

Relevant News Reports in Brief. XI

Slavery in the United Kingdom

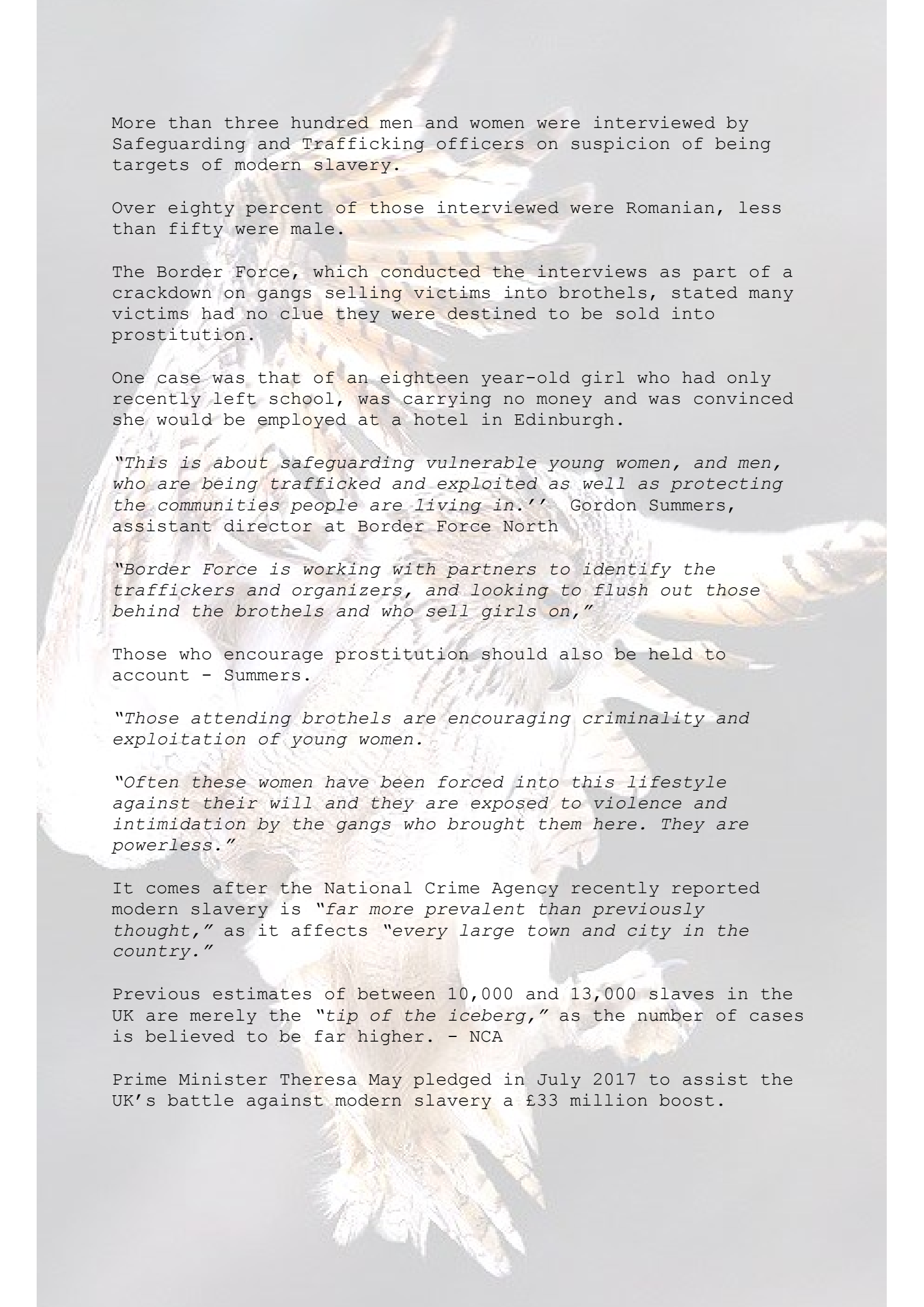
(See additional reports on (I) Prostitution (II) On the Treatment and Maltreatment of Women. (Room No. 15)



One hundred suspected sex slaves were detained and turned back at Scottish airport

01 09 2017

Almost one hundred potential victims of human trafficking have been blocked by Border Force officers at Glasgow Airport, and returned to their countries of origin since last November 2016



More than three hundred men and women were interviewed by Safeguarding and Trafficking officers on suspicion of being targets of modern slavery.

