



Research project information sheet

## **Title of research - Understanding the role of faith based organisations in anti-trafficking**

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### **What is the research project about?**

We want to develop a better understanding of the role of faith based organisations in anti-trafficking activities. To that end, we specifically want to know:

1. Which faith based organisations are involved in anti-trafficking, and what do they do?
2. Is there anything distinctive about the work being done by faith-based organisations?
3. What ideas and images about trafficking are present in policies, campaigns, and media stories?
4. Why are faith-based organisations increasingly visible in anti-trafficking?

### **How will this research be conducted?**

We will be using several methods to gather data:

- Mapping organisations involved in anti-trafficking in the UK
- Case studies of prominent anti-trafficking organisations, both secular and faith-based. This will include participant observation and interviews with managers and staff
- Semi-structured interviews with trafficked persons
- Analysis of the writings and images found in anti-trafficking campaigns and organisations
- Analysis of Parliamentary debates and interviews with key figures involved in these debates, and in the passage and implementation of the Modern Slavery Act
- Interviews with key individuals involved in anti-trafficking in The Netherlands and Spain, to see if there is anything distinctive about the situation in the UK

### **What will happen to the data collected?**

The research team will be writing up the research in published academic articles, reports and summaries that may appear on our project website. If you would like to see any publications then please let us know and we will send you a copy when they are finished. Upon completion of the project, data will be stored with the UK Data Archive after all identifying details have been removed (such as names of people or places or very specific details).

### **Why is this research important?**

Human trafficking is a growing area of concern, both within the UK and globally. Faith based organisations have become increasingly visible, both in providing services to trafficked persons, and in campaigning against trafficking. However, very little research has been done on the role of faith based organisations in anti-trafficking. We are interested to learn if there is anything distinctive about their work. This project will also address wider social questions about the growing role of faith based organisations in providing welfare state services, and the implications of this both for faith groups and for the welfare state.

### **Who will benefit from this project?**

The project includes practitioner workshops to develop resources for faith-based services to identify the most effective mechanisms for supporting trafficked individuals and designing public communications on trafficking. The goal of the research is to influence policy and practice alongside furthering our academic understanding in this area.

If you have any questions about this project, please contact Dr Gwyneth Lonergan 0114 222 26428, [g.lonergan@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:g.lonergan@sheffield.ac.uk) or Hannah Lewis 0114 222 26241, [h.j.lewis@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:h.j.lewis@sheffield.ac.uk)