



Unveil the Hidden Presence: Trafficking in Women and Children A Leadership and Innovation Lab

Insight Report 2

Lab meeting 2: London, United Kingdom
from 10th to 13th November 2018

In November 2018 the second and final Lab meeting of the Leadership and Innovation Lab Unveiling the Hidden Presence – Trafficking in Women and Children took place. The Lab group amazed yet again with its dynamism and passionate commitment to fighting trafficking of women and girls.



“The highlight was the amazing achievements of the group individually and in-group projects (since the first Lab meeting). It really showed what can be achieved when being part of and supported by such a great group of people.”

Between the two Lab meetings, initiatives that sprung out of the first meeting were bearing fruit. Over the four days, the participants shared news of all the many actions and achievements since Nairobi. These included, amongst others, a hotline in Uganda to advise potential victims of trafficking of the dangers of illegitimate work opportunities abroad, Djibouti’s first night shelter for vulnerable people, and a range of high-impact news stories – one of which led to the rescue of 62 girls. All in all the participants* shared 73 (!) change initiatives, which they initiated in the four months since the first lab meeting. The vast number and high-impact nature of these achievements amazed participants, as well as the hosting team. This set the tone

for the subsequent days, with participants acutely aware of the impact they had had on their communities and society more generally. After this sharing, participants identified what their biggest challenge was in achieving their goals in relation to combatting TIP.

The participants were given time and space to identify and explore, via peer counselling, the challenges faced by those fighting trafficking. To name some, these are e.g. how to work with a shrinking civil society space, how to protect vulnerable people when the organisation is seen as a threat to national security, and how to ensure regional or global policies are implemented at national level.

The Lab group came up with ideas for new joint initiatives and delved deep into design and collaboration considerations, to help ensure these initiatives take place. They brainstormed and compiled valuable checklists to assist in these new initiatives, including funding opportunities, useful databases, and websites.

In terms of practical skills, participants received coaching throughout the workshop on how to create and deliver messages, give one-sentence elevator pitches, and handle TV interviews. There were several opportunities to practice these, e.g. in their conversation with TRF Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Monique Villa, in their pieces-to-camera for a Lab video, and at the Trust Conference during networking sessions.

On the last day participants agreed on concrete steps to further the dialogue and alliances built over the lab period. Overall, feedback on this Lab was overwhelmingly positive, with the bonds between the participants and the hosting team even stronger than before.

The annual Trust Conference (<https://www.trustconference.com>) took place after the Lab meeting. The Lab participants were given a 15-minute slot within which, on common agreement by the group, four key projects of the Lab were presented. The dynamic presentation emphasised the breadth and depth of what the Lab had achieved.



However, after the face-to face- meetings, a dialogue process is by no means completed, but continues to exist in the form of a community of practice, so that further effects are constantly unfolding.

On an individual level, the lab participants profited greatly from the media training integrated into the lab in addition to the self-reflexive exercises. Through an increased awareness of language and the transmission of information, participants were supported both personally and in their professional life, e.g. in dealing sensitively with victims/survivors or in marketing the change approaches to other relevant partners in the respective local contexts. Some participants* reported that they would use the methods they had learned in their organisations. The Lab has been able to build important bridges between actors such as government and the media, which are now working together to strengthen the fight against trafficking in human beings, especially women and children.