



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

**Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade  
Human Rights Sub-Committee**

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
Issued: 4 October 2012

*Chair: Ms Melissa Parke MP  
Deputy: Hon Philip Ruddock MP*

## Attorney-General's to appear at slavery hearing

The Attorney-General's Department will discuss Australia's efforts to address slavery, slavery-like conditions and trafficking in persons at a public hearing on October 9.

The Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade is inquiring into the forms of exploitation, which breach people's civil and human rights.

Human Rights Sub-Committee chair, Melissa Parke, says the committee wants to examine Australia's efforts to combat the atrocious crimes.

"The trade of men, women and children through force or coercion is one of the fastest growing criminal activities in the world," Ms Parke said.

"As individuals, and as a country, we need to take decisive action against these crimes and the criminals who benefit from them. We need to study all approaches — domestically and internationally — and work cooperatively to drastically reduce slavery and trafficking."

The inquiry will focus on:

- Australia's efforts to address trafficking in persons, such as by prosecuting offenders and protecting and supporting victims;
- ways to encourage effective international action to address all forms of slavery, slavery-like conditions and trafficking in persons; and
- international best practice to address all forms of slavery, slavery-like conditions and trafficking in persons.

The public hearing will be on **Tuesday, 9 October 2012**, from **1.05 pm** in Committee Room **1R4**, Parliament House, Canberra.

The hearing will be audio webcast live on:

[http://www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch\\_Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

Members of the public are welcome to attend. For a program and more details, visit the Committee's website: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>

**For media comment:** please contact the Sub-Committee Chair, Ms Melissa Parke MP on (08) 9335 8555 (Electorate Office) or (02) 6277 2189 (Parliament House)

**For further information:** please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2313, email [jscfadt@aph.gov.au](mailto:jscfadt@aph.gov.au) or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/jfadt>