

UPDATE & PROGRESS REPORT MARCH 2015

MODERN SLAVERY ACT 2015 – IT’S OFFICIAL!!

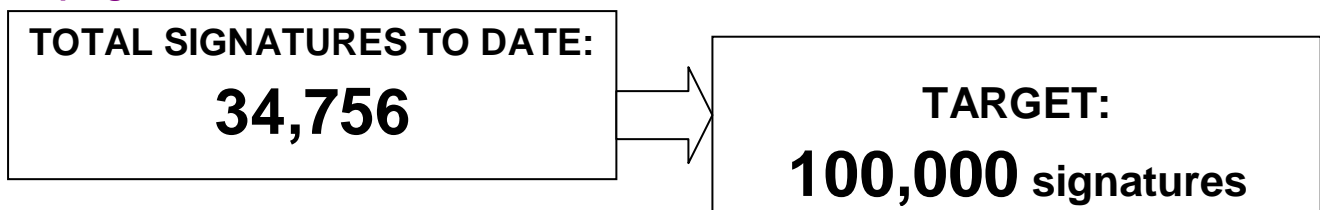
Wonderful news! The Modern Slavery Act received Royal Assent on Thursday 26th March 2015. It is now part of the law of the land – Here’s the official announcement and key points detailed:

[Historic law to end Modern Slavery passed - News stories - GOV.UK](#)

SI Poole and the Purple Teardrop Campaign send congratulations to all Soroptimists who have, through their actions, contributed to the safe passage of this Bill through Parliament – your talks to MPs, the public and key decision makers, have demonstrated that Soroptimists have a voice, and aren’t afraid to use it. The Human Trafficking Foundation welcomes the Act it has worked so hard to help develop, and says “We now look forward to many more years of hard work. There are gaps in the legislation, and those gaps can and should be filled under the next Government. Strategy and policy issues also need to be addressed and improved—but again that is for the next Government. What is perhaps of supreme importance right now is that we have the framework of an Act as part of the law of England and Wales, and that is absolutely crucial.”

We can be rightly proud of our part in this historic and unique law. A pdf of the Modern Slavery Act can be accessed here: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/pdfs/ukpga_20150030_en.pdf

Campaign to ban “sex for sale” adverts:



Nearly 35,000 signatures to date – Soroptimists all over the country celebrated International Women’s Day on 8th March, and collected signatures along the way! Many thanks to clubs in Jersey, in Cheshire, North Wales and Wirral Region, Anglesey, Dorchester, Durham, Easter Ross, Poole, and Bristol/Yeovil area. Thanks also to the student led University of Kent Campaign Against Human Trafficking, and the Barnabas and Broadstone Fellowships, all of whom have willingly signed our petition once they heard how women and children are duped and forced into prostitution. **Check out the Bar Chart** to see the amazing UK coverage. If we’ve left you out of this list, we very much value your support – when you send in some more signatures please let us have the name of your club or organization, so we can say thank you.

SOROPTIMIST CALL TO ACTION – ONE CLUB MEMBER IN EACH REGION NEEDED!

A new Government website and helpline is now available for trafficking victim support. If you’re doing anti-trafficking or victim support work, please provide this helpline number **0800 0121 700** and website address for on line reporting www.modernslavery.co.uk. However, there are some current concerns about this helpline facility and we have been asked if Soroptimists in the UK can contact the number to check out what the process would be if a victim, frontline agency or a member of the public were to ring it.

Would a member of your club be willing call the number and ask some key questions? If so, please let us know and we will supply the key questions, a timeframe for the call, and a deadline to feed back to us. We will then collate this information and send it on in confidence for information and action.

If you can help, please email: purple.teardrop@ntlworld.com

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



We are delighted to share with you the wonderful events that some clubs have held in celebration of International Women's Day – if you have something to share with us please do send your news in if it involved Purple Teardrop Campaign resources .



Soroptimists Walking for VAW and human trafficking

Glenys Hunt writes: Members from the Cheshire, North Wales and Wirral region walked the walls in Chester on March 7th, for International Women's Day. We held placards with slogans against trafficking and violence against women, and collected signatures for the Purple Teardrop campaign petition. So we helped raise awareness of SI and our fight against violence against women. We also had a lovely convivial walk.

Thank you for over 100 petition signatures collected – we cant do it without you ☺



Diane Priday writes: "We have 75 ladies present and we have a 3 course lunch at a rather smart hotel. We hold a raffle and funds of the raffle go to our charities."

Hats off to S I Easter Ross

Ross-shire ladies and their guests donned their hats for a sell-out fundraising event that, in the last three years, has celebrated International Women's Day and has raised £2,000 to help women in adversity across the world.

