



Supporting Adult Victims of Human Trafficking

Update on the second year of The Salvation Army's Adult Human Trafficking Victims Care and Coordination contract

December 2013

Introduction

The Salvation Army has managed the Adult Human Trafficking Victim Care and Coordination contract since July 2011, through which it is responsible for the oversight of delivery of specialist support services to adult victims of trafficking identified in England and Wales. The contract, which is jointly funded by The Ministry of Justice and Home Office was initially awarded for a period of 2 years. It has since been extended for a third year to June 2014.

This report provides an overview of what the contract has delivered in its second year. This includes data about the number and profile of victims supported by the service and an overview of the services provided by The Salvation Army and its partners.

Under the terms of the contract, The Salvation Army provides services to meet victim entitlements under Article 12 of The Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking of Human Beings (ECAT).

The Salvation Army has sub-contracted accommodation and support services for adult victims of human trafficking to 12 local partner organisations through a network of safe houses. The specialist support programme accommodates, protects and cares for victims, and provide them with access to confidential client-based, tailored support services, The people within its care are entitled to the following services, when appropriate, taking account of their safety and protection:

- Appropriate and secure accommodation, psychological and material assistance
- Health care
- Counselling and information
- Legal advice
- Assistance in representing their rights and interests in criminal proceedings against offenders
- Translation and interpretation services
- Access to education and training for victims and their children
- Outreach support for those individuals who are not eligible for, or who do not require, accommodation
- A 24/7 facility to transport rescued victims

The capacity of the service was 92 beds under a block purchase agreement and a minimum of 54 beds available for spot purchase at any point in time.

People using the service consent to being referred into the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) and have received a positive 'reasonable grounds' decision. In exceptional circumstance, The Salvation Army will provide accommodation and support to a potential victim prior to a reasonable grounds decision being made

The Salvation Army has a long history of working with people who are vulnerable and marginalised across the world, including people who are victims of trafficking. We offer unconditional support without discrimination wherever there is a need. We work with a diverse range of partners and agencies with specialist knowledge and services to ensure that every man and women referred will receive the best and most appropriate support available. Contractors work closely with potential victims, from the point of referral through to their exit from government funded support.

Overview

- During the second year, The Salvation Army and its partner organisations have supported **550 (378)*** individuals:
 - **348 (222)*** women and **202 (156)*** men
 - An increase of 46% on the number of people supported in 1st year of the contract.
- **43 (42)*** per cent of those referred had been trafficked for sexual exploitation.
- **40 (44)*** per cent for labour exploitation.
- **12 (10)** per cent for domestic servitude.
- The service has supported individuals from **63 (43)*** different countries.
- As with the first year, the highest number of female potential victims of trafficking who entered the service were Nigerian at **76 (49)***, closely followed by Albanian women at **68 (21)***.
- As with the first year, the highest number of male potential victims of trafficking who entered the service were Polish at **53 (45)***, closely followed by Lithuanian men at **47 (13)***.
- **19 (14)** people supported were trafficked from the UK.
- Most potential victims were referred to The Salvation Army by the police as in year 1.
- Again the majority of potential victims returned to their country of origin.

A breakdown of these figures is provided in the following pages.

Where comparative information is available, data in this report will illustrate Year 1 and Year 2 of the contract. *Year 1 figures in brackets.

The Salvation Army continues to work with The Ministry of Justice, Home Office and our sub-contractors to seek practical victim-focussed solutions to the challenges faced in delivering the service individuals require to move successfully to the next stage of their recovery within the required time constraints.

Our experience over the first year of managing this Contract has been hugely beneficial in identifying and understanding how best to meet the diverse needs of the people we support. The Salvation Army continues to foster collaborative working and improved awareness-raising as essential in enabling the best outcomes for the people for whom we care.

A. Figures from the second year of The Salvation Army's Adult Human Trafficking Victim Care and Coordination Contract

A1. Number of Potential Victims of Human Trafficking Supported By The Salvation Army through the contract

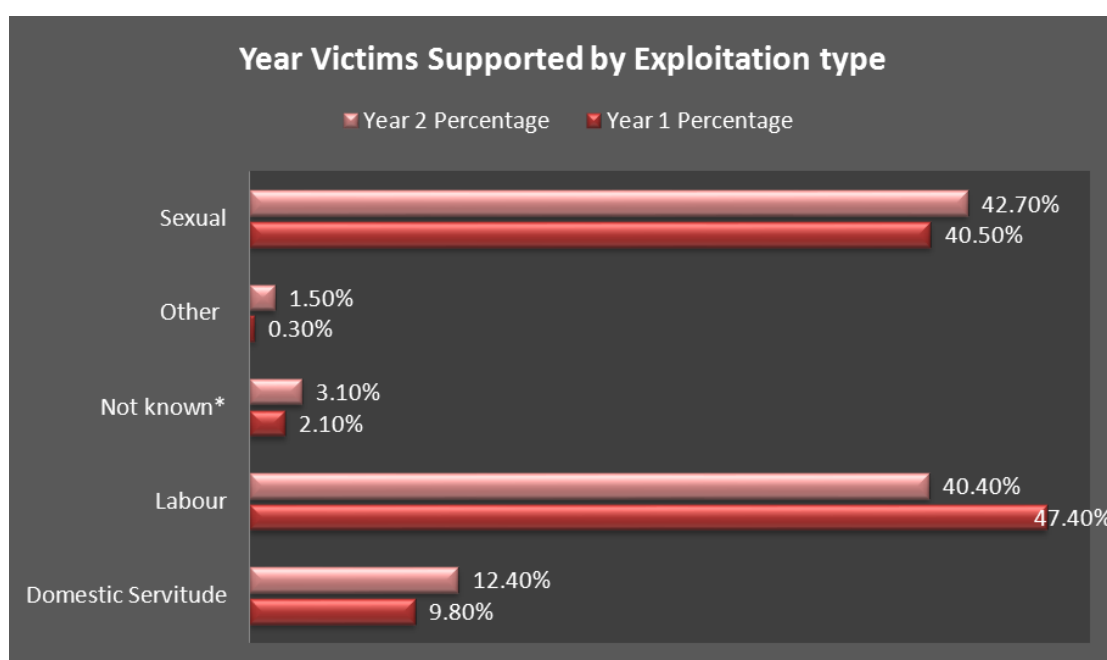
	Female	Male
550	348	202
Percentage	63%	37%

A total of 550 potential victims were supported by The Salvation Army and its sub-contractors during Year 2, an increase of 45.5% on the 378 supported in Year 1.

