

PRESS RELEASE

CHURCHES ALERT TO SEX TRAFFICKING ACROSS EUROPE

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Love's Not for Sale* November Tour & Publication of *Not for Sale

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, is coming on tour in November to Cambridge, Edinburgh, Birmingham and Leeds.

In this bicentenary year CHASTE is joining forces with former cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken and up-and-coming jazz-blues singer Helen J Hicks to bring an evening of challenge, engagement, and informed entertainment to central church venues in these cities.

CHASTE has already made its presence felt in the public sector where it provides expert advice to Government agencies and primary care to survivors of sex trafficking abuse. Earlier this year it launched the *Not for Sale* campaign with *Not for Sale Sunday* on May 20th with wide take up by many churches across the country. 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*' published by Methodist Publishing House imprint Inspire is already making waves and exciting positive comment from a wide sector of interest. The book has been nominated by leading advisors 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.'

Commenting on CHASTE's aspirations for the tour Chief Executive Carrie Pemberton remarked - "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. The British public is simply not aware of how ordinary citizens are both part of the problem of sexual slavery in our midst, because clients who demand pay-as-you-go sex, are the reason why this vile trade in women's abused lives and bodies is flourishing. If you took away the market of demand, the criminals whose sole interest in this perverse trade in women's lives is the money it earns them, would cease their trade. The same goal, making money out of the suffering of others, was behind the transatlantic slave trade two hundred years ago. Now we have a movement arising in both Parliament, the academy, the police, the churches and the faith communities which is saying "enough is truly enough."

Women and children should never be sold for their flesh. Yet we know that an estimated 4,000 women are sold in this way every year in the UK. Every time a trafficked woman is purchased for half an hour of pay-as-you-go sex, she is raped and abused which is not acceptable in 21st century Britain. The ***Love's Not for Sale*** tour will be outlining what the facts are in Britain today and what we can do to change things. The example of Newton's challenge to Wilberforce and the parliamentarians of his day are part of our connection with the bicentenary reminders of the power of prayer, protest, practical support for survivors and parliamentary legislation which is required today.

'CHASTE doesn't receive any public subsidy for the work we undertake. We are delighted that Helen J Hicks has composed and recorded this new song for change – after which we have named this tour. CHASTE is building partnerships across organisations and into churches to enable a more sustainable stream of income for our work. There are many churches now catching the vision and coming alongside CHASTE as companions. Two hundred years ago the biggest mass lobbying organisation seen emerged in the UK because of outrage over the conditions of enslavement in the Transatlantic trade. This trade provided labour to the tobacco, cotton and sugar plantations of the West Indies and the southern states of North America. At the time many people felt slavery was justified in the Bible as well as some parts of the Christian tradition, and many wealthy families and merchants in the United Kingdom benefited directly from it. In the same way, many people in Britain benefit from the trade in flesh which is part of trafficking for sexual enslavement. Clients who use, traffickers who transport, pimps who pimp out the women for financial gain, and advertisers who place these women's lives for sale through their marketing networks. We are saying "enough is enough," – love never was for sale and never should be. *'Love's not for sale'* is a rallying cry and part of the wider *Not for sale UK* movement. The tour is taking place to raise awareness yes, but also to bring about change. For parliament to change the laws that need to be changed, and for public agencies to have the budgets they need to bring safety and long term rehabilitation for women affected by the change, we need a *cultural shift* in this country. This tour is part of bringing that cultural shift about,' Dr Pemberton stated.

- **The Tour -*Love's Not for Sale* Tour –**

Birmingham 14th November
Cambridge 15th November
Leeds 16th November
Edinburgh 21st November

All venues commence 7.30 pm
Further details

Tickets £3.50 on line

www.chaste.org.uk

Wesley Owen bookstore

- **The Book - *Not for Sale: Raising Awareness, Ending Exploitation***
Eds. C. Pemberton, L. Berry, A. Myers, Inspire 2007, £12.99

Available from www.CHASTE.org.uk/shop 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 Sunday - *Not for Sale Sunday*** – National celebrations and reflection on Not for Sale themes on May 18th 2008
www.notforsalesunday.org

For further information from the CHASTE offices please 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 works closely with the UKHTC and Operation Pentameter to identify potential victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation and to provide safety for survivors.

CHASTE is working to:

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

The November Tour includes 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 Raising Awareness, Ending Exploitation*** - All profits of sales on iTunes is going towards the work of CHASTE in survivor care and promoting the Not for Sale UK campaign.