



Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Inquiry into Human Trafficking

Submission: Walk Free Foundation
Date: 17 February 2017



1. OVERVIEW

Walk Free Foundation files this submission as part of the re-opened Joint Committee on Law Enforcement Inquiry into Human Trafficking, re-initiated on 12 October 2016. Thank you for considering our late submission.

MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery is one of the most pressing and urgent issues of this generation. There are an estimated 45.8 million people subjected to modern slavery today (Global Slavery Index, 2016). According to GSI estimates, more than 4000 people are subject to modern slavery in Australia. Some of the countries in our region are deeply affected, with survey results confirming for example, that more than 700,000 people are subject to modern slavery in Indonesia. Cases in the Asia Pacific region range from forced labour in agriculture, brick kilns and the garment sector, to forced begging and child soldiers in India, Afghanistan and Thailand.¹

“Modern slavery” covers a wide spectrum of crimes, but the common thread is any situation of exploitation where a person cannot refuse or leave because of threats, violence, coercion, abuse of power or deception. “Modern slavery” is used to refer to human trafficking, slavery and slavery like practices such as servitude, forced labour, deceptive recruiting and debt bondage. Modern slavery affects every country, region, business and for many large companies - their supply chains. Criminal networks exploit vulnerable scenarios and weak systems by targeting individuals who have been misplaced fleeing from conflict or are affected by globalisation, rapid technological growth, global mass migration and the gender inequality gaps that exist in many developing countries.

For example, many Syrian refugees who fled to Turkey have been subjected to bonded labour in garment factories, which supply major global retailers.² Migrant fishermen are trafficked and exploited in boats off the coast of Thailand, entrapped in horrific circumstances, catching fishmeal which is used throughout the supply chains of many major supermarkets and restaurants across western markets.³ Growing numbers of women and girls are forced to work in quarries, farms, textile and tea industries in regions such as India.⁴ There are countless more examples.

THE ROLE OF BUSINESSES AND GOVERNMENT

Large businesses have the power to influence change within supply chain networks, to drive up standards and remove the profitability of modern slavery. Governments have an important role to play to encourage businesses to take such action by introducing a strong and clear legal framework. The Australian Government has undertaken important first steps to address modern slavery, such as the introduction of Divisions 270 and 271 of the Criminal Code prohibiting all forms of human trafficking, forced labour, forced marriage and slavery offences. Yet there is more to be done. Australia can lead the way in the region by introducing a “Modern Slavery Act” to ensure the reputation of Australian companies matches foreign policies and moral global expectations. For this reason, we



commend the Joint Committee on Law Enforcement for picking up consideration of this issue in this Inquiry into Human Trafficking.

THE CASE FOR AN AUSTRALIAN MODERN SLAVERY ACT

Addressing modern slavery is a complex, multifaceted issue. As history confirms, criminal laws are not enough to end these practices. Responses must be far more systematic, tackling the root causes of vulnerability and increasing protections for known vulnerable populations wherever possible.

In this submission Walk Free has focused on these two terms of reference for the inquiry *“the effectiveness of relevant Commonwealth legislation and policies”* and *“other related issues”*. In response to these two questions, Walk Free presents the case as to why Australia needs as a priority an Australian “Modern Slavery Act” that strengthens existing Commonwealth legislation and policies to address the crime of “human trafficking” and more broadly, the multifaceted crimes of modern slavery.

Walk Free recommends the enactment of an Australian Modern Slavery Act which implements as a priority:

- (1) The appointment of an **Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner** to lead Australia’s fight against modern slavery.
- (2) At a minimum, require all large organisations doing business in Australia to publish an annual **“modern slavery statement”** reporting on steps taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place within their organisation and supply chains.
- (3) Maintain a public **central repository** to file “Modern Slavery Statements”.
- (4) Strengthens the Government’s own policies and procedures surrounding **public procurement** to eradicate modern slavery within publicly funded supply chains.

