



PURPLE TEARDROP CAMPAIGN

stop the trafficking ~ stop the tears

Autumn newsletter 2012

www.purpleteardrop.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1141695

Welcome to our autumn newsletter. A lot has been happening since our last newsletter so please read on!

Anti-Slavery Day

This year's Anti-Slavery Day is almost upon us - Thursday 18th October. It is wonderful that there is now sufficient recognition of human trafficking, modern-day slavery to have a special day to mark it, created by Act of Parliament. What is even better is that more and more people are becoming aware of human trafficking and doing something about it. When we started the Purple Teardrop Campaign four years ago, many people we spoke to simply would not accept that trafficking, and especially sex trafficking even existed. Nowadays when we speak, we don't have that hurdle to get over. People know what it is and accept that it exists, although they are always shocked by the extent of it.

Of course there's still a great deal to do but we are so encouraged by all the events and activities that are taking place to mark Anti-Slavery Day this year. Indeed we have had over 40 requests for Purple Teardrop Campaign printed material to be used in Anti-Slavery Day events by Soroptimist groups. Here are just a few of the many other ways in which Anti-Slavery Day is being marked.

In Cirencester, a group will stand chained together, with banners and give out factsheets

An awareness raising event Bangor (NI), including a display of books about trafficking from the local library

Gala fund-raising event at the Roman Bath and Pump Room in Bath. Email events@unseen.org for tickets

House of Commons second reading of the Transparency in UK Company Supply Chains (Eradication of Slavery) Bill

Round table discussion for EU Embassies to be held at the Rumanian Embassy

A group of Girl Guide Rangers will light candles to signify the dignity of rescued victims

Purple Teardrop pin badges will be distributed in Sardinia, Italy and Northern Ireland

The A21 campaign will speak on trafficking in schools in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Ireland

In Liverpool a flash mob of dancers will mark the freedom of over 2000 slaves rescued in the UK

www.hope-street.org/

'Love Struck', a new play on trafficking, at Mosslands School, Wallasey. Tel. 0151 2011883

Distribution of information and stickers to taxi companies

Release of 'Voice for the Voiceless' by Jess Clayton on iTunes and Amazon

Art installation in Trafalgar Square

Collecting signatures on the Freedom Wall and on the Purple Teardrop petition at Speakers Corner in Nottingham

A concert at Holy Trinity Church, Clapham Common, London entitled 'Dangerous Songs that Changed the World' Email bill@epiphany.org.uk for more details

A minute's silence and a Purple Teardrop stand at Diversity Day, an event in Bournemouth

A Purple Teardrop Campaign rally during the Soroptimist International conference in Belfast

Films on human trafficking to be shown in Bath, Bristol, Loughborough and Leeds www.unchosen.org.uk

"Just enough of the real world" - a musical journey of humour and hope, Croydon. Tel. Anna on 07733 221949

Stands and displays in many towns

Raising awareness day in Tenby, with a specific focus on the internal trafficking of children

These are just a few examples of the diverse range of activities and events taking place.

Are you doing something for Anti-Slavery Day?

There is a list of events up and down the country on www.antislaveryday.com and you are invited to add yours to the list. You might want to invite your MP to come along for a photo opportunity and alert your local press about it beforehand.

Not enough time at the moment? How about doing something on or around 25th November which has been designated by the UN as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.



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Trafficking is not only about people brought in from other countries

We are hearing more and more of people living in this country becoming victims of traffickers. Homeless young people, youngsters groomed by older people or by boyfriends, children disappearing from local authority care, even people kidnapped as they walk along the streets.

Take a look at this article that appeared in The Mirror – a horrific example of how anybody can be taken for trafficking. The woman in the story had only gone out to buy cat food when she was dragged into a car and abducted. She managed to escape to tell the tale. How many untold stories are there, how many people still in the thrall of the traffickers?

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/real-life-stories/i-was-kidnapped-by-a-sex-gang-as-i-walked-to-the-shop-815838>

Support Barnardos' campaign to 'Cut them free'

Police authorities are to have their own elected Police and Crime Commissioners. Barnardos say "You can help us in our campaign to cut children free from sexual exploitation by asking your candidates for the post of Police and Crime Commissioner to commit to taking action so fewer young people are victims of this appalling crime."

www.barnardos.org.uk/cutthemfree

Human Trafficking Foundation Media Awards

The Purple Teardrop Campaign was one of the groups asked to vote from a short-list of investigative newspaper articles and broadcast news reports for this year's Human Trafficking Foundation Media Awards..

The Mirror article already mentioned was one of the pieces on the short-list. Others that you might care to look at are

Women rather than men are now the main recruiters for the sex trade, reveals a new investigation into sex trafficking
<http://factstoknow.co.uk/?p=22217>

Every year thousands of women are forced into prostitution and traded from Mexico to the United States. The BBC investigates the sex trafficking business.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-18144333>

A terrifying report on the immigrant girls vanishing into Britain's sex trade

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/oct/16/britains-child-sex-trade>

Purple Teardrop pin badges

As part of the launch of the Purple Teardrop Campaign four years ago, we asked people to take a box of 50 pin badges if they could find somewhere to display it – somewhere it could be seen by lots of people, help make them aware of trafficking and encourage donations and the wearing of the pin badges. Boxes were taken and placed in churches, shops, workplaces etc. The supporter would then check the box and remove the money every few weeks and send it to us to help our work.

Would you be able to help with this? Could you arrange for somewhere in your area where a box could safely be left? Would you be able to check it once every 2-4 weeks and send us the donations? We would be very grateful if you could. If you are able to do so and can arrange somewhere for the box to be displayed, then please do get in touch enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk

Know anyone getting married or celebrating?

Increasingly people choose to have a colour theme to their celebrations and also to give their guests a memento of the occasion that fits in with their theme.

So here's an idea for you – a purple theme – which could apply to anything from napkins to candles, bridesmaids' dresses to cake decorations, sweet wrappers to flowers, and so on. And you could give guests a Purple Teardrop pin badge as a memento, or pin it to a card or to some other token for each guest.

You might also like to ask friends or guests for a donation to the Purple Teardrop Campaign instead of a gift. Could this be an idea for a special birthday or anniversary?

This would be a wonderful gesture and would help in so many ways – from buying the badges, from any donations, and in making more people aware of human trafficking. Do get in touch if you or anyone you know would like to do this. Our email address is enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk

We hope this newsletter has given you some insight into what people are currently doing to raise awareness of trafficking. If there is anything you are doing, then please tell us about it. We would love to hear from you.

We are so grateful for any fundraising or donations and you can rest assured that the money will be put to excellent use. Thank you so much for your support.

You can contact us on enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk