

# **STOP THE TRAFFIK**

## **New Year Prayer Diary**

People trafficking is huge. It is making billions of pounds from buying and selling human beings. People, already vulnerable, are exploited, abused, despised.

Jesus called all his followers to stand up for injustice, to bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captive and release from darkness for the prisoner.

Stop The Traffik would like to invite you in this first month of 2008, to remember those enslaved and held captive through trafficking; to cry out for their freedom and to pray for significant things to happen through out this New Year.

The New Year calendar is a tool to help focus our prayers and know where to begin praying for such a massive issue! There are many areas that need prayer and this guide walks through these different areas, explaining them day by day looking at the scale of people trafficking, the work of Stop The Traffik and some of our member organisations.

Lets join together and cry out to God for those held captive. Together, lets Stop The Traffik.



**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2007**

People trafficking is the fastest growing form of international crime, second only to the trafficking of arms.

It is an industry generating over \$42.5 billion per year from buying and selling women, men and children.

It affects every country in the world, from India to Germany, South Africa to Great Britain.

- Pray that we wouldn't see trafficking as a pile of statistics, but begin to understand the people and stories behind these numbers.
- Pray for the victims who are even now being trafficked and forced into slavery.
- Pray for the traffickers – it is so easy to demonise those who perpetrate this crime. Pray that their lives will be changed and they no longer continue trafficking people. Pray they will take a step closer to ending the cycle of trafficking.



**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

Mary, who was 19 years old, was persuaded to come to the US with the promise that she would have a better life and be provided a job. She was escorted to her job in a factory where she packaged vegetables, but was never paid for her employment. She reports that she was given a white powder (which was suspected to be cocaine), and only later she determined to be drugs. Mary was not allowed to leave the apartment in which she was staying unless she was going to work. The perpetrator threatened her saying that if she attempted to escape she would be deported or hurt by the immigration department. Mary was verbally abused and raped several times by her perpetrator - which was the source of her son's conception. Mary reported that she previously had a miscarriage due to the abuse and at times was not allowed to seek medical attention. Mary is now in a Salvation Army domestic violence shelter where she presently resides with her 11-month-old son.

SOURCE: Salvation Army

80% of those who are trafficked are women. Mary's story is being repeated hundreds of thousands of times all around the globe.

- Pray for women like Mary, who are tricked or forced to leave their homes by traffickers, often because they have been made a false promise of work. These offers of work are often accepted because of a fundamental need to feed and educate themselves and their family members.
- Pray that as Stop The Traffik and other organisations push for better women's education and employment opportunities, women like Mary would be empowered to make better informed choices about job opportunities.
- Pray for women like Mary, who are facing life after being trafficked. Pray that they would be able to begin to come to terms with the atrocities that have been committed against them and start the process of rebuilding life.

[www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id).



**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

Prjua, aged 9 and her brother Ajay, a boy aged 7, lived on Thane train station in Mumbai, India with their parents who were both alcoholics. Prjua and Ajay were regular attendees of the Asha Deep Day Centre, run by Oasis India, where they learnt to read and write and were given the opportunity to play. After attending daily for 3-months they disappeared. The project staff went to look for them. Prjua and Ajay's father told how a man had come and offered money for them and that he had sold them for the equivalent of £20. That was the last the father and the staff of Asha Deep Day Centre heard of them. In that area of Mumbai every 2-3 months children disappeared, kidnapped or sold into prostitution, forced labour, adoption or child sacrifice.

SOURCE: Oasis India

Half of all victims of trafficking are children; children taken or tricked away from parents and families. Stories like Prjua and Ajai.

- Pray for the protection of children like Prjua and Ajai.
- Pray for projects that work to educate children and parents about the risks of children being trafficking, either through kidnapping, living with extended family members or looking for work.
- Pray that good sustainable ways can be found to help poor communities and families, so teenagers are not required to travel away from home to find work. In particular, pray for vocational training and microfinance projects that enable people from deprived communities to learn new skills and economically support themselves and their families.

[www.oasisindia.org](http://www.oasisindia.org)



**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

The large majority of people who are trafficked are sold into the sex industry.

Alise, aged 15, saw an advert in her local paper in Latvia offering an opportunity to be an ice cream seller in London for the summer. Excited at the opportunity to come to England and practice her language skills, Alise applied for the scheme. It was a trick. Alise was trafficked to Lithuania and then into the UK. In the Heathrow Airport coffee bar she was sold for £4000. Alise was then trafficked to Birmingham and forced to work in a brothel, seeing up to 40 men a day.