A2. Ways in which Victims Supported By the Service were exploited

Figure 1

Victims Supported by Exploitation type	Year 1	Year 1 Percentage	Year 2	Year 2 Percentage
Domestic Servitude	37	9.8%	68	12.4%
Labour	179	47.4%	222	40.4%
Not known*	8	2.1%	17	3.1%
Other	1	0.3%	8	1.5%
Sexual	153	40.5%	235	42.7%
	378		550	



* 'Not known': either the victims have been intercepted before the exploitation has taken place, or the information is not recorded because the offer of help is not accepted.

A3. Top Ten Nationalities of Individuals Supported by the Service

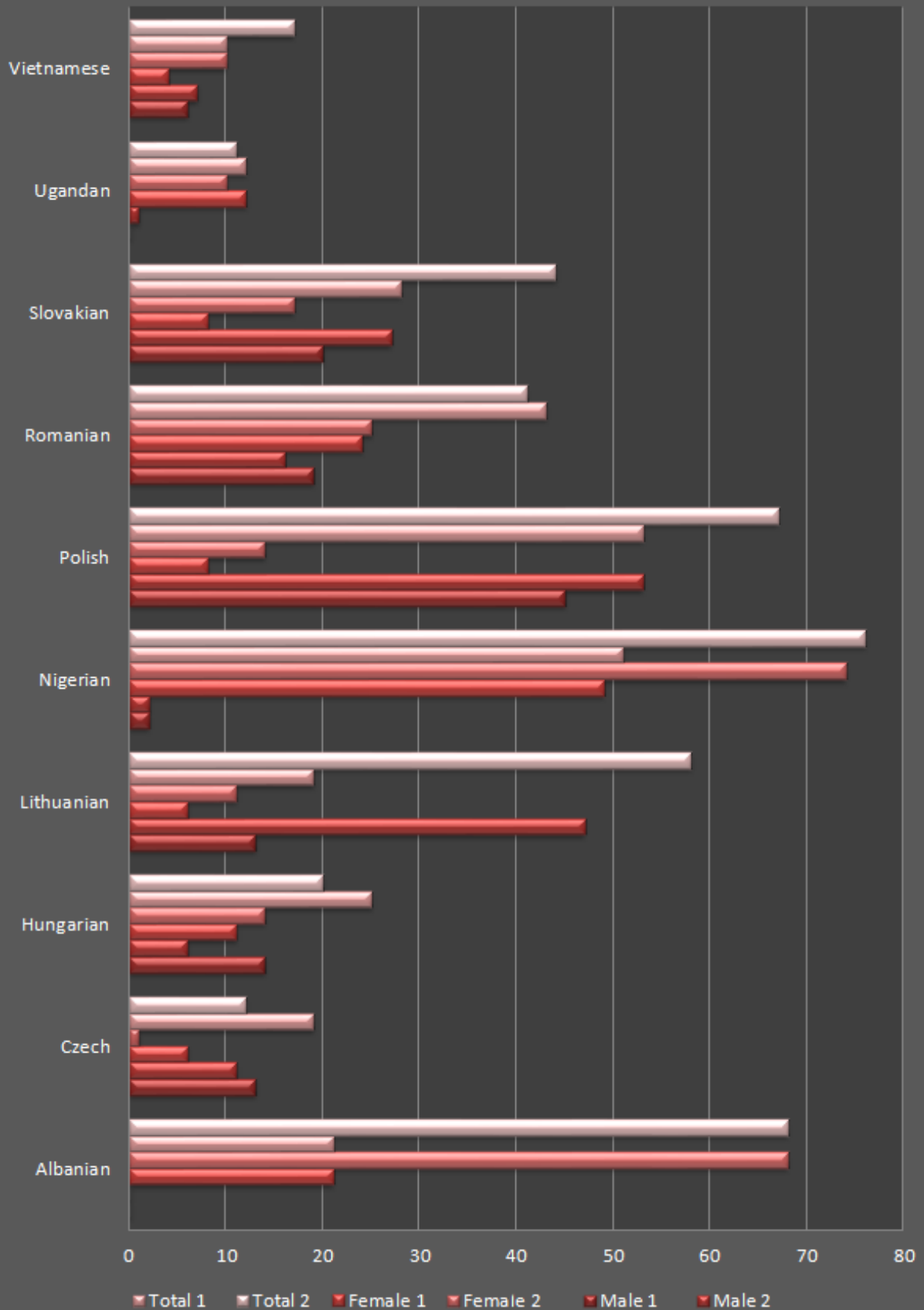
In total, The Salvation Army has supported individuals from 65 different countries. Figure 3 below shows the ten most common nationalities of individuals supported in the first 24 months of the contract.

Figure 2

Nationality	Male (1)	Male (2)	Female (1)	Female (2)	Total (1)	Total (2)
Nigerian	2	2	49	74	51	76
Albanian	0	0	21	68	21	68
Polish	45	53	8	14	53	67
Lithuanian	13	47	6	11	19	58
Slovakian	20	27	8	17	28	44
Romanian	19	16	24	25	43	41
Hungarian	14	6	11	14	25	20
Vietnamese	6	7	4	10	10	17
Czech	13	11	6	1	19	12
Ugandan	0	1	12	10	12	11

