



**Workshop on Foreign Nationals in Prison & Probation
Hague, 9-10 October 2018**

**Approaches to the international resettlement of foreign
prisoners and anti-trafficking work**

Adrienne Darragh, CEO, Hibiscus Initiatives

HIBISCUS INITIATIVES

Our Mission

To provide advocacy, support and specialist services to marginalised vulnerable Foreign National and BMER people (principally but not exclusively women) affected by criminal/civil justice and immigration systems to enable informed choice. We promote social justice and respect to reduce inequalities.

Our Vision

A society where our clients are free from inequalities, treated with respect, have equal access to justice and are enabled to make informed choices.



FOREIGN NATIONAL OFFENDERS

Includes

- Arrived as children or second generation
- Asylum seekers or refugees
- European and EEA nationals
- Trafficked persons
- Arrested entering or leaving the UK
- Entered the UK as students, visitors or workers



OUR VALUES AND APPROACH

- social justice
- client-centred and trauma-informed
- challenge discrimination
- independent, accurate, up-to-date information
- bridge
- staff and volunteers trained and supported
- collaborative working in-country and overseas
- evidence-base
- ethical research



FOUR STRANDS OF OUR WORK

1. Anti-trafficking
2. Prisons
3. International resettlement
4. Community



I.ANTI-TRAFFICKING

- Identifying and supporting victims of trafficking is a key element of our work
- The Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced a defence for victims compelled to commit an offence, yet there is a failure to protect



A Dangerous Journey



EVERY YEAR, THOUSANDS OF GIRLS ARE PERSUADED TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES IN SEARCH OF A BETTER LIFE, ONLY TO BE SOLD INTO PROSTITUTION AGAINST THEIR WILL. ROSE'S STORY IS REAL. FALSE PROMISES TOOK ROSE ON A DANGEROUS JOURNEY. SHE WAS LOCKED UP AND FORCED TO WORK AS A PROSTITUTE. THERE WAS NO GOOD MONEY AND NO GOOD LIFE.

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU!

IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS STORY
PLEASE CALL THIS NUMBER:



ROSE WAS ONLY 16 YEARS OLD

OUR ANTI-TRAFFICKING WORK IN NUMBERS

Last year:

- 199 potential victims of trafficking
- 50% had children
- In our Women's Centre, 41% were of Albanian origin
- In Yarl's Wood IRC, 61% were of Chinese origin
- In prisons, Nigerian origin (19%), followed by Lithuanian (15%) and Vietnamese (14%)



RECOMMENDATIONS – ANTI - TRAFFICKING

- Focussed measures to prevent trafficking victims being prosecuted
 - Measure to include
 - Further extensive training across statutory and non statutory agencies
 - Safe reporting
 - Independent advice including immigration advice
 - Long term support
- An impartial decision making process

FROM OUR CLIENTS – ANTI-TRAFFICKING

“Not sure where to start really, you were the most helpful, caring, supportive people I had during such tough and unexpected times”



2. FOREIGN NATIONAL WOMEN IN PRISON

- Foreign national women 13% receptions, 19% of remanded. Offences are overwhelmingly non-violent
 - Fraud
 - Theft
 - False documents

These are all indicator offences for trafficking and coercion.

- A fifth of self inflicted death in prison are FNs



STILL NO WAY OUT

- The recent report was a collaboration between Hibiscus and Prison Reform Trust

<http://hibiscusinitiatives.org.uk/index.php/2018/09/17/still-no-way-out-report-published/>

PRISON
REFORM
TRUST

Hibiscus
Initiatives



Still No Way Out

Foreign national women and trafficked women in the criminal justice system

Full report

MOVE TO DETENTION FROM PRISON

- End of prison sentence, unexpectedly detained under IS91, Authority to Detain under Immigration Powers
- Prison staff may lack understanding or expertise,
- Not all prisons have Foreign National Coordinators

OUR PRISON WORK IN NUMBERS

In the last year

- 1,205 one-to-one sessions for clients.
- 27 workshops with 306 attendees.
- 15 resettlement training workshops in HMP Maidstone.
- Top nationalities - Romanian (14%). Lithuanian (11%), Polish (8%), Albanian (6%) and Nigerian (5%).