SOURCE: UKHTC

- Pray for Alise and all of the other women who have gone through this experience, that they will begin to reconcile what happened to them and start to rebuild life after it has been utterly destroyed.
- 1 in 10 men in Britain use women in the sex industry and massively drive demand for young women like Alise to be trafficked. Pray for men in the UK who are using trafficked women in the sex industry, that they will understand their actions are rape and begin to change their behaviour and attitude towards women working in the sex industry.
- Pray for projects, both in the UK and globally, who are reaching out to young girls and women like Alise; finding them, rescuing them and helping each woman begin the process of rehabilitating their lives.

[www.ukhtc.org](http://www.ukhtc.org)



**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> January**

Many people are also being trafficked around the world to work in farms, factories, construction sites and as domestic servants.

Sergey is 27 years old and from Perm in Russia. In 2001 he saw an advert in a local newspaper for a job agency recruiting construction workers to work in Spain. The salary offered was US\$1,200 per month. This was much more than his monthly salary of just \$200 and more than he could ever hope to earn in Perm. He applied to the agency who booked his plane ticket to Madrid on the condition that he would pay back the money when he started work.

On arrival in Spain, Sergey was picked up by a person from the "agency" who took his passport. He was taken to Portugal and forced to work on a construction site without pay for several months. The site was surrounded by barbed wire. Without his passport he was afraid that the Portuguese authorities would arrest him. One day Sergey managed to escape and begged his way to Germany. Because he did not have a passport the German authorities arrested him, took away what little money he had before deporting him to Russia.

Now back home, Sergey is very traumatised by his experience. He suffered psychological problems and for several months was unable to work. He received no counselling or support to help him overcome his ordeal. Meanwhile his traffickers remain unpunished.

SOURCE: Anti-Slavery

- Pray for men and women like Sergey who are exploited through labour
- Pray for education programs that are designed to tell people like Sergey, who are vulnerable to being prayed on by traffickers, about the risks of migration.
- Pray for good openings for Stop The Traffik to work with airlines, trainlines and employments agencies to get the message of trafficking out to migrant labourers, so they know what the risks are and who to contact if they find themselves in a vulnerable position.

<http://www.antislavery.org/>



**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

Hema is 12-years-old and lives in a remote village on the East coast of India. She is the oldest of five children. Her parents work full time to support the family so Hema takes responsibility for looking after her younger brothers and sisters and doing the housework.

One year, the families crop was destroyed by a drought. Already living in poverty, Hema's parents now had no way to feed their family, no way to survive. A kind man from outside the village visited their family, promising a well-paid job for Hema in the nearby city. With no other options, Hema's mum and dad agreed to let her go.

Hema was taken to Bangalore with five other young girls to work as a housemaid. Her parents were paid a small sum of money and were told that Hema would be able to send back more once she was working. But on arrival Hema was forced to be a slave and was never paid for her work. The man who had seemed so kind when he arrived at her parents' house beat her and abused her. Fortunately Hema was rescued and returned to her family, but the memories of what happened stay with her.

SOURCE: Oasis India

- Pray for victims of trafficking like Hema. At so young an age she has been horrifically abused. Pray that Hema and other children like her will begin the journey of recovery and will be able to integrate back into their families and communities.
- Pray for families like Hema to have access to projects that teach and educate parents and children about the dangers of false promises of work and trafficking. Pray that through these kind of projects, families will be empowered to make more informed decisions about migrating to cities for work.
- Pray for projects that seek to empower families like Hema's with tools to lift themselves out of poverty, including access to education, microfinance projects and community developments.



**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

Stop The Traffik is a global coalition of organisation, charities, businesses, schools, student groups, youth groups and faith groups campaigning to bring an end to the trade in human beings. Our cry is to

***Prevent the sale of people  
Prosecute the traffickers  
Protect the victims***

Stop The Traffik members are involved in many different ways to bring an end to people trafficking. Some of these member – both in the UK and Globally – are profiled through out this guide although there are many more who are undertaking important life changing work.

- Pray for the Stop The Traffik coalition and relationships between coalition members. Our heart is to see organisations and community groups working *together* to end people trafficking. Pray that relationships within the Stop The Traffik coalition would continue to grow and be fruitful, working mutually towards stopping trafficking.
- Pray for Stop The Traffik as we develop our strategy, that we would know the right things to focus on, the right areas to spend time and resources, the right networks and organisations to plug into, and the most effective projects to fund.