Over eighty percent of those interviewed were Romanian, less than fifty were male.

The Border Force, which conducted the interviews as part of a crackdown on gangs selling victims into brothels, stated many victims had no clue they were destined to be sold into prostitution.

One case was that of an eighteen year-old girl who had only recently left school, was carrying no money and was convinced she would be employed at a hotel in Edinburgh.

"This is about safeguarding vulnerable young women, and men, who are being trafficked and exploited as well as protecting the communities people are living in." Gordon Summers, assistant director at Border Force North

"Border Force is working with partners to identify the traffickers and organizers, and looking to flush out those behind the brothels and who sell girls on,"

Those who encourage prostitution should also be held to account - Summers.

"Those attending brothels are encouraging criminality and exploitation of young women."

"Often these women have been forced into this lifestyle against their will and they are exposed to violence and intimidation by the gangs who brought them here. They are powerless."

It comes after the National Crime Agency recently reported modern slavery is *"far more prevalent than previously thought,"* as it affects *"every large town and city in the country."*

Previous estimates of between 10,000 and 13,000 slaves in the UK are merely the *"tip of the iceberg,"* as the number of cases is believed to be far higher. - NCA

Prime Minister Theresa May pledged in July 2017 to assist the UK's battle against modern slavery a £33 million boost.



Slavery and human trafficking exists in every large town and city in the United Kingdom

Modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK is far more prevalent than previously thought. - NCA

Figures released recently (Aug. 2017) show there are currently more than 300 live policing operations targeting modern slavery in the UK, with cases affecting "every large town and city in the country."

Modern slavery includes those who have been trafficked, held in forced labour, or criminally or sexually exploited. Previous estimates that there were 10,000-13,000 victims in the UK were just the "tip of the iceberg."

"The more we look, the more we find," said William Kerr, NCA

"The growing body of evidence we are collecting points to the scale being far larger than anyone had previously thought. The intelligence we are gaining is showing that there are likely to be far more victims out there."

The growth in modern slavery is being driven by international gangs recognizing the amount of money they can make by

controlling people within a huge range of economic sectors rather than just dealing drugs. - NCA

The key sectors for slavery now included food processing, fishing, agriculture, construction, domestic and care workers, and car washes.

"This is a crime that affects all types of communities across every part of the United Kingdom. It is difficult to spot because often victims don't even know they are being exploited." Kerr / NCA

A rush in operational activity focusing on labour and sexual exploitation coordinated by the NCA through May and June 2017 led to 111 arrests in the UK, and around 130 people being encountered who may be considered as victims.

Connected / linked activity on mainland Europe, has resulted in around 40 further arrests and the launch of 25 further investigations.

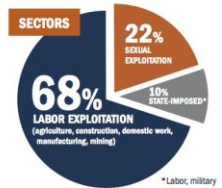
The announcement comes as the NCA launches an advertising campaign raising awareness of the signs of modern slavery in everyday life.

The manner of a person's dress, visible signs of injuries, signs of stress, and the manner in which they had come to work in a particular area. - NCA

The Business of Modern Day SLAVERY

Human traffickers make \$150 billion/year in profits, but it is estimated that only \$124 million/year¹ is spent globally fighting it. Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise. We must do more.

Human Rights First is bringing together governments, law enforcement and the private sector to dismantle—and eventually bankrupt—human trafficking.



* Labor, military or paramilitary forces (including child soldiers and the like)

\$150 BILLION
EACH YEAR IN PROFITS

\$99 BILLION
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION



MAP: VICTIMS & PROFITS BY REGION



20.9 million
victims worldwide.

Let's bankrupt slavery.

For more information visit humanrightsfirst.org. Contact us at: antitraffickingcampaign@humanrightsfirst.org

Data from: International Labour Organization (ILO) 2014, Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour (Geneva), and "M. Ushakov, "CED and Modern Slavery: how much and money is spent to tackle the issue?", Anti-Bullying Review, Issue 3, 2014, pp. 133-150.

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The number of reported human trafficking victims in the United Kingdom has surged by eighty percent

The UK has undergone a very dramatic increase in the number of alleged human trafficking victims reported by local councils.

