



PURPLE TEARDROP CAMPAIGN

Stop the trafficking ~ Stop the tears

www.purpleteardrop.org.uk

Salvation Army – Human Trafficking Victim Transport

Liz Rodgers

The Purple Teardrop Campaign and many Soroptimist International clubs work with the Salvation Army (SA) which manages the government contract for support provision for human trafficking victims.

The SA has a continuous need to transport rescued victims to its safe houses. It is best practice to provide that support in a different part of the country to where the person is found so as to help minimise the risk of being re-trafficked.

The SA relies on a network of volunteer drivers and, as part of the Purple Teardrop Campaign's 2016 Anti Slavery Day actions we're asking Soroptimists to consider becoming volunteer drivers.

If you think you would be interested in becoming a volunteer driver, read on!

What are the basic criteria?

Volunteers must:

- 1) Have the right to work in the UK.
- 2) Have held their driving licence for at least 36 months.
- 3) Have no more than 6 points on their driving licence.
- 4) Let their car insurance company know.
- 5) Provide references as requested. The SA organises for a disclosure check.

What training do you receive?

Computer based training modules – there are approximately six.

What details would the SA hold?

The SA has secure database with very restricted access that contains volunteers' names; postal addresses and contact phone numbers plus driving licence number; insurance policy number; make, model, age and registration number of car.

Who would contact you?

The SA would contact you to check on your availability. Notice is very short, typically around 3 to 4 hours, and transport requirements are 24/7, though a few journeys are overnight.

Who would you transport?

Adults only, no children.

Where would you drive from?

The SA would tell you the collection point, eg, a police station.

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Where would you drive to?

One of the network of approx. 30 safe-houses. The properties are located right across England and Wales, from the south coast to Newcastle. Particularly long journeys are split between two volunteers.

Confidentiality is paramount, eg, any record of the safe-house address, including in volunteers' sat-navs, must be destroyed.

Who else would come on the journey with you?

You must take a trusted travelling companion (not vetted) with you.

How about my personal safety?

The personal safety of the victim, driver and companion are paramount and the SA takes great care to ensure drivers are appropriate for the victims they transport, and vice versa.

Will victims be English-speakers?

A very large percentage of victims don't have English as their first language. If need be, you can access translation services at any time.

Can I claim mileage?

Yes, currently 45p per mile plus any parking fees and tolls. On journeys over 2 hours you can also claim a £4.80 food allowance. Nb Any fines resulting from these journeys are not reimbursed!

Why is this service so important?

This is an important part of a victim's journey, not only geographically but in their life journey to put past challenges behind them and move on to the brighter future ahead.

How do you apply?

Simply complete the Salvation Army sign-up form that accompanies this document, clearly indicating whether you are applying to be a driver or a companion, and send it to the Salvation Army at the address provided, attention Adrian Stringer.

September 2016