



Hope for Justice  
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## Statement UNTOC on Human Trafficking: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023

### Hope for Justice

### Phillipa Roberts, Head of Policy and Research (UK Lawyer)

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, my name is Phillipa Roberts, I'm Head of Policy and Research (UK lawyer) at Hope for Justice. Hope for Justice is an International Anti-Human Trafficking Organization working across four continents with a vision to end slavery and change lives by preventing exploitation, identifying victims, restoring lives and reforming society.

We wish to thank the UNODC Civil Society Unit for this opportunity to input on the Constructive Dialogue. Never has there been a more important time to innovate, collaborate and partner. We wish to make the following proposals: -

**I. Collaboration and partnership is critical to prevention – first, prevention must include but go beyond awareness raising and identification,** tackling the issue before the harm is done. Holistic prevention means civil society, business and state actors collaborating with communities and within institutional structures to address socio-economic and gender inequality, tackle social norms, safe migration and business compliance which reduces vulnerabilities and increases resilience, to predatory exploiters.

**End Slavery, Change Lives.**

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**2. Collaboration and partnership not competition is critical to identification and ensuring holistic trauma informed and human-rights based services which are shaped by survivors and create an environment for recovery.** This should be flexible to the unique recovery journey of each survivor and not conditional upon engagement with criminal justice. Civil society plays a key role in providing technical assistance to develop National Referral Mechanisms, ensuring survivors rights are established in national legislation, training and models of best practice. One example of this is following an independent review of Hope for Justice’s Independent Modern Slavery Advocacy (IMSA) model for adult survivors, an idea which came from survivors, one recommendation was to work in partnership to develop an accredited, model, providing a framework and standards which can be replicated in multiple organisations. This framework is being developed in collaboration with Survivor Consultants, Hope for Justice, The Snowdrop Project and British Red Cross and wider state and non- state actors. An indirect benefit of long-term socio-legal Independent Advocacy, that is not dependent on criminal justice, is that it enables engagement. For instance, a snapshot of data from Hope for Justice’s IMSA model showed 73% of survivors wished to provide evidence in investigations and prosecutions of those called to give evidence 100% were able to attend court. Whilst there are many reasons why prosecutions succeed almost all of these cases entering prosecution resulted in successful prosecutions holding perpetrators to account.

**3. Collaboration, partnership and innovation is critical to disrupting and holding perpetrators accountable –** by coming together, using technology to share intelligence and technical knowledge safely, we can improve understanding and enable strategic, innovative and targeted interventions that include criminal justice but

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also recognise the multiple ways perpetrators can be disrupted and held to account for instance through financial institution responses, business compliance and remediation; civil justice, labour enforcement, restorative justice as well as effective offender management and rehabilitation.

Thank you

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