MEDIA RELEASE
FRIDAY 23 March 2018

UN House Hosts Anti-Trafficking Event at Scottish Parliament

On Friday, 23 March 2018 UN House Scotland will hold a conference at the Scottish Parliament on '**Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in Scotland: Raising Awareness; Strengthening Collaboration; Breaking the Chains**'. The one-day event seeks to raise awareness and foster dialogue on the growing problem of modern slavery. Despite being abolished nearly 200 years ago, 40.3 million people were victims of slavery and exploitation at any given time in 2016. That same year, 3,805 potential victims of modern slavery and human trafficking were reported in the United Kingdom; 150 of them in Scotland.

Attendees of the event will have the opportunity to hear subject matter experts and join expert-led workshops and discussions. The conference will host Scottish policy makers, NGOs, academics, law enforcement, and private sector organisations to discuss the current realities of responding to modern slavery in Scotland, best practices and multiagency responses, and the role of corporations.

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said:

"Human trafficking is an appalling abuse of human rights and the impact on victims can be devastating. We all have a role in bringing this crime out in the open and helping make sure that those affected are identified and receive the support they need.

"I welcome this conference as an opportunity to come together and focus the wide range of work to implement Scotland's trafficking and exploitation strategy, and to tackle this terrible crime."

The conference is supported by Christina McKelvie, MSP and Ash Denham, MSP. The event offers the chance for policy leaders and organisations to build new and strengthen existing partnerships in order to help make Scotland slavery free.

For further information please contact

Joanna Harlos: joanna.harlos@unhscotland.org.uk

UNH is part of Caledonia International Development Trust Charity Number: SCO z43476