The latest statistics released by the National Crime Agency indicate that during 2015, local councils referred 306 people to the National Referral Mechanism (the method for identifying victims of human trafficking and modern slavery).

This marks an almost eighty percent increase over the previous year.

Certain cities have witnessed a very clear increase in the number of reported human trafficking victims. Greater Manchester experienced a 197 percent increase.

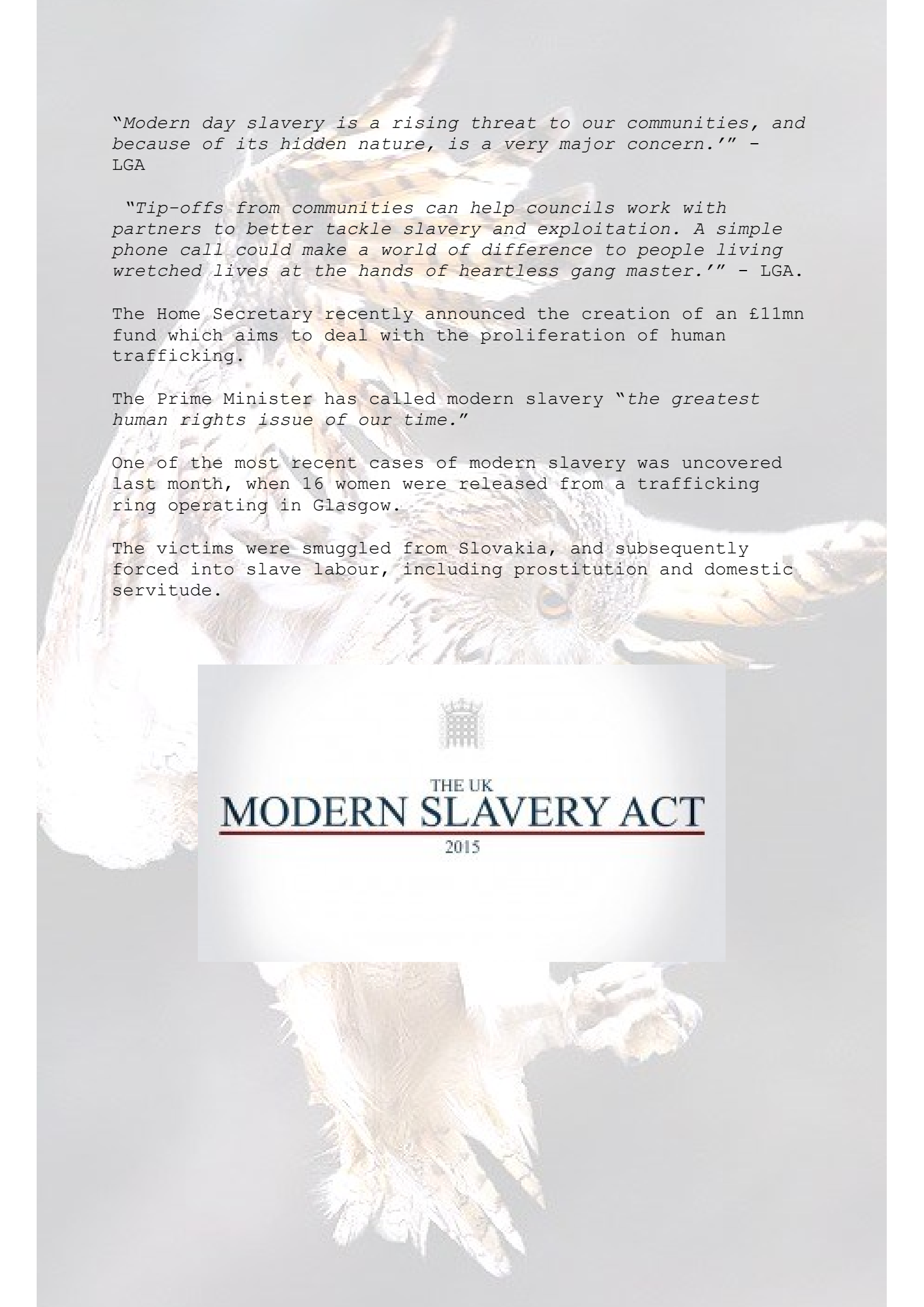
According to the government, despite the noticeable increase in reported cases of abuse, there are still up to 13,000 victims of human trafficking in the UK.

