchange experience.
- Exchange good practice on all aspects of cases of human trafficking, including case building, evidential issues, victim support and protection, use of experts and presentation of evidence including digital working.
- Exchange training materials and opportunities to attend training courses in each other's jurisdictions.
- Share legal and policy guidance, particularly for new legislation.
- Share relevant case law involving human trafficking which may impact the way cases are prosecuted.
- Share data on cases of human trafficking.
- Exchange useful contacts for obtaining assistance within the UK and across other jurisdictions.