Programme for this morning

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Dr Jonathan Mendel, University of Dundee: Human Trafficking and Online Networks: Some Insights from and Gaps in the Literature

3. Dr Kiril Sharapov, Glasgow Caledonian University/Central European University: Some Empirical Investigations

4. Dr Maria O'Neill, Abertay University: Trafficking in Human Beings and the online environment; a view of the EU legal framework

5. Participants’ Contributions: What do We Know? What Needs to Be Done and How?

6. Taking Research Forward: Potential Funding Opportunities for Collaborative Projects

7. Further Collaboration and Working Together: Discussion
Context

• The EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012–2016:
  – THB and Internet: recruitment, awareness, law enforcement
• Stockholm Programme ➔ new programme/strategy ‘An open and secure Europe: making it happen’ - specific focus on THB and the Internet
  – UK context: Draft Modern Slavery Bill and Report: focus, mostly, on criminals and victims
  – HM Inspectorate of Constabulary report (released yesterday): UK police not prepared to deal with cyber crime
• EU Cyber security strategy & Europol Cyber Crime Centre
How much do we know (about THB and the Internet)?

Very little (it appears)

See, for example, keynote address by Donna M. Hughes, Professor, University of Rhode Island delivered on the EU anti-trafficking day in October 2013: little if any empirical evidence on the scale or nature of the problem

(https://www.academia.edu/4841185/Prevention_of_Trafficking_in_Human_Beings_Online)
2 empirical studies

• Survey of the EU Civil Society Platform members (July 2013)
• Public opinion/knowledge surveys (January - February 2014)
Civil Society Platform Survey (summer 2013)

• 96 members of the civil society platform, surveymonkey:
  – What would you ask if you were surveying the general public
  – Have you ever encountered a situation where the Internet was used as a means to recruit or ‘sell’ victims of human trafficking? Provide details

• Responses: 50/19/17 + LinkedIn responses (5)
Human Trafficking and the Internet Survey: What Respondents Talked about (July 2013)

- Recruitment: 22%
- Awareness (low levels of): 20%
- Vulnerability: 18%
- Sale: 12%
- Privacy: 3%
- Prevention: 5%
- Combating: 20%
Access to the Internet in the EU (Eurostat data)

• Eurostat:
  – 75 % in the EU used the internet at least once in the three months prior to the survey
  – 72 % used it regularly at home, at work or elsewhere
  – 62% of all individuals used the internet every day or almost every day’
Access to the Internet globally (World Bank data)
Coded responses

**RECRUITMENT:** job offers, dating websites, social networking websites, online newspaper classifieds, sexual exploitation

**AWARENESS (lack of):** job-seekers, young people, general public, policy-makers

**VULNERABILITY:** Vulnerable internet users

**SALE:** sexual exploitation, brides

**PRIVACY:** Personal data/ privacy concerns

**PREVENTION:** awareness raising general on THB, specific advice on how to avoid bogus jobs, good practice from other areas, including child pornography)

**COMBATING:** difficulties of prosecuting - hosted abroad, ISP immunity from liability for content posted by a third party; difficulties of investigating (unless a complaint is received), prohibiting sex adverts on the internet, integrating ‘CEOP’ style button
UP-KAT surveys

• More information: http://cps.ceu.hu/research/trafficking-in-human-beings
• Focus on: public understanding of THB in Hungary, Ukraine and the UK
• Representative surveys of population (3,000 people surveyed, January – February 2014)
• Questions:
  – Is trafficking a problem in this country?
  – Does it affect you directly?
  – Immigration and Trafficking
  – The Internet: can it be used to recruit victims of trafficking?
  – Learning about trafficking: Internet or other media/means?
  – Awareness-raising using the Internet?

Data: preliminary, please do not quote without permission
More detailed analysis available May 2014 (check UP-KAT website)
Key issues

- What are the specific issues that relate to how the internet is used to facilitate human trafficking?
- Is there anything technically distinct or does it fall within a broader range of criminal activity and fraud, which became part of the online environment?
- Does ‘Human Trafficking and the Internet’ require any special approach?
- What do we know and what do we not know?
Funding and Co-operation

Key funding streams:
• EC DG Home Affairs funding
• Horizon 2020 funding
EC DG Home Affairs funding

- New Programme and New Changes: 2 funds instead of 6
  - Asylum and Migration Fund
  - Internal Security Fund
- Internal Security Fund: ‘...the Member States and their law enforcement authorities as well as any other authority specialised in the protection of critical infrastructure and the management of crisis, but also relevant International and Non-Governmental organisations, where appropriate (e.g. in the field of crime prevention, anti-radicalisation and anti-trafficking policies).
- Rules of participation and eligibility: TBC
Horizon 2020

• FCT-15-2015: Ethical/Societal Dimension Topic 3: Better understanding the role of new social media networks and their use for public security purposes

  (deadline August 2015), consortium of partners, not specifically focused on THB but on the umbrella of issues coming under ‘security’
References and Links

Co-operation, networking and partnership: ways forward

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