

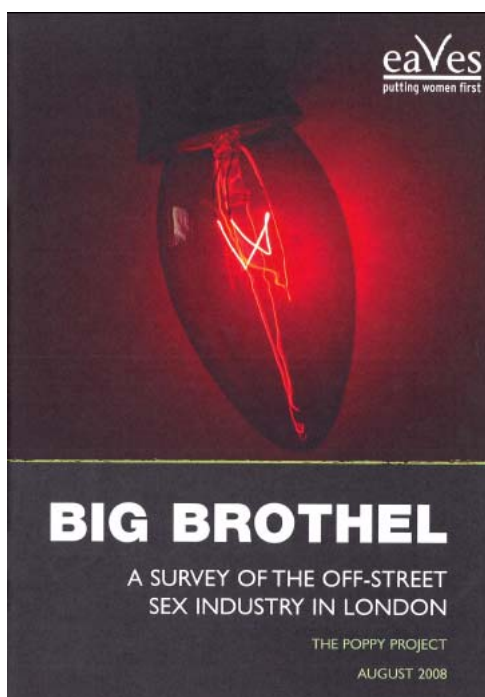
Donor News



SEPTEMBER 2008, ISSUE 8

Welcome to the latest issue of Donors News containing news of all Eaves' achievements, new developments and fundraising over the past few months.

INTRODUCING... BIG BROTHEL



Eaves POPPY Project's recently released report **Big Brothel: a survey of the off-street sex industry in London**, exposes the alarming growth of the off street sex industry in London and the proliferation of dangerous practices.

Solely using adverts placed in local newspapers, researchers posing as potential sex buyers found high-risk services - such as unprotected anal sex - available for as little as £10 extra in many of the 921 brothels surveyed.

Seventy-seven different ethnicities of women providing services were identified, many from known trafficking hotspots such as Eastern Europe and South-East Asia.

Penetrative sex was available for only £15 in some places, and a number of premises offered "very young girls".

Many of the brothels advertised were operating as legitimate businesses – licensed as saunas or massage parlours - but the vast majority of premises were private flats in residential areas.

Helen Atkins, co-author of *Big Brothel*, comments: "it has been said that we are never more than six feet away from a rat in London. Apparently, something similar applies to brothels, places where thousands of women are regularly exploited by men who buy sex.

"This research shows the disturbing prevalence of the sex industry in every corner of London - fuelled by the demand for prostitution services. Multi-media misrepresentations of commercial sex as a glamorous, easy and fun career choice for girls and women further contribute to the ubiquity of London's brothel industry. However, for most women involved in prostitution, the reality is a cycle of violence and coercion, perpetuated by poverty and inequality."

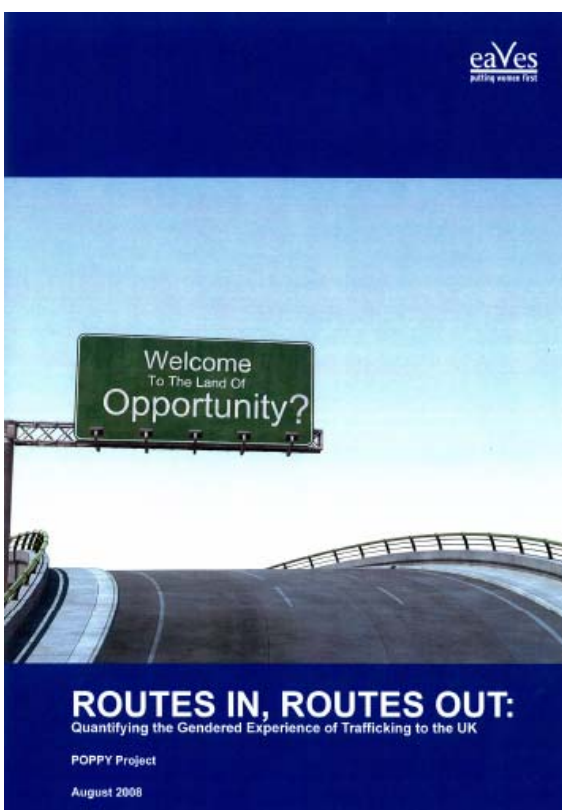
WHAT'S ON THE MENU IN LONDON'S BROTHELS?

- **Full sex available for fifteen quid**
- **Kissing, oral or anal sex without a condom for an extra tenner**
- **Average age of women on offer is 21 years old**
- **Women representing over 75 different ethnicities are available**
- **85% of London's brothels operate in residential areas**
- **Three out of four massage parlours and saunas are situated on the high street Four out of five newspaper adverts for 'personal services' provide sex on the premises**
- **Between £86-209.5 million could be generated by brothels**

POPPY CELEBRATES AWARD

The POPPY Project is celebrating the receipt of another prestigious award - this time from the Centre of Social Justice (CSJ) - an independent think tank established in 2004 to seek effective solutions to the poverty that blight parts of Britain.

