

Operation Wanderer

Unseen's involvement

Five weeks ago anti-trafficking organisation Unseen were invited by Avon and Somerset Constabulary to join the Gold Strategy Team to help shape Operation Wanderer.

As a result of today's operation three male victims, one aged in his 30s, one in his 40s and one in his 50s have been taken to a place of safety and are being given all the help and support they need.

Ch Supt Julian Moss, Head of CID, said: "Unseen has a huge amount of expertise on the issues of forced labour and human trafficking which has been instrumental in helping to shape the way we planned for today's joint operation.

"We have learned a lot from the invaluable contribution the organisation has given and will continue to give as we move forward.

"I would like to thank Kate Garbers for the commitment and dedication her organisation has shown throughout and believe it is a prime example of how the police and charitable or voluntary organisations can work together to share experience and knowledge, especially on sensitive operations such as this."

Co-founder of Unseen, Kate Garbers says, "the Police had intelligence and wanted to act on it. Unseen were able to use their involvement in previous operations along with their experience of working with survivors to help develop that response.

It's encouraging to see such a proactive approach from the police and to be involved in a multi-agency approach. From working with the police I commend their in-depth approach to planning and it's clear that they appreciate the seriousness of these crimes and are taking action."

For more information please call 07507 966 196 or e-mail info@unseen.org

Kate Garbers

Kate is the founder and Project Director of Unseen. Kate is the driving force and initiator of the Bristol's Anti-Trafficking Partnership and now jointly chairs this group with Avon and Somerset Constabulary and Bristol City Council. She also chairs the Training sub-group for the Home Office Joint Strategic Group and represents Unseen on the Children's sub-group.

Kate oversees the direct survivor support services Unseen runs and is responsible for the strategic and operational direction of the charity. She actively works as an expert consultant with local and national partners, law enforcement and government to effect systemic and sustainable change so that as a nation we can effectively raise awareness of this crime, prosecute the perpetrators and make the UK a more hostile environment for traffickers.

Kate is regarded as an expert on trafficking, and has coordinated, developed and delivered specialised training courses for police and regional frontline professionals including healthcare workers, youth offending teams and housing associations.

Kate has contributed to the Guardian Global Development Hub, appeared on CNN international and the BBC as well as other local media channels.

Note for editors**Unseen**

- . 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, Unseen also offer a resettlement service to help them continue on their journey of recovery within their chosen community.
- . Unseen are currently developing the UK's first dedicated accommodation service for trafficked children. Please go to www.unseenuk.org to donate to this appeal.

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