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FROM:
HUMAN TRAFFICKING TEAM
17 OCTOBER 2016

See distribution below

1. **Julie Wilson**
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ANTI-SLAVERY DAY 2016

Issue: Anti-Slavery Day takes place annually on 18 October. Soroptimist International (an NGO represented on the Department's Human Trafficking Engagement Group) is running a survey across shopping centres and public places in Northern Ireland both on 18 October itself and the days surrounding it. The aim is to both assess and raise awareness of trafficking and modern slavery. You had agreed in principle to drop in to one of these events and we have now arranged for you to have your photograph taken at Belfast City Hall on 18 October at 10.00hrs.

Timing: Pressing.

Presentational Issues: We plan to issue a press release to mark Anti-Slavery Day, covering a range of anti-slavery initiatives including the Soroptimist International survey and other Engagement Group events. It also welcomes the publication of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Annual Report for 2016, the IDMG report and GRETA's second round evaluation report. A draft press release is with Press Office and will be sent to you separately for approval.

Press office is content.

FOI Implications: Fully disclosable.

Financial Implications: n/a

Legal Implications: n/a

Shared Future Proofing: n/a

Legislative Implications: n/a

Justice Comm. n/a

Referral:

Executive Referral: n/a

Recommendation That you:

- **note the arrangements to have your photograph taken at Belfast City Hall on 18 October; and**
- **note that a draft press release will follow for your approval.**

Background

Anti-Slavery Day takes place annually on 18 October. As you are aware, Soroptimist International (an NGO represented on the Department's Human Trafficking Engagement Group) is running a survey across shopping centres and public places in Northern Ireland both on 18 October itself and the days surrounding it¹. The aim is to both assess and raise awareness of trafficking and modern slavery (my submission of 13 September 2016 refers). You had agreed in principle to drop in to one of these events and we have now arranged for you to have your photograph taken at Belfast City Hall on 18 October at 10.00hrs.

Soroptimist International survey

2. As set out in the draft Northern Ireland Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy for 2016/17, we want to gather information to enable us to baseline public awareness of human trafficking and modern slavery. It is envisaged that this information will help us to shape (and evaluate) future awareness raising campaigns. The main method of collecting this information will be through the Omnibus Survey². We plan to include two questions on human trafficking/modern slavery in this survey, which will be carried out later this year.

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3. Complementary to the Omnibus Survey, from Soroptimist International approached us to ask if her organisation could assist the Department in identifying a baseline of awareness. We agreed that it would be helpful for members

¹ The survey will commence on Saturday 15 October and finish on Saturday 22 October 2016.

² The Northern Ireland Omnibus Survey is carried out by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency on a regular basis and is designed to provide a snapshot of the lifestyle and views of the people of Northern Ireland.

of Soroptimist International to conduct a simple survey to gauge public awareness of the presence of modern slavery in Northern Ireland and their understanding of common signs and indicators that a person may be a victim. We believe that this survey will supplement the information received through the Omnibus Survey, but it will also, of itself, through direct engagement with the public help to raise awareness. We have provided those conducting the survey with an information sheet which includes key messages and statistics that we want to communicate to the public. The value of the survey, therefore, is not only in its findings, but in the process itself. The survey will be conducted in the following cities and towns:

Armagh	Hillsborough	Omagh	Ballymoney*
Ballynahinch	Lisburn	Portadown	Downpatrick*
Banbridge	Londonderry	Strabane	Newcastle*
Belfast	Newtownabbey	Dungannon*	
Enniskillen	Newtownards	Cookstown*	

* still to confirm.

4. An equivalent project is also being run by DOJE and Soroptimist Ireland in the South and we plan to publish cross-border results in due course.

5. On Anti-Slavery Day itself (18 October), representatives from Soroptimist International will conduct the survey in the grounds of Belfast City Hall. We have arranged for you to meet with those conducting the survey and to have your photograph taken at 10.00am. You will be met by _____ from Soroptimist International. I will also be in attendance.

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Other events/initiatives

6. A member of the Department's Human Trafficking Team will provide a presentation on human trafficking and slavery to the Council for Social Witness, Presbyterian Church in Ireland, on 18 October.

7. Operation Outrun, a preventative human trafficking initiative that is run by the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), UK Border Force (UKBF) and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC), will take place at Belfast International and Belfast City Airport from 17 to 21 October 2016. Women's Aid will have an information stall at Great Victoria Street Station on 18 October and Flourish NI plan to host a number of awareness raising events including a two hour zumbathon in the Great Hall at

Parliament Buildings on 20 October. Flourish NI and PSNI have also been invited to speak about the issue of human trafficking at an event for obstetricians and gynaecologists at the Ulster Hospital on 14 October and DOJ has provided leaflets to be handed out at this.

8. Migrant Help will also be running a week long awareness event during Anti-Slavery Week in main railway stations in GB. Colleagues from Migrant Help in Northern Ireland will be involved with a view to replicating the initiative in Northern Ireland next year.

Draft press release

9. We plan to issue a press release to mark Anti-Slavery Day. A draft is with Press Office and will be sent to you for approval. This mentions the Soroptimist International survey and some of the other events planned by Engagement Group Members. It also welcomes the publication of the Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner's Annual Report for 2016, the IDMG report and GRETA's second round evaluation report.

Recommendation

10. You are invited to note the arrangements to have your photograph taken at Belfast City Hall on 18 October and that a draft press release will follow for your approval.

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Copy Distribution

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