



PURPLE TEARDROP CAMPAIGN

stop the trafficking ~ stop the tears

Winter newsletter 2013

www.purpleteardrop.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1141695

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

Many thanks to everyone who took part in Anti Slavery Day on 18th October. So many events up and down the country did a great deal to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Nearly 30 million people are living as slaves, according to a new index ranking 162 countries

The [Global Slavery Index 2013](#) says India has the highest number of people with nearly 14 million living in conditions of slavery. Mauritania has the highest proportional figure with about 4% of its population enslaved.

The index was compiled by Australian-based rights organisation [Walk Free Foundation](#) using a definition of modern slavery that includes debt bondage, forced marriage and human trafficking.

The organisation's estimate of 29.8 million slaves worldwide is higher than other attempts to quantify modern slavery. The [International Labour Organisation](#) estimates that almost 21 million people are victims of forced labour.

India, China, Pakistan and Nigeria have the highest numbers of people enslaved, the charity said. Together with five other countries, they account for three-quarters of the total estimated number of people in modern slavery worldwide.

The report said India's ranking was mostly due to the exploitation of Indian citizens within the country itself.

While the highest proportion of slaves is in Mauritania, with many people inheriting slave status from their ancestors, Haiti is second in the index and Pakistan is third.

The index highlighted that at least 880,000 people are forced to work in slave labour conditions across Europe, including 270,000 victims of sexual exploitation.

The number of cases of human trafficking discovered in the UK has risen by 25% in the last year, with trafficking on the rise from countries like Albania, Poland and Lithuania.

The new survey has the backing of world figures including Hillary Clinton and Tony Blair. Mrs Clinton said that although the index was not perfect, it provided a starting point.

"I urge leaders around the world to view this index as a call to action, and to stay focused on the work of responding to this crime."

Five women rescued from Birmingham brothel

Five women believed to be sex-trafficking victims have been rescued by police during raids on nine suspected brothels in Birmingham.

Police, who arrested two women and three men on suspicion of managing a brothel, said they were determined to put a stop to "modern day slavery" in the region.

Three of the buildings raided by some of the 40 officers involved in the operation were found to be empty, but evidence at the scene suggested they had also been used as brothels.

Officers from [West Midlands Police](#) seized mobile phones, cash, laptops and paraphernalia relating to prostitution.

A video posted on YouTube by the police force shows officers bashing down a front door and storming one of the properties.

Detective Inspector Darren Haynes said in the video: "We've seized laptops, satnavs, mobile phones, there's clear evidence of large amounts of cash, receipts, the whole picture of this premises would lead me to believe that it is being used as an illegal brothel and perhaps the girls inside are being human trafficked.

"The victims are lost, treated really badly and abused on a daily basis."

The raids were part of Operation Sentinel, a crackdown on sex trafficking and exploitation in the region and were launched following intelligence gathered from local residents.

As part of the operation, the force is conducting a comprehensive review of the policies and procedures it uses to tackle human trafficking.

Detective Superintendent Tim Bacon said: "It's hard to believe that modern day slavery is happening in the West Midlands, but sadly it's on the increase and we're determined to put a stop to it.

"Tonight's action, first and foremost, is about protecting people who more often than not don't even realise that they are victims.

"But we're also sending out a strong message to the traffickers that they're not going to get away with using our area as a place to commit this appalling abuse."



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Human trafficking information card

An excellent aide mémoire card has been produced by the Scottish Government and Police. As well as sections on what is human trafficking, it gives extensive coverage on indicators of trafficking, both general and specific to sex exploitation, domestic servitude and labour exploitation, the do's and don't of assisting victims, types of information to try to gather and a list of useful contacts.

We are sending out a PDF copy of the card with this newsletter.

Child sex trafficking

We hear of more and more cases of young girls in this country being groomed for sexual exploitation, in particular the Oxford case earlier this year.

The problem is of course not just confined to the UK. A nationwide operation in the United States to crack down on child sex trafficking has resulted in 159 men being charged with forcing over 100 teenage girls to work as prostitutes. Some of the girls were as young as 13. Arrests were made in over 70 American cities.

The operation was part of a decade-long initiative that is intended to break up child prostitution rings. The program has led to the convictions of 1,350 people for pimping-related offences, 10 of whom received life sentences, according to the F.B.I.

Over the last decade, roughly 2,700 children were rescued from working as prostitutes through such operations, the agency said. The authorities focused on finding prostitutes who were seeking customers on the Web or at places like truck stops and casinos. After tracking down the young women, officers used information from the teenagers to locate their pimps.

