

## **UK statement announcing the launch of a new, national anti-trafficking centre**

*Delivered to working session 2 on Tuesday 3 October, 2006*

### **STARTS**

“The government of the United Kingdom supports fully the EU statement delivered by Italy, and is pleased to draw the attention of participants to the launch, today, of a new UK human trafficking centre. This builds on the work of *operation pentameter* – a police-lead, multi-agency initiative on trafficking for sexual exploitation, conducted earlier this year. The national centre will be based in Sheffield where local police have developed expertise in trafficking issues.

The centre will have a broader remit than *operation pentameter* in that it will also look at trafficking for labour exploitation. Further, it will have a victims focus working with NGOs and local service providers to establish a national database of services available to victims, and also minimum standards of care.

The UK government see the UK Human Trafficking Centre as one of the key mechanisms for implementation of its action plan in the three key areas of: prevention; investigation, law enforcement and prosecutions; and, protection and assistance to victims. We are in the process of developing a final UK Action Plan – in line with the OSCE recommended model – which will be published in the next few months.”

**ENDS**