

SOAS London University

Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement (2018)

Introduction

SOAS University of London is the only Higher Education institution in Europe specialising in the study of Asia, Africa and the Near and Middle East.

Uniquely combining language scholarship, disciplinary expertise and regional focus, it has the largest concentration in Europe of academic staff concerned with Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

SOAS is committed to acting ethically and with integrity in all business relationships. We seek to work with our suppliers to undertake due diligence in the supply chain, take mitigating steps to help manage the risks of slavery and human trafficking and address any problems should they arise.

SOAS published its first Modern Day Slavery Statement in January 2017, detailing the actions taken between 1st August 2015 and 31st July 2016 in support of that commitment.

The purpose of this document is to provide an update on that first statement, detailing actions taken between 1st August 2016 and 31st July 2017 in support of our commitment.

Steps taken between 1st August 2016 and 31st July 2017 to mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking:

1. Implemented the use of questionnaires that enables consideration of Modern Slavery Act. Specifically, for the procurement of contracts over £25,000 (ex. VAT) in value, if there are bidders that are not already on the SOAS supplier database a **Shortened Questionnaire** must be used. In that we ask if they are:
 - a. A relevant commercial organisation as defined by section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015
 - b. Compliant with the annual reporting requirements contained within Section 54 of the Act 2015

For the procurement of contracts over £50,000 (ex. VAT) in value, a **Questionnaire** must be used. In addition to questions posed in the Shortened Questionnaire, bidders are asked to if they, their organisation or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation been convicted anywhere in the world of child labour and other forms of human trafficking in the previous five years. If the bidder's response is "Yes" they will be excluded from the procurement process

2. Let contracts for over 25% of our "impactable" spend of £20,000,000 through public sector framework agreements. The more recent of such agreements ensure the issues of Modern Day Slavery are addressed in the procurement and ongoing management of the call off contracts.

3. Taken the strategic decision to bring all outsourced services in-house by August 2018. This will involve directly employing more than 120 full-time, part time and casual staff who are currently employed by SOAS contractors. A number of the services involved, such as cleaning and catering, present risks of human rights abuses. The in-sourcing will enable SOAS to better address those risks

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes the SOAS University of London Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement for the financial year ending July 31st 2016