John Ryan, the Head of the Center for Missing and Exploited children, said it demonstrated "just how many of America's children are being sold for sex every day, many on the Internet."

New Modern Slavery Bill

The government has announced that it will introduce a new Modern Slavery Bill next year.

Frank Field MP is heading an evidence review which will scope out the content of the Bill. He states that "We now have an opportunity to once again establish the United Kingdom as a global leader in the fight against slavery. The review will mark a decisive turning point in better protecting victims whilst turning the fire-power of the state against slave owners and traffickers running this evil trade".

Independent guardians for trafficked children

The Children's Society believes that the government's plans for new legislation are an ideal opportunity to put in place measures that would better protect children who have been victims of human trafficking - some of the very most vulnerable children and young people in our country.

They have called for the establishment of a system of independent guardians for all separated children including potential child victims of trafficking, who are alone in a foreign country, do not speak the language or understand the culture. They have no one legally responsible for their care, speaking up for them and protecting their best interests. This makes them incredibly vulnerable to exploitation and serious harm.

An independent guardian can make a major difference in a young person's life. They can ensure that children understand their rights, have their voice heard in decisions that affect them, and are supported through the different legal processes that they are engaged in.

The case for guardians is supported by many international and domestic bodies, including the [UN Committee on the Rights of the Child](#), the [Council of Europe](#) expert group on trafficking and the [Joint Committee on Human Rights](#) in its inquiry into unaccompanied migrant children and young people. It is also a long-standing [position](#) supported by the [Refugee Children's Consortium](#) – a coalition of over 40 non-governmental organisations working with children caught up in the immigration system.

Marsh Award

We are thrilled that one of the founders of the Purple Teardrop Campaign is one of the two winners of the prestigious Marsh Award, which honours those who have made an outstanding contribution to the fight against human trafficking. Both winners are members of Soroptimist International and the award reflects not only the work of these two amazing women but also the enormous part that Soroptimists all over Great Britain and Ireland have played in the campaign.



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Purple Teardrop provides extra victim support

Government-funded safe houses for rescued victims provide for basic needs such as accommodation and food. However these poor people need much more to help them try and get over the trauma of what has happened to them and get on with their lives, in a country that is often not their own and where they may not be able to speak English.

The Purple Teardrop Campaign, using donations and other funds raised, is helping to bridge this gap in a variety of ways.

People typically arrive only with the clothes they are wearing so we can help fund essentials such as basic clothes and toiletries. This enables the safe house staff to take them to shops to get food and clothes which instantly builds trust and puts them at ease.

We have also enabled the purchase of palmtop language translators and street maps for use while people are in the care of the safe house.

Education is key to helping a rescued victim get on with their life and earn their own living, whether here or back in their home country. It helps to minimise the chance of their ever being re-trafficked. We have been able to support many people by paying for tuition fees and college support kits, travel and classroom expenses. Without access to computers it is extremely difficult to complete their course work so we have provided some to safe houses for the use of current and future rescued victims.

One safe house has developed its own community garden where victims can work together, grow some of their own vegetables and learn gardening skills. We were very pleased to help fund visits to garden centres to purchase necessary requisites including seeds and compost.

Some victims rescued from sexual exploitation are pregnant and we have been able to fund the purchase of maternity clothes and other items needed for the baby.

All victims arrived very traumatised, often suffer from post traumatic stress disorder and need a lot of help and support to be able to go out into society. The Purple Teardrop Campaign has been able to help safe houses with this, through funding such items such as outings for the victims and the use of fitness equipment. These are not luxuries but small steps towards re-integrating victims and empowering them to feel that they can move on with their lives.

In the words of staff from one safe house that we have assisted:

“Three of the clients that went on the trip to Marwell Zoo have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, however with the support of staff were able to come out and still feel safe. An English ex-client also came along to help make a current English client, who had been trafficked for 9 years, feel more comfortable. They were able to talk about their experiences and have now become friends as a result of their experiences and are now supporting each other.

One lady has just moved on to a bedsit. She was turned down by witness protection and was very scared and worried about where she was going. We were able to help her secure a large bedsit and with help of the Purple Teardrop were able to furnish it for her which has made a big difference to her stability.

Due to the victims having limited access to funds when they move on, they are all very worried about how they are going to afford basic furniture and kitchen utensils. This can often cause them to feel panicked and withdraw due to the worry. When they are reassured that we can help due to the move-on funding from the Purple Teardrop Campaign, this makes a huge difference to their mental health and their ability to focus on moving on with their lives in a positive way. They are all so grateful and delighted with what we all normally take for granted in our lives.”

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