



## **WALES ANTI-SLAVERY CONFERENCE 2016**

**TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2016  
CELTIC MANOR RESORT, NEWPORT**

On the occasion of the designated 'Anti-Slavery Day' in the United Kingdom, the Wales Assembly Government Anti-Slavery Leadership Group hosted its annual Anti-Slavery Conference at the Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, south Wales.

Anti-Slavery Day was created in 2010 through a Private Member's Bill introduced by the then Member of Parliament Anthony Sheen CBE. Since then, it has grown significantly and each year more and more charities, individuals, local authorities and law enforcement agencies take action to mark the Day.

The Conference was Chaired and opened by Stephen Chapman, the Welsh Government's Anti-Slavery Co-ordinator.

In the role of the Anti-Slavery Co-ordinator, Stephen leads and co-ordinates the multi-agency response to tackle slavery which aims to make Wales hostile to slavery and provide the best possible support for survivors. He is a member of the Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group, Inter-Departmental Ministerial Group for Modern Slavery, UK Threat Group for Modern Slavery and the Home Office Modern Slavery Implementation Group.



There were a number of eminent speakers at the Conference which included:

Michael Sheen

Actor and UNICEF UK Ambassador



Michael began supporting UNICEF UK in 2010 when he took part in that year's Soccer Aid. Since then he has continued to advocate for children's rights in the UK and internationally visiting UNICEF projects in Chad, Lebanon, Jordan, Guatemala and closer to home here in Wales.

Michael has advocated for, and raised awareness of, a range of issues that UNICEF have been working across over the years. This has included the need for a target on violence against children in the new Sustainable Development Goals.

# 'Slavery thrives because it is a hidden crime'



Michael Sheen spoke at the All-Wales Anti-Slavery Conference

**BETHANY WHITE**  
Reporter

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HOLLYWOOD star Michael Sheen praised the "humanitarian impulse of the Welsh public" as he called for the "hidden crime" of slavery to be eradicated.

The Unicef ambassador's speech to the All-Wales Anti-Slavery Conference yesterday comes just months after a Cardiff business owner was jailed for 14 years for using two vulnerable men like "slaves".

Frost/Nixon star Sheen, 47, told delegates at the event at the Celtic Manor Hotel in Newport that modern slavery "thrives because it is a hidden crime", and he warned millions of women and children around the world were being sold so their "bodies can be exploited".

Sheen, who has visited refugee camps as part of his work with Unicef, said the ongoing refugee crisis was exacerbating the problem of modern-day slavery.

He said: "Europe is shutting it doors. Tens of thousands of children are now stranded in Italy and Greece, turning to smugglers and traffickers in their desperation to reach their destination.

"States should be building child protection systems rather than high walls. For the plight of these children is neither by their choosing or in their control. They need protection. They have a right to protection."

The actor spoke with pride about his hometown Port Talbot, which had rehomed the first wave of Syrian refugees in Wales.

He added that despite the fact that Wales had its own challenges, such as child poverty and homelessness, the country still showed support "thanks to the humanitarian impulse of the Welsh public".

Sheen went on to speak about Iolo Morganwg, the Welsh abolitionist and Cowbridge shop owner who only sold sugar that wasn't made by slaves, and said he would be proud of the commitment in Wales to ethical supply chains.

"Human trafficking is a crime of

such magnitude that no-one working alone can fight it," he said, adding, "Working together we can stamp it out."

Held on Anti-Slavery Day, the conference was part of a move to bring together different agencies, such as police, health and education, to spot the signs of trafficking and help prevent it.

It coincided with Home Secretary Amber Rudd announcing that UK police forces would receive an £8.5m cash injection to bolster the fight against modern slavery after concerns that the UK was not doing enough to tackle the issue.

Speaking at the conference, the national policing lead for modern slavery Shaun Sawyer praised Wales' effort tackling modern slavery but said the UK needed to do more.

Chief Constable Sawyer praised Wales for leading the way in combatting slavery, saying: "The 91% increase in victim reporting show that something is right in Wales."

But he added that it was "inconceivable that there was still a global slavery problem 200 years after William Wilberforce" and that today "victims are exploited in the most horrific ways".

He warned all people unintentionally contributed to the slave trade "whether on our mobiles or through the food we eat" but said if society worked collaboratively it could end the practice.