**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January**

Stop The Traffik need **one million people** to sign our Global Declaration, simply asking people to support Stop The Traffik in its aim to **Prevent** the sale of people, **Prosecute** the traffickers and **Protect** the victims.

Stop The Traffik will present the Global Declaration to the UN in February, which will give a platform for Stop The Traffik to gather sponsors together to launch a Global Fund of one million dollars. This fund will directly finance anti-trafficking projects around the world. It will massively enable projects to prevent children like Prjua and Ajay from disappearing, and protect victims of trafficking like Alise, Mary and Sergey, helping them rebuild their life after the horror of being trafficked.

- Pray that Stop The Traffik will have a break through in gathering the **million** signatures by February, as this is crucial to the Global Fund being launched.
- Pray that people all over the world would be inspired to go out and do everything they can to gather the **million** signatures.
- Pray for opportunities for Stop The Traffik to tell new audiences and networks about people trafficking and ask them to sign the Global Declaration.

If you would like to sign the Global Declaration please go to [www.stopthetraffik.org](http://www.stopthetraffik.org) and encourage friends and family to do the same!

Alternatively, you can join the Facebook Group 'A Million to Stop The Traffik'.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

Stop The Traffik are planning on delivering a petition of **one million** signatures to the UN in February. This will give Stop The Traffik the opportunity to launch a Global Fund of **one million** dollars that will fund anti-trafficking projects around the globe. These projects will help get young women into education, teach vocational skills, raise awareness about safe migration and the dangers of trafficking, fund safe housing for those who have been trafficked, and many others! The Global Fund will make a practical difference in preventing people being trafficked, prosecuting traffickers and protecting the victims of trafficking.

- Please pray for wisdom in setting up the Global Fund and managing it.
- Please pray that we will find key ambassadors who will be able to engage key funders to contribute to the fund.
- Please pray that we will find the right large funders who are passionate about the issue of people trafficking.



**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

So far, Stop The Traffik have donated over £1 million directly to anti-trafficking organisations around the world; money raised through the hard work and generosity of people such as yourself. There are some amazing stories because of this money...

One of the projects, who have received significant funding through Stop The Traffik is the **Salvation Army China Project**, who have been massively able to increase the work they are doing in South West China.

In South West China there is a big problem of women and children being tricked or forced to leave their villages and trafficked. The region is vast and mountainous so it can be difficult to track women who disappear and for those who have been trafficked to find their way home.

The China Project began with just an initial needs assessment to a couple of villages but Stop The Traffik funding has enabled the project to be rolled out to literally thousands of people.

Through the Salvation Army China Project, villages in this region that have hardly any women left because of trafficking are getting help to deal with the trauma of losing loved ones and ensure that the children are left behind don't fall into the same trap. In other nearby areas the Salvation Army are working with villages to help prevent trafficking from happening and help stop it where it has already started, by providing...

- Education and awareness workshops
- Developing specific resources in local dialects
- Training trauma teams
- Encouraging local 'ownership' so solutions to trafficking become long term and sustainable.

Please continue to pray for the China Project, for it's continued growth and development. Please pray also for the villages that are yet to hear about trafficking, that they would have protection against the tricks that traffickers use.

For more information about the China Project go to [www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id](http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/id).

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January**



Stop The Traffik is a growing global coalition of over 900 organisations in 59 countries. To help facilitate this growth and continue sending out the message of Stop The Traffik Global Offices are being set up in countries where passion for the campaign is growing! So far Stop The Traffik have offices in...

**UK (International Office)**

**Netherland**

**Belgium (Hosted by Oasis Belgium)**

**Australia (Hosted by World Vision and Salvation Army)**

**USA (Hosted by Oasis USA)**

**India (Hosted by Oasis India)**

**Bangladesh (Coalition of organisation)**

Stop The Traffik value your prayers as these offices and staff establish themselves and begin the slow journey of building a coalition of organisations in their own countries. They are working hard to generate momentum for Stop The Traffik to grassroots supporters, schools, universities, churches, faith groups and many others!

- Please pray for wisdom of office leaders in finding the right opportunities to develop and grow Stop The Traffik.
- Pray for coalition relationships in these countries: that they would be healthy and productive, building one another up and working together for a sustainable future.