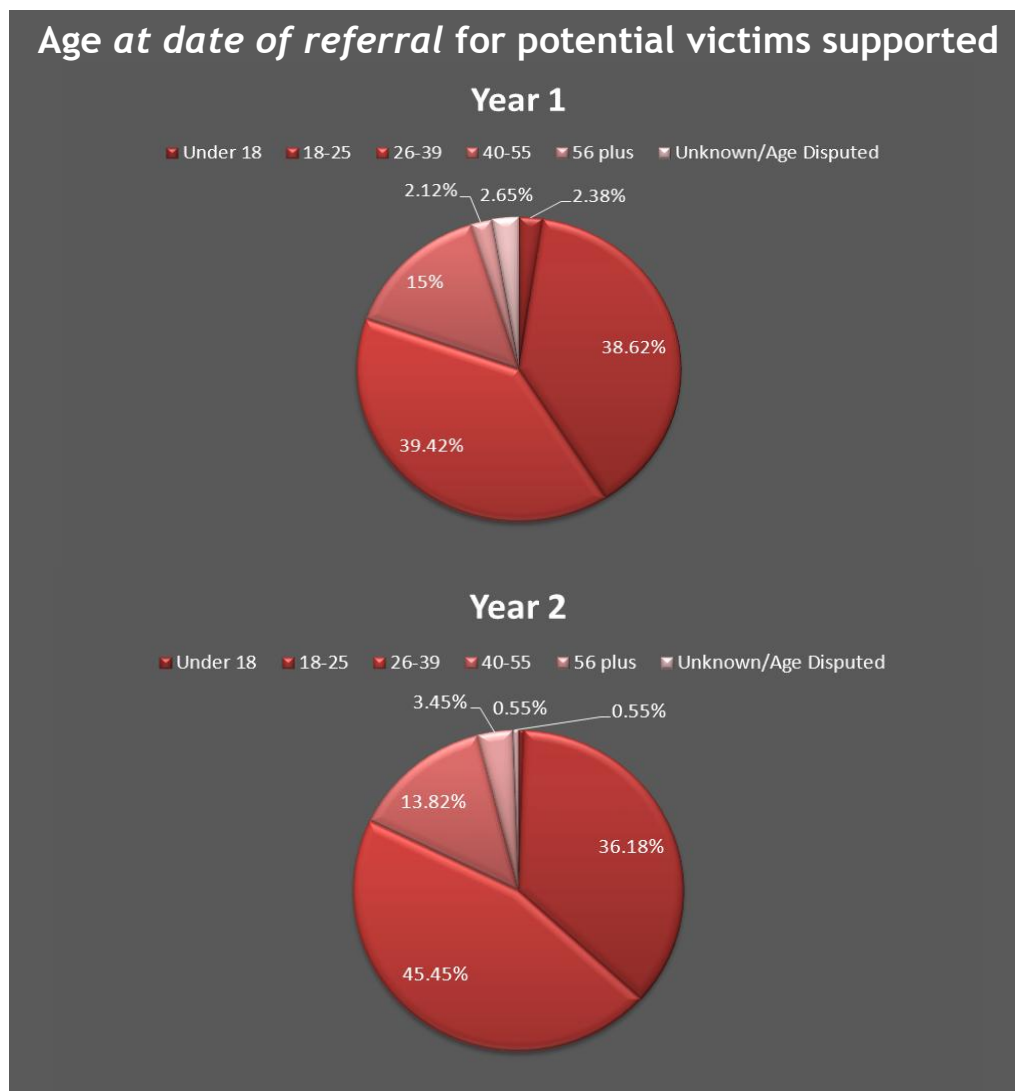
Comparing the Top 5 categories for Year 1 to Year 2, the largest percentage increase in referrals by nationality was for Albanians at 4.9%. Lithuanian feature in the Top 5 for Year 2 due to a police operation on 5th October 2012 which resulted in the referral of 29 potential victims of Lithuanian nationality.

Top Ten Nationalities of Individuals Supported by the Service



A4. Age at date of referral for potential victims supported:
Figure 3.

Age	Year 1	Year 1 Percentage	Year 2	Year 2 Percentage
under 18	9	2.38%	3	0.55%
18-25	146	38.62%	199	36.18%
26-39	149	39.42%	250	45.45%
40-55	56	14.81%	76	13.82%
56 plus	8	2.12%	19	3.45%
Unknown/Age Disputed	10	2.65%	3	0.55%
Total	378		550	



Note:
Referrals are accepted for potential victims approaching age 18, however, there is no entitlement to support prior to attaining age 18.

A5. Area of England and Wales In Which Individuals Were Identified as Victims of Trafficking

Figure 4.

Region from which referral originated - Supported Victims	Year 1	Year 1 Percentage	Year 2	Year 2 Percentage
East	19	5.03%	11	2.00%
East Midlands	4	1.06%	14	2.55%
North East	13	3.44%	16	2.91%
North West	24	6.35%	46	8.36%
Not known	0	0.00%	2	0.36%
South	5	1.32%	30	5.45%
South East	173	45.77%	233	42.36%
South West	8	2.12%	15	2.73%
Wales	7	1.85%	20	3.64%
West Midlands	40	10.58%	79	14.36%
Yorkshire	54	14.29%	84	15.27%
Transfer	31	8.20%	0	0.00%
Total	378		550	