Modern-day slaves are forced into various activities, from prostitution to unpaid work in factories and so on. Modern-day slaves are most often vulnerable individuals who are dependent on their captor in some way, and a disproportionate number represent foreign citizens residing in the UK illegally, usually trafficked by their abusers.

There were victims from 102 different countries, though Albanian, Vietnamese, and Nigerian nationals are the most common. People from Sudan make up the fastest growing category of modern slavery victims - NCA

The main obstacle in dealing with human trafficking is the apparent "*clandestine nature*" of the crime.

In response, the Local Government Association who represent 370 local councils, urged the UK public to be much more aware of human trafficking in order to prevent criminal gangs from exploiting vulnerable foreign workers.



"Modern day slavery is a rising threat to our communities, and because of its hidden nature, is a very major concern." - LGA

"Tip-offs from communities can help councils work with partners to better tackle slavery and exploitation. A simple phone call could make a world of difference to people living wretched lives at the hands of heartless gang master." - LGA.

The Home Secretary recently announced the creation of an £11mn fund which aims to deal with the proliferation of human trafficking.

The Prime Minister has called modern slavery *"the greatest human rights issue of our time."*

One of the most recent cases of modern slavery was uncovered last month, when 16 women were released from a trafficking ring operating in Glasgow.

The victims were smuggled from Slovakia, and subsequently forced into slave labour, including prostitution and domestic servitude.



THE UK
MODERN SLAVERY ACT

2015

Are victims of modern slavery somehow lost in the system?

Anti-Slavery Commissioner

Kevin Hyland, whose post as Anti-Slavery Commissioner was created under the Modern Slavery Act last year, found 3,146 National Referral Mechanism referrals - a process set up to identify and support victims of trafficking - resulted in just 884 recordings of slavery crimes in 2015/16.

In his first annual report, Hyland has highlighted major inadequacies in the recording of modern slavery, noting that in some forces victims are being "lost" in the system

Police forces, he said, across the UK are failing thousands of victims of modern slavery by failing to properly record the crimes and prosecute traffickers and he called for "urgent improvements" to combat the offense.

Four of the 39 responding forces in England and Wales could not find any internal record of NRM referrals at all, while more than half had trouble answering whether a referral made by their force had resulted in a modern slavery crime record.


"When NRM referrals are not recorded as crimes, investigations are not launched and victims do not receive the justice and support that they both need and deserve," the report states.

"The police need to look on this as a really serious crime, perpetrated by organized networks, and one that needs to be responded to in exactly the same way as other serious crimes."
- Hyland

"Worryingly that means that victims are not getting the criminal justice response they deserve.- Hyland"

"Crimes aren't being investigated and that creates impunity for criminals."- Hyland

Estimates suggest up to 13,000 people are enslaved in the United Kingdom. Victims include women forced into prostitution, workers in agriculture, carwashes and factories, and imprisoned domestic staff.



Chief Officers are working closely with partners including the NCA to achieve more significant results in combatting Modern Slavery. We also sit on the PM's new taskforce - NPCC (12 10 2016)

Hyland's report comes weeks after Prime Minister Theresa May set up a new anti-slavery taskforce. The Secret Intelligence Service MI6 and HM General Communications Headquarters GCHQ will be given additional resources to disrupt networks working in countries who heavily involved in the slave trade, such as Albania, Nigeria and Vietnam, though not confined to.

The Security Service MI5 will also work with police within the UK to facilitate evidence gathering and prosecutions against people smugglers, and those who benefit from the trade.

In July 2017, PM Theresa May pledged an additional £33.5 million of the overseas aid budget to tackle slavery in high risk countries.

11,600 slaves are trapped in the modern clandestine economy - United Kingdom

Slavery is prevalent in the U.K., with an estimated 11,600 people in enforced servitude, according to a new report.

