

The UK has a unique opportunity to lead globally in the fight against modern slavery.

Anti-trafficking organisation Unseen will welcome the government's Modern Slavery Bill to be announced in the Queen's Speech tomorrow.

Unseen's CEO and Chair of the Working Group responsible for the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) report 'It Happens Here,' Andrew Wallis comments:

"It is encouraging that the government is pursuing our recommendations through reviewing both legislation and major policies - including revising the current National Referral Mechanism (NRM).

"This is an opportunity to introduce real change in the UK and to lead in the fight against modern slavery on a global level.

"California has seen success with 'Transparency in Supply Chains' (TISC) legislation, where large businesses are now disclosing what they are doing to prevent slavery in their work practices and supply chains – the UK now has an opportunity to take this further with a national policy.

"We would strongly urge government to be bold and support and protect British businesses by including similar measures in the Modern Slavery Bill.

"As an organisation that also works directly with survivors we welcome the recognition that the UK must improve support for victims, and importantly continue to help them to be reintegrated into society.

"Last year Unseen launched a unique Resettlement Programme to continue to support survivors once they leave the security of our safe-house. We know first hand how essential this step is in helping survivors become resilient to being re-exploited".

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

Note for editors

Unseen

- . Unseen began in 2008.
- . Government statistics show that the number of victims of trafficking found in the UK rose by 47% between 2012 and 2013. 64% were female. (Home Office Report 2013)
- . In 2012 25% of trafficking victims found in the UK were children, 70 of which were aged up to 9 years old. (Home Office Report August 2013)
- . Figures released for 2012 by Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) states there were 2,255 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.

- . 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
- . 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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