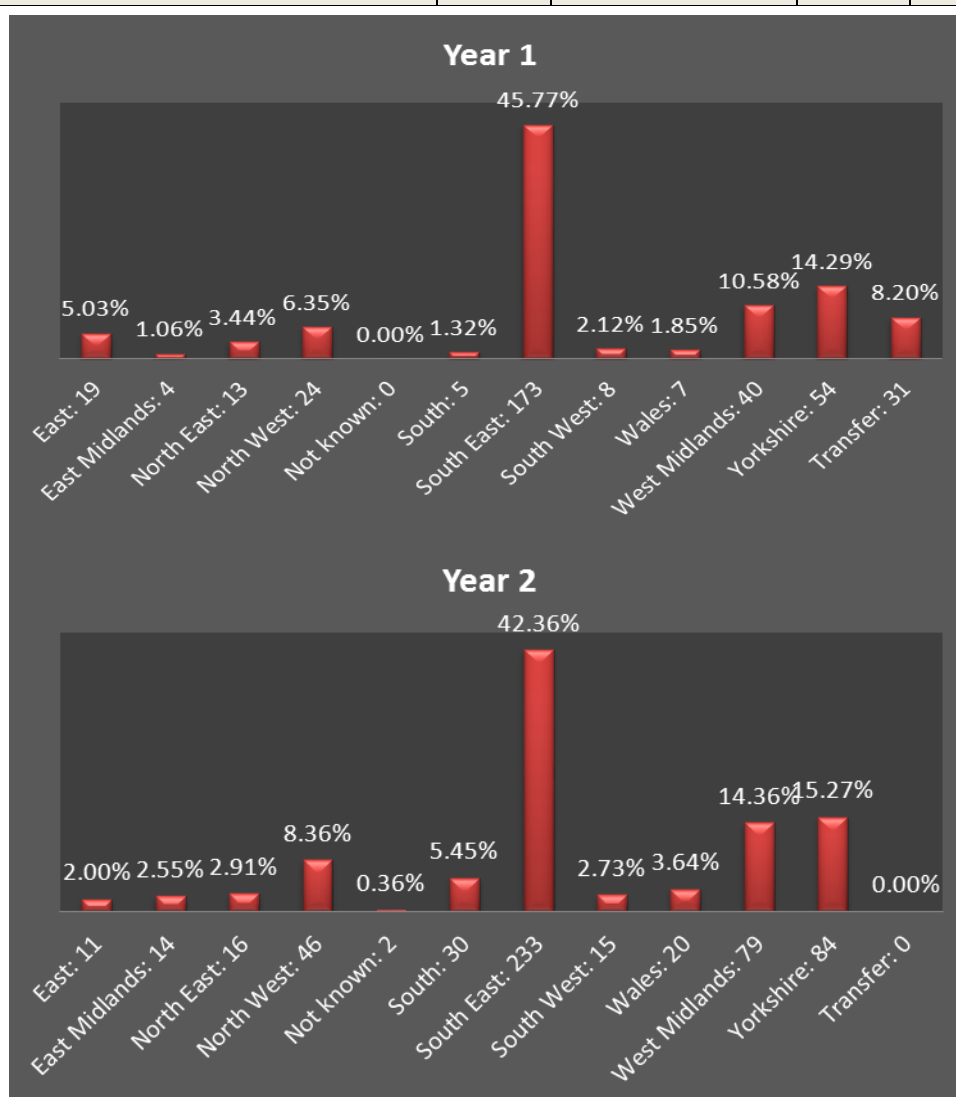


Figure 4 illustrates a consistent trend, in Years 1 and 2, in the top 3 regions from which referrals were received. The majority of referrals were received from the South East region; Yorkshire remains the second highest source of referrals and West Midlands the third highest source.

Whilst South East region, which includes London, is the most significant source for referrals of potential victims, 60% of all referrals are coming from others parts of England and Wales, highlighting the value and scope of the contract's national coverage.

A6. Agencies referring into The Salvation Army for those victims supported by the service

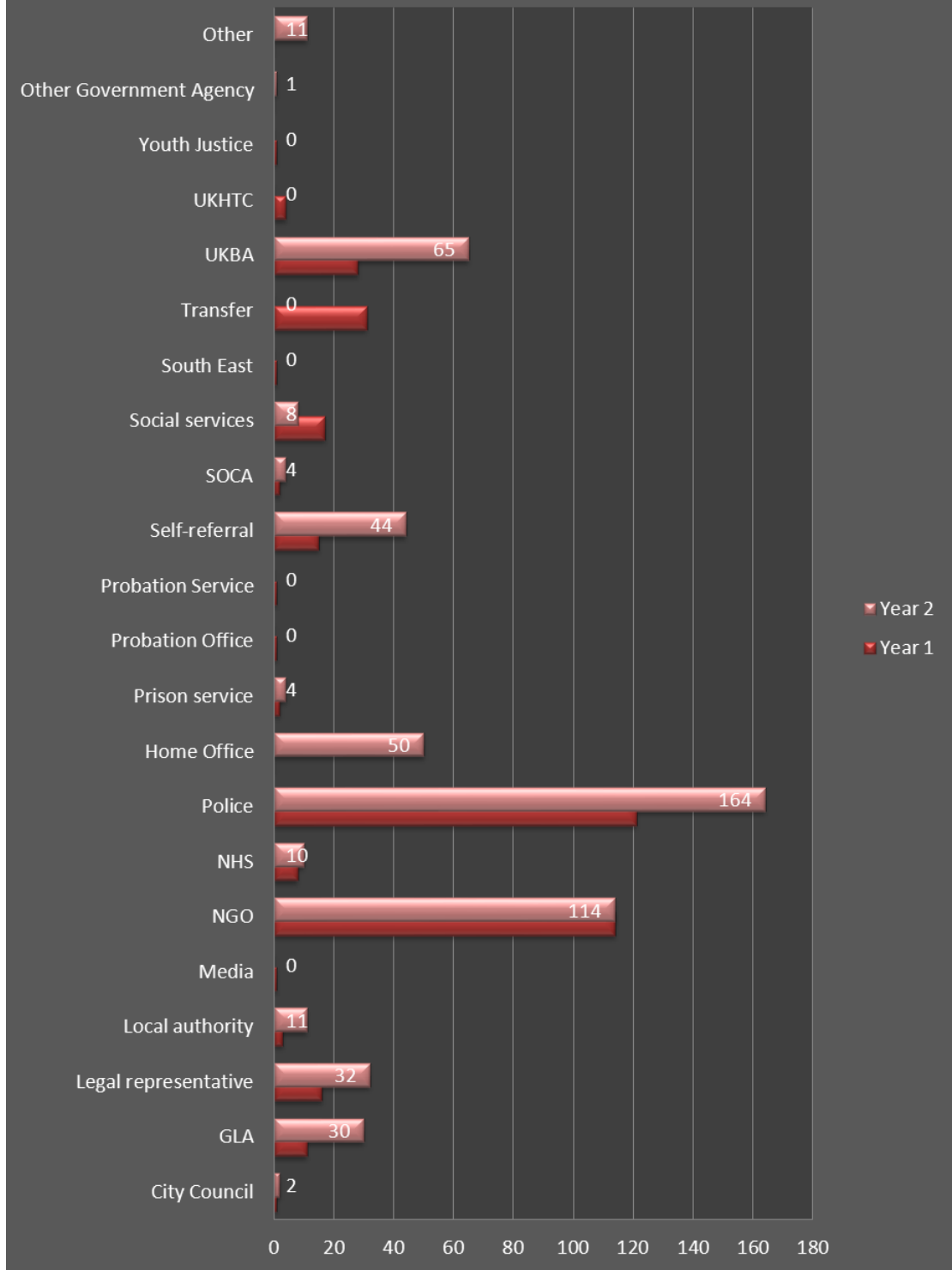
The Salvation Army operates a confidential referral helpline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for anyone who considers themselves to be a victim of trafficking and are in need of assistance, or nominated First Responders and concerned individuals who comes into contact with some-one they suspect may be a victim of trafficking and in need of assistance.

