“It is important that our strategy makes a difference on the ground. In order to tackle this crime successfully, we must work in a collaborative way with partners across central, regional and local government, law enforcement and the voluntary sector ... We are committed to striking the right balance and accept that all three main areas of the end to end strategy must be in equilibrium. A strong enforcement arm is not effective unless the corollary victim protection and assistance is in place. Victims may not come forward and identify themselves if there is no support, protection or assistance available to them.”


“... There must be a much more concerted effort to use local knowledge and the opportunities provided by existing local activities to identify trafficking victims ...”

— House of Commons Home Affairs Committee Report on Human Trafficking in the UK, May 2009

### Event Details

**Title:** Human Trafficking in the UK: Raising Awareness and Developing Local Action

**Date:** Thursday 9th July 2009

**Time:** 10:15am — 4:30pm

**Venue:** One Whitehall Place at The Royal Horseguards Westminster, London

### Overview

With latest statistics indicating that little progress has been made in tackling human trafficking in the UK, the Government has recently underlined its commitment to tackle this phenomenon, introducing a number of key measures designed to bolster efforts to identify and support victims and improve prosecution rates of traffickers. These include:

- A national referral mechanism, providing a nationally agreed framework to help frontline staff identify victims of trafficking and offer them support
- £4m over two years to enhance services for victims
- Granting a 45 day minimum reflection and recovery period to victims
- A further £3.7 million over the next two years for the Poppy project to help vulnerable victims of human trafficking

The Council of Europe Convention Against Trafficking Human Beings, which came into force in April 2009, will further strengthen current initiatives. However, the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee inquiry into human trafficking in the UK (published May 2009) emphasises that far more needs to be done to address human trafficking. The report highlights the pressing need to increase public awareness of trafficking, particularly for domestic servitude, street crime and labour exploitation, and improve police training in order to better identify victims of trafficking. Greater multi-agency working, utilising local knowledge and best practice, alongside better use of current legislation, were also cited as critical to achieving better identification and prevention of trafficking, which alarmingly includes large numbers of children.

This special Public Policy Exchange symposium, hosted by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, offers a timely opportunity for police, UK Border Agency staff, local authorities, and other stakeholders to consider the progress to date of current government policies within the context of the key findings of the Committee Report. Delegates will explore how to boost the identification and prosecution of trafficking in the UK and provide coordinated support for trafficking victims. The symposium will also consider how the safeguarding of trafficked children in local authority care can be improved. Delegates will have the opportunity to debate, share vital best practice, and network with colleagues from across the law enforcement, local authority, government and NGO landscape.

### Who Should Attend?

Vulnerable Persons Coordinators, Child Protection & Looked-After Children Teams, Local Safeguarding Children Boards, Missing Persons Units, Port & Airport Authorities, Central Government Departments & Agencies including UKBA, FCO, DFID, CPS, SOCA & Home Office, Local Authority Officers & Councillors, MARACs & Domestic Violence Co-ordinators, Housing Officers, Police Service, Police Authorities and Fire Services, PCT & Health Service Professionals, Victim Support Representatives, Drug & Alcohol Action Teams, Community Support Officers, Children and Youth Services, Housing Associations, Social Workers and Social Services Officers, Criminal Justice Practitioners, Asylum and Refugee Groups, Legal Professionals, Equality and Diversity Practitioners, Third Sector Practitioners, Faith Organisations, Academics and Researchers