

PRESS RELEASE

CHURCHES ALERT TO SEX TRAFFICKING ACROSS EUROPE

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CHASTE Press Release, 30.08.07

CHASTE's – *Churches alert to Sex Trafficking across Europe* Not for Sale UK campaign which is seeking to change the mood music in the United Kingdom on the issue of customer demand, has commissioned or produced four new cultural levers in the struggle to challenge male demand for pay as you go sex as a culturally accepted norm. CHASTE launched the Not for Sale campaign earlier this year with Not for Sale Sunday on May 20th with wide take up by many churches. Now a well received publication of verse, social comment, theological reflection and case studies has been published. The CHASTE commissioned book *Not for Sale: Raising Awareness Ending Exploitation* is published by Methodist Publishing House imprint Inspire this week. The book has been nominated by leading advisers to the Government as one which could change hearts and minds in the UK on some of the drivers behind trafficking for sexual exploitation in Britain today. Baroness Neuberger the Prime Minister's adviser on the voluntary sector has called the book 'a really important contribution, which should influence debate and get the voluntary sector – and the statutory agencies really sitting up and taking notice'.

In August CHASTE commissioned a highly acclaimed and innovative piece of theatre played to packed houses at the Edinburgh Fringe this summer. The young company Freefall, drawn from students graduating from the drama schools of London, were brought together under the direction of Canon of Westminster's Nick Sagovsky's daughter, Kate Sagovsky for the NOT FOR SALE commission. The hour length drama using physical theatre and puppetry amongst some of the devices to communicate a dark account of trafficking abuse 'has a powerful story to tell, and an imaginative way of getting under people's skin on the subject matter' said director Kate Sagovsky.

Reviewer Clare Black writing in the Scotsman wrote "The risk of taking on such a serious and complex subject is that the required theatricality could lead to a performance that is trite. But there's not a trace of that here. Combining physical theatre, puppetry and some of the most honest performances I've seen this Fringe, it's a genuinely moving drama." Representatives from all denominations were invited to a special performance during the last week of the festival, and comments of 'unforgettable,' 'cathartic,' 'extraordinarily powerful,' and 'we must get others to see this,' littered the thoroughfare back from the converted containers which constitute the HUT in which the performance was held.

In November CHASTE is bringing the *Love's Not for Sale* track written by Helen J Hicks after her exposure to CHASTE's work on tour. This catchy counter sex enslavement track is now rising in the iTunes charts and raising a lively discussion on Face book sites. The autumn tour will include Edinburgh, Leeds, Birmingham and Cambridge in its schedule. Jazz musician Helen J Hicks who has been compared by a Sunday Times reviewer to the voice of Joni Mitchell will bring her blend of Jazz and balladic advocacy on tour alongside Jonathan Aitken who will be talking to his new book *John Newton From Disgrace to Amazing Grace*. Dr Pemberton who will be speaking to the new CHASTE anthology Not for Sale commented 'The track is really well conceived to get people thinking about the humanity and aspirations of those caught in sex trafficking and prostitution. It is fantastic

that the track is doing well on iTunes and we are seeing a number of counter trafficking organisations adopting it as part of their awareness raising and media resources'. All profits of sales on iTunes is going towards the work of CHASTE in survivor care and promoting the Not for Sale UK campaign.

CHASTE also had a presence at the Festival of Spirituality which ran alongside the main Edinburgh Festival, and featured a number of contributions marking the bicentenary of the abolition of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade on the part of the British Isles. *Hidden Faces, Hidden Stories* was an exhibition conceived by CHASTE's Churches Representative, Colin Darling. The work which includes both words and images drawn from real life situations of trafficking survivors with whom CHASTE has been associated was a powerful point of reflection in the side Aisle of St Mary's Cathedral. "We hope to develop this art installation for touring across the Cathedrals of the United Kingdom" Colin Darling commented.

"We expect the Love's **Not for Sale** tour in November, to be a key opportunity for the churches and committed organisations to come together to further the movement for change across the United Kingdom. We would be delighted to receive sponsorship to bring the Freefall production to a wider set of audiences, and are putting into place plans to bring it to the four national parliamentary assemblies. The energy unleashed during Freefall's production's tour this summer through Camden, London and the Edinburgh Festival has been tremendous. We need challenging writing, performing and observation to really change the realities in the UK where prostitution is still deemed by many to be the oldest profession and trafficking some sort of immigration scam. Neither of these perceptions is correct and the Not for Sale initiative accompanied by a book, a song, an art installation and a play are part of the way we can redress the cultural perception and balance on these vital issues" Dr Pemberton said.

"It is a delight to be working across the four nations to see the next piece of abolition take place: that is the abolition of sexual enslavement through *pay-as-you-go* sex. We have a book, a play, an installation and a song to announce it. Now all we have to do is to make sure as many as we can to sing out these various songs of freedom. We don't receive any public subsidy for our work, and all these cultural interdictions have been the result of huge creativity, and a few donations from supportive trusts who understand what a difference cultural commissions make. CHASTE is building partnerships across the churches to enable a more sustainable stream of income for our work, and there are many churches now coming alongside as companions. For a really successful campaign you not only need a succinct aim which people can become enthusiastic and passionate over but the resources to enable its delivery. We have the elements for the cultural shift, now we need champions and resources to build a thoroughly sustainable programme of cultural change" Dr Pemberton concluded.

- **The Tour** - *Love's Not for Sale Tour* – St George's West November 20th 2007
tickets £3.50 on line
www.chaste.org.uk
Wesley Owen book store
- **The Book**- *Not for Sale: Raising Awareness Ending Exploitation* –
eds. C. Pemberton, L. Berry, A. Myers, Inspire 2007, £12.99
Available from CHASTE.org.uk or your local bookstore
ISBN No. 978-1-905958-11-5 publication date 15.09.07
Contact: Natalie Watson, Methodist Publishing House, 01733 325002
- **The Song**- *Love's Not for Sale* – Helen J Hicks iTunes or from
www.helenjhicks.com
- **The Play** – *Not for Sale*

Kate Sagovsky, Director of *Freefall Productions* contact:
katesagovsky@googlemail.com Mobile: 07903322479

- **The Exhibition – "Hidden Faces - Hidden Stories"** contact colin@chaste.org.uk and www.chaste.org.uk
- **The Sunday** – National celebrations and reflection on *Not for Sale* themes on **May 18th 2008** www.notforsalesunday.org

For further information from the CHASTE Offices call **0845 456 9335**

NOTES TO THE EDITORS

CHASTE is the interdenominational forum for the development of engaged response to the misery of human trafficking in the form of sexual exploitation. Initiated by Revd Dr Carrie Pemberton in 2003, the charity now works to develop co-operation across European churches for the prevention of sex trafficking.

CHASTE is working to:

- Form supportive networks with churches and faith communities in countries of origin and destination
- Develop a network of safe housing to secure the safety of women who have been trafficked for sexual exploitation
- Provide training for immigration and police personnel, chaplaincy teams and churches
- Research the moral and socio-economic conditions that result in trafficking with a view to promoting cultural and legislative change
- Address Demand