

**Feedback on**  
**National Action Plan to Combat Modern Slavery 2020-24:**  
**Public Consultation Paper**

**Feedback provided by WA Forced Marriage Network -**  
**WAFMN**

**January 30<sup>th</sup> 2020**

### **Section A - Proposed goals of the 2020-24 Plan**

The Government has consulted members of the National Roundtable on Human Trafficking and Slavery to review Government efforts under the 2015-19 Plan. These consultations have helped to identify emerging issues and areas of focus for Government action. Through these consultations, the Government has identified twelve proposed goals for the 2020-24 Plan. These proposed goals build on the Government's efforts under the 2015-19 Plan. They address the full cycle of exploitation, from recruitment to reintegration, and aim to give equal weight to the critical areas of prevention, enforcement and victim support.

**The 12 Goals are concise, comprehensive and developmental. The WAFMN notes that a number of Goals pertain to Forced Marriage; Goal 7 relates to numerous other Goals. The Goals relating to enhancing Australia's response to Forced Marriage are highlighted in yellow below. That is, the Goals intersect the various forms of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery that Australia is addressing.**

1. maintain and promote compliance with international standards on modern slavery
2. engage the Australian community to understand and combat modern slavery
3. promote an evidence-based response to modern slavery
4. maintain a robust and comprehensive legislative framework to combat modern slavery
5. train frontline officials to support the identification of victims and effective investigations of modern slavery
6. progress effective prosecutions to secure convictions against offenders
7. enhance our response to combat forced marriage
8. enhance our response to combating serious forms of labour exploitation, including forced labour and deceptive recruiting
9. promote transparency and accountability for combating modern slavery risks in global supply chains, including in Government procurement
10. provide appropriate support, protections and remedies to empower victims of modern slavery

11. enhance our leadership and partnerships to promote regional and international cooperation on combating modern slavery, and
12. work collaboratively across government, along with non-government stakeholders, to combat modern slavery.

## Section B - Consultation Questions

The Australian Government welcomes feedback on any aspect of this Consultation Paper. We are particularly interested in the community's views on the following consultation questions:

1. Do the 12 goals capture key areas of focus for Australia over the next five years?

The WAFMN agrees that these 12 goals capture key areas of focus for 2020-2024. It is suggested that Goal 3 be expanded per Question 2 below. It is also suggested that clarification be made in terms of the following goals/green highlighted content:

Goal 1 - where 'modern slavery' is referred to (and subsequently referred to in later Goals) add the definition from the Consultation Paper Background for clarity of context, so that it reads –  
“...modern slavery, which is a range of serious exploitative practices, including human trafficking, slavery, and slavery-like practices (such as forced labour, servitude, debt bondage, deceptive recruiting for labour or services, and forced marriage)”

Goal 2 – to engage the Australian community to understand and combat modern slavery

The WAFMN suggests clarification of what the 'Australian community' is defined as in this Goal. In its present form this is a very broad term. It is suggested that the term community be specifically defined and perhaps cite relevant professions that need to be engaged

Goal 5 – The WAFMN suggests for this Goal – “train frontline officials...” - specifying where the training materials come from in order that the training be provided by appropriately experienced agencies/organisations using current data and consistent, high quality resources

2. Should there be additional goals to address other areas of focus, emerging issues or trends? If so, what should they be?

**The WAFMN suggests that Goal 3 be expanded to incorporate:**

- I. **The provision in all states and territories of safe, supported, culturally and developmentally-appropriate Crisis and Long-Term Accommodation for victim/survivors of Forced Marriage**
  - II. **The provision of free interpreter services to all NGO's working with victim/survivors – including, in some cases, their children**
  - III. **The provision of funding for State/Territory Forced Marriage Networks in order that training can be provided for key agencies and frontline responders e.g. Hospitals, Child Protection, school settings as preventative strategy, frontline workers in any agency that may come across victim/survivors. This funding is critical to ensure that Forced Marriage Networks are able to undertake the work required related to prevention, protection (training and consistent referral pathways), advocacy, and to engage with CALD communities to upskill community members to educate their communities on the issue of Forced Marriage in Australia**
  - IV. **The collection and provision of data re Australian homicide statistics and honour-based violence in order that the scope of honour-based violence in the practice of Forced Marriage is able to be measured and subsequently addressed, in a strategic manner**
  - V. **Promoting the legislative inclusion of Forced Marriage as a form of Family and Domestic Violence across all states and territories. Forced Marriage has clear intersectionalities with Family/Domestic Violence. It is a form of violence and an abuse of human rights. It can happen to anyone, regardless of age, gender or race. In Forced Marriage consent is not fully or freely given. A person forced into marriage is subjected to coercion, threats, and/or deception to gain compliance.**
3. The Government is committed to ensuring victims of modern slavery are supported, protected and empowered. Are there ways in which the Government can better reflect the voices of victims and their lived experiences in the 2020-24 Plan and Australia's response to modern slavery?

**The WAFMN concurs with this, noting that victim/survivors of Forced Marriage with whom agencies/organisations interact are generally at the early stages of their journey of recovery and thus not in a position to share their lived experiences. The WAFMN suggests that this Government commitment be expanded with consideration as to the ways (how) in which this may be achieved**

4. The Government is committed to ensuring that we can measure the impacts of the 2020-24 Plan. Are there evaluation methods, data sources or metrics the Government should consider in developing an evaluation framework?

**The WAFMN is currently engaging with research academics around some of the issues being addressed through the Network. Having a solid research, best-practice base for all strategic initiatives is a critical element of a successful Action Plan, providing a base-line against which outcomes can be measured**

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