

Time to Abolish Slavery in the UK

Alert your church on

Not for Sale Sunday May 20th

Slavery was not finally abolished in 1807. The Abolition of the Slave trade Act was the first step on a long journey to freedom and respect for all. That journey is still unfinished business. Human trafficking continues across Europe and the globe, and a new enslavement in trafficked women and girls for sexual exploitation in massage parlours, brothels and 'secured' houses is present in the cities and market towns of the UK today.

Two centuries ago, the trade in West African slaves was abolished for British Merchant shipping. Enforcement continued through the prosecution of those who violated the Act to Abolish the Slave Trade passed through the parliament of the day. Today, there is a new goal – no one for sale in the United Kingdom, whatever their gender, age or ethnicity. The new United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre equipping the police with co-ordinated response to trafficking is one step. Not for Sale Sunday and raising the profile of the multiple degradation of sexual exploitation and what is needed to overcome it is another.

There can be no clearer challenge for the churches today than to engage with the scandal of sexual exploitation taking place in our midst, the uncontested abuse of women's bodies in pay-as-you-go sex and to start a new journey to abolish all trafficking especially that of sexual exploitation in this bicentenary year. The United States State department estimates that over 800,000 people are trafficked over international borders each year – of which an estimated 80% are for sexual exploitation.

CHASTE is providing fresh resources to churches to enable them to be informed and their membership engaged in tackling this contemporary outrage on people's dignity and equality. ***'Not for Sale Sunday'*** on May 20th 2007 will be a step change in awareness of churches of the many ways in which women, girls, boys and men are exploited in the sex trade in its local and global manifestations. This special Sunday will equip the churches to engage in the wider struggle in the public space that women's, children's and men's bodies are most definitely ***Not for Sale.***

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Trustees – Alison Myers, Angela Deavall, Ann Holt, Baljit Ubbey, John Marsh, Fr Raphael Armour, Stephen Jones

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Professor Ann Loades, CBE

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It is estimated that over 4,000 women are trafficked for prostituted sex into the UK each year. Meanwhile over 80,000 women are caught in prostitution in the UK, many of whom are foreign nationals. Each year thousands of businessmen and holiday makers go abroad to purchase sex. We need to address issues of prevention, tackle demand, encourage local initiatives to help with routes out and safety for victims of exploitation, ensure justice is resourced and survivors protected. **Not for Sale Sunday - 20th May 2007** is a unique opportunity to reflect, respond and engage with the multiple issues of sexual exploitation today.

Not for Sale Sunday is a special initiative of Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking across Europe. CHASTE is working in collaboration with other key partners to develop the response of members of all denominations to widespread sexual exploitation in our midst.

CHASTE is a founding partner of the Stop the Traffik coalition and a member of the Set all Free campaign. CHASTE is the ecumenical charity in the UK engaging the issues of sex trafficking in the churches and liaising with government, the UKHTC, all denominations and other NGOs in the UK and across Europe. Through the CHASTE housing network 2/5 of the safe housing in the UK is currently provided for through the Salvation Army and the Medaille Trust. The CHASTE round table on demand is now looking at new ways to confront the purchasing of pay as you go sex as part of the practical engagement on addressing contemporary sexual exploitation.

**Full information is on www.notforsalesunday.org
Liturgy, prayers, Bible studies and other resources are
available on website as well as activities details. These
resources are downloadable on-line for no charge.**

Graphics enclosed

**For more information contact Not for Sale Campaign
Coordinator on richard@chaste.org.uk or contact our
campaign office on 0845 456 9335**

More information about CHASTE on www.chaste.org.uk

CHASTE

Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking across Europe

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