

## Anti-trafficking organisation Unseen comment on London slavery case

Unseen's CEO Andrew Wallis says, 'as this case clearly shows, slavery is a hidden crime. It's a crime that is happening behind closed doors in the UK, but it is clearly happening.

Andrew continues when asked about why the women did not simply leave "the shackles are psychological - what was holding them was fear and coercion and possible threats - or actual violence - against them," he says.

At Unseen we work continually with frontline services like law enforcement, government, local authorities and other NGOs to increase the awareness of the issue as it is only by working together that this crime against humanity will be stamped out."

"We welcome the Home Secretary's determination to bring about the Modern Slavery Act as this is a step in the right direction, but as today's news shows we need to do more"

Co-founder of Unseen Kate Garbers continues, "in our experience survivors of human trafficking who have been through such trauma need long term care. It is not just the immediate support, but the on-going help that is essential to starting the road to recovery. These women have been through so much and there is no quick fix. This is a long and traumatic process, but there is hope at the end"

Unseen provide survivor care to victims of human trafficking through its secure accommodation and resettlement project. Please go to [www.unseenuk.org](http://www.unseenuk.org) for more information or e-mail Unseen at [info@unseenuk.org](mailto:info@unseenuk.org)

### Andrew Wallis:

Andrew is the founder and CEO of Unseen – a charity established to disrupt and challenge modern slavery. Andrew is the Chairman of the Centre for Social Justice's landmark report: *It happens Here*, and currently he serves as Chairman of the Home Office's Joint Strategy Group on Human Trafficking. He is a Member of both the UK Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking and the EU Civil Society Platform on combatting human trafficking.

Andrew has worked with businesses and politicians to bring the Transparency in UK Company Supply Chains Bill before parliament and continues to advise and collaborate with statutory agencies, businesses, government and other NGOs to develop a coordinated response to tackling modern slavery.

Andrew has been interviewed many times on television and radio and has appeared on BBC News, BBC News 24, Sky News, BBC Points West, Al Jazeera, CNN International, Radio 5 Live, LBC and BBC World Service. He currently writes for the Modern Day Slavery in Focus on the Guardians Global Development Hub.

### Note for editors

#### Unseen

- Figures released for 2012 by Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) states there were 1,186 reported human trafficking victims in the UK – a 25% increase on 2011's figures. However, this is only the number of victims that chose to report the crime – and, importantly, who have been found – and there is widespread acknowledgement that true figures are hard to come by and could be a lot higher.
- Unseen's WATER (Women's Anti-Trafficking Emergency Refuge) project is the only safe-house in the South West and is one of only three services in the country offering 24/7 support to victims of human trafficking.
- For women who have left the safety of our WATER project, we also offer a resettlement service to help them continue on their journey of recovery within their chosen community.
- Unseen runs a Room Sponsorship Scheme for people to directly support women survivors at our WATER project. For details, go visit [www.unseenuk.org/donate/sponsor-a-room](http://www.unseenuk.org/donate/sponsor-a-room)
- The charity was instrumental in setting up an Anti-Trafficking Partnership with Avon & Somerset Police and Bristol City Council, which brings together 22 agencies in fighting human trafficking in the South West, including other NGOs and local government.