These are the top priorities that Walk Free brings to the attention of the Federal Committee, but Walk Free recognises there are many other important issues which could also be addressed in a “Modern Slavery Act”. By introducing an Australian Modern Slavery Act, Australia can:

- show leadership in the region
- build on the existing voluntary and legal framework
- address the growing governance gap in global and developing markets
- level the playing field for companies already regulated by laws overseas
- encourage a change in corporate behaviour
- respond to growing public calls for its enactment

On 17 February 2017, a Commonwealth inquiry was announced to examine whether Australia should adopt national legislation comparable to the UK Modern Slavery Act.⁵



This indicates strong Government support from both the Attorney General and DFAT to examine whether Australia needs a Modern Slavery Act.

Introducing these laws would send a powerful message to all Australians, companies that do business in Australia and to our neighbouring regions that we shall not stand by and ignore the millions subjected to modern slavery. It's time now to act, to legislate and to work together to end modern slavery.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To introduce an Australian Modern Slavery Act which implements as a priority:

- (1) The appointment of an **Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner** to lead Australia's fight against modern slavery.
- (2) At a minimum, require all large organisations doing business in Australia to publish an annual "**modern slavery statement**" reporting on steps taken to ensure modern slavery is not taking place within their organisation and supply chains.
- (3) Maintain a public **central repository** to file "modern slavery statements".
- (4) Strengthen the Australian Government's policies and procedures surrounding **public procurement** to eradicate modern slavery within publicly funded supply chains.

These are the top priorities that Walk Free brings to the attention of the Federal Committee, but Walk Free recognises there are many other important issues to be addressed in a "Modern Slavery Act".

3. INDEPENDENT ANTI SLAVERY COMMISSIONER

Walk Free joins with the NGOs calling for the appointment of an Independent Australian Anti-Slavery Commissioner, similar to the role of the UK Commissioner.⁶

3.1. WHY

The office of a Commissioner is vital for the success of any efforts to tackle modern slavery and will demonstrate Australia's commitment as a leader in the region. Effectively combatting modern slavery requires highly coordinated, coherent responses from many different agencies and stakeholders. The operation of these efforts in practice has to be monitored and where necessary, refined and strengthened. It is difficult for any single agency to truly step back and assess the effectiveness of these responses, as this inevitably requires identifying gaps and inconsistencies across agencies, not just within agencies. Accordingly, in our view independent oversight is vital.

Stakeholders include government bodies (at both the state and federal level), police, universities, civil society, faith based communities, businesses, industries, unions and



those offering victim support. Crimes are often interlinked, and often human trafficking cannot be assessed or responded to in isolation. A Commissioner would:

- 3.1.1. **PROVIDE INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT** - The Australian Government is midway through a 5 year “National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery” (“**NAP**”), being the government’s response to an audit of its anti-trafficking response by the **Australian** National Audit Office (“**ANAO**”). The NAP identifies gaps in the current approach to human trafficking and outlines priorities. Yet, there is no external review mechanism for the NAP. The only monitoring and evaluation of progress is undertaken by the Government itself, drawing on agency reports.

As an independent statutory body, the Commissioner would be tasked with providing independent oversight of the response across all sectors; from those on the ground identifying victims and providing emergency support services, to the police enforcing laws and prosecutors pursuing offenders, to companies addressing modern slavery within their supply chains. A Commissioner would identify gaps or weaknesses in existing framework, identify solutions, and ultimately bolster the success of Australia’s response to modern slavery.

The Commissioner would be accountable to Parliament. The role of the Commissioner would complement the role of the Ambassador for People Smuggling and Human Trafficking.

- 3.1.2. **ENHANCE COLLABORATION** - responding to modern slavery requires collaboration and combining on the resources of civil society, child protection, immigration, legal aid, law enforcement, labour regulators and private sector. A Commissioner would monitor and report on the effectiveness of coordinated law enforcement between the State and Federal Police, in an effort to strengthen this coordination and response.
- 3.1.3. **EFFICIENTLY ALLOCATE RESOURCES** – Independent oversight would have the capacity to identify duplication of resources, and inconsistencies in approach, that lead to inefficiencies.