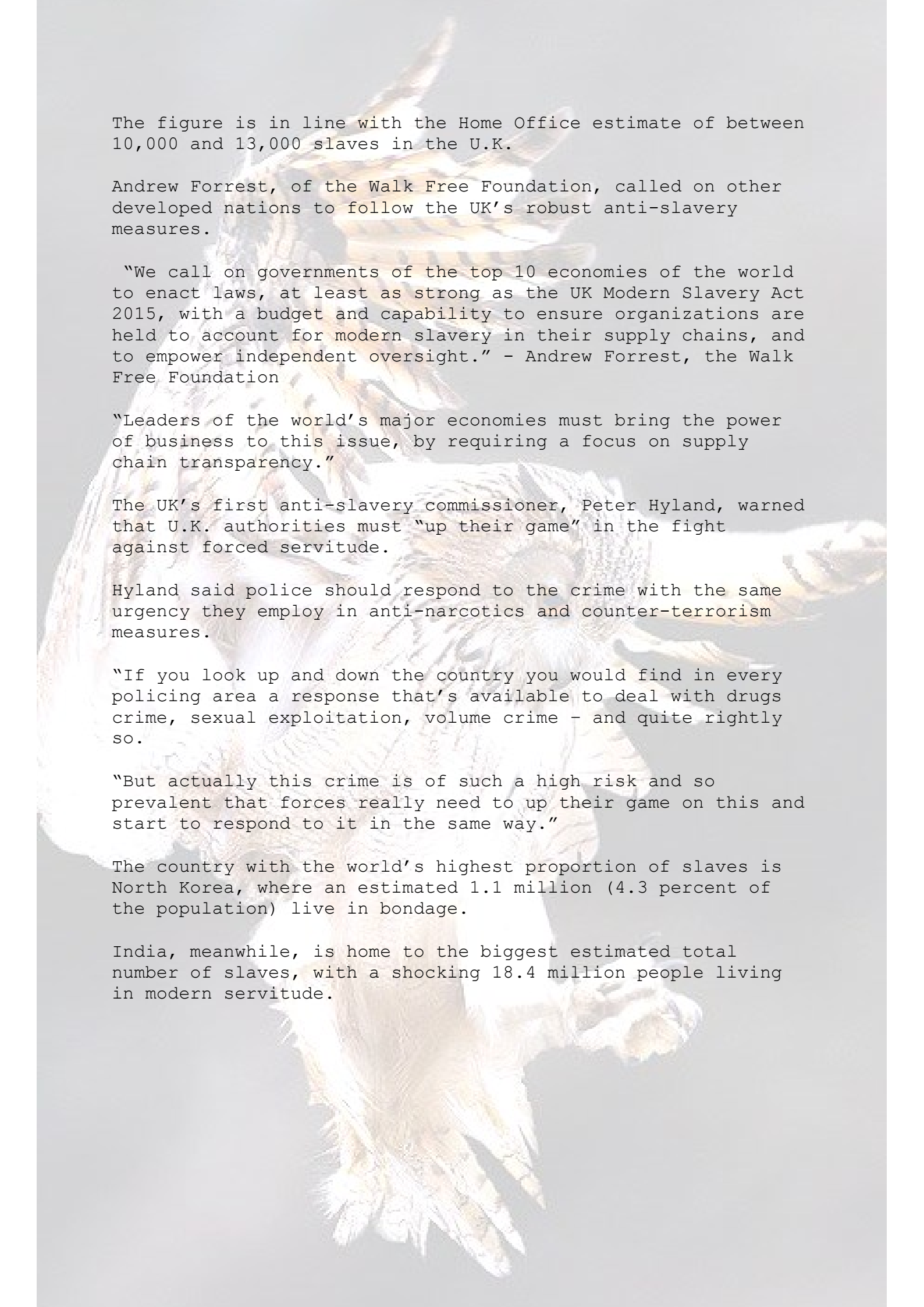
While The Global Slavery Index applauded the UK for having "led the world" with its Modern Slavery Act, the organization highlights the plight of thousands of immigrants who live as forced workers in the shadow economy.

Many are trapped in debt bondage, forced to work in low or semi-skilled jobs, while others are locked in apartments where they produce drugs or work in the sex industry.

Vietnamese children have been discovered held against their will, made to cultivate cannabis in Manchester apartments.

In London, Albanian women and girls have been found being exploited in London's sex industry.

The Global Slavery Index ranks the UK 52nd in the world for its proportion of slaves, with an estimated 11,600 people trapped in bondage, or 0.018 of the whole population.



The figure is in line with the Home Office estimate of between 10,000 and 13,000 slaves in the U.K.

Andrew Forrest, of the Walk Free Foundation, called on other developed nations to follow the UK's robust anti-slavery measures.

