



# PURPLE TEARDROP CAMPAIGN

Stop the trafficking ~ Stop the tears

## Newsletter Summer 2018

*Welcome to our latest newsletter. As ever, there are stories about trafficking issues, reports on actions being taken, voices raised to try to protect the vulnerable and positive help given to survivors of trafficking.*

### Slaves on the Streets report

The fight against human trafficking is being lost because the “collective response is uncoordinated and fragmented”, the Archbishop of Westminster has warned.

Writing the foreword to a report, part of The Independent and Evening Standard newspapers' “Slaves On Our Streets” campaign, he stated “There are more slaves today than at the height of the Atlantic slave trade in the 18th century. And the number is growing as international criminal gangs increase their influence and reach.”

The report is the culmination of a three-month investigation by the Evening Standard and The Independent newspapers, in partnership with the UK's Anti-Slavery Commissioner. It calls on the government to put victim support on a statutory footing, saying long-term support for victims is the key to “breaking the cycle of slavery and should be available irrespective of immigration status” .

It says the likelihood of modern slavery in supply chains is high, sanctions should be enforced and that companies should see compliance in this area as equivalent to other sustainability goals. It recommends that companies band together “to have greater clout” and for consumers “to vote with their purses and support brands associated with ethical supply chains” .

The report also calls for modern slavery to become a coordinated national policing priority.

The Archbishop urged banks and the City to recognise the problem of money laundering and ensure organised crime is traced and halted and for local government to identify and crack down on those local businesses, such as nail bars and car washes, which are often places of modern slavery:

### City Hearts

City Hearts run an anti trafficking charity safe house in the North East of England. The Purple Teardrop Campaign provides some financial support to help their rehabilitation work. City Hearts report on our latest donation.

“It was used to provide bedding , clothing , maternity items, pillows, quilts, household items, craft items for our weekly drop in, toiletries, pyjamas, sanitary items, towels, baby items, underwear, household items, clothing to help clients for preparing for interview, winter coats. We were also able to organise a Christmas afternoon tea for clients too.

“It has been particularly helpful when we have had clients who have arrived with nothing but the clothes they were wearing and by using the Purple Teardrop funding to buy essential clothing and baby essentials they have felt valued and gained self worth back.

“The way Purple Teardrop helps most is when our pregnant clients arrive here and have no possessions whatsoever. The fund helps us to buy essential items for mother and baby to help the family to have a better start.

“City Hearts would like to take this opportunity once again to say a huge thank you for the donation that makes our Job much easier in providing for these vulnerable women and children and their families.”



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## Internet firms profit from sex trafficking

Internet giants are accused of profiting from sex trafficking in Britain as a wave of “pop-up brothels” sweeps the country.

The National Crime Agency accused firms such as Google and Facebook of “making profits” from the trafficking of vulnerable women, many of whom end up in temporary sex clubs and massage parlours that have sprung up around the country. “Pop-up” sex clubs have been discovered in Cornwall, Cambridge, Swindon and holiday cottages in the Peak District.

Will Kerr of the National Crime Agency stated “People are using the internet and social media sites to enable sexual exploitation and trafficking. It is clear that the internet platforms which host and make a profit out of this type of material need to do more to identify and stop these forms of exploitation.”

Government sources said they were 'looking at' whether to replicate the new legislation in the USA, which was brought in as a response to Backpage.com, which has been labelled a 'hub of human trafficking, especially of minors'. The UK version of the listings site hosts hundreds of explicit postings for sexual services in Britain.

Such legislation would mean that if people advertise the services of trafficked women and children, and clients find them using Google or Facebook, the technology giants could be criminally liable.

## Our bra campaign - final total

As you know, our bra collection campaign has closed. We are delighted to report that our final total of bras exceeded 1500.

The are helping sex trafficking survivors in El Salvador, Mozambique and Uganda, enabling them to run their own second hand bra sales business,. This keeps them safe from being trafficked again by taking them out of poverty and making them financially independent.