3.2. **INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES**

Establishing an independent commissioner (sometimes known as a rapporteur) is internationally recognised as good practice. For example, across the EU is a network of national rapporteurs or equivalents focused on trafficking and modern slavery.⁷ National rapporteurs are responsible for monitoring national policies and play a key role in data collection on trafficking at national and EU level. Examples of appointments include:

- 3.2.1. **EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator** is tasked to improve coordination and coherence between EU institutions, EU agencies, member states and international actors and to develop existing and new EU policies relevant to addressing human trafficking.⁸



3.2.2. **UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner**⁹ the UK Commissioner is mandated to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute slavery and human trafficking offences and to identify victims. Specific tasks include prioritising victim identification and care, law enforcement and criminal justice, private sector engagement, partnerships and international collaboration.

3.2.3. **Finnish Non-Discrimination Ombudsman National Rapporteur** is tasked with monitoring human trafficking, international obligations, effectiveness of national legislation, issuing proposals, recommendations, statements and advice to combat human trafficking, promoting victims' rights, preparing legal advice and reporting to the Government and Parliament.

3.3. **POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Powers and responsibilities of the Commissioner would need to be set out in Commonwealth legislation, with provisions including to:

- monitor operation and implementation of legislation, and understand trends in the criminal environment, and assess the impact of these on suitability and completeness of policies and legislation
- hold businesses and the Government accountable through reporting on performance indicators
- promote practices to identify and protect victims
- collect and request data and information on trafficking
- ensure greater coordination and efficiency of Government departments on a national and state level, through driving a focus on outcomes not just activities
- develop accredited training packages
- advocate generally for victims of trafficking
- undertake inquiries into cases which raise issues of public policy
- prepare public reports to detail findings, review progress and recommend strategies

3.4. **OFFICE**

The Commissioner should be supported by a panel of expert advisors and specialised staff, appropriately funded. This derives from the UK model. The UK Commissioner operates with a small staff team with backgrounds in law enforcement, policy, victim support, research and human rights. The UK Commissioner is supported by members of an Advisory Panel, comprised of leaders in charity, law, faith groups and academia.

4. **ANNUAL REPORTING BY LARGE COMPANIES**

Walk Free joins with NGO's calling for large organisations doing business in Australia to at a minimum, annually report and disclose steps taken to eradicate modern slavery within their organisation and supply chains.¹⁰



4.1. **WHY DOES AUSTRALIA NEED A MODERN SLAVERY ACT?**

Modern slavery affects a wide range of organisations operating within and outside of Australia. Within Australia, modern slavery occurs mainly in industries that are labour intensive, low technology and low-profit, such as agriculture/horticulture, the meat industry, construction, domestic work and hospitality. Australian businesses are highly integrated with supply chains from across Asia, including high risk countries such as Thailand, India, Bangladesh and Malaysia. Regulation has not kept up with rates of globalisation in developing countries. Those operating in these markets can (if they wish) do so largely with less legal accountability. As an island, Australia is heavily dependent on international shipping, an industry itself not immune to modern slavery.

Largely the existing response has been to rely upon voluntary initiatives, codes of conduct and other guidance, i.e. “soft law”. The most prominent of these is the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (“**UNGP**”). The UNGP are a global standard for preventing and addressing adverse human rights impacts related to business that are being supported and implemented by a growing number of Australian companies, the Australian Government and civil society. Introduced in 2011, the UNGP have received wide support.

“Soft law”, such as the UNGP, has built an important foundation for addressing some of these issues, but there is a growing support for compulsory reporting that covers all sectors and organisations (not just those in the public eye) and create a level playing field. The proposal for an Australian Modern Slavery Act would build on, rather than detract from voluntary initiatives such as the UNGP. The Government has a critical role to play by creating systems of accountability for both private and the public sector, and can do this by introducing reporting obligations.

4.2. **INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES**

There is a rapidly developing body of law mandating reporting by large organisations on their supply chains. These emerging laws are designed to encourage organisations to look for and then address modern slavery, rather than to punish those who find it.

