

Mr Kevin Hyland is an Irish national. During a 30-year policing career he specialised investigating serious organised crime including homicide, sexual offences, corruption and headed London's internationally recognised Human Trafficking Unit. He successfully prosecuted numerous international crime groups, including human traffickers operating across many nations including the USA, India, Africa, South East Asia and Europe.

In 2014 he was appointed the UK's first Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner and in 2015 was awarded an OBE for his work fighting human trafficking. He is an Honorary Professor at St. Mary's University, London.

He has advised governments, businesses and NGO's from across the world in development of human trafficking legislation, strategies, policies and training.

He is the author and main negotiator for inclusion of UN Sustainable Development Goal 8.7, now providing a specific target for human trafficking in the 2030 agenda. He has raised the priority of human trafficking within UN areas of development, peacekeeping, climate change, Security Council and humanitarian responses; including displacement and migration.

He is a founding member of the Santa Marta Group, a high-level strategic partnership between international law enforcement agencies, the Catholic Church and civil society. Santa Marta Group was launched by Pope Francis at the Vatican in April 2014, of which Kevin remains the Senior Special Advisor. In 2018 he was the co-recipient of the 'Path to Peace' award in New York.

He is a trustee to both Europe's largest Homeless Charity The Passage and Rahab who support trafficked and exploited women and girls in London. He heads several international anti trafficking projects, Chairing the Responsible Recruitment Group of the Institute of Human Rights and Business, Chairing the Island of Ireland Human Trafficking Project, advisor to the US based Global Fund to End Modern Slavery and leads the OSCE development of victim support guidance for member states.

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