**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January**

**STOP THE TRAFFIK** is calling on people everywhere of all ages to force the chocolate companies to give a guarantee that their chocolate is Traffik Free. Will they commit to print a 'Traffik Free Guarantee' on chocolate bars so we can choose to buy chocolate that is not made through trafficked labour.

Retailers have immense power to put pressure on the chocolate companies to change the way they source cocoa beans, and ensure that no child slavery is being used in the manufacture of chocolate.

- Pray that people will be moved to activity through the chocolate campaign and will show their resolve to see a stop to child exploitation, sending the retail letter to local supermarkets, buying fair-trade chocolate and **getting the message out there!**
- Pray for retailers of chocolate, that they will continue to respond positively to retail letters that Stop The Traffik campaigners are sending them. As they seek to respond to the demands of consumers for fair-trade chocolate, they in turn will put more and more pressure on mainstream chocolate manufacturers to eliminate child slavery on the cocoa plantations.
- Pray that people high up in the major supermarket chains will hear the message of Stop The Traffik and join us in taking action.

To send a Retail Letter to your local supermarket please go to [www.stophetraffik.org/getInvolved/act/chocolate/chocaction.aspx](http://www.stophetraffik.org/getInvolved/act/chocolate/chocaction.aspx).



**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Stop The Traffik are planning to launch a European wide free phone hotline for victims of trafficking to call anywhere in Europe to access help in their own languages.

In the EU Commission on people trafficking, a Europe wide hotline was highlighted as a crucial tool in order to combat people trafficking, proving a place for victims of trafficking to call. However, the hotline has never been established. Stop The Traffik, working with coalition partners Oasis Belgium and Care for Europe, are working towards getting this EU wide hotline for the victims of human trafficking established.

The Hotline has received the support of over 300 MEPs and a proposed budget of €2 million is currently being considered by the EU budget committee.

We are beginning talks with a number of European anti-trafficking charities and organizations to partner with Stop The Traffik in launching and running the hotline.

- Please pray for phone networks that will provide the hotline number and host the hotline. Pray they would recognize the value and importance of providing a free phone number for victims of trafficking to access.
- Pray for the budget committee, that they would approve the proposal!
- Pray for the practicalities of setting up the phone line; working with other charities and anti-trafficking organisations who are currently working in Europe; and advertising the number in areas where victims of trafficking will see the number.



## **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

**43%** of the world's cocoa, used to make our chocolate, comes from the Ivory Coast in West Africa. There are known to be at least **12 000 children** trafficked onto the Ivory Coast cocoa plantations and kept as slaves.

The children are **beaten** regularly, some even to death, and forced to work long hours in baking heat with little food water or sleep. At night they are **locked** in small overcrowded tin huts and not let out until work begins in the morning. They are treated worse than we treat our dogs, and all for our chocolate at 40p a bar.

All of the chocolate companies know that this is happening but are doing little to change this situation and free these **12 000 children**. The only chocolate that can guarantee no slave labour has been used is Fair Trade.

- Please pray for the **12 000 children** that are being kept on the cocoa plantations in the Ivory Coast.
- Pray that these children will be freed from their enslavement; they will be able to go home to their families from where they were taken, and begin rebuilding life and find hope again.
- Pray that as consumers we will understand the important role we can play in bringing freedom to these **12 000 children**, through changing the chocolate we buy to fair-trade, and putting economic pressure on the chocolate companies to take action.

To find out more about the Chocolate Campaign go to [www.stophetraffik.org/getinvolved/act/chocolate/chocolate.aspx](http://www.stophetraffik.org/getinvolved/act/chocolate/chocolate.aspx).



## **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January**

The Chocolate Industry, which is worth \$13 billion in the USA alone, said in 2001 they would guarantee the end of trafficked labour in the cocoa industry by 2005. They have failed to do this.

They then said they would cover half the farms in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire by 2008—but even this will not make sure all farms are free from using trafficked children.

The Chocolate Industry simply says it's too difficult to stop the use of child slaves in the productions of cocoa beans; beans that the chocolate industry buy and sell on for billions of dollars in profit.

- Pray for individuals and leaders within the chocolate companies, that they will more and more understand the implications of their company's policy and seek to change practices from within their company.
- Pray that chocolate companies will become agents of change in freeing these **12 000 children** who are trafficked onto the farms in the Ivory Coast.
- Pray that chocolate companies, farmers and other people involved will find a long term sustainable solution to eliminating child slave labour on cocoa farms.