The fourth annual Soroptimist International Easter Ross charity lunch on 7 March supported Women for Women International, and the Purple Teardrop Campaign.

Thank you, SI Easter Ross, for sending a most generous donation and raising awareness of trafficking as a VAW issue.



SI DURHAM DO IT WITH PURPLE

PAO Judith writes: "We had a stall in the market place in Durham City on Sunday 8th March for International Women's Day. We wanted to promote Soroptimist International and particularly the programme action aspect of our work, so what better focus on the day but the Purple Teardrop Campaign. We had a purple cloth beneath our blue one and we displayed the posters and leaflets you sent.



We also tried to wear something purple, and one of our members made purple ribbons which we gave out to everyone. Apart from the board on the table members circulated the market place talking to people, explaining the campaign and requesting signatures. Very few people declined and we were pleased to end up with 259 signatures on the day. Members who couldn't be there added their signatures at our business meeting and we have a final total of 271. The sheets are now in the post. We felt the day was very successful on both counts - raising awareness of SI and of PTC.

Thank you, SI Durham, for raising awareness of human trafficking as a VAW issue, and for collecting so many signatures

Kate Brade from SI Stafford is talking trafficking. She says:

"I have been asked to talk to a group of women, who want to mark International women's Day, and their main concern is Trafficking. I have pulled off your 'Winter Newsletter ' and your 14 Things you can do in 2014' I am presuming that this information is just as pertinent now as it was when published. It is a fundraising luncheon for about 25 and I have suggested any money raised be donated to the PTC to help the women you support and I will be asking them to support the petition to 'ban sex for sale' adverts.

We sent Kate some presentation slides, and answered some questions she had, and wished her luck! See how she got on at Page 3 ☺

Kate sent us this amazing email on 26th March:

Sorry for the delay in Thanking You for your help with the Trafficking talk that I did for International Women's Day, I think I did it justice! Cathy was very generous with her time and hosting the meeting and I believe she has forwarded £470 for the Purple Teardrop Campaign.

At that event we had enquiries from two women who were interested in Soroptimists have since contacted SI Wrekin; which is quite pleasing.

I collected signatures for your petition and 2/3 petitions were taken away to ask their friends/associates to sign; these will hopefully be returned directly to you. In the evening SI Stafford took a promotional stand to Staffordshire University where we highlighted the PTD campaign and collected more signatures. I hope to collect more from new members of SI Stafford before sending them on to you. I hope the delay is OK.

Thanks once again. KB

Thank you Kate, for stepping into the unknown to raise awareness of VAW in the context of human trafficking. Congratulations and thank you to SI Stafford for the donation and petition signatures – what a wonderful result altogether.



S.I. Hamilton were invited to have a stall at South Lanarkshire Council's International Women's Day event on Friday 6th March in East Kilbride College.

We decided our goal would be to raise awareness of PTC and Trafficking. We collected 205 signatures for PTC (which I will post to you). The day went well with young students keen to know more about the campaign and sign.

As well as our success raising awareness of PTC, two potential new members were attracted to our club by the work we do and we received an offer from a local befriending group to give a talk to our ladies.

Thank you SI Hamilton for raising awareness of VAW with students and of Soroptimism with a local befriending group.

SOROPTIMISTS ON LINE

SI Jersey IWD Breakfast

Congratulations Jersey Soroptimists on collecting over 100 signatures for the Purple Teardrop Campaign lobby against sex for sale advertising at the very well attended [IWD Women's Refuge Breakfast](#). Every signature counts so sincere thanks to SI Jersey from all the team at the Purple Teardrop Campaign.



Congrats UKC Against Human Trafficking

UKC Against Human Trafficking raised awareness of human trafficking at the University of Kent (Canterbury) Refreshers event and signed up more than 60 students to their cause. The Purple Teardrop Campaign was delighted to provide posters and leaflets to support this successful event.

A big thank you to all concerned from the Purple Teardrop Campaign team both for your donation and for the signatories to our lobby to ban sex for sale advertising. Many congratulations on your work.

Click [here](#) to see the full article on our website

Our last bit of good news:

The Salvation Army has been appointed to continue the provision of the government's Victim Care Contract to manage the support of adult victims of modern slavery in England and Wales.

- Enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk If you have an anti-trafficking thing going on, please let us know
- [Here](#) is where you can summon up an **order form** with the new address on it, if you want resources
- [Here](#) is where you can download a **multi-signature petition form** with our new address on it
- **On-line Petition** – ask friends to sign if this is easier than using the petition form!
- Did you know **we also have a quarterly newsletter**, which can be read and downloaded [here](#)

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK – PUBLIC AWARENESS LEADS TO BETTER MEDIA COVERAGE AND MORE GOVERNMENT ATTENTION – PRESSURES WHICH EFFECT CHANGE