

*Kevin Hyland
Santa Marta Group
Senior Special Advisor
10th September 2019
Interpol Conference Buenos Aires
Argentina*

Slide 1:

It is a pleasure to be here in Buenos Aires speaking at this important Interpol event in my role as Santa Marta Group Senior Advisor.

His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Santa Marta Group, regrets being unable to attend;

But sends his best wishes and has asked I pass on his gratitude for the work of Interpol and to Commissioner Nestor Roncaglia and Minister Patricia Bullrich for their leadership.

But sadly, it brings shame on us all as the current incumbent of this world that this phenomenon exists anywhere.

A most lucrative illicit business in the trade of others; exploitation of men, women and children.

Slide 2:

Let's make no mistake this business is booming, with no shortage of the exploiter's raw material, people, often the poorest or most vulnerable in our societies, including those who are displaced by conflict.

Over 65 million people displaced and;

Our world is fragile not only due to conflict, but also climate change, oppression, economic exclusion or just straight forward criminality that preys on others.

The way human trafficking manifests itself is becoming better understood; but it can change like any business to meet market demands for sexual exploitation, human organs, forced criminality and forced labour.

I have personally many times seen the devastating negative impact human trafficking has not only on an individual, but on entire families, communities or groups.

Slide 3:

Human trafficking thrives on inequality, reinforcing the secondary status of women and girls across the world, as they represent a disproportionately high percentage of victims.

The abuse of authority, corruption, greed for money or business or trade at any cost are coupled to what Pope Francis calls "the globalisation of indifference." All these

factors allow or even encourage this crime to blossom on the world stage.

At the same time compassion, respect for others, ethical use of power, equality and even democracy itself; are being challenged or seen as a weakness, creating a vacuum of governance or social cohesion, often filled by criminals who exploit people.

Slide 4:

For many years, right back to the 3rd century BC, there have been scores of international, regional or domestic agreements or legal instruments to end human trafficking, slavery and forced labour.

Protocols, directives, treaties and even some constitutions prohibiting slavery and forced labour have been in existence for many decades.

Yet it is often the interpretation of a single word or sentence in isolation that determines life changing decision for victims.

These instruments intended to support victims can themselves become almost impossible for victims to navigate or understand.

I believe global responses to human trafficking are, in the main, poorly funded with efforts often only focusing on awareness only. This needs to change with more investment

in victims care and long-term support and for responses to prevent and detecting this crime to become a global priority.

Slide 5:

The Santa Marta Group has been a vehicle to bring communities, faith groups, law enforcement and the criminal justice system together in trusting partnerships.

The groups are now represented in over 40 countries and whilst most are based on justices systems, some do include development of employment opportunities and education.

Here in Buenos Aires the Santa Marta Group last February held a conference to collaborate efforts in this fight.

Important in this success has been the commitment of Commissioner Nestor Roncaglia.

The focus of the work here in Argentina was action, identifying victims, providing support and prosecution of perpetrators and this has seen many positive improvements including new legislation introduced to provide reparation to victims.

But it is important for human trafficking training to become mandated within the business of statutory agencies.

And not just for law enforcement and criminal justice system

Slide 6:

For example, health care professionals are crucial in this fight;

Research in the UK has shown as many as 1 in 5 victims report having sought healthcare during their time in exploitation and 1 in 8 healthcare providers believe they have encountered a victim in their clinical practice.

Slide 7:

This year I have been working with the International Council of Nurses developing a model for responses of their 20 million nurses' world wide who form the single largest cohort of healthcare professionals and this will be used to encourage a global policy and public health issue at the World Health Organisation.

Strategic implementation that reaches grass roots is crucial.

Educationalist play a role at all levels of teaching,

Slide 8;

Local authorities.

As Commissioner I developed guidance for councils that has increased not only awareness but implementation of prevention.

Slide 9:

But when considering scale and success or otherwise, I will use just four statistics;

1. *40 million – the estimates number of lives in modern slavery today; 1 in 4 a child exacerbated by the 151 million children who are in unacceptable work.*

Slide 10:

2. *85,000 victims rescued last year - equaling less than 0.25 per cent of the estimated 40 million; a reduction of over 10,000 on the previous year.*
3. *7,481 convictions – equaling 0.05 pro rata to victim numbers, not an accurate form of measure I know, but this does indicate impunity is the norm.*

Slide 11:

4. *150 billion US dollars earned per year by criminals.*

Annual global spend countering this is unlikely to reach even half of one percent of that total sum of money.

Over 99 percent of the time victims go untraced and perpetrators operate with impunity.

Therefore, I believe strong prevention models are needed globally and routinely regardless of numbers or statistics.

This crime needs to be factored out of our global economies, societies and social norms.

Two years ago, here in Buenos Aires at the G20, world leaders were asked to place human trafficking as a priority for them as the wealthiest nations, holding 85 per cent of the global economy and 75 per cent of the world's population.

This commitment was agreed in the formal recommendations and was further reinforced at this year's G20 in Japan where I introduced the notion of tainted money, a wider definition to that of proceeds of crime and something the Santa Marta Group believes could become part of a series of effective preventative measure.

Santa Marta Group will be working on a set of principles, including tainted money, to see the introduction of meaningful prevention strategies.

Other areas include transparency and accountability of government procurement and private sector supply chains.

The internet free of human trafficking and exploitation as a legal requirement.

More international engagement of global bodies, including WHO, ICC, World Bank and others.

And current international protocols or instruments to be scrutinized to assess their validity or need for review in the current world.

Crucially work must be done to remove the 150 billion dollars from the markets that makes this crime attractive, where there is zero tolerance to making money, directly, indirectly or

Slide 12:

even unwittingly from this most evil of abuses, human trafficking and modern slavery.

Without a determined effort to drive for a society where this crime does not pay, then it will continue to profit the criminals.

Cardinal Vincent and Pope Francis have committed their moral leadership to bring change; through trust, honesty and accountability to deliver dignity for those who lives are traded, destroyed and disregarded 40 million times every day.

This drive to shift the moral compass will underpin all the work of Santa Marta Group.

I have seen religious sisters, NGO's, clergy and many people of good risk their own safety to protect people from human trafficking.

The least we can do is to ambitious, examine our effectiveness and commit to the eradication of this model of abuse as in the 2015 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

If we do not do this, we will be likely to be still debating increases in numbers for many years to come.

Slide 13:

Meet Dorsen one of the many thousands or millions he represents.

Many children lose have their lives destroyed or even taken mining for minerals which we are all using today.

By analogy, tragically this year two Boeing Airplanes of the same type crashed with the loss of over 340 lives.

Rightly, the entire fleet has been grounded for 6 months costing the companies involved billions, with investigations still ongoing.

Dorsen is never likely to enjoy air travel, yet he is mining for cobalt used to power the batteries in aircraft.

When has a company been grounded or there been similar accountability for the systematic abuse of vulnerable children like Dorsen.

It might seem difficult or even impossible, but it is what is needed to end this crime.

Slide 14:

All UN Nations have signed a universal agreement to make this a better world, including ending human trafficking and modern slavery.

Slide 15:

The Santa Marta Group is intent on raising its efforts to making this more likely to occur by a clear determined focus leading to the year 2030.

If we want to see children like Dorsen as equals as victims of serious crime, then we need to ensure any form of human trafficking is a crime that does not pay.

Slide 16:

Close.