

Law and policy

Draft Directive on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting victims:

The proposed Directive, in addition to provisions already existing, sets minimum EU standards for the protection of victims of human trafficking. The provisions include action focusing on the prevention of human trafficking, criminal law procedures, victim assistance and support as well as their protection in criminal proceedings. The UK government has recently opted out of the Directive on the basis that it would do little to assist how the UK combats human trafficking as it already complies with many of the provisions of the Directive. The UK government believes that the Directive will also reduce the flexibility and discretion of professionals and could divert valuable resources. The Directive is currently being negotiated between the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union. Once the legislation is finalised the UK government does have the option to opt in to the Directive and plans to review their position.

Thank you!

Thank you to the projects who have supported us over the past couple of months, particularly with the second round pilot interviews.

Camden and Islington Foundation Trust

Poppy Project, Eaves, London

Streetreach, Doncaster

SWWOP, Sheffield

Tyneside Cyrenians GAP Project, Newcastle

Women at the Well, London

Thanks to all the support services across the UK who have facilitated access to potential research participants, many of whom have also been extremely helpful recently in facilitating re-contact through the tracking process. Most of all, thank you to the 114 women who have taken part in the research so far. This research is only possible because of the time that you give us and your openness.

What's happening next

Over the next couple of months, we're planning to:

- * Return to Doncaster, Ipswich, Leeds and Southampton to conduct second round interviews.
- * Draw our second round of interviews to a close by the end of December.
- * Hold our fifth research advisory group meeting at London South Bank University on 12th November.
- * Continue data cleaning and develop analysis using SPSS and NVivo software packages.

Supported by
 **The National Lottery**
through the Big Lottery Fund



PE:ER close up

Sophie joined the project in September as a volunteer Research Assistant and is working one day a week. Sophie graduated from Goldsmiths University this summer with a BA in English and History.

I joined the PE:ER Project because... I have always been interested in feminism, but never so far been involved in much activism – so when I saw this opportunity to volunteer for Eaves I was excited at the prospect that I could be involved with an organisation that does so many good things for women.

What I like most about working on PE:ER is....being inspired by all the good work that goes on here and being around people that are passionate about what they do.

As well as volunteering on PE:ER I...volunteer for the Samaritans, and at the moment am looking for jobs/internships hopefully involved with political or social research – mostly working out what I'm going to do with the rest of my life after my degree!

In the next few months I will be... taking an acting class to improve my public speaking and attempting to come up with the perfect Christmas nut-roast recipe!



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PE:ER Project Newsletter

No. 7, October 2010

The PE:ER Project (Prostitution Exiting: Engaging through Research) began in June 2009, a joint research project between Eaves and London South Bank University (LSBU) to assess the effectiveness of interventions designed to support women in England who want to leave prostitution. Since then, we've been developing a research project that is academically robust, yet still places the needs of our research participants – women involved in, exiting or exited from prostitution – at the centre of our approach.

September and October on PE:ER

Over the last couple of months, we have:

- * Completed our first round interviews having conducted 114 interviews with women involved in, exiting or exited from prostitution.
- * Finished the pilot stage for the second round interviews. 20 second round interviews with women have now been completed. Link Officer Lisa Reynolds, Research Officer Helen Atkins and LSBU's Senior Research Fellow Helen Easton will be continuing to conduct second round interviews over the coming months.
- * Lisa Reynolds visited Doncaster to conduct two second round pilot interviews with a woman that we had previously interviewed, along with two second round interviews in London.
- * Helen Atkins visited SWWOP in Sheffield and GAP in Newcastle for three second round interviews, along with second round interviews in London.
- * Held our first dissemination seminar, "Research, Policy, Activism: ways forward in ending violence against women". The seminar was run jointly between Eaves' Lilit R&D team (where PE:ER is based) and LSBU focusing on the PE:ER Project's feminist participatory research methodology.
- * Held a workshop as part of the NIA project's conference "Hearing and Listening: Enabling young people's voice and influence in sexual exploitation services". The workshop focused on the sample of young women who have been involved in the PE:ER Project, exploring common themes that young women involved in prostitution face, the challenges of assisting them to exit, their views about service provision and the impact of different types of interventions by support services.
- * Said farewell to PE:ER Administrator Shannon Harvey who has taken up the position of Stella Project Coordinator at AVA. Good luck and congratulations on your new post Shannon! Thank you for all your hard work in setting up and running PE:ER with great efficiency and enthusiasm.
- * Recruited Laura Brown as PE:ER Project Administrator. Laura was previously a volunteer and interim Administrator for the project. We also recruited two new volunteers, Research Assistants Donna Arrondelle and Sophie Madden joined us in September for one day each per week.
- * Employed former PE:ER volunteer Mary Hancock full time to transcribe the remaining research interviews.

