



Press Release

29th November 2016

Bristol charity working with victims of trafficking and slavery receives grant from InterContinental Hotels Group Foundation

To mark Giving Tuesday, today InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG) Foundation announced it is giving a substantial grant to local Bristol charity Unseen for its work with victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

The funds will go towards the charity's work to provide training to the hospitality sector so staff can correctly identify slavery and know what action they should take if they suspect someone is a victim. Some of the funds will also go towards a new work placement programme for survivors, so they can develop skills in the hospitality sector, thereby increasing their employment opportunities and independence.

Unseen's Fundraising Manager, Rebecca Wingate-Saul, said: "This funding is vital if we're to help industry professionals to spot a potential a victim of slavery and enable that victim to get appropriate help. We are also very excited to be able to offer the survivors we work with the opportunity to gain crucial skills and experience in the sector, so they have greater job options in the future."

The grant is one of only four being announced today. **Kate Gibson, Vice President Corporate Responsibility, IHG, and Trustee of the IHG Foundation**, commented: "The IHG Foundation is proud to be celebrating Giving Tuesday with new grants for four charities, each of which has a strong track record of driving positive change."

Unseen is in good company, with the other three grants going to: The Prince's Trust, the American Red Cross and Clean the World.

The Foundation was launched in February 2016, and has issued nearly 30 grants in total to organisations around the world to help build stronger, healthier and more prosperous communities.

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Notes for editors:

- There are estimated to be around 13,000 victims of slavery in the UK at any one time.
- Unseen began in 2008 and works to support survivors, train frontline staff to correctly identify victims, and collaborate with government and other agencies to combat modern slavery in the UK and abroad.
- Unseen runs two safe-houses for men and women in the South West and also offers a resettlement service to help survivors continue their journey of recovery within their chosen community. Watch Favour's tragic story here: <http://bit.ly/2fTO2b6>
- In October 2016, Unseen launched a new 24-hour Modern Slavery Helpline and Resource Centre for potential victims, members of the public, frontline professionals and businesses to call if they need help or advice: **08000 121 700**
- The charity was instrumental in setting up an [Anti-Trafficking Partnership](#) with Avon & Somerset Police and Bristol City Council, which brings together other NGOs, local government, statutory agencies in fighting modern slavery across the whole of the South West.

About IHG

- [IHG® \(InterContinental Hotels Group\)](#) is a global organisation with a broad portfolio of hotel brands, including [InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts](#), [Kimpton® Hotels & Restaurants](#), [HUALUXE® Hotels and Resorts](#), [Crowne Plaza® Hotels & Resorts](#), [Hotel Indigo®](#), [EVEN® Hotels](#), [Holiday Inn® Hotels & Resorts](#), [Holiday Inn Express®](#), [Staybridge Suites®](#) and [Candlewood Suites®](#).
- IHG franchises, leases, manages or owns nearly 5,100 hotels and more than 750,000 guest rooms in almost 100 countries, with nearly 1,500 hotels in its development pipeline. IHG also manages [IHG® Rewards Club](#), the world's first and largest hotel loyalty programme, with nearly 99 million members worldwide.
- [InterContinental Hotels Group PLC](#) is the Group's holding company and is incorporated in Great Britain and registered in England and Wales. More than 350,000 people work across IHG's hotels and corporate offices globally.

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