

SOAS London University

Modern Slavery Act 2015 Policy and Statement

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.

SOAS is a remarkable institution. 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.

On the one hand, this means that SOAS scholars grapple with pressing issues - democracy, development, human rights, identity, legal systems, poverty, religion, social change - confronting two-thirds of humankind while at the same time remaining guardians of specialised knowledge in languages and periods and regions not available anywhere else in the UK.

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour and human trafficking, all of which have in common the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain.

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, particularly in higher-risk spend categories, and address any problems should they arise.

We fully support the government's objectives to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking.

SOAS Supply Chains

Our main supply chains fall into the following procurement categories:

- Professional Services
- Library Resources
- ICT Equipment and Services
- Estate Works & Services

Where possible we procure through framework agreements let by regional purchasing consortia such as London Universities Purchasing Consortium (LUPC), Eastern Shires Purchasing Consortium (ESPO) and Crescent Purchasing Consortium (CPC) and Crown Commercial Service (CCS).

Our total non-pay spend for 15/16 was c. £45m, c £6.1m of which was through framework agreements.

SOAS expects its 1st Tier suppliers to ensure their goods, materials and labour-related supply chains are:

- Fully compliant with the Modern Slavery Act 2015; and
- Transparent, accountable and auditable

Steps taken by SOAS since August 2015 to mitigate the risk of slavery and human trafficking in its supply chains or own business

- Agreed management responsibility for this statement (Procurement)
- Procurement Manager trained on implications and requirements of the Modern Slavery Act
- Awarded a 5 year £25m Integrated Facilities Management contract, which followed a procurement process that excluded any bidders convicted of an offence under section 2 or 4 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
This new contract incorporated the provision of a number of services previously provided through a smaller, contracts or arrangements the terms of which would not have included the requirement to comply with the Act. Some of those contracts were for high risk services such as cleaning and security.
- Procured IT hardware (Apple) through a new framework agreement let by the LUPC. LUPC is a founding member of Electronics Watch, an independent monitoring organisation working to achieve respect for labour rights in the global electronics industry through socially responsible public procurement in Europe. The Apple framework is one of the first to include new monitoring clauses to enable achievement of the Electronic Watch goal.
- Planned next steps

Steps to be taken from August 2016

- Raise Senior Management awareness of the Modern Slavery Act
- Raise organisational awareness of the Modern Slavery Act
- Ensure that all relevant procurement documentation includes the mandatory exclusion of any bidder convicted of an offence under section 2 or 4 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015
- Include the Modern Slavery Act 2015 within project risk registers to ensure risk is flagged, assessed and appropriately addressed
- Prepare the second annual statement

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