For more information go to www.salvationarmy.org.uk/uki/Traffickin

Figure 5.

Referring Agency for Supported Victims	Year 1	Year 2
City Council	1	2
GLA	11	30
Legal representative	16	32
Local authority	3	11
Media	1	0
NGO	114	114
NHS	8	10
Police	121	164
Home Office	0	50
Prison service	2	4
Probation Office	1	0
Probation Service	1	0
Self-referral	15	44
SOCA	2	4
Social services	17	8
South East	1	0
Transfer	31	0
UKBA	28	65
UKHTC	4	0
Youth Justice	1	0
Other Government Agency	0	1
Other	0	11
Grand Total	378	550

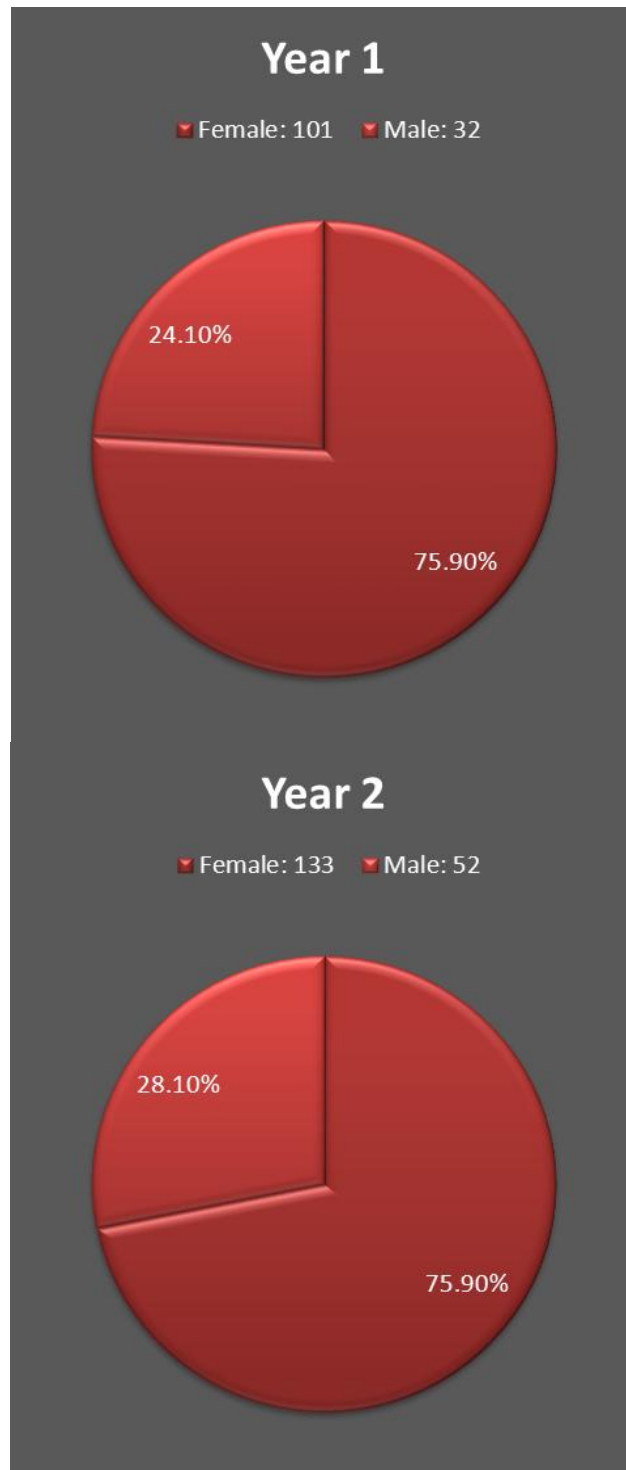
Referring Agency for Supported Victims



A7. Total number of victims referred who did not enter service:

Figure 6.

Gender	Year 1	Year 1 Percentage	Year 2	Year 2 Percentage
Female	101	75.9%	133	71.9%
Male	32	24.1%	52	28.1%
Trans-gender	0		0	0.0%
Total	133		185	



Possible reasons for not entering the service include:

Does not meet service criteria - individual been incorrectly identified as an adult victim of trafficking e.g. the individual was in fact homeless, or a victim of domestic violence. Of the total number of potential victims who did not enter the service at the end of year two 51% did not meet the criteria.

In these instances they would be referred to the appropriate support.

Declined help - individual may choose to receive help from another organisation, family or friends.

No further contact - individual could not be contacted on the number provided by the referrer.

A8. Exit destinations for victims who have moved on from the service

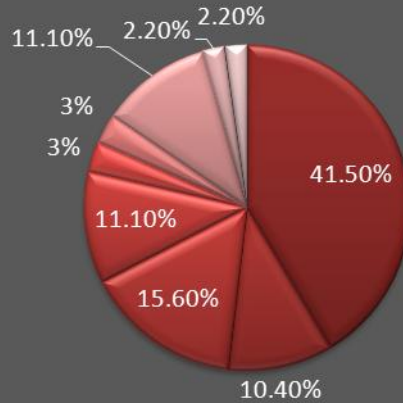
When individuals are given their conclusive grounds decisions and are ready to leave the service they can move on in a number of different ways; In cases where an exit destination is stated, the majority of victims (17.8%) returned to their country of origin. Figure 7 shows where individuals moved to having exited the service.

