

13th October 2014

Anti-trafficking charity Unseen welcomes Emilia Fox as Patron

Actress Emilia Fox says,

“When I heard the stories of the many survivors of human trafficking that Unseen work with, I wanted to help in whatever way I could. These people have suffered horrifically, but with the right support - there is hope.

“We need to put a stop to slavery, we need to help those that have suffered and make it harder for the perpetrators to operate here in the UK.

“Unseen’s work is hugely important and they have my wholehearted support as they continue to work with survivors of human trafficking and look for ways of combatting modern slavery.”

CEO of Unseen, Andrew Wallis adds,

“We are really delighted to welcome Emilia as our first Patron and look forward to working with her over the coming months. This will help us to continue to raise the profile of this horrific crime and work towards an effective solution.”

Emilia Fox will be presenting a Radio 4 Appeal on behalf of Unseen on Sunday 19th October at 07.55am and 9.26pm that tells the story of trafficking survivor Grace.

Emilia says, “After hearing Grace’s story I wanted to be involved. She is a woman who has suffered horrifically at the hands of her traffickers. But thankfully her story doesn’t end there.”

Unseen continues to help survivors of human trafficking by providing a 24/7 safe-house where victims can rebuild their lives as well as a resettlement service so women can continue their recovery, stay free from exploitation and create a better future for themselves and their families. Unseen also trains frontline staff, such as police and health workers, to identify victims and works with government at a strategic level to shape policy and take effective action.

For more information please e-mail l.westlake@unseenuk.org or call 07507 966 196

Note for editors

Unseen

- Unseen began in 2008.
- Figures released for 2013 by The National Crime Agency states there were 2,744 reported potential victims of human trafficking victims in the UK, including 602 children – a 22% increase on 2012’s figures. However, this is only the number of victims that chose to report the crime – and, importantly, who have been found.

- Unseen's WATER (Women's Anti-Trafficking Emergency Refuge) project is the only safe-house in the South West and is one of only two 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
- Unseen is currently working towards opening a specialist accommodation project for child victims of trafficking. For details, go visit <http://www.unseenuk.org/projects/projects-in-development>
- 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.

The Big Lottery Fund

The **Big Lottery Fund** is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised for good causes by the National Lottery.

The Fund is committed to bringing real improvements to communities and the lives of people most in need and has been rolling out grants to health, education, environment and charitable causes across the UK. Since its inception in 2004 we have awarded close to £6bn.

The Fund was formally established by Parliament on 1 December 2006.

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