"We call on governments of the top 10 economies of the world to enact laws, at least as strong as the UK Modern Slavery Act 2015, with a budget and capability to ensure organizations are held to account for modern slavery in their supply chains, and to empower independent oversight." - Andrew Forrest, the Walk Free Foundation

"Leaders of the world's major economies must bring the power of business to this issue, by requiring a focus on supply chain transparency."

The UK's first anti-slavery commissioner, Peter Hyland, warned that U.K. authorities must "up their game" in the fight against forced servitude.

Hyland said police should respond to the crime with the same urgency they employ in anti-narcotics and counter-terrorism measures.

"If you look up and down the country you would find in every policing area a response that's available to deal with drugs crime, sexual exploitation, volume crime - and quite rightly so.

"But actually this crime is of such a high risk and so prevalent that forces really need to up their game on this and start to respond to it in the same way."

The country with the world's highest proportion of slaves is North Korea, where an estimated 1.1 million (4.3 percent of the population) live in bondage.

India, meanwhile, is home to the biggest estimated total number of slaves, with a shocking 18.4 million people living in modern servitude.

1000s of children are rescued from slavery in the U.K. - report

Thousands of children in the U.K. have been rescued after being exploited for slave labour, suffering sexual and / or domestic abuse, new report.

According to the study, more than 1,200 children have fallen victim to modern slavery. Anna Longfield, the children's commissioner for England who is behind the report, believes the true number is likely to be far higher as cases go unreported.

Longfield has called on politicians to act.

"Child slavery leaves deep scars on the lives of those children who suffer horrendous exploitation by adults - and this could well be only the tip of the iceberg." - Longfield

"These appalling crimes need to remain in the spotlight and be consigned to the past."

"I hope today's report highlighting the large number of children living vulnerable lives will be a spur for politicians to act." - Longfield

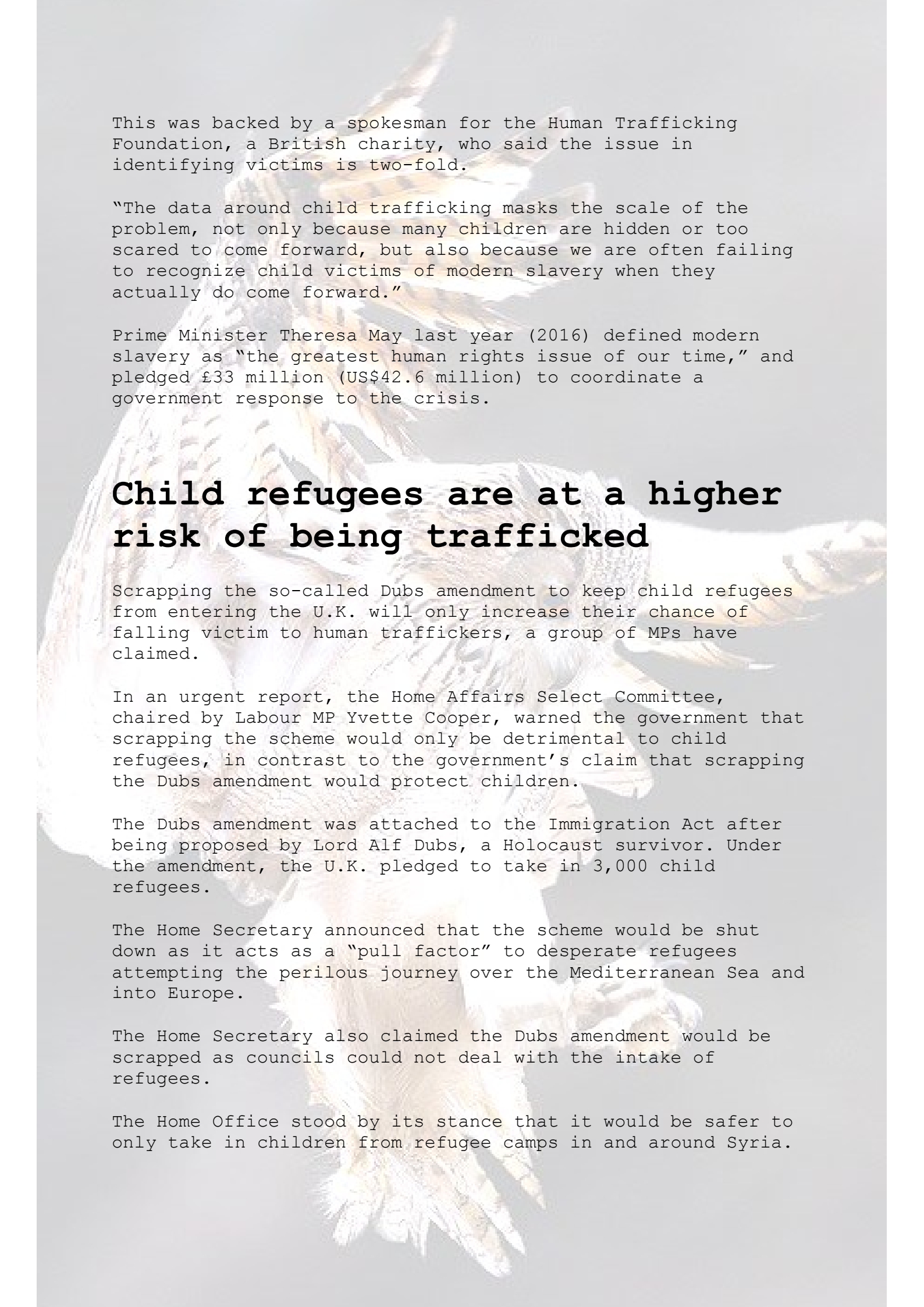
According to the report, which cites the government's National Referral Mechanism, a scheme designed for the U.K. to account for all modern slavery victims and support them, at least 1,203 children aged up to 17 were referred to the scheme, up from 901 in 2015.

