



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

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

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# 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

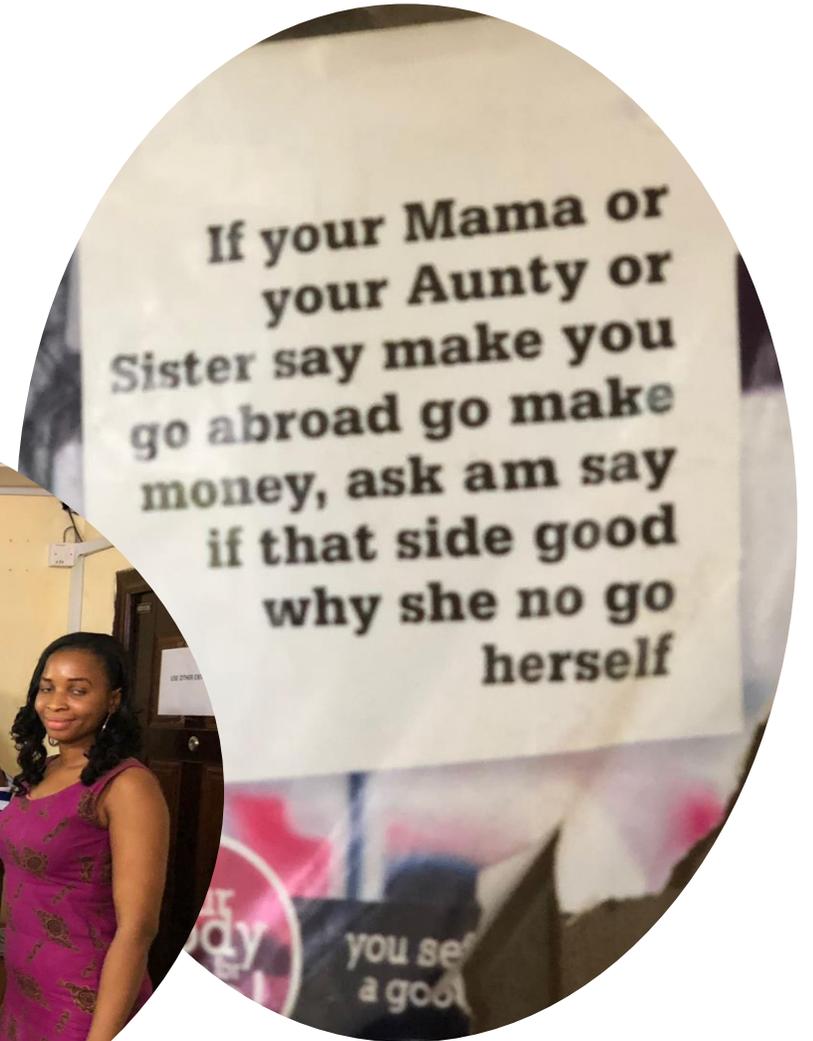
- Realistic and pragmatic
- Culturally aware
- Specific programmes
- Liaison
- Country booklets
- Maintain contact



# FIELD TRIPS

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

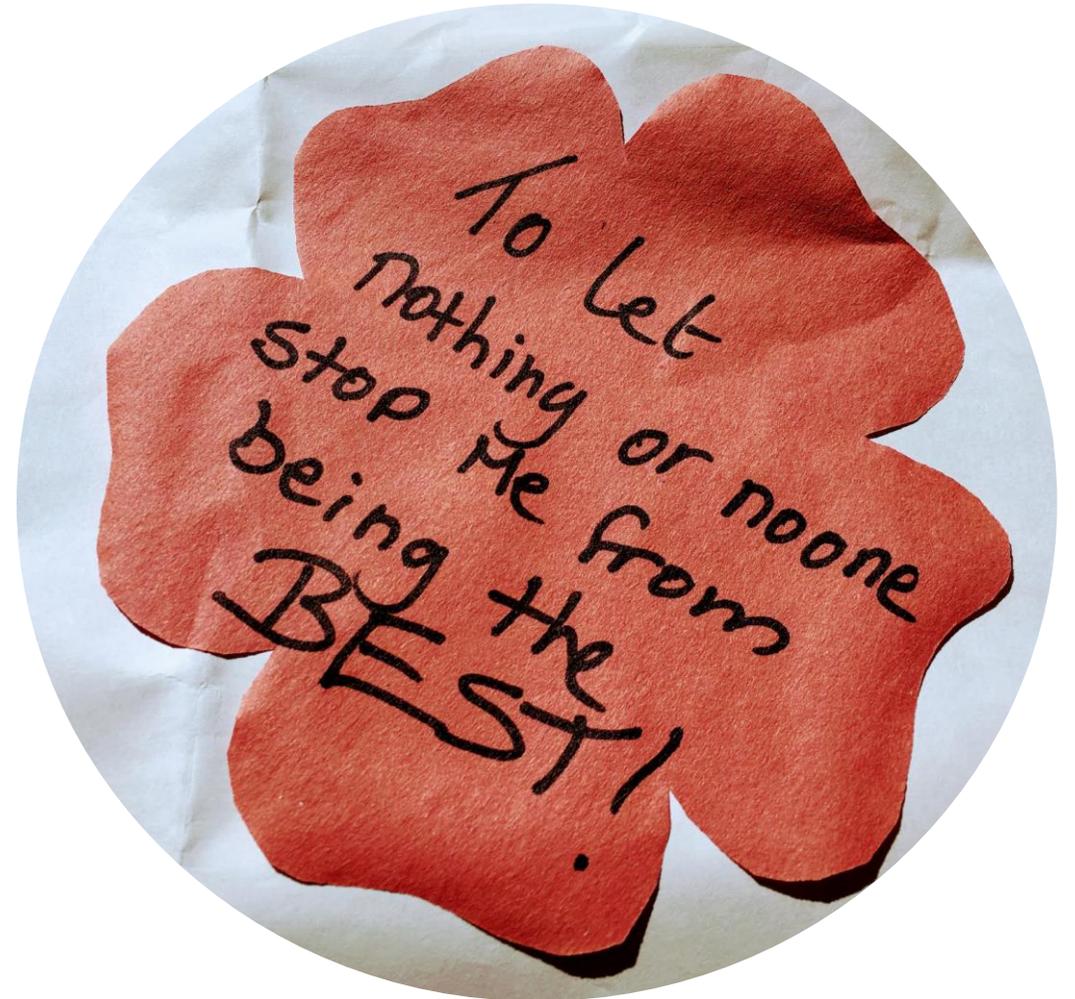




# OUR WORK IN NUMBERS – INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT

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

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