This has been a wonderful campaign and we are so grateful for all your support.

## New anti trafficking legislation in the USA

The U.S. Senate has passed the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act (SESTA), legislation intended to limit online sex trafficking. A similar bill, the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act (FOSTA), was also passed by the House, and the combined legislation is known as FOSTA-SESTA.

Even though the legislation has not yet been signed into law, it is already motivating online content providers to change their policies.

Susan Yoshihara of the Center for Family and Human Rights states that:

Cityvibe shut down completely, the Erotic Review, the ‘Yelp of the sex trade’ where men rate their experiences with trafficking victims, shut down advertisement boards in the United States, NightShift shut down to review policies, VerifyHim shut down its ‘newsreel,’ Craigslist personals section was shut down, Reddit’s prostitution-related “subreddits” were marked private and the site instituted new policies banning the sale of sex acts and drugs, Google reportedly deleted its publicly shared commercial sex-related advertising, WordPress.com reportedly removed its commercial sex-related advertising sites, Paypal reportedly disabled advertised accounts for commercial sex-related payment.

As we said in the last newsletter, 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 and we understand that a challenge has been made to this new legislation.



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## Asylum for child victims denied

Figures obtained by Thomson Reuters Foundation show that the Home Office is denying asylum to an increasing number of former child slavery victims despite fears many will fall back under the control of their traffickers if they are deported.

Ministers have been accused of failing to protect and support young victims after new data showed that from 2015 to 2017, the government denied asylum to 183 people trafficked or enslaved as children – double the total for the previous three years.

The figures come after a Vietnamese man trafficked to Britain by a drugs gang was facing deportation, prompting fierce condemnation of the government's "outrageous" treatment of people who have escaped exploitation. Catherine Baker, policy and campaigns officer at ECPAT UK, said the new figures highlighted a significant and growing protection gap for child victims of modern slavery:

"With so many young victims being refused asylum, these extremely vulnerable young people are often returned to their countries of origin where we know that there is a risk of them being re-trafficked. There is no grant of leave to remain in the UK provided for child victims.

Under the current system, a child is usually given limited leave to remain until the age of 17-and-a-half or 18."

In a separate case, a 19-year-old Vietnamese orphan who was trafficked to the UK at the age of 10 and enslaved in a cannabis farm was threatened with removal earlier this year, prompting a large scale campaign for the Home Office to reconsider the decision.

"Fear of immigration authorities and the prospect of removal turns many of these young people away from seeking support from public services, leaving them more vulnerable to further exploitation and abuse," Ms Baker added. "Many of the young people ECPAT UK supports find the immigration process extremely stressful and burdensome, and express that living with uncertainty over their status acts as a barrier towards their recovery."

Charities warn the harsh immigration rules may dissuade other young trafficking victims of coming forward.

In Britain, 2,118 children suspected to have been trafficked – mostly trapped in sexual exploitation, domestic servitude or forced labour – were referred to the government last year, up 66 per cent on 2016 and marking the highest annual number on record. The most common nationalities after British were Vietnamese, Albanian, Sudanese and Eritrean.

## Safe Car Wash app

It is estimated that there are more than 18,000 hand car washes on Britain's high streets, at the sides of motorways, and on abandoned garage forecourts. While many run as legitimate businesses, some exploit, force and threaten workers.

Drivers are being urged to report signs of modern slavery at cheap hand car washes using a new smartphone app, Safe Car Wash.

Safe Car Wash asks motorists about a series of indicators of forced labour including the use of children, fearful behaviour, a lack of protective clothing and prices lower than £6.70.

It sends the anonymised data and a GPS position to the National Crime Agency and the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) and directs users to the Modern Slavery Helpline.

Professor Zoe Trodd, director of the Rights Lab, said: "Car washes are completely unregulated territory and we don't know how big the sector is, how many hand car washes operate or how many persons are registered to work in them.

"This citizen engagement in data collection is a powerful technique with potential for mapping other vulnerable services such as nail bars."