Earlier this year, Cardiff Crown Court heard how Patrick Joseph Connors, 59, forced Michael John Hughes to work for his family business for more than 20 years - paying him as little as £5 a day for back-breaking work.

Jurors were told Mr Hughes was beaten "all the time" if he did not do as he was told and was made to live in appalling conditions.

Connors, of Ramney, Cardiff, was convicted with his son Patrick Dean Connors and nephew William Connors of requiring a person to perform forced or compulsory labour. Patrick Dean Connors was handed a six-and-a-half-year prison sentence while William Connors was jailed for four years.

Shaun Sawyer - Chief Constable of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary  
National Policing Lead for Modern Slavery

**Keynote Address: 'Tackling slavery, we all have a part to play'**



Chief Constable Sawyer praised the work being done in Wales and commented that the 91% increase in victim reporting showed that something was right in Wales but that the UK as a whole needed to do more.

He added it was 'inconceivable there is still global modern slavery problem 200 years after William Wilberforce' and that today 'people are being exploited in the most horrific of ways'.

Kim-Ann Williamson - Strategic Objectives Lead  
Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group

**‘What we are doing in Wales to tackle slavery – Delivering our Strategic Objectives’**



Kim-Ann chairs the Wales Anti-Slavery Operational Delivery Group which facilitates the sharing of good practice and delivery of local initiatives through the Regional Anti-Slavery Groups. In addition Kim chairs the Wales Anti-Slavery Casework Review Group which by sharing good practice seeks to improve the investigation and prosecution of slavery cases and the provision of support to survivors.

In addition Kim-Ann chairs the UK Modern Slavery Training Delivery Group which reports to the UK Threat Group for Modern Slavery.

Justine Currell  
Executive Director - Unseen

**'The New Modern Slavery Helpline and Central Registry'**



An enhanced UK modern slavery helpline, which will help more survivors ask for support and make it easier for the UK public to report suspected exploitation has been launched.

The helpline has been developed through a partnership between the Home Office, US non government organisation Polaris and with £1million funding from Google.org, to cover start up costs. A UK non government organisation 'Unseen' will run the helpline.

This took place the day before the Home Secretary is due to chair a discussion with fellow G6 Interior Ministers on strengthening international efforts to tackle the causes of modern slavery and increase transparency in business supply chains.

The enhanced helpline will enable the UK to tap into world leading experience and helpline capabilities. Polaris brings with it years of expertise and technical know-how that could transform the UK's existing operational response to modern slavery.

Justine has joined Unseen to lead the development of the enhanced modern slavery helpline and resource centre and Unseen's work on the central registry for business transparency statements. Justine will also use her experience and knowledge of working with Ministers to influence other Governments internationally to take action to address modern slavery and, in particular, business supply chain issues.

Further information can be found at: <https://modernslavery.co.uk/contact.html>

Caroline Haughey  
Barrister and Author of the Review Report

### **'Review of the Modern Slavery Act 2015'**

This independent review by barrister Caroline Haughey was commissioned by the Prime Minister in her previous role as Home Secretary.

The review looks at how well the criminal justice provisions in the [Modern Slavery Act 2015](#) have been implemented and identifies gaps in the legislation, recommending ways to address issues identified.

Overall the review finds that:

- the Modern Slavery Act has set an international benchmark to which other jurisdictions aspire
- law enforcement agencies are using the powers in the act to increase the number of prosecutions and to support more victims of modern slavery
- there is more to do to deliver greater consistency in how law enforcement and criminal justice agencies deal with the victims and perpetrators of modern slavery
- better training, better intelligence and a more structured approach to identifying, investigating, prosecuting and preventing slavery is required