- (1) **UK:** introduced in 2015, arguably the most prominent of recent reforms is Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act (UK). Section 54 requires large organisations (with an annual turnover of GBP36million or more) carrying on business in the UK supplying goods or services to publish annually a statement approved by the directors (and signed), published on a prominent place on its website, stating what it does to ensure there is no slavery within its organisation and within its supply chains. While a company risks injunctive proceedings for failing to publish, the content of the statement is not regulated but enforced by the “court of popular opinion”. Annual reporting regimes such as Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act (UK) mirror the recommended reporting elements of the UNGP.
- (2) **California:** introduced in 2010, the California Transparency in Supply Chains Act is similar to section 54, but narrower in scope. It regulates only retail and



manufacturing companies doing business in California with annual revenue of US\$100 million or more. Statements should be updated “regularly”. Companies must report on verification of supply chains, auditing, certification, accountability standards and training in respect of modern slavery risks. In terms of Federal regulation, the US Congress is considering the Business Supply Chain Transparency on Trafficking and Slavery Act (2015) but there is no indication as to whether it will be successful or not.

- (3) **EU:** introduced in 2014, the EU Directive 2014/95 requires large organisations (over 500 employees or otherwise of public interest) to include in management reports a “non-financial statement” regarding social, environmental and human rights impact (including modern slavery). Reporting started on 1 January 2017.

Each of these laws has extraterritorial reach, in other words they impact local and foreign companies if they do business in the jurisdiction. Almost 10% of the top 100 ASX listed companies are already reporting under section 54 of the UK Act, including for example Qantas, Wesfarmers, Commonwealth Bank of Australia and BHP.¹¹

4.3. **COMPULSORY REPORTING**

Compulsory reporting has proven to be a powerful way of bringing the attention of modern slavery to senior executives. When a global company exerts influence, it has a cascading impact down through its networks of suppliers, and can encourage sector wide transformation for the benefit of those most vulnerable at the end of the chain.

Following the lead of other countries, as a minimum, the Government should require all large companies doing business in Australia to at a minimum, report annually on steps taken to ensure there is no modern slavery within the organisation and supply chains (the “**Modern Slavery Statement**”).

This approach is “light touch”. It would not punish companies who look and then find modern slavery, but rather encourage companies to see out issues and address them. Laws should be broadly described, to ensure that companies adopt a proportional and reasonable response to disclosure, conducting due diligence as appropriate to the sector and regions in which they operate. Investigating supply chains is difficult, but companies are uniquely placed to respond with considerable influence to bring sustainable impact.

In terms of the threshold test determining who is a “large” company, an appropriate test could match existing corporate threshold tests for “large” businesses in Australia under the Corporations Act 2001 (*Commonwealth*) or for taxation purposes.

4.4. **LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD**

Compulsory reporting obligations would “level the playing field” and remove any competitive disadvantage for those companies already complying. Previously companies that did the right thing, arguably found themselves at a competitive disadvantage to less scrupulous companies, wilfully turning a blind eye to modern slavery risks.



There is also a strong business case for organisations to be increasingly transparent on non-financial matters, including modern slavery. Investors are demanding greater clarity and accountability before doing business with companies, preferring those who proactively address risks rather than wait to reactively respond to a crisis.¹²

Fundamentally, reliance on unfree labour is not only a moral issue, but a commercial one. It blocks the ability of many sectors to create sustainable jobs, and prevents companies from enhancing and improving long term employment models.

Often when companies investigate for modern slavery, it can unlock the door to reveal other offences further down the spectrum of severity. Companies may not always find cases of modern slavery within their supply chains, but may find – for example - that contracted workers are being severely underpaid or unfair working conditions. These issues feed into other policy issues for governments, such as labour hire conditions, health and safety, and addressing gender inequalities.

4.5. **SUPPORT**

There is growing support for an Australian “Modern Slavery Act” from companies, NGO’s and religious organisations. On the UN International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (2 December 2016), as part of the Australian Freedom Network - 15 major Australian faith organisations signed a declaration calling on the Government to enact legislation that reflects the world’s best practice in the fight to end modern slavery, including the appointment of an Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner.

