



PURPLE TEARDROP CAMPAIGN

stop the trafficking ~ stop the tears

Newsletter October 2017

Welcome to our latest newsletter. This issue covers some of the activities that are being taken to help in the recovery and rehabilitation of people rescued from slavery, new statistics that have come out on the extent of trafficking and more trafficking stories.

We are focussing on Signs of potential trafficking and what simple steps you can take to help report it.

Slavery in the UK

The extent of modern slavery and human trafficking in the UK is far wider than previously thought, according to the National Crime Agency. There are currently more than 300 live policing operations targeting modern slavery in towns and cities in the UK. A dozen of these operations are specifically focussed against organised crime.

You can read about one of these operations, Operation Cleeve, later in this newsletter.

Previous estimates of 10,000 to 13,000 victims in the UK were found to be the “tip of the iceberg”. “The more we look, the more we find. We have been shocked by the scale of what we have seen” says Will Kerr of the National Crime Agency. They state that the growth is being driven by international gangs increasingly recognising how much money they could make by controlling people within a huge range of economic sectors. The key sectors for slavery now include food processing, fishing, agriculture, construction, domestic and care workers and car washes.

The National Crime Agency says “There will be people living and working where victims come into contact with everyone else’s so-called normal lives. They may see something they feel is not quite right. That might be someone seeming afraid, vulnerable or being controlled, moved around or forced to work against their will. If they do, we need the public to speak to us. Anyone with suspicions can call their local police force on 101 or the Modern Slavery Helpline on 0800 0121 700”.

Signs of potential trafficking

Here are some of the signs to look out for

- o anxious, fearful or paranoid
- o avoids eye contact, reticent to engage
- o shows signs of harm, deprived of medical care
- o seems deprived of food, water, sleep
- o tearful, signs of depression
- o bruises, cuts, signs of physical abuse
- o dependent, controlled by someone
- o does not have freedom of movement
- o not in control of their earnings
- o recently arrived in UK, does not speak English
- o does not have passport or ID
- o under 18 and providing sex for money/gifts
- o any age unwillingly providing sex acts for money
- o afraid of authority or receiving help

What if you have spotted any of these signs?

If you have any suspicions that slavery may be happening, you can contact

- o Modern Slavery helpline 0800 0121 700
- o Police on 101 if not urgent
- o Police on 999 in an emergency
- o Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 anonymously

Any information, however little, is much needed and valuable input into intelligence gathering to combat human trafficking in the UK.

At the end of this newsletter is a section on

What can you do right now?

Please will you do what it asks? Your actions today may well lead to a victim's rescue and survival. Thank you very much.



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2017 Global Estimates of Modern Slavery

A new report has been produced by the U.N's International Labour Organisation and the Walk Free Foundation, an international NGO working to end modern slavery.

They describe the report as giving the most reliable slavery figures to date. It combined data collected from 2012 to 2016 and drew on a variety of sources, chiefly national surveys involving interviews with more than 71,000 respondents across 48 countries. They also used data from the International Organisation for Migration, an intergovernmental organisation linked to the U.N.

They found that 40.3 million people were estimated to be victims of modern slavery in 2016. Children made up around 37% of those forced to marry as well as 18% of forced labour. It noted that the average length of time that victims were in forced labour ranged from a few days to nearly two years for forced sexual exploitation.

Eleven traveller family members convicted following slavery trials

The ten men and one woman who ran a driveway resurfacing company which used slave workers have been sentenced to a total of 79 years.

The victims were described as vulnerable adults aged between 18 and 63, who were often homeless and had been picked up by the defendants from across the UK. Police say that they were being completely exploited, working long hours and housed in caravans without running water or toilet facilities. Although not physically trapped, they were financially, emotionally and physically abused, making any escape seem impossible. The victims had become completely institutionalised and were only fed when they worked and at times that was restricted to the family's leftovers.

Forced fishing in Thailand

The UN International Labour Organisation reports continuing forced labour and physical abuse on fishing vessels operating under a Thai flag.

A huge number of vessels operate in unpoliced waters and many receive food supplies from, and transfer ice and catches to other vessels, so crews can be at sea for months or years. One survivor had been kept enslaved at sea for seven years.

Unscrupulous brokers recruit workers, trick young men from neighbouring countries into a job from which there is no escape.

Typically someone accepts a factory job but finds himself passed from one broker to another, taken to a port and put on a fishing boat. Others are drugged, kidnapped and find themselves enslaved on a fishing vessel. They are forced to work on the vessel against their will, despite having paid huge recruitment fees.

One worker was severely beaten and chained to the boat by his neck after trying to escape. Others had seen crewmen murdered by their captains and thrown overboard.

They report working unpaid 20 hour days, with limited food. Beri-beri, a vitamin deficiency that can result in swollen limbs, paralysis and cardiovascular failure, is rife. According to Greenpeace, they often have their ID papers confiscated and are not permitted to leave the ships. Trapped at sea, workers cannot escape or complain about their conditions.

