



UN Fund for victims of trafficking: Poppy Project's reaction

For immediate release

8th March 2011

Eaves' Poppy Project is very pleased that today, at a United Nations event in London, the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) launched a new fund to support victims of trafficking. The event was supported by UK government officials who highlighted their commitment to combating human trafficking. The Poppy Project is calling on the government to ensure that today's commitment, to put victims at the centre of the UK's response to trafficking, is not an empty promise.

Abigail Stepnitz, National Coordinator of the Poppy Project says putting victim care first is critical to combating this illegal and exploitative trade. 'We have been working with victims of trafficking for almost 10 years now and since the beginning, our model of care has always been victim centred. We know that if we provide safe and secure accommodation and support, then victims of trafficking are not only more likely to overcome their experiences, but they will be in a better position to help the police put their traffickers behind bars and therefore help make the UK a hostile environment for future traffickers.'

'We know that this is a critical time for the UK government as they prepare to launch a new victim care model and anti-trafficking strategy, so we really want to encourage them to reflect the sentiments expressed at today's event, in front of important partners like UNODC, Europol, and the UN Goodwill Ambassador, in the practical decisions made about front line responses to trafficking'.

-NOTES TO EDITORS-

- Since 2003 Poppy has helped support trafficked women give evidence against 60 perpetrators, sentenced to a total of 390 years imprisonment.
- The Poppy Project provides vital support and accommodation for women trafficked to the UK for the purpose of exploitation in prostitution and domestic servitude.

- The Poppy Project is run by Eaves, a women's charity working to combat all aspects of violence against women through accommodation, support services, research, education and lobbying.

For further information about Eaves, contact communications officer Laura Craddock on 020 7840 7132 or at laura.craddock@eaveshousing.co.uk, or communications manager Anna Bowden on 020 7840 7126 or at anna.bowden@eaveshousing.co.uk