Women's voices

Both Lisa Reynolds and Helen Atkins regularly receive updates and positive feedback from the women involved in the PE:ER research which shows the benefits and positive outcomes of the research:

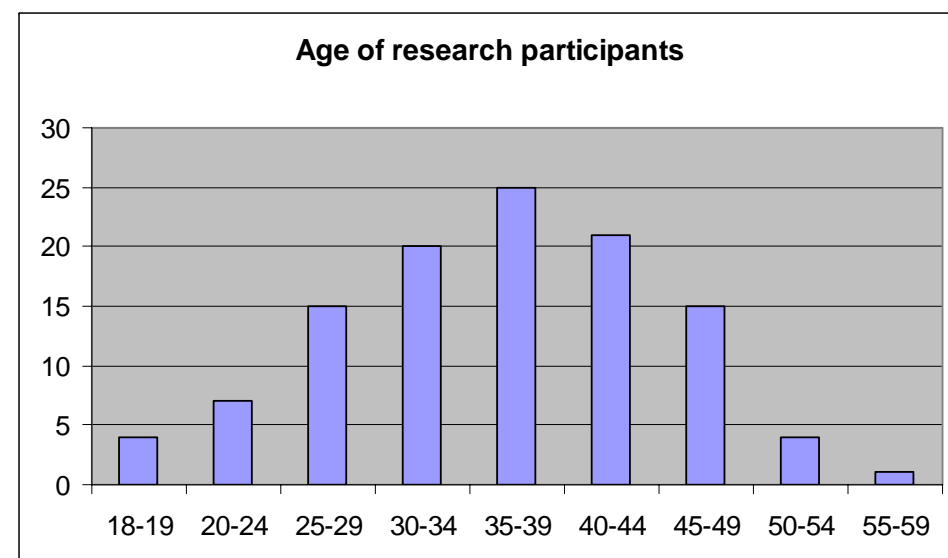
"It felt good to have taken part in your project. It certainly made me think anyway!"

"Maybe this information what I give you maybe help other women.... Before, [name of service provider] help me and maybe of this interview maybe I help somebody"

"...it's quite cathartic actually!"

Our research sample

The first round of interviews have now been drawn to a close and we have conducted 114 interviews with women who are, or have been, involved in prostitution.

