

Karen Bradley MP
Minister for Preventing Abuse, Exploitation and Crime
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____

Dear Karen Bradley,

Re Victims of Modern Slavery and Homelessness

I support Hope for Justice, an anti-slavery charity identifying victims and advocating on their behalf. **In 2015, they rescued 150 victims in the UK – around 10% of all victims identified nationally.**

Today I write to express serious concerns about changes to government policy on eligibility for welfare benefits. These changes mean many victims of modern slavery (particularly EEA Nationals) can't access support and assistance beyond the end of the National Referral Mechanism's 45-day recovery and reflection period. As a result, a large number of victims are being presented with a choice; return home where you may be at risk from the trafficker or live homeless on the streets of the UK.

Publicly available data suggests **up to 40% of victims are either unaccounted for or unsatisfactorily supported at the end of the 45 days*** placing them at considerable risk of re-trafficking/exploitation. This means the UK isn't keeping its promise to provide protection, assistance and support under the European Convention on Human Trafficking (CETS 197) and the European Directive (2011/36/EU).

My friend ... got back to Poland and he was killed. Nobody ever found his body...last time somebody saw him was where the traffickers live...and that's how my story started. – 'Adam', trafficking survivor.

Hope for Justice has worked to help victims overcome barriers to welfare. Without this intervention many more would fall through the gaps into destitution and the associated prosecutions would fail.

I would be grateful if you would champion support for survivors and call for:

- **Automatic Discretionary Leave to Remain to be granted for an initial one year plus one day** to all survivors upon receipt of a positive Conclusive Grounds decision; and the ability to extend that Leave on the basis of cooperation with criminal proceedings, personal circumstances and/or pursuit of compensation.
- **No victim to be exited from NRM safe accommodation until appropriate ongoing housing, support and subsistence is in place.** With a 40% increase in NRM referrals in 2015, hard-working service providers simply seem to be over-stretched and need more resources.

Thank you so much for your time and your consideration of how we can serve and protect survivors.

Yours faithfully,

www.hopeforjustice.org | info@hopeforjustice.org

*Fourth Year Report on The Salvation Army's Adult Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Victim Care & Coordination Contract (Oct 2015). Exit Destinations only recorded for 770 of 1097 'Clients Supported'; of which destinations, 42 'Reported as missing person', 17 'Unknown', 49 'Homeless Services', pp18.