Figure 7

Exit destinations reported for victims who have moved on from the service	Year 1	Percentage	Exit destinations reported for victims who have moved on from the service	Year 2	Percentage
Returned to country of origin	56	41.5%	Abandoned	2	0.5%
Local authority accommodation	14	10.4%	Another country	78	17.8%
Mainstream provision	21	15.6%			
NASS accommodation	15	11.1%	Another UK city	13	3.0%
Social Services	4	3.0%	Evicted	2	0.5%
Shared housing	4	3.0%	Other	31	7.1%
Staying with friends	15	11.1%	Interim Accommodation	1	0.2%
Moved in with partner/family	3	2.2%	Living with friends/family/partner.	15	3.4%
Referred to charitable organisation	3	2.2%	Local Housing Authority	19	4.3%
Total	135		NASS Accommodation	76	17.3%
			Private Accommodation	15	3.4%
			Remanded	1	0.2%
			Resettled in area	37	8.4%
			Resettled out of area	35	8.0%
			Supported Accommodation	11	2.5%
			Unknown	102	23.2%
			YMCA	1	0.2%
			Total	439	

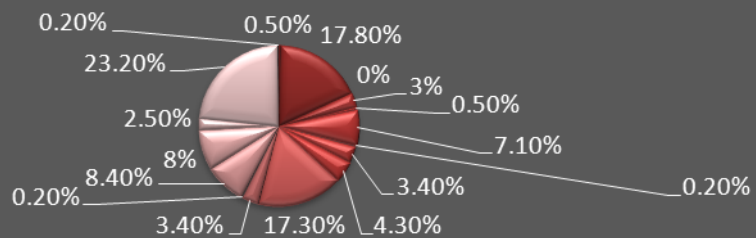
Year 1

- Returned to country of origin: 56
- Mainstream provision: 21
- Social Services: 4
- Staying with friends: 15
- Referred to charitable organisation: 3
- Local authority accommodation: 14
- NASS accommodation: 15
- Shared housing: 4
- Moved in with partner/family: 3



Year 2

- Absconded: 2
- Returned to Country of Origin: 0
- Evicted: 2
- Interim Accommodation: 1
- Local Housing Authority: 19
- Private Accommodation: 15
- Resettled in area: 37
- Supported Accommodation: 11
- Another country: 78
- Another UK city: 13
- Other: 31
- Living with friends/family/partner: 15
- NASS Accommodation: 76
- Remanded: 1
- Resettled out of area: 35
- Unknown: 102



In the third year of the contract The Salvation Army has taken steps to improve the monitoring and reporting of exit destinations by prescribing the following list of options which excludes the option of 'unknown': Asylum Support Accommodation; Homeless Services; Private Accommodation; Supported Accommodation; Reported as a missing person; Returned to country of origin; Returned to country other than that of origin (state which).

In addition improvements to the rigour of data collection on exit have been enforced and The Salvation Army is undertaking additional research into existing practices around victims' move on from the service with a view to improving service provision and making recommendations to influence policy in this area.

B. The Victims' Story

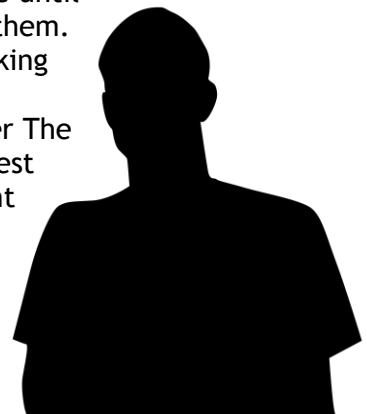
Slovakian Victim of Labour Exploitation

Adam is a young Slovakian man who was originally trafficked into the UK in 2009 when a 'friend' offered him good work in the UK. When he arrived he was forced to work very long hours in a chicken factory but his trafficker only paid him a minimal sum of around £10 to £20 a week. He also took Adam's identity documents and mostly provided very little food, often just a slice of bread and some beans a day. When Adam threatened him with the police he received promises that his money would be forthcoming but this never happened. When his documents were eventually returned, Adam travelled back to Slovakia for a while. Once again he succumbed to an offer of work in the UK, this time, with promises of much better pay and conditions.

However once again the promises were unfounded and this time Adam's treatment was much worse - he was moved from place to place, along with large numbers of other victims; fraudulent bank accounts and mobile phone contracts were taken out in his name and again he was forced to work long hours in poor conditions for little or no money.

Eventually Adam and a friend decided that they could no longer bear their life and took an opportunity to escape by telling their work supervisor that they felt ill and needed to go back to their lodgings. Instead they ran to the nearest fast food restaurant where they contacted the police and were told to wait there until someone from the Gangmasters Licensing Association (GLA) arrived for them. As they waited they were petrified that their trafficker would come looking for them and stared from the windows to spot his car. Fortunately they were safely received by the GLA who referred Adam to City Hearts under The Salvation Army's Government contract. He stayed here for a period of rest and recuperation before being helped to find and move into independent accommodation before Christmas 2012.

Adam describes his trafficker as 'a very clever man' who deceived and abused him. Adam is learning English, studying, and continuing to work with City Hearts on securing employment. He is very positive about his future prospects.



Nigerian Victim of Sexual Exploitation

Hadiza is in her mid twenties. She grew up in Nigeria with her parents and siblings. The family scraped a living by selling water and bean cakes by the side of the road and while Hadiza and her mother were doing this they were befriended by a man who would regularly buy their goods.

Over the course of five years, he talked to Hadiza about how she was too beautiful to be working on the roadside selling goods and that he could get her a good job in Europe working as a waitress, a nanny or a fruit picker. By this stage her family considered him to be someone they could trust so they agreed to pursue this option. Hadiza gave him a photo for her passport and travel documents and was surprised when the passport came back with a different name and date of birth. Her trafficker explained that was simply to overcome the fact that she was too young to work abroad - she was 20 at the time. When Hadiza's mother expressed concern about paying back the thousands of Euros (not a currency they were familiar with) needed

for her travel, the trafficker reassured them that Hadiza's wages as a waitress would soon cover this.

