



PURPLE TEARDROP CAMPAIGN

stop the trafficking ~ stop the tears

Spring newsletter 2014

www.purpleteardrop.org.uk

Registered charity no. 1141695

Welcome to our Spring newsletter. This issue includes news on events and initiatives to increase awareness of trafficking in this country and abroad. Do send us any information that comes your way and if you can take up any of the initiatives that you read about here, please let us know. Everything helps in the campaign against human trafficking.

Teaching resource pack on human trafficking

An excellent pack of teaching resources for use with Year 10 and Key Stage 4 students has been produced in Northern Ireland. It has modules covering human trafficking and human rights, human trafficking – global and local, human trafficking myth-busting, the impact of trafficking including case studies on Anna, Adam and Alisha and recognising and responding to trafficking.

The materials are available on the Organised Crime Task Force website. To go to the OCTF website and be able to download the materials, click [here](#).

'Loves me/loves me not' bookmarks

So many girls think that they are in a loving relationship with a boyfriend and don't realise that they are being groomed to be sold or passed around for sex. The Purple Teardrop Campaign has produced a bookmark to show them the differences between a healthy relationship and an abusive one which may result in a girl becoming a victim of sex trafficking. The bookmark lists on one side some of the characteristics of a healthy relationship – respects me, likes that I have other friends, accepts me as I am, supports what I want to do in life, and so on. The other side lists warning signs of a potentially abusive relationship – is possessive and jealous, tries to control me, is sexually demanding, keeps me from seeing my friends and family, and so on.

We are very grateful to Soroptimists in Yorkshire and in Poole who created and developed this excellent resource. For more information click [here](#). It is available to order from our website, www.purpleteardrop.org.uk

We are working with the MARS Project, which delivers relationship skills training within secondary schools. They are leaving a bookmark with each of the students who pass through their training. By the end of this year, over 600

students in Dorset will be better informed on what constitutes a healthy relationship. The bookmarks are being used in a similar way in South Lanarkshire.

If any such training is happening in your area, then do make the trainers aware of our bookmark and see if they are willing to use it as part of their resources. The more this can be rolled out directly to teenage and pre-teenage girls, the more girls we may be able to keep out of the clutches of sexual abusers and traffickers.

You could also ask your local libraries, youth centres and children's centres to take some bookmarks to give out to their users.

If you would like to discuss with us, please contact us on enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk.

Posters and stickers in Poole public toilets

Thanks to the support of the Borough of Poole and their contractors, Churchill, a specially designed Purple Teardrop poster or sticker is now displayed in every public toilet cubicle in Poole. The poster and sticker explain, with pictorial help, how victims of trafficking or anyone who suspects trafficking is occurring can contact a national helpline. Councillor Xena Dion explains "We know that many victims are unlikely to speak English as a first language and may not understand the words, but the pictures on the posters are very clear. It must be a life of total misery to be caught up in what amounts to modern slavery and anything we can do as Councillors to help is essential".

The simple poster lists telephone numbers a victim can call for help. Whilst victims are almost always accompanied wherever they go, it is felt that they would be allowed into a toilet cubicle by themselves and might then see the poster and be able to write down the telephone number.

The sticker was designed for use in cubicles where a framed poster would not be appropriate. Of course, the stickers could be used in many different situations and settings, not just toilet cubicles. The poster and stickers are available from our website, together with information on how to go about getting them into public toilets in your area. Click [here](#) for the details.



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Sustainable livelihoods for rescued victims

Rescuing women and girls from trafficking is essential. So is providing a safe house and care. But that alone is not enough. As poverty is the breeding ground for trafficking and re-trafficking, then helping the victims to earn their own living in a sustainable way is paramount. In this issue we are focussing on two wonderful initiatives that do just that.

Beulah London was started by two women who were volunteering at a women's refuge in the slums of Delhi and teaching rescued victims of sex trafficking to sew. They were so moved by the women that they set up an ethical fashion label to raise awareness, funds, and a sustainable livelihood for victims of trafficking. Every item made for them in India comes with a cloth bag sewn by women who have been sex trafficked. Some of the clothes and accessories are also made by the women. They have around 170 rescued women working for them and they say that each one is inspirational. "We talked to one woman who was trafficked when she was just 12. She had endured so much, but she was so positive about her future. That's what Beulah's all about."

The fact that the Duchess of Cambridge has worn several Beulah dresses has helped make Beulah fashions a success, resulting in a stream of sustainable work for rescued women.

Visit <http://www.beulahlondon.com/about-us> to read more of their story and maybe treat yourself to something and help a rescued woman in the process?

Free the Girls is another amazing project to provide job opportunities to women rescued from trafficking. So far the project works with women in Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda and El Salvador. The business is second hand clothing, a profitable market, and the principal item is the bra. Bras are sought-after items and enable the rescued women to work with female customers, very important since they have been so abused by men.