**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

The world of football is not immune to people trafficking. Young boys are trafficked into Europe by bogus football agents with the promise of football careers, only to end up being dumped and living on the streets. Young boys' dreams become nightmares.

Stop The Traffik are asking Football clubs, players and supporters to join the fight by helping gather the **one million declaration** to present to the United Nations in February. So far Stop The Traffik have received some positive results through Kolo Toure, of Arsenal FC. We are asking all clubs to:

- profile the declaration via loudspeaker and on big screens during half time on any selected Saturday in January and to ask supporters to sign our declaration via text on the spot
- show our 30 second 'viral' films which show what trafficking is in order to inform (optional)
- place our press release in their match day programs

Please pray that key football clubs will join Stop The Traffik in raising awareness about trafficking to their players and supporters and make a significant contribution in gathering signatures to the **Million Declaration**.



**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January**

In Ghana, West Africa, child trafficking has shown a sustained increase since the 1980s. Thousands of children are being trafficked both in Ghana and worldwide being forced to work on farms, in fishing – mainly in communities along the Volta Lake – in prostitution or as domestic servants in the bigger towns and cities. These children are denied their childhood, human rights and protection. They encounter many dangers including maltreatment, contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, malaria, commercial sexual exploitation, teenage pregnancy, lack of access to education and health care.

**International Needs Ghana** Anti Child Trafficking project aims to raise awareness of the issues of child trafficking among the fishing and farming communities in the North and South Tongu Districts of the Volta Region and to rescue trafficked children and enroll them into school.

- Please pray for International Needs as they seek to raise awareness about the threat of people trafficking in Ghana among communities and families vulnerable to people trafficking. Please pray that communities will be receptive to International Needs and quickly understand and join in communicating people trafficking.
- Pray for the thousands of Ghanaian children that are being exploited both in Ghana and around the world. Pray that International Needs and other Stop The Traffik coalition partners will be able to find these children and bring them back home to their families.

For more information about International Needs go to [www.inneeds.org.uk](http://www.inneeds.org.uk).



**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January**

**Cambodia is a nation inundated with sexual abuse and exploitation; it serves as the origin, transit and destination for many victims of people trafficking.**

**After her mothers death Serey's brother and sister left home to find work, leaving Serey in the care of her father. After being abuse and raped by family members, Sergy boarded a bus and asked the driver to take her to a province in South Cambodia where her sister and brother were working. Instead, he took her to a brothel where he sold her – Serey was then only 14 years old.**

**The brothel owners treated her appallingly; she was frequently beaten and given electric shocks. When Serey refused sex with a man they would inject her with drugs, making her incoherent and compliant, she would often bleed as a result of seeing up to 10 men a day and fall unconscious because of the drugs.**

**A man visiting the brothel appeared to offer the abused child a way out, he told her he wished to marry her, and helped her to leave the brothel in Cambodia. Instead of marrying her as promised, he sold her to a businessman in Thailand, where she was kept alone in a house and used for sex.**

**Sergy managed to escape and is now being cared for through a Chab Dai partner organisation.**

**Rural villages and communities are very vulnerable to traffickers and paedophiles as they are unaware of the risks that face them and do not have the resources to deal with such threats. Often close to the borders of Thailand and Vietnam, the villages have poor access with no nearby towns and poor roads.**

**Chab Dai has developed an innovative project in rural areas of Cambodia to increase awareness and education of sexual abuse and trafficking, through a training program for churches and key community stakeholders such as village and commune chiefs, school teachers and monks. The project helps churches and communities take responsibility for protecting children in their villages, for pastors to demonstrate greater levels of care for the children and for the churches to develop and maintain child**

**protection policies. The community are educated on the characteristics and strategies of a trafficker and on the Anti-Trafficking law put in place by the Cambodian Government. The project also educates on safe migration. To date, this project has impacted the lives of thousands of villagers who are at risk of exploitation.**

- **Please pray for Chab Dai as they build a coalition of churches who are being educated about people trafficking and in turn help their own communities to take responsibility for protecting the children with their villages.**
- **Please pray for pastors and community leaders as they seek to implement child protection and communicate information about trafficking to their community.**
- **Please pray for Chab Dai and the team as their work ever increases and they manage and train larger networks of partners.**

**For more information about Chab Dai go to [www.chabdai.org](http://www.chabdai.org).**



**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January**

Every year thousands of young women and children are being trafficked and forced into prostitution and forced labour.