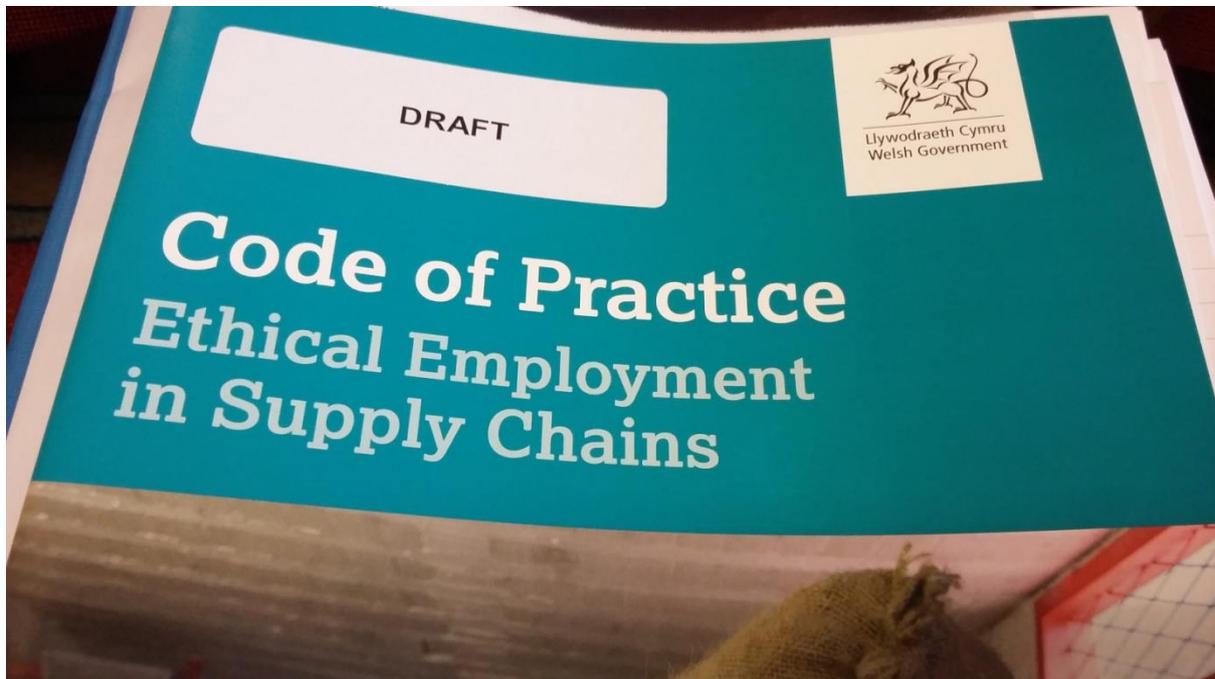
The government is considering the recommendations of the report.

A copy of the Review Report can be found at: <https://t.co/zGg5HBy2Wm>



Dr Sue Hurrell  
Special Projects Manager - Value Wales

## **'Ethical Employment in Supply Chains – Code of Practice and Guidance'**



This Code of Practice has been established by the Welsh Government to support the development of more ethical supply chains to deliver contracts for the Welsh public sector and third sector organisations in receipt of public funds.

Evidence illustrates that unethical employment practices are taking place in supply chains throughout Wales and beyond.

The Code is designed to ensure that workers in public sector supply chains are employed ethically and in compliance with both the letter and spirit of UK, EU and international laws. This Code covers the following employment issues:

- Modern Slavery and human rights abuses
- Blacklisting
- False self-employment
- Unfair use of umbrella schemes and zero hours contracts
- Paying the Living Wage

Further information on each of these issues can be found in the Code of Practice Toolkit:  
[www.gov.wales/code-of-practice](http://www.gov.wales/code-of-practice)

Professor Ryszard Piotrowicz  
Council of Europe GRETA Expert

### **The GRETA Experts Report on the UK – Recommendations**

Ryszard Piotrowicz is professor of law at Aberystwyth University.

He is an elected member of GRETA, the Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings. From 2008-15 he was a member of the European Commission's Group of Experts on Trafficking in Human Beings.

He has acted as a consultant on the legal aspects of human trafficking to various international organisations and countries, including the Council of Europe, UNHCR, OSCE, IOM and the EU.

The Council of Europe's Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, in force in 34 countries in Europe. GRETA makes recommendations to the Members States concerning the measures to be taken as a follow-up to its reports.