Global companies also support legislation such as the UK Modern Slavery Act, including ASOS, Marks and Spencers and Burberry, who praise the UK law as providing clarity and consistency for companies.¹³ Marks and Spencers also expressed strong support for a central repository to hold businesses to account and provide some transparency.¹⁴

Introducing a Modern Slavery Act would be consistent with publicised Government strategies. For example, Australia recently emphasised its international role in combating human trafficking and slavery in its report “*Amplifying our Impact: Australia’s International Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery*” (2016). One of the priorities mentioned in the report is to address modern slavery in supply chains.

Finally, on 17 February a Commonwealth inquiry was announced to examine whether Australia should adopt national legislation comparable to the UK Modern Slavery Act.¹⁵ This indicates strong Government support at the Attorney General and DFAT level to investigate these issues.



5. CENTRAL REPOSITORY

5.1. WHY DOES AUSTRALIA NEED A CENTRAL REPOSITORY?

Who must comply with a Modern Slavery Act? What risks are being identified? Are organisations doing enough? Without a repository, it is difficult to answer these questions so that statements can be analysed and the actions (or inaction) of companies monitored

Introducing a centrally managed repository would complement the proposed reporting requirements for private sector organisations. It would promote public accountability. It would ensure progress of companies is measurable, and work as an efficient system to monitor progress and ultimately the impact of such laws.

5.2. INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES

Presently there is no formally mandated repository for reporting under either the UK, US or EU laws at present. However, this has been recognised as a significant gap in the laws impeding its success.

Under the Californian laws, the Franchise Board is required to keep a list of retailer sellers and manufacturers required to file disclosure reports, based on tax returns. The list is submitted annually to the Attorney General by November 30 each year, but it is not publicly available. This has also been a major criticism of the Californian laws, as it means consumers are unaware of which businesses are required to comply – hindering transparency and making it difficult for the “court of popular opinion” to operate.

In the UK, the UK Anti-Slavery Commissioner is currently consulting with NGOs as to how best manage a central repository for statements filed under section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act.¹⁶ At the moment in the UK they are conflicting repositories that are being managed by separate NGOs, some requiring payment and others as a free service. Whilst these efforts are commendable, conflicting repositories have created a confusing and at times, conflicting, system of collating statements which is not promoting transparency or accountability.

A private members bill is currently being considered by the House of Commons, which amongst other things, amends the UK Modern Slavery Act to include the requirement for a central repository. There is no indication yet as to whether this amendment will be accepted or not.¹⁷

5.3. THE REPOSITORY

Ideally the repository should be neutrally governed, free and searchable. Users should be able to identify companies that have or have not published statements, identify benchmarks for progress, measure the actions of companies (and/or inaction), identify trends and changes over time and formulate goals and targets for compliance.¹⁸



6. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Walk Free Foundation continues its call, and in doing so joins with other NGO's recommending the Australian Government strengthens its own policies and procedures surrounding public procurement to eradicate modern slavery within publicly funded supply chains.¹⁹

6.1. WHY PUBLIC PROCUREMENT?

Governments procure a whole range of goods and services, including electronics, food and logistics services. On average, government procurement accounts for 17% of GDP in OECD member countries. The US government is the single largest purchaser in the global economy, with annual spending of up to \$500 billion.²⁰ The Australian Government procurement contracts were valued at \$56.9 million for the year 2015/16, with over 70,338 contracts.²¹

The likelihood of finding modern slavery within these vast supply chains is high. Governments also exercise considerable influence over public procurement supply chains. As well as addressing the risk of modern slavery within the private sector supply chains, it is imperative that the Government is also taking action within its own supply chain network of public sector suppliers. It also is consistent with governments' duty to protect human rights under the UNGP (Principle 6).

6.2. INTERNATIONAL EXAMPLES

In the United States, an Executive Order 13627 issued by President Obama in 2012, requires US Government contractors to certify that they and their subcontractors are not engaged in human trafficking activities and for high value suppliers, to create a 'compliance plan' to prevent modern slavery.²² In the UK, the same private members bill referred to above (which is currently being considered by the House of Commons) also calls for all public bodies to publish a modern slavery statement for high value contracts.²³ Again, it is not clear whether these amendments will be accepted.