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## The 17 types of modern slavery in the UK

A study by the Home Office's Modern Slavery Research Team has broken down modern slavery in this country into 17 different types. The aim is to clarify the different forms of exploitation to better tackle, prevent, provide services for victims and advise the public on what to look out for. It lists under four main categories – forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and criminal exploitation.

### FORCED LABOUR

#### *1. Victims exploited for multiple purposes in isolated environments*

Victims who are often highly vulnerable are exploited for labour in multiple ways in isolated rural locations.

Victims live on offenders' property in squalid conditions, are subject to repeated abuse and are very rarely paid.

#### *2. Victims work for offenders*

Victims are forced to work directly for offenders in businesses or sites that they own or control (some offenders may be gangmasters). The main method of exploitation is not paying or illegally underpaying victims.

#### *3. Victims work for someone other than offenders*

Victims are employed in a legitimate and often low-skilled job, with legal working conditions, by an employer unrelated to the offenders. Most or all wages are taken by offenders often through control of the victims' bank accounts.

### DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

#### *4. Exploited by partner*

Victims are forced to undertake household chores for their partner and often their partner's relatives. If married, the marriage may have been arranged or forced and the servitude often occurs alongside domestic abuse and sexual exploitation.

#### *5. Exploited by relatives*

Victims live with and exploited for household chores and childcare by family members, usually extended family. Many victims are children.

#### *6. Exploiters not related to victims*

Victims live with offenders who are often strangers. Forced to undertake household chores and are mostly confined to the house.

### SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

#### *7. Child sexual exploitation – group exploitation*

Children are sexually exploited by groups of offenders. This is usually for personal gratification, but sometimes the exploitation involves forced sex work in fixed or changing locations and will include characteristics of types 9 and 10. Offenders frequently transport victims to different locations to abuse them.

#### *8. Child sexual exploitation – single exploiter*

Similar to type 7, often involves the grooming of children and transporting them for the purposes of sexual exploitation, although the offending is carried out by one individual.

#### *9. Forced sex work in fixed location*

Victims are trafficked /exploited in established locations set up specifically for sex work. This can include brothels or rooms in legitimate business premises (e.g. massage parlour).

#### *10. Forced sex work in changing location*

Victims are forced into sex work where the location of exploitation frequently changes. Includes streets, clients' residence, hotels or 'pop-up' brothels in short-term rented property.

Victims are frequently advertised online.

#### *11. Trafficking for personal gratification*

Victims are trafficked to residential sites controlled by offenders and sexually exploited for the offenders' own gratification. Some victims may be confined to the site for a long period of time.



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## CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION

### *12. Forced gang-related criminality*

Victims are forced to undertake gang related criminal activities, most commonly relating to drug networks.

Victims are often children who are forced by gangs to transport drugs and money to and from urban areas to suburban areas and market and coastal towns.

### *13. Forced labour in illegal activities*

Victims are forced to provide labour to offenders for illegal purposes. The most common example is victims forced to cultivate cannabis in private residences.

### *14. Forced acquisitive crime*

Victims are forced by offenders to carry out acquisitive crimes such as shoplifting and pickpocketing. Offenders may provide food and accommodation to victims but rarely pay them.

### *15. Forced begging*

Victims are transported by offenders to locations to beg on the streets for money, which is then taken by offenders.

Victims are often children or vulnerable adults.

### *16. Trafficking for forced sham marriage*

Traffickers transport EU national victims to the UK and sell these victims to an exploiter in a one-off transaction. Exploiters marry victims to gain immigration advantages and often sexually abuse them.

### *17. Financial fraud (including benefit fraud)*

Victims are exploited financially; most commonly their identity documents are taken and used to claim benefits. This type often occurs along alongside other types.

## **Signs of potential trafficking**

- 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 unwillingly providing sex acts for money
- o afraid of authority or receiving help

## **What if you spot 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, however much just a "could it be?" is much needed and valuable input into intelligence gathering to combat human trafficking in the 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](mailto:enquiries@purpleteardrop).*