

Houses of Parliament  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Dear

I am writing to you as a <concerned Christian/member of the local community/Pastor/Volunteer> about the very relevant and important issue of Human Trafficking – particularly that of Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation which we know involves over 4,000 women at any one time in Britain today.

In January 2006, the Government, published a Consultation Paper entitled, *'Tackling Human Trafficking – Consultation on Proposals for a UK Action Plan'* which has been welcomed by CHASTE and many other NGOs as a significant step towards developing a coherent strategy to address the problem of all forms of trafficking into and across the UK. However, there remain some key concerns on which I would like to hear your views. These concerns are being expressed by at least two NGOs with which I am associated, **Churches alert to Sex Trafficking across Europe (CHASTE)** as well as **Christian Action Research and Education (CARE)**.

- **We need to look at the pull of client *demand* for paid sex** in this country into which trafficked persons are drawn. Surely the UK should be actively reducing the market for prostitution and pornography in this country as a key response?
- Present statistics lead us to understand that 98% of female trafficking victims end up forced into sexual exploitation and prostitution. This raises some questions around the small 'mini' brothels which will come into existence as a result of the Coordinated Strategy on Prostitution published January 2006. **What are the precautions being put into place** to ensure that they will not be encouraging the demand for trafficked women into an easily accessible area of prostitution, managed by women within these brothels to mask the exploitation?
- *The Council of Europe's Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, 2005* is still to be ratified by the UK, despite the current Government introducing the idea within its presidency of the EU. We understand that the necessary budgets and protocols must be put in place to ratify, and I would like to encourage the Government to consider moving towards the Canadian model of **at least four months recovery time** for victims. The experience of **CHASTE** and the work of Dr Cathy Zimmerman would suggest this as the minimum time for a woman to begin to recover from the shock and initial trauma of her trafficking experience.
- There is a need to provide better and more expansive care and support to the victims of trafficking. The Government's initiative of the Poppy Project is to be commended. However I would like to point out that faith-based organisations,

including the Salvation Army and the Medaille Trust networked through the **CHASTE** Round Table of Safe House Providers currently provides **one third** of safe housing support for survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation, with no contribution from the Government. I would like to urge the Government to address this absence of funding support as a matter of the highest priority. I would also like to know what plans are in place for properly incorporating faith based provision and initiatives which bring so much practical support into this under-funded area of provision?

It would be greatly appreciated if you would provide some answers to these questions and push for further action to be taken to review these points.

If you would like further information please visit [www.chaste.org.uk](http://www.chaste.org.uk) or [www.care.org.uk](http://www.care.org.uk) for more details about the growing consolidated campaign to stop trafficking in all its forms but particularly that of sexual exploitation.

Josiah Wedgewood's campaign was called "Am I not a man, and a brother?" and today **CHASTE**'s campaign "Am I not a woman, and a sister?" is a timely reminder of one aspect of today's ongoing enslavement which requires the intervention of Government to address.

Yours sincerely

*I wish to acknowledge that the letter format was obtained from the [Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking Across Europe \(CHASTE\)](http://www.chaste.org.uk) website [www.chaste.org.uk/takeaction](http://www.chaste.org.uk/takeaction).*

**CHASTE**

Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking across Europe