FROM OUR CLIENTS IN PRISON

“It’s great to have someone there to listen to my problems and fight for me.”

“Please know that I don’t know what I would have done without your support. I would have lost everything”



RECOMMENDATIONS – PRISONS

Our recommendation:

- Rehabilitation and Resettlement opportunities very limited
- Non-custodial and diversion opportunities
- Promotion of returns schemes
- Female Offender Strategy acknowledges the unique challenges faced by FN women



3. INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT

International resettlement of people is complex and challenging

- Emotional issues
- Lack of awareness
- Practical matters
- Cultural and language issues



OUR APPROACH IN INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT WORK

- Realistic and pragmatic
- Culturally aware
- Specific programmes
- Liaison
- Country booklets
- Maintain contact



FIELD TRIPS

Nigerian nationals
comprise one of the
top 5 nationalities we
support.





OUR WORK IN NUMBERS – INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT

Last year in the IRCs:

- 1,791 clients, over 10% were from prison
- 67 workshops
- Top nationalities Indian (10%), Pakistani (9%) and Albanian (8%)
- Resettlement planning in detention is often too late



RECOMMENDATIONS – INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT

Our recommendations:

- **Early planning on rehabilitation and resettlement – from prison**
- More resettlement packages
- Better coordination between agencies
- The Facilitated Returns Scheme for foreign national prisoners to be made available to EU ex-offenders
- Resettlement initiatives available in prison to immigration detainees

FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT CLIENTS

“Thank you for helping me deal with my return. You are so kind and patient to help us. Today I am going to return to my home. I hope we can meet again from another place in the world”.

“This session has really help me a lot, to build up my confidence, my self-esteem, and I am also looking forward to the goals that I want to achieve in my life”

“Good for this place that you have some people coming in to give you courage.”



4. COMMUNITY RESETTLEMENT

- Most foreign national women receive very poor levels of resettlement support
- Transforming Rehabilitation
- No recourse to public funds
- Services include immigration advice
- Mentors and volunteers



OUR WOMEN'S CENTRE WORK IN NUMBERS

- 150 clients
- 44 workshops, 274 attendees
- The top concerns our clients had were: health, immigration and housing
- The top 3 nationalities were Albanian (21%), Nigerian (19%) and Romanian (8%).



RECOMMENDATIONS – COMMUNITY RESETTLEMENT

- Criminal justice agencies to work in partnership with specialist women's services and women's centres
- Fewer women to go to prison
- Access to non custodial sentences



FROM OUR WOMEN'S CENTRE CLIENTS

“Finding a home is difficult and I’m glad I found Hibiscus”

“It is amazing. You don’t need to think and stress a lot. I really enjoy these wellbeing sessions – they are like consolation – thank you for today”



CASE STUDY, MISS S

- Sentenced to 12 months for theft.
- Her indefinite leave to remain in the United Kingdom was revoked.
- Miss S both in prison and Immigration Removal Centre
- Challenged her deportation under Article 8 of the Human Rights Act.
- Return to Jamaica, after living in the UK for 17 years
- Contact with her family
- Support in Jamaica

GOING FORWARD

- Our approach evolved over the last 30 years, collaborative and responsive
- Challenges and Barriers remain
- Cautiously optimistic that recommendations will be implemented
- We will work with others towards
 - Early identification and non prosecution of victims of trafficking
 - More community alternatives so fewer women go to prison
 - Extending our capacity to give immigration advice
 - Expanding and developing our links with international organisations

Hibiscus Initiatives

Resource for London

356 Holloway Road

London N7 6PA

United Kingdom

Tel: 020 7697 4120

Fax: 020 7697 4272

Email: info@hibiscus.org.uk

Twitter: @hibiscuscharity

Facebook: HibiscusCharity

www.hibiscusinitiatives.org.uk

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and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 4533442