British nationals accounted for the largest group of slaves, with a total of 247. Up to 209 are thought to have been sexually exploited.

Albanians were the second biggest group at 223, with 150 referred for potential labour exploitation.

Vietnamese children came third with a figure totalling 200, more than half of them feared to have been forced into labour.

The report warns, however, that there are many more "invisible children" who may be "particularly vulnerable" because of failures in identifying them as modern slaves.



This was backed by a spokesman for the Human Trafficking Foundation, a British charity, who said the issue in identifying victims is two-fold.

"The data around child trafficking masks the scale of the problem, not only because many children are hidden or too scared to come forward, but also because we are often failing to recognize child victims of modern slavery when they actually do come forward."

Prime Minister Theresa May last year (2016) defined modern slavery as "the greatest human rights issue of our time," and pledged £33 million (US\$42.6 million) to coordinate a government response to the crisis.

Child refugees are at a higher risk of being trafficked

Scrapping the so-called Dubs amendment to keep child refugees from entering the U.K. will only increase their chance of falling victim to human traffickers, a group of MPs have claimed.

In an urgent report, the Home Affairs Select Committee, chaired by Labour MP Yvette Cooper, warned the government that scrapping the scheme would only be detrimental to child refugees, in contrast to the government's claim that scrapping the Dubs amendment would protect children.

The Dubs amendment was attached to the Immigration Act after being proposed by Lord Alf Dubs, a Holocaust survivor. Under the amendment, the U.K. pledged to take in 3,000 child refugees.

The Home Secretary announced that the scheme would be shut down as it acts as a "pull factor" to desperate refugees attempting the perilous journey over the Mediterranean Sea and into Europe.

The Home Secretary also claimed the Dubs amendment would be scrapped as councils could not deal with the intake of refugees.

The Home Office stood by its stance that it would be safer to only take in children from refugee camps in and around Syria.

"This government provided 8,000 vulnerable children with refuge or other forms of leave this year and by the end of this parliament we will have resettled 23,000 people from Syria, the Middle East and North Africa - half of whom will be children,".

The Home Office's statement comes after the Home Secretary slammed claims at the end of last month that the UK is not doing enough to resettle minors from war-torn countries, saying they were "fake news."

"Unfortunately, fake news is settling out there," the Home Secretary told ITV.

"The fact is, we took 8,000 children last year into this country and settled them," the Home Secretary said. "Three thousand arrived unaccompanied and illegally and have been settled here. These numbers are large."

Secret Intelligence Service

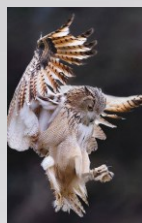
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