6.3. WITHIN AUSTRALIA

In March 2013, then Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced a new government strategy on ethical contracting to ensure that the Australian Government's procurement practices assist in identifying and eliminating modern slavery.²⁴ This was a monumental act of leadership that few could disagree with – and indeed this idea garnered bipartisan support, with the subsequent Abbott Government indicating support for this idea. However, it is not yet clear what action has been taken in this regard, other than the creation of an ethical procurement information guide.²⁵ Walk Free Foundation recommends that the current Government undertake a risk assessment of its procurement in the context of modern slavery within its supply chains. Concrete requirements should be clearly articulated regarding what is expected from preferred suppliers and regarding guidelines to protect the Government from inadvertently buying goods or services produced by slavery.



7. ABOUT WALK FREE FOUNDATION

Walk Free Foundation has a multi-faceted approach towards ending modern slavery. This includes building a robust knowledge base to inform action, driving legislative change in key countries, harnessing the power of businesses and faiths and bringing new resources to this issue.

7.1. THE GLOBAL SLAVERY INDEX

A tool to accurately measure the prevalence of modern slavery, the strength of government responses, and the level of vulnerability to slavery in 167 countries. Compiled by an international team of experts, the Index is unique, in that it draws directly on primary data about actual prevalence of this crime.

7.2. THE BALI PROCESS BUSINESS FORUM

Walk Free Foundation is working with the Australian Government on the Bali Process Business Forum. The Bali Process is a regional forum that aims to eradicate people smuggling and human trafficking. Co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia, it is made up of 45 member countries and 3 UN bodies. From 2016, the Bali Forum is being expanded to include the private sector. The Business Forum, will bring together ministers and key private sector leaders to examine modern slavery and trafficking with the aim of adopting an agreed set of principles.

7.3. GLOBAL FREEDOM NETWORK

Formed in 2013, the Global Freedom Network is a multi-faith, antislavery initiative that operates as a coalition of faith communities committed to ending modern slavery.

7.4. FREEDOM FUND

The world's first private donor fund to bring financial resources, strategic focus and robust analysis to grassroots partners in the fight against modern slavery. The Walk Free Foundation is one of three founding partners alongside Humanity United and the Legatum Group.

7.5. GLOBAL FUND TO END SLAVERY

A global initiative using high quality data, partnership with governments and the mobilisation of funds at the scale needed to permanently dismantle slavery systems and end modern slavery. Walk Free Foundation is collaborating with the Global Fund to End Slavery in recognition of the need for government developed and driven, fully budgeted, strategies to end modern slavery. The Fund aspires to build a unique public-private partnership to leverage unprecedented levels of resources to dismantle the systems of slavery. In recognition of the critical role of business in ending modern slavery, the Fund has also integrated a business engagement component. This includes supply chain risk assessment tools and training and authentication processes.



8. CONTACTS

Hon. Chris Evans, CEO of Global Freedom Network

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Fiona David, Executive Director of Research for Walk Free Foundation

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9. ENDNOTES

¹ Regional Analysis: Asia Pacific, The Global Slavery Index 2016, accessed 17/2/2017: <http://www.globalslaveryindex.org/region/asia-pacific/>.

² Business and Human Rights Online, Press Release 1 February 2016, accessed 9/2/2017: <https://business-humanrights.org/en/syrian-refugees-in-turkish-garment-supply-chains-an-analysis-of-company-action-to-address-serious-exploitation>.

³ Modern Slavery in the Fishing Sector, The Marine Ingredients Organisation, 2015, accessed 9/2/2017: <http://www.iffonet.net/position-paper/modern-slavery-fishing-sector>.

⁴ Ravi S. Srivastava, "Bonded Labour in India: Its Incidence and Pattern", *ILO*, Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour, 2005. See also, "Caste, Gender and Forced & Bonded Labour", June 2015, accessed on 8/2/2017: <http://idsn.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Caste-Gender-and-Modern-Slavery1.pdf>.

