

PRESS RELEASE

CHURCHES ALERT TO SEX TRAFFICKING ACROSS EUROPE

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CHASTE – *Churches alert to Sex Trafficking across Europe* brought a widely acclaimed piece of drama to the Edinburgh Fringe this summer, in its onward work of changing the cultural mood music surrounding sexual exploitation in these islands. The Freefall Company, a group of young drama graduates mainly drawn from the drama schools of London, were brought together for the NOT FOR SALE commission which has won wide acclaim from lay audiences and press reviewers alike.

Clare Black writing in the Scotsman wrote “The risk of taking on such a serious and complex subject is that the required theatricality could lead to a performance that is trite. But there's not a trace of that here. Combining physical theatre, puppetry and some of the most honest performances I've seen this Fringe, it's is a genuinely moving drama.” Representatives from all denominations were invited to a special performance during the last week of the festival, and comments of ‘unforgettable,’ ‘cathartic,’ ‘extraordinarily powerful,’ and ‘we must get others to see this,’ littered the thoroughfare back from the converted containers which constitute the HUT in which the performance was held.

Dr Carrie Pemberton – the founding CEO of CHASTE is eager to see this work as part of a wider cultural shift which CHASTE is seeking to bring about. A CHASTE commissioned book *Not for Sale: Raising Awareness Ending Exploitation* is to be published this September by Inspire. In November CHASTE is bringing the *Love's Not for Sale* Tour featuring the up and coming Jazz musician Helen J Hicks with the dedicated counter sex enslavement track *Love's Not For Sale* now rising in the iTunes charts. The tour will combine advocacy against enslavement from two hundred years ago with Jonathan Aitken talking to his new book *John Newton From Disgrace to Amazing Grace* alongside a presentation by Dr Pemberton.

There has been widespread take up in the UK of the issues which surround trafficking for Sexual Exploitation, and some fantastic co-ordinated support for the *Not for Sale* initiative emerging across the denominations and from numerous organisations including women's organisations. We want to see communities, churches and cathedrals across the nation raising their voices against demand for paid sexual services, which is so much at the base of this pernicious criminality and violence against women in trafficking. We look forward to bringing *Not for Sale* to many other parts of the UK– we are currently seeking the finance to do so. It has a powerful story to tell, and an imaginative way of getting under people's skin on the subject matter.

CHASTE also had a presence at the Festival of Spirituality which ran alongside the main Edinburgh Festival, and featured a number of contributions marking the bicentenary of the abolition of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade on the part of the British Isles. *Hidden Faces* was an exhibition conceived by CHASTE's Churches Representative, Colin Darling. The work which includes both words and images drawn from real life situations of trafficking survivors with whom CHASTE has been associated was a powerful point of reflection in the side Aisle of St Mary's Cathedral. “We hope to develop this art installation for touring across the Cathedrals of the United Kingdom” Colin Darling commented.

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 energy here felt on the production's tour through Camden, London and the Edinburgh Festival to make a difference happen has been tremendous.

“It is a delight to be working across the four nations to see the next piece of abolition take place: the abolition of sexual enslavement through *pay-as-you-go* sex. We have a book, a play and a song to announce it. Now all we have to do is to make sure as many as we can announce the song of freedom,” said Dr Pemberton.

- **The Tour** - *Love's Not for Sale Tour* – St George's West November 20th 2007 tickets £3.50 on line www.chaste.org.uk
Wesley Owen book store
- **The Book**- *Not for Sale: Raising Awareness Ending Exploitation* – eds. C. Pemberton, L. Berry, A. Myers, Inspire 2007, £12.99
Available from CHASTE.org.uk 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 Play** – *Not for Sale*
Kate Sagovsky, Director of *Freefall Productions* contact: katesagovsky@googlemail.com Mobile: 07903322479
- **The Exhibition** – "*Hidden Faces - Hidden Stories*" contact colin@chaste.org.uk and www.chaste.org.uk
- **The Sunday** – National celebrations and reflection on *Not for Sale* themes on **May 18th 2008** www.notforsalesunday.org

For further information from the CHASTE Offices 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 cooperation across European churches for the prevention of sex trafficking.

CHASTE is working to:

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