



## WHAT IS HUMAN TRAFFICKING?

- “The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion ... for the purpose of exploitation.” (United Nations)
- There are different types of human trafficking, with the three most common being sex, forced labour, and debt bondage
- Tackling human trafficking would allow for the success of numerous Sustainable Development Goals, specifically 1, 3, 5, 8, 16 and 17.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN SCOTLAND

### Current trends and statistics

- Human trafficking in Scotland affect not only the major cities but victims are also identified in 27 of 32 local authority areas in 2017.
- According to the National Referral Mechanism in 2017, 59% of trafficking victims in Scotland were male, defying global trends where more women and children are most trafficked.
- The techniques to prevent men from escaping are also different, with men facing more threats against their families, and denial of food and sleep, whereas women are typically blackmailed through their involvement in prostitution or pornography.



### Ongoing legislations

- In 2015, the Bill for the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act 2015 outlined forced labour offences, provisions for the protection of victims and confiscation of trafficking-related crime proceeds, trafficking prevention measures, and strategy and reporting elements.
- In June 2019, the Scottish Government opened a public consultation on Section 38 of the 2015 Act, relating to developing regulations on the duty of Scottish public authorities to notify Police Scotland of suspected human trafficking victims.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- In many instances, identification of potential cases of human trafficking relies on contribution from the wider community. Greater efforts can be made to promote public awareness in three key areas: what human trafficking is, how it can be identified, and what to do when human trafficking is suspected.
- Allocation of greater funding and resources for public reporting should also be considered, notably the Modern Slavery Helpline, which will close without funding by 30 November 2019.
- The Scottish Government should be sensitive to key geographical areas that are ‘hotspots’ of human trafficking activity, as knowledge of these locations may deter future threats and enhance the governance mechanism.