

Fact-finding visit from Albania

CHASTE UK witnessed a significant move forward in its international work of fighting global Trafficking for sexual exploitation. Last week four Albanian representatives from the Churches and leading NGOs working in the field of counter trafficking were brought to Britain by CHASTE in order to learn about UK best practice in counter trafficking work. Their training included a visit to the pace setting United Kingdom Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC), the Metropolitan Counter Trafficking unit as well as a visit to CHASTE safe houses where victims of Trafficking are looked after as they recover from their trauma. Discussions were also had with the Foreign Office and training given in the development of the CHASTE model of multi agency and Ecumenical working.

CHASTE's recent appointment Hannah Wilson as Project Leader for Albania oversaw the training:

“This is a really significant development for Albanian churches to move forward their capacity to respond to the damage which is done to human lives in Albania and countries of destination.”

Dr Carrie Pemberton Chief Executive of CHASTE said:

“We are delighted to have the expertise of Hannah working with the CHASTE team in this area. Hannah has worked in Albania for the past five years with BMS World Mission with a special brief to work with vulnerable women and victims of trafficking. Now that BMS has become one of CHASTE's organisational partners the opportunities for Ecumenical cooperation in Albania has opened up in a powerfully new way”.

The visitors from Albania included representatives from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Caritas Albania and the Protestant community.

The stage is now set for CHASTE and the UKHTC to visit Albania and continue to strengthen and support the implementation of CHASTE Albania. CHASTE Intern from Georgetown University Jennifer Hollinger who is the Advocacy Project fellow working with CHASTE this summer, is now in Albania working with the Albanian team looking at services available to victims of trafficking and to identify gaps in knowledge and in provision. Jennifer is updating her sponsors and any interested in discovering some of the challenges facing young Albanians today can find out more on her regular blog at: <http://advocacynet.org/blogs>

Notes for 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
- CHASTE works in organisational partnership with **BMS World Mission**.
- **The Advocacy Project** is an American based internship programme encouraging graduates to participate in social change through Advocacy and Institutional and NGO capacity building - <http://advocacynet.org/>
- For Jennifer Hollinger's Blog see: <http://advocacynet.org/blogs/index.php?blog=90>

For further information please visit: www.chaste.org.uk.

For further comment: 0845 456 9335