

Press release

For immediate release

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Historian and writer David Olusoga presents Radio 4 Appeal in aid of Bristol charity's modern slavery helpline

TV's David Olusoga, the historian and writer, is presenting a new fundraising appeal on BBC Radio 4 for Bristol anti-slavery charity Unseen.

Unseen is a charity working to end human trafficking and other forms of modern slavery.

Unseen:

- runs the free, 24-hour UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline, which helps get victims of modern slavery to safety
- provides safehouses for survivors of slavery and trafficking
- works in the community to help modern slavery survivors rebuild their lives.

The appeal, which first airs on Sunday 15 October, includes the harrowing story of Tania, who was tricked into coming to the UK and forced to work on an isolated farm for hardly any wages.

Says David Olusoga: "Unseen's Helpline is a vital bridge that enables people to escape modern slavery, find safety and start to rebuild their lives."

The [Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline](#) is free, runs 24/7 and is independent of Government. This makes it entirely confidential but also means that donations from members of the public are a crucial part of its income.

Says Andrew Wallis OBE, CEO of Unseen: "Modern slavery is not just something that's happening beyond our borders. It is happening right here in the UK, too, from forced labour in such places as farms and building sites, to children caught up in County Lines exploitation, to people being forced to become sex workers. I'm delighted that David is doing this appeal for us and urge everyone to donate what they can."

Slavery is an umbrella term for activities involved when one person obtains or holds another person in compelled service. It's an issue that happens everywhere and affects us all – from the clothes we wear, to consumer electronics, to the food and drink we consume.

Experts believe there are around 100,000 people in the UK in modern slavery, while the global figure is a staggering 50 million people.

The appeal is part of the regular Radio 4 appeal series, and airs on Sunday morning at 7.54am, before being repeated the same evening at 9.25pm and the following Thursday 19 October at 3.27pm.

You can find out more (and, from Sunday 15 October, listen to the appeal) on the BBC website at www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001rgrk

Notes to editors

More information

For all press enquiries and pictures, contact media@unseenuk.org or phone 0303 040 2888.

About Unseen

Unseen is a Bristol-based charity working towards a world without slavery. We provide safehouses and support in the community for survivors of trafficking and modern slavery. We also run the UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline and work with individuals, communities, businesses, governments, other charities, and statutory agencies to stamp out slavery for good. www.unseenuk.org

About the Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline

- The UK Modern Slavery & Exploitation Helpline is part of the leading anti-slavery charity Unseen, www.unseenuk.org
- It is confidential and independent, providing information, advice and guidance to potential victims, businesses, statutory agencies such as the NHS and police, and the public about any modern slavery issue.
- The Helpline is staffed by specialists, free to use, can take calls in more than 200 languages, and operates 24/7, 365 days a year.
- People can also contact the Helpline via the Unseen website and the Unseen App.
- Since its launch in October 2016 the Helpline has indicated more than 30,000 potential victims of modern slavery.
- The Helpline is independently funded, relying on grants from trusts, businesses, fellow charities and other organisations, and donations from the general public.

Ends