Thailand is the world's third largest seafood exporter. Its catches end up in supermarkets and pet food products in Europe and the USA.

The transshipping system between vessels muddies the supply chain because fish are mixed at sea, and often again at the ports and processing plants, before being sold to larger companies for export.



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Operation Cleeve in Surrey, Berkshire, Hampshire and London

As we reported earlier in this newsletter, there are currently over 300 active police anti-trafficking operations under way in the UK. Operation Cleeve is one of them, led by Surrey Police and involving 95 Surrey Police officers and the National Crime Agency and raids at five sites across Surrey, Hampshire, Berkshire and London.

Operation Cleeve focused on establishing whether trafficking and labour exploitation using foreign nationals was taking place at the locations, including subjecting victims to physical violence and squalid living conditions.

“This was a complex piece of work to breakup a potentially large scale trafficking and slavery operation” said DCI Kerry Haddleton “Modern slavery is an offence that we know is happening around us in Surrey. Protecting the vulnerable and exploited victims of this horrific crime and pursuing those who commit it is something we take extremely seriously.”

“I urge anyone who has any concerns about individuals being forced to work against their will for low or no wages, or being controlled or mistreated, to report it to us.”

A force spokesman added “Modern slaves are often hidden in plain sight, working in nail bars, on construction sites, in the hospitality sector or in agriculture.”

US ‘Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act’

The proposed ‘Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017’ would hold websites liable for publishing information “designed to facilitate sex trafficking”. Until now internet companies have been shielded by the Communications Decency Act from criminal liability for content on their website created by others, for example a website that hosts advertisements for products and services from other people or organisations.

The bill stems from a two year enquiry into classified advertising website Backpage.com, which we have written about in previous newsletters. It was found to have knowingly facilitated online child

sex trafficking on the “adult” section of its website by filtering the text of adverts, to delete words such as “rape”, “little girl” and “Lolita” to conceal the true intent of the ads.

However there is much controversy with strong feelings for and against this change in the law, with a large number of technology companies and proponents of free speech lobbying hard against it, although it has cross-party support in Congress.

In the words of one of the bill’s biggest advocates, the new law will tackle “one of the dark sides of the internet”. He said that while the internet has done incredible things, it is also being used in terrible ways and the sale of people online “can’t be the cost of doing business.” The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women states “The internet has become a very easy tool with very low risk and very high profits in illegal activities in the sale and purchase of vulnerable young women. This is not a free speech issue, this is a crime issue.”

New powers against trafficking in Scotland

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Act came into force in May 2016. Now the new trafficking and exploitation risk orders are an additional tool for police and prosecutors to crack down on human trafficking.

Courts will now be able to impose special prevention orders on people convicted of trafficking and exploitation offences. They can now impose a range of restrictions such as preventing offenders from employing staff, working with children or travelling to certain countries.

Justice Secretary Michael Matheson said “We have already strengthened the law, creating a specific offence of human trafficking for the first time. Now we are making sure that action can be taken when a person poses a continuing risk. These new powers for the police and courts will help to further protect the public from harm”



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Anti trafficking conference for front line workers attended by 1,200 from across southern England

A one-day conference, aimed at front line workers, was recently held in Dorset. A range of excellent presentations, from survivors, organisations helping them, police and agencies hunting down the traffickers and rescuing the victims, ensured that everyone went away knowing a lot more about trafficking and what they can do about it.

Your bras have helped 120 women

Two years ago, we launched our project to collect used bras to help sex trafficking survivors in El Salvador, Mozambique and Uganda. Since that time we have received enough to set up 120 survivors in their own business, selling bras.

This is keeping them safe from being trafficked again by taking them out of poverty and making them financially independent. It is also doing wonders for their self confidence and self esteem. Of the women and girls in the programme we know of, two are at university, nine have bought land, three have bought or rent a house on their own, 100% of their children are in school and 100% have access to better health care.

We have with your help made a remarkable achievement over the last two years, which will make a long term difference to the lives of so many survivors. We had originally hoped that we might collect 1,000 bras so to have received 12,000 is beyond our wildest expectations. We are so grateful for all your support. On behalf of all the women you are helping, thank you very much indeed.

However, after two years, the time has come for us to focus on other areas so we will not be taking any more bras after the end of the year.

The project itself, run by the Free The Girls organisation based in the USA, is of course continuing its wonderful work. If you wish to continue supporting this work by sending any bras directly to Free The Girls at your expense, please contact us at enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk and we can give you some information and advice on shipping.

What can you do right now?

In the next 10 minutes, you can take a few small steps which will significantly help in the fight against human trafficking.

1. store the Modern Slavery Hotline number on your mobile phone so you can immediately report any signs of potential trafficking

0800 0121 700

2. put the Signs of Potential Trafficking and the telephone numbers from the first page of this newsletter on your social media
3. ask five of your contacts to do the same
4. ask them to ask five of their contacts to do the same

Together we can build the numbers of eyes and ears that are watching, the numbers of victims that can be rescued and the numbers of traffickers that can be stopped.

Thank you very much.

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