The CSJ Awards recognise groups fighting poverty across the UK. POPPY was one of seven winners honoured at a event on 16 July 2008 before an audience of senior politicians, philanthropists and the media.



RESEARCH REPORTS

In addition to Big Brothel, Eaves is soon to publish *Routes In, Routes Out: Quantifying the Gendered Experience of Trafficking into the UK*.

The report provides valuable information about the types of experiences women trafficked into the UK had prior to, during and after escaping their trafficking situation.

Key findings include:

- 50% of women experienced some form of sexual or physical violence before they were trafficked.
- Women's motives for accepting offers from traffickers were primarily financial with 58% of women describing their standard of living as 'poor' or 'very poor'.
- 80% of women disclosed at least one symptom of mental distress and 41% have been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder.
- Women were pressured to see between six and 20 men per day and 53% of women were unable to negotiate safe sex whilst being forced to work as prostitutes.

ORDERING REPORTS

If you would like to obtain a copy of any of Eaves reports, please visit the website at www.eaves4women.co.uk and click on **publications** to download.

Please note that *Big Brothel* is only available for purchase in hard copy.

Please visit the website for instructions on how to order and make payment.

NEW LABOUR TRAFFICKING PILOT PROJECT

POPPY has recently extended its remit to include women trafficked into the UK for forced labour on a pilot basis in agreement with the Ministry of Justice.

We are currently providing support and accommodation to 6 women until December 2008, but hope that the scheme will be extended from this point onwards.

HERA SCHEME UPDATE

The first round of the HERA entrepreneur scheme run by POPPY in conjunction with Women to Work and Imperial College was completed by 16 women.

Women are now working with their mentors towards achieving a variety of vocational goals. We now aim to fully evaluate the scheme by the end of 2008 and funds allowing, hope to run the scheme again during 2009.

A HERA graduate commented: "It was a wonderful, fantastic, life changing experience for me. This course has built me up and kept me focused for a business life."

HERE COME THE BRIDES!

Over the past few months two happy couples have generously asked their guests to make donations to Eaves instead of buying wedding gifts.

Eaves says: Congratulations!" and "Thank you!" to Harriet & Jonathan Bradley, and to Rachel & Matthew Haworth (pictured right with their wedding party).

Eaves wishes both couples very happy futures together!



More thanks go to Anna Read who completed the Standard Chartered Great City Race 2008 on 17 July, raising £395 for Eaves. Well done Anna!

Anna (pictured left) says: "The race went well - I did it in 34 minutes which isn't too bad! It was fun to be a part of something, and I felt proud to be running for Eaves. I was pretty tired afterwards but happy to have done it, and for such a good cause!"

If you would like to take part in a sponsored event, please contact victoria.samuel@eaveshousing.co.uk.

Please note that Eaves t-shirts are now available in a range of sizes.

give with confidence give with confidence

WALK THE NIGHT EVENT

Eaves would like to thank one very determined Eaves supporter, Karen Murphy, who recently raised over £1,000 by organising her own event in aid of Eaves. Read on, for Karen's description of how it went.

"On the evening of Saturday the 16th of August, me and five other men and women braved the rain and the Saturday night revellers to walk, through the night, from the Houses of Parliament to Richmond to raise money for Eaves. Six and a half hours later we arrived, a little wetter and a lot more tired, but having raised over £1000 for the charity.

I wasn't the only one of the party who felt a little nervous about a walk in the dead of night along, sometimes, unlit paths through wooded areas. Possibly because of this, it brought home how important Eaves work really is.

So at 5.30 on Sunday morning, it was with relief and a certain amount of pride that we reached the end of our journey unscathed and having seen the beauty of the Thames in the morning light.

In fact, I'm thinking of doing it all again next year, possibly with a few more people. If you are interested it would be great to hear from you. Please email karenfrancesmurphy@googlemail.com and I'll be in touch in time for next years walk!"



Skydiving Supporter!

Thrill seeker Harriet Olins showed no fear when she jumped out of a plane at 14,000 feet in aid of POPPY earlier this year.

After two cancelled jumps due to poor weather, Harriet was more than ready for her sky dive. Luckily her third attempt took place on possibly the sunniest day this year!

Thanks to Harriet for her bravery and for raising £250 in the process!

CONGRATULATION TEAM EAVES!

A group of 14 Eaves' staff and supporters braved the bad weather and donned their running shoes to take part in the Adidas Women's 5km Challenge on the 7th September— and raised over £3,600!

A big thank you to: Sarah Dickinson; Sonia Monmarche; Sarah Turner; Sophie Kelsall; Emma Taylor; Sally Walker; and Jennie Sullivan, who together with Eaves' committed staff members took the time to train for the event and raise funds.

We hope even more of our female supporters will join Team Eaves next year!



To donate to Eaves, please send a cheque payable to Eaves Housing for Women with gift aid declaration to Victoria Samuel, 2nd Floor, Lincoln House, 1-3 Brixton Road, London SW9 6DE. Eaves can also receive online donations at www.eaves4women.co.uk and can now take credit card payments by phone. Please call 020 7840 7132. **Thank you!**