⁵ Parliament of Australia Media Release, "Combatting Modern Slavery", Inquiry into Modern Slavery issued 17 February 2017, accessed 17/2/2017: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org.au/new/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Media-release-for-MSA-inquiry-launch-17-2-17.pdf>.

⁶ In particular agreeing with the relevant parts of the submissions filed by the Salvation Army (February 2016), Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans ("ACRATH") additional submission (27 January 2017), Australian Human Rights Commission submission (4 March 2016) and Anti-Slavery Australia submission (filed 2016).

⁷ European Commission, "National Rapporteurs and/or Equivalent Mechanisms", accessed 13/2/2017: https://ec.europa.eu/anti-trafficking/national-rapporteurs_en.

⁸ As above.

⁹ Home Page of the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner, accessed 16/2/2017: <http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/>.

¹⁰ Walk Free supports the relevant parts of the submissions filed by Slavery Links Australia submission, Part 4 Item 13 (filed 2016), ACRATH – Item 3 (filed 2016), Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (filed 2016), Anti-Slavery Australia submission (filed 2016) and the Salvation Army (February 2016).

¹¹ Business and Human Rights Repository of Modern Slavery Statements (UK), accessed 17/2/2017: <https://business-humanrights.org/en/uk-modern-slavery-act-registry>.

¹² Data extracted from the UK Modern Slavery Act & Registry, Business and Human Rights Online, accessed 10/2/2017: <https://business-humanrights.org/en/uk-modern-slavery-act-registry>.

¹³ Joint Committee on Human Rights, Oral Evidence: Human Rights and Business, HC 443,25 January 2017, accessed 17/2/2017: <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/human-rights-committee/human-rights-and-business/oral/46228.html>.

¹⁴ As above, No. 13.



¹⁵ Parliament of Australia Media Release, "Combatting Modern Slavery", Inquiry into Modern Slavery issued 17 February 2017, accessed 17/2/2017: <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Media-release-for-MSA-inquiry-launch-17-2-17.pdf>.

¹⁶ Submissions were due to be filed by 20 January 2017. For more information, please see Anti Slavery Commissioner, "Call for Central Repository Written Submissions", 22 December 2017, accessed 14/2/2017: <http://www.antislaverycommissioner.co.uk/news-insights/call-for-central-repository-written-submissions/>.

¹⁷ Private Members' Bill sponsored by Baroness Young of Hornsby and Maggie Throup, accessed 16/2/2017: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

¹⁸ As above, No. 10.

¹⁹ Walk Free supports the submissions filed by Slavery Links Australia submission, Part 4 Item 13 (filed 2016), ACRATH – Item 3 (filed 2016), Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (filed 2016) and Anti-Slavery Australia submission (filed 2016).

²⁰ Ainhoa Barrenechea, "Human Rights and public procurement: is taxpayer money financing forced labour in supply chains?", Focus on Labour Exploitation, 17 September 2016, accessed 16/2/2017: <http://www.labourexploitation.org/news/human-rights-and-public-procurement-taxpayer-money-financing-forced-labour-supply-chains>.

²¹ Statistics on Australian Government Procurement Contracts, Department of Finance, accessed 16/2/2017: <https://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/statistics-on-commonwealth-purchasing-contracts/>.

²² "Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts", Executive Order 13,627, 77 Fed. Reg. 60029 25 Sept 2012), accessed 17/2017: <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-10-02/pdf/2012-24374.pdf>.

²³ Private Members' Bill sponsored by Baroness Young of Hornsby and Maggie Throup, accessed 16/2/2017: <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/modernslaverytransparencyinsupplychains.html>

²⁴ The Hon. Julia Gillard MP, Prime Minister, 'Further Government Action To Eliminate Modern Slavery', Media Release, 8 March 2013, p. 1.

²⁵ Australian Department of Finance, "Ethics and Probity in Procurement: Buying for the Australian Government", accessed 17/2/2017: <http://www.finance.gov.au/procurement/procurement-policy-and-guidance/buying/accountability-and-transparency/ethics-and-probity/principles.html>.