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# Supporting Victims in Cross Border Cases

## MISSING ABROAD

FORWARD THINKING FOR THE UNTHINKABLE

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Operated by The Lucie Blackman Trust - Registered Charity No. 1118143



Neville Blackwood MSc  
International Law Enforcement Adviser

# Background

- ▶ Born from a real-life tragedy
- ▶ Designed to fill the gaps
- ▶ Understand where Police help ends and why
- ▶ Support identified through experience
- ▶ Third-sector capabilities
- ▶ Providing valued partnerships



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# Partnerships



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ASSOCIATION OF  
CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

# When do UK Police get involved?

- ▶ Homicides
- ▶ Kidnaps
- ▶ Rape
- ▶ Forced Marriages
- ▶ Missing Persons
- ▶ Prisoners



# Challenges for all Partners

- ▶ Efficient and effective use of resources
- ▶ Managing expectations
- ▶ Signposting
- ▶ Lessons learnt
- ▶ Mission creep
- ▶ Sovereignty and territorial integrity
- ▶ Delays and frustrations
- ▶ Different politics, law, culture, language
- ▶ Varying standards of investigation



# Roles in Deaths of British Nationals Abroad

- ▶ Police Senior Investigating Officer
- ▶ Police Family Liaison Officer
- ▶ Interpol Desk Officer
- ▶ Ministry of Justice Coroner and Coroner's Officer
- ▶ Foreign Office Desk Officer
- ▶ Foreign Office Coroners Liaison Officer
- ▶ Homicide Service Case Worker
- ▶ Missing Abroad



# Speed with care

- ▶ Fast referral = fast response
- ▶ Emergency support can be primed
- ▶ Cost to family can be dramatically reduced
- ▶ Media can be managed and used to help
- ▶ Family receive best support available
- ▶ Signposting to partners is swifter



# Missing Persons

- ▶ Close relationship with many partners particularly Foreign Office and SOCA/Police Missing Persons Teams
- ▶ Twitter/Facebook/Internet campaigns
- ▶ Media campaigns
- ▶ Provision of flights and in country logistics
- ▶ Hotlines at local rate
- ▶ Support continues until resolution





# Homicide Support

- ▶ Help with Repatriation
- ▶ Translations
- ▶ Full media management – UK and overseas
- ▶ Discounted or free flights
- ▶ Impact statements recorded and delivered
- ▶ Assistance with travel to trial



# The Lucie Blackman Suite





Purpose built to ease both financial and emotional strain that can confront families

State of art facility providing worldwide connections:-



- ▶ Live Courtroom video links
- ▶ Statements to authorities
- ▶ Record press statements
- ▶ Video appeals



# Case Studies

- ▶ Missing Persons – Europe and Asia
- ▶ Homicide – Caribbean
- ▶ Sexual Assault – North Africa
- ▶ Kidnap – Russia



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## QUESTIONS?

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