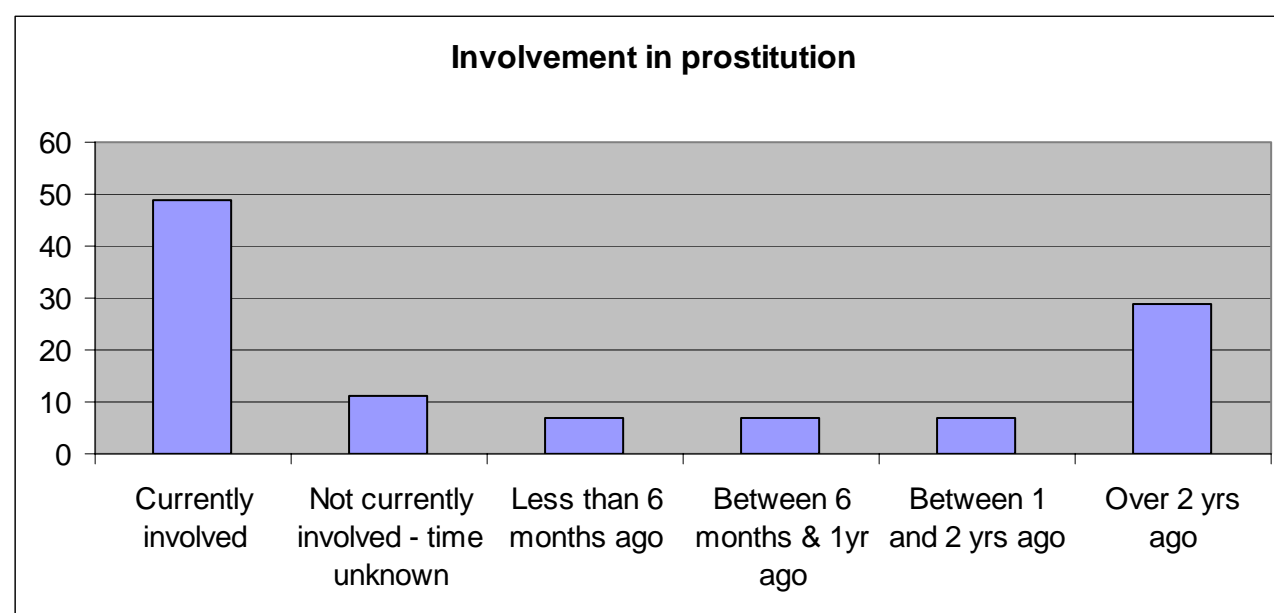


Age of participants:

22% of women who have taken part in the research are aged between 35 and 39. Some professionals have suggested that this age bracket is perhaps higher than the average age of women involved in prostitution. However as the focus of the research is on exiting and those women who are seeking to exit, we would expect the average age of women we have interviewed to be higher than women involved in prostitution overall. 18% of our sample are aged between 30 and 34 and 13% aged between 25 and 29 and 13% between 45 and 49.

Involvement in prostitution:

At the time of interview 49 women were currently involved in prostitution. 29 women had been involved over two years ago, whilst 7 women had left prostitution in the last six months to year.



Place of involvement:

80 of the 114 women (70%) we interviewed had been involved in street prostitution at some point. 26 women (23%) had been involved in prostitution in a brothel whilst 75 women (66%) had been involved in prostitution in private residential premises. 6 (5%) of the women we interviewed had been involved in escorting.

Research, policy, activism: ways forward in ending violence against women

On Thursday 23rd September Eaves Lilith Research and Development team in partnership with London South Bank University held their first seminar: "Research, policy, activism: Ways forward in ending violence against women". Numbers were restricted to promote effective interaction and more than thirty people from statutory, voluntary and academic organisations, along with interested individuals, attended the event which was held at London South Bank University.

The seminar presented the work of the Eaves' Research and Development team with a spotlight on the PE:ER Project, exploring feminist methodologies and participatory research. Co-project manager Roger Matthews, Professor of Criminology and Head of the Crime Reduction and Community Safety Group at LSBU talked about how the PE:ER Project was conceived, drawing upon previous research and theory on exiting prostitution. Research Officer, Helen Atkins introduced the PE:ER Project, speaking about the nature, scope and progress of the project as well as outlining existing exiting prostitution models. The guest speaker for the event was Professor Betsy Stanko, Head of Strategy, Research and Analysis Unit at the Metropolitan Police. Professor Stanko discussed an ongoing research project that is currently being conducted in the Metropolitan Police Service tracking rape allegations. Professor Stanko spoke about initial findings of her research and achievements, but also the challenges of conducting such research within the police service.

Following the speakers, the seminar split into three discussion groups, each one focusing on a specific area: research, policy or activism. The discussion groups gave seminar delegates, together with members of the PE:ER team a chance to further explore the work of the project, and to discuss other agendas and ideas in relation to their discussion group topic. The seminar provided the opportunity for Eaves and LSBU to present their research to date and receive feedback from local and national organisations. Attendees were given an insight into the work that Eaves is currently conducting in partnership with London South Bank University, as well as the opportunity to engage with fellow professionals in the field and discuss thought-provoking topics.



Thank you to Eaves Lilith R&D team, (particularly the volunteer helpers: Linnéa Osterman and Christina Moore) London South Bank University and everyone who attended the event.

Guest speaker Prof. Betsy Stanko (left) and the PE:ER panel (above L-R): Research Officer Helen Atkins, Prof. Roger Matthews, Former Lilith R&D Manager Ruth Breslin, Prof. Betsy Stanko, LSBU Senior Research Fellow Helen Easton and Link Officer Lisa Reynolds (out of shot).