

Local anti-trafficking charity wins Centre for Social Justice Award

On Thursday 7th November local anti-trafficking charity Unseen received a prestigious Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) award and a cash prize of £10,000 for its work dedicated to providing safety, hope and choice to survivors of human trafficking.

The annual CSJ awards programme recognizes organisations that “display innovation and effectiveness in addressing the root causes of poverty, turning lives around and reversing social breakdown.”

The award was sponsored by Marsh, a global leader in insurance broking and risk management. Jason Groves, International Director of Communications for Marsh said: “we are delighted that this award has gone to such a great organisation. We look forward to working with the team at Unseen over the coming year on some of the important projects in which they are involved, reducing the risk of abuse of vulnerable adults and children.”

Unseen has worked continuously to make a difference to survivors of human trafficking through both providing direct help to survivors and working at a strategic level to change and influence policy.

60 survivors have accessed accommodation and support through Unseens safe house and a further 20 have accessed long-term support through the recent resettlement service.

Next year Unseen aims to deliver projects for both children and men and Unseens Project Director and co-founder, Kate Garbers said, “ we feel confident we can continue to deliver the best quality of support and care working in partnership with law enforcement, local and national government and other NGOs.”

Unseen will also continue to work with Government to define the Modern Slavery Act announced by the Home Secretary earlier this year.

For further information please e-mail l.westlake@unseenuk.org or contact the Unseen office on 0303 040 2888.

Note for editors

Unseen

- . Unseen began in 2008.
- . 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
- . 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.