Free the Girls collects 'gently used' bras and ships them out to women in their programme who receive their initial stock as a donation and then are able to buy replacement stock at less than wholesale value to help give them an edge in their marketplace. So far the project has collected and sent out over 200,000 bras in four years and the women have been able to earn over 3 times their local minimum wage.

A marvellous initiative to give the women their own business and keep them away from being re-trafficked through poverty. What an effect it must have on the women and their self esteem. From being a slave to owning their own, successful business.

To learn more about the project, read <http://freethegirls.org/about/our-story/>

Trafficking on Purple Teardrop's doorstep

A car sales and car wash location only three miles from us was raided by police and a number of men in their 20s rescued. An arrest for trafficking was made.

This was somewhere that I pass at least once a week, somewhere I could have taken my car to be washed. If I had done so, I hope I would have spotted the signs. Human trafficking is everywhere today and this example right on our doorstep only serves to reinforces our determination to make people aware of modern day slavery and to report to the police or Crimestoppers any suspicions that it just might be happening somewhere where things are 'not quite right'. Detective series have never been more popular on TV. We need to be detectives ourselves and keep alert for any signs of potential human trafficking.

Feature on trafficking in local newspaper

One very direct way to raise awareness of what trafficking is, the signs to look out for and the fact that it could be happening on your doorstep is to suggest to your local newspaper that they write a feature on it. We have recently done just that with the paper local to us. If you would like to read it then click [here](#) .

If you can get your local newspaper to agree to a feature, we can provide you with articles that we have already written which your reporters could make use of. Please contact us at enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk

Trafficking off the coasts of New Zealand

Deep water fishing around their shores is a major source of income to New Zealand. However a significant proportion of the New Zealand trawler fleet is made up of foreign flagged ships from countries such as Korea, with Indonesian workers, chartered by New Zealand firms.



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The workers are very much made up of people in debt bondage. They are badly treated, with threats (and acts) of violence, often have to work 30 hour shifts in dangerous conditions with an unacceptably high level of accidents. After 'deductions', 'agency fees' and a manipulated exchange rate, they are typically left with \$1 per hour, compared to New Zealand's minimum rate of \$12 per hour for such work.

These foreign flagged ships generate US\$ 250 million of exports for New Zealand. Yet this slavery scandal has brought the industry into disrepute.

The New Zealand government is planning to redress this by legislating to protect workers on New Zealand chartered ships, even though they operate outside New Zealand's territorial waters. This will bring these foreign flagged ships under New Zealand's labour laws to protect the human rights of the workers.

'Lakshmi' – film about trafficking in India

Lakshmi is a 2014 Hindi drama film directed by Nagesh Kukunoor, dealing with the harsh realities of human trafficking and child prostitution in India. 44,000 children are abducted in India every year, a quarter of whom are never traced and who most probably end up in the sex trade. Lakshmi is a social protest film inspired by a true story about 13 year old Lakshmi, abducted and taken to a brothel. Her repeated attempts to escape are unsuccessful until one day a social worker offers a ray of hope. Lakshmi premiered in January at the Palm Springs International Film Festival where it received great acclaim and won the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature. Click [here](#) to see a trailer.

Make Devon a slave-free zone

A night of film and question and answers with local experts will take place in the auditorium at Exeter University on Friday 4th June from 7.15pm to 8.45pm. Short films on aspects of Modern Day slavery – sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude – will be shown. The Purple Teardrop Campaign will have a stand at the event to give out information and talk to attendees. This is one of a series of such evenings that Unchosen are running around the country this year. For more information go to www.unchosen.org.uk.

Anti Human Trafficking conference trains hundreds and generated thousands

After much planning involving many different people and agencies, BCHA which runs a safe house for rescued victims of trafficking, helped by Poole Soroptimists, ran a one-day conference in Bournemouth. Front line workers across many disciplines, including adult and children's social services, education, police, churches, healthcare, Home Office Immigration training, adult safeguarding, school volunteers, hospital governors, solicitors, students, county council as well as concerned individuals all attended the conference. The day was extremely successful with delegates returning to their workplaces knowing the signs of trafficking and what to do about it in their line of work. They would then be educating their staff and putting policies in place where none currently exist.

The attendees' employers valued the conference enough to pay for each attendee place with the result that a surplus of over £3,000 was made, which will go directly to the work of the BCHA's safe house programme.

An excellent model for more such conferences - greater awareness, more front line workers skilled to spot the signs of trafficking and know what to do about it, a better understanding for attendees on what different agencies are doing in this area plus significant funds raised to support rescued victims.

How to spot the signs of human trafficking

We have produced an updated 'How to make yourself aware of the signs of human trafficking' poster and it is available on our website. You can click [here](#) to see it. Please feel free to print off copies and make whatever use of it that you can to spread the word.

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