Before travelling out of Nigeria, Hadiza was taken to a JuJu ceremony to bind her to her trafficker. She was uncomfortable with this but, with the backing of her father, she subjected herself to the ceremony.

Hadiza was surprised to be travelling to Europe with four other girls. On arrival in Germany they were taken to a large house where Hadiza's trafficker instantly changed his attitude and told all the girls that they would now have to work as prostitutes to pay back their travel costs. Hadiza was devastated. She was forced to be filmed undertaking sexual acts which her trafficker threatened to send to Nigeria to shame her with friends and family should she ever try to escape. She was forced into prostitution and assaulted if she didn't willingly comply. After a week she and three other girls were brought to the UK by boat and taken to another house. Here she was tricked into taking a drugged drink and when she regained consciousness she was being raped by two men. Different people came and went from the house all the time.

When one day Hadiza and two other girls were left in the house with a man and woman taking intravenous drugs, they realised that this was their chance to escape. Grabbing shoes and a coat the girls ran in panic into the street where they became separated and have not since met up. Hadiza was helped to a police station where in a frightened and vulnerable state she didn't at first understand how to explain her situation. Once staff and solicitors realized that she was a victim of trafficking and she was referred to the care of Hestia under The Salvation Army's contract for victims of human trafficking.

At the safehouse she received much-needed counselling and legal support and was granted refugee status and somewhere to live. The week that news came though was the first time in the months Hadiza had been at the safehouse that staff had seen her laugh and smile. Hadiza is now living independently and receiving training. She feels much more positive about life and is keen to tell her story to help other people understand that without the support she's received she cannot imagine how she would have survived to start rebuilding her life.



Roumanian Victim of Labour Exploitation

Andreea had a sad and difficult childhood. She was placed in an orphanage as an infant and, when she lost her hearing at the age of six, moved to a hospital for people who were deaf and mute. She left there when 16 years old and lived unsupported on the streets.

A promise of well-paid work in the UK seemed too good to refuse. Andreea's passport was taken from her the moment she arrived and she was forced each day to go to a different location selling flowers on the street or begging with a card explaining that she was deaf and mute and stating she was collecting money for charity.

At the end of each she would be picked up and returned to a house where her traffickers forced her to hand over all the money she had made under threat of beating should she refuse or conceal any. Even though she was given very little to eat, when she asked for more she was also beaten.

One day she found the courage to communicate with a Community Support Officer in the street that she had been beaten and was taken directly to a police station where she could share her story through a sign language interpreter.

The Police referred her to The Salvation Army who transported her to safety with City Hearts.

Andreea was initially fearful and staff had to work hard through sign language interpreters to communicate with her and reassure her that she was safe and entitled to help. During her stay staff provided her with support and training to develop independent skills and feel settled. Among other things Andreea was helped to learn to cook; to decorate her own room and other rooms in the house; to write to friends in Romania; to attend local deaf groups. She was also supported to venture independently to the shops and town centre.

In the meantime City Hearts staff made contact with several appropriate non governmental agencies in the UK and in Romania and began to make arrangements for Andreea to return home as this was her wish. Andreea was involved in the process of finding suitable accommodation in Romania and The Salvation Army ensured that she was accompanied to the airport and met in Romania by a case worker from the safehouse there where she is now living.

Andreea was also helped to give evidence to an ongoing police operation to try to bring her traffickers to justice.



What the victims say:

'I am really happy to be here and have some help after my very bad experience, I feel secure now. I would like to say a big thank you for the opportunity to live here and for the help.'

'I have every support that a person needs here. I have food, my own room, they give me clothes and I meet a counsellor.'

'I get a lot of help here, with everything, even the cooking; shopping; buying food; sorting out travel documents; go to get English class; library; everything I need they help me. I have counselling every week; they take me there every week. All the help I could wish to have they help me.'

'I don't have any family. The staff are helpful. When I say I have no family it is them, they have been there every time for me.'

'I am happy here, I have everything I need, just a problem with the language. I just want to find a job - any job - and work.'

What the case workers say:

“Stealing what makes someone human is what traffickers do, that’s what we are trying to help with on top of all the practical things. It’s about helping them to realise that who they were before everything that happened to them is still there.”

“Every single person who has been through here have been special, you see them and you think, you survive, you are an amazing human being to have got through all that.”



C: Improving Care and Moving On

Wherever possible, The Salvation Army and its partners have sought to identify and implement ways to improve the service provided both whilst victims of trafficking are within our care and when they move on.

Some of the challenges presented are outside its control, particularly the key requirement of the Victim Care and Coordination contract to effectively support victims in moving on following their recovery and reflection period. However The Salvation Army has undertaken a number of initiatives to improve understanding of victims' needs; spread awareness of the service amongst potential referrers, both professional and general public; and ease the path for victims leaving its care.

The key initiatives undertaken during the second year of the contract are outlined below:

C1. Research into the support Needs of Male Victims of Trafficking

In response to the high numbers of male victims entering its care during the first year of the contract, The Salvation Army's Anti-human Trafficking Contract Management Team commissioned research to shed light on the experiences and needs of male victims of human trafficking. The Salvation Army's report provides a portrait of male victims' profiles, experiences and the support they need.

The findings of the research will be used to improve understanding of the particular needs and profiles of male victims so that support services can best meet these needs and led to recommendations relating to practice, policy and issues requiring further exploration.