Amongst the GRETA recommendations for the UK:

- GRETA urges the UK authorities and devolved administrations to make further efforts to ensure that all victims of trafficking are provided with adequate support and assistance, according to their individual needs, beyond the 45-day period covered by the NRM, with a view to facilitating their reintegration and recovery as well as guaranteeing their protection.
- GRETA urges the UK authorities to take steps to improve the identification and protection of child victims of trafficking, in accordance with the best interests of the child.
- GRETA urges the UK authorities to adopt measures and to facilitate and guarantee access to compensation for victims of THB.
- GRETA urges the UK authorities to ensure that the best interests of the child are effectively respected, protected and fulfilled, including through pre-removal risk and security assessments, in particular for unaccompanied children, by specialised bodies, working with relevant partners in countries of return.

The full report can be found at:

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=09000016806abcdd>

Detective Chief Superintendent Paul Griffiths  
Superintendents Association England and Wales

### **'Investigating Modern Slavery within a Vulnerability World'**

He has led Operation Imperial, one of the largest Modern Slavery investigations in the United Kingdom to date.

The investigation saw the rescue of numerous vulnerable individuals in the south Wales region who had been exploited by members of the travelling fraternity and resulted in a series of successful prosecutions.



There were other presentations from:

Dr Gwilym Wyn Roberts – Healthcare Consultant

**‘Health – Dealing with the issues and the impact of health issues on the victims of Modern Slavery’**

In the past 5 years Gwilym has worked closely with Kim-Ann Williamson supporting the development of the Cymru South East Wales Local Scrutiny and Involvement Panel and supported the work of the Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group and the Anti-Slavery Operational Delivery Group. Gwilym is a Wales Anti Slavery trainer and has ensured all his students received anti-slavery awareness training.

Ed Beltrami - Chief Crown Prosecutor  
Crown Prosecution Service Cymru/Wales

**‘Crown Prosecutor’s Prosecution Commitments’**

With over 20 years’ service within the Crown Prosecution Service, Ed is a highly experienced prosecutor and manager.

Leanne Brustad – Detective Superintendent, Gwent Police  
Wales Operational Policing Lead

**‘Countering the threat of slavery in Wales’**

Since January 2016 Leanne has been the Wales Operational Police Lead for Modern Slavery. She is a member of the Wales Anti-Slavery Leadership Group, the UK and Wales Threat Groups for Modern Slavery.

There were also a number of workshops during the day:

**The role of First Responders in supporting survivors**

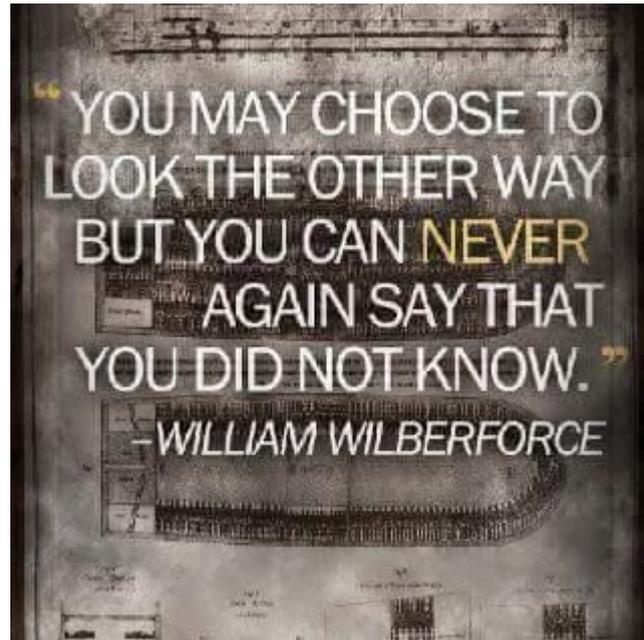
Facilitated by Angelina Rodrigues Deputy Chief Executive Bawso and Mike Wilkinson Deputy Chief Executive New Pathways

**The practical aspects of the ‘Ethical Employment in Supply Chains – Code of Practice and Guidance’**

Facilitated by Dr Sue Hurrell Special Projects Manager Value Wales and Mark Heath Head of Business Change and Development, Gangmasters Licensing Authority

**The Health perspective of dealing with slavery**

Facilitated by Dr Gwilym Wyn Roberts and Catrin Evans, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor



Report Author:

Jeff Norman, Modern Day Slavery & Human Trafficking Consultant and Specialist Advisor

[www.stop-slavery.co.uk](http://www.stop-slavery.co.uk)

22 October 2016