Key Differences between Male and Female Victims of Human Trafficking

- More than twice the number of men than women felt they didn't need emotional support and turned down offers of counselling recommended as necessary by support staff *1
- Most men (86%) were trafficked for labour exploitation versus women (72%) trafficked who were trafficked for sexual exploitation
- Significantly more male victims were forced to open fraudulent bank accounts (24%) than women (2%)
- 18% of men reported restricted access to food versus only 3% of women
- Most male victims were from A8 countries*2 with 156 men coming from Poland; Slovakia; Romania; Hungary; Czech Republic, Lithuania versus a more diverse nationality profile for women
- 11 men supported by the Salvation Army in the last year were British
- The mean age of male victims is 34 versus 28 for women
- 36% of men requested support finding employment versus 2% of women
- 30% more men requested translation services than women

'Women are very open to saying I want to talk about it, men will go down all sorts of different routes before admitting that they want to talk about what has happened.'

The report also notes examples of interventions that are particularly beneficial to male victims. These include:

- Providing meaningful activities such as gardening, crafts and DIY,
- Programmes to foster self esteem, and
- Establishing good connections to the local community.



Experiences whilst being trafficked varied between the sexes with more men being forced to open fraudulent bank account and take out loans than women. The report also found that more men had access to their food restricted whereas women were more likely to have had limited freedom of movement and be subjected to physical abuse.

The Salvation Army's report, 'Support Needs of Male Victims of Human Trafficking', was made possible by a grant from the Garfield Weston Foundation and available at <http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/uki/Male-Victims-Human-Trafficking>.

C2. Embassies Handbook

The Salvation Army and its partners are committed to eliminating barriers to moving victims on in a timely and safe manner, whether they opt to return to another country or, for those who are eligible, remain in the UK and apply for housing, employment or state benefits.

Feedback obtained from contractors highlighted that different Embassies employ differing working practice, costs and timescales for obtaining emergency travel documents, replacement identity documents and passports. This sometimes led to uncertainty and caused delays.

The need for guidance was identified which resulted in the development of '*Guidelines for Engaging Effectively with Foreign Embassies in Supporting Adult Victims of Human Trafficking*'.

This e-Handbook contains factual information about the essential requirements of each Embassy to support applications for various documents. It is a tool for contractors of the service and is designed to expedite the process of working with embassies.

C3. Awareness Raising - Local Authority Conference

The Salvation Army has not only continued to support victims directly but worked with Government and other agencies to raise awareness of the issues facing victims and to improve the ongoing care available to them by fostering partnerships and multi-agency working.

Inspired by the low levels of awareness, particularly amongst Local Authorities, of what is available to help tackle the difficult issues of human trafficking, in April 2013 The Salvation Army held *Anti-Trafficking 2013*, a conference which brought together over 300 organisations and individuals who support victims of human trafficking. Delegates shared best practice, learned more about local and national priorities for supporting victims and the resources available. They also considered how to improve services in the future.



The results of the conference were widely shared and a toolkit of resources made available at www.anti-trafficking.co.uk/post_event so that local authorities can benefit from the work undertaken by speakers and delegates during the conference.

Baroness Butler-Sloss summarised the impact of the day in raising awareness and fostering joint working when she said:

“This conference has been a wonderful opportunity to spread the word to large numbers of people who need to know more about the appalling crime of human trafficking so they can spread the word amongst their communities.”

C4. Victim Care Fund

The Salvation Army successfully bid for funds from the Garfield Weston Foundation and in January 2012 was awarded £400,000 towards its work in supporting victims of trafficking. The award of these funds is dependent on The Salvation Army being a charity. The Victim Care Fund is available to victims within the service to assist the process of rebuilding their lives.

One of the central aims of the Fund is to provide support to victims upon their departure from the safehouse and to help them to move on as effectively as possible and achieve social and economic independence. The transition from the safehouse to independence is a difficult one for many reasons, such as leaving the security of the safehouse and the people they have come to trust and rely upon, vulnerability in terms of mental health after the trauma of trafficking and the lack of funds due to their situation as a trafficked person.

In addition to helping with resettlement costs, such as rent deposits, another aim of the Fund is to enable the development and improvement of the service that we offer victims of trafficking through innovative projects and research.

For example, during 2013 a Medaille Trust safehouse in the North of England was able to put in place additional support strategy related to employment, English for Speakers of others Languages (ESOL) and cookery classes. A project with a similar focus was also made possible through the Victim Care Fund at a City Hearts safehouse which works with male victims of trafficking. Based on the need to find ways of reintegrating men back into society, as identified in The Salvation Army's research into male victims of trafficking, this is a pilot for a Reintegration Support Programme to provide high level support to male victims of trafficking with severe and/or multiple issues, after the 45 day reflection period has ended.

Both projects will be monitored and evaluated by the sub-contractors and the outcomes fed back to The Salvation Army and disseminated amongst other sub-contractors.

By helping to meet the practical needs of trafficking victims, developing their skills, and building their self-esteem, they are less likely to become reliant on support services in the long-term and to achieve sustainable independent living.



D. The Salvation Army and Human Trafficking

“In 2007 we rightly celebrated the 200th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade and yet it is estimated that today around the world there are more slaves being held captive than ever before.

The Salvation Army has never ceased to campaign to raise awareness of the continuing problem and in the 126 countries in which we operate human trafficking is a high priority and we respond in practical ways depending on the local need and our resources. For example in Malawi The Salvation Army funds an Anti-Child Trafficking Centre to support children who have been trafficked away from their homes to work as herd boys and house girls.

Modern day slavery is evident in parts of Africa where children harvest cocoa beans to make our chocolate; women in Asia are trapped and exploited to make the cheap clothes that we wear and discard; and in the South Pacific men are enslaved on ships. Here in the UK, in our neighbourhoods, in our local communities, on our streets, children, women and men are being held against their will and abused and exploited. They are often hidden but not necessarily invisible.

Much can be done to address human trafficking and support the victims of these appalling crimes. The Salvation Army is passionate about spreading awareness amongst other organisations and agencies and to the general public about how to spot the signs that someone might be a victim of trafficking and to raise awareness about the help which is available to them.

Since 2011 The Salvation Army and its partners have witnessed what can be achieved when agencies work together. The Salvation Army will not only continue to support victims directly but work to improve the ongoing care available to them, raise awareness and campaign until we can definitively celebrate the end of modern slavery.”



Anne Read
Anti-Trafficking Response Coordinator for The Salvation Army