Business travellers can be a part of the problem buying sexual services from trafficking victims, or part of the solution reporting suspicious activities and encouraging hotels and businesses to put systems in place to protect children from exploitation. The campaign **Business Travellers against Human Trafficking** exists to give business travellers the opportunity to help change the situation for good.

**Business Travellers against Human Trafficking** aims to give people who travel on business an understanding of human trafficking and a place to report what they see, via the website. **Business Travellers** then connect with police forces to help free exploited women and children and also work with hotels to help them achieve an environment free of child exploitation. They offer a training course for businesses on human trafficking, so that all can be part of the solution to this global problem.

- Please pray for **Business Travellers Against Human Trafficking** that they will be able to get the message the business travellers are part of the problem in causing young girls and women to be trafficked and exploited in the sex industry.
- Pray for business travellers, that they will begin to understand what impact their actions are having on the lives of the girls and women they exploit when buying sex.
- Pray that businesses will increasingly recognise the problem their staff are creating and invite **Business Travellers Against Human Trafficking** to deliver their training course on human trafficking to promote awareness and education.

For more information about Business Travellers Against Human Trafficking go to [www.businesstravellers.org](http://www.businesstravellers.org).



**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> January**

Stop The Traffik are working with MPs and Peers to highlight the plight of child trafficking both in the UK and internationally. Together we are working to hold a simultaneous debate in both houses of parliament in February. This will increase the awareness and involvement of parliamentarians on this issue, profile the work of Stop The Traffik, and generate media attention, all in the run-up to the UN's world summit on tackling human trafficking in Vienna in February.

Stop The Traffik are also lobbying the government as part of the Chocolate Campaign. MPs and Peers are raising questions in relation to chocolate companies' supply chains, and the treatment of children on West African cocoa farms. Stop The Traffik have just secured a meeting with the minister responsible for this area in January, to raise our concerns and mobilise him into effective action.

- Please pray that the same date will be secured in both houses for the debate, and that there will be significant interest from MPs, Peers, and the media.
- Please pray that the meeting with the minister will go well in January, and that both the government and the chocolate companies will take a more proactive and effective course of action to tackle child trafficking in the cocoa industry.
- Please pray for wisdom for the STOP THE TRAFFIK team as they work to develop future policy, both in the UK and internationally.



**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Trafficking of women in to massage parlours, lap dancing clubs, sauna and brothels is becoming an ever increasing problem in the UK. At least 80% of women working in UK brothels are highly likely to have been trafficked. Reports suggest that these women are being forced to see up to 40 men each day; they are subject to violence and rape from their traffickers and live in constant fear.

But there is a reason that young women are being trafficked to the UK. British men are creating huge demand for the services of women to sleep with. A recent report indicated 1 in 10 men are using women in the sex industry. 70% of these men are between 20-40 years old, in full time employment, married with a mortgage.

One man, interviewed by a local project in East London, commented that buying sex was *'just like going to the supermarket'*.

- Pray for these men who are using the services of women in the sex industry, whether trafficked or not. Until men's behaviour change it will remain difficult to stop women being trafficked into the sex industry. Pray for educational programs emerging around the UK that educate punters that the women they are using are not there by choice – have been trafficked and abused – and alter their buying habits.
- Pray for schools and educationalists who are seeking to teach boys and young men – before they ever become punters – about sex, relationships and most importantly, attitudes to women. Pray that while young, boys will understand and in turn will affect decisions they make in years to come.
- Nearly half of men find brothels through ads in their local paper – under 'saunas' and 'massage parlours'. Pray for local paper editors and owners of the paper at a higher level. Pray that they will take action against people trafficking and stop advertising places that sell sexual services of trafficked women.



**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

The Croydon Community Against Trafficking (CCAT) is a coalition of concerned citizens, faith and community groups who aim to stop the injustice of human trafficking within the borough of Croydon.

The harsh reality is that Croydon is one of the biggest 'ports' for human trafficking in the UK. CCAT want that to stop and want the people enslaved by people trafficking to be brought to justice. Young girls and women are held captive by Traffickers, Brothel Owners, Pimps, Maids (receptionists in a brothel) but also by the silence, ignorance and passive acceptance of the problem of the British population. CCAT believe that everyone has a role to play: men, women, the council, the police, our parliamentary representatives and the media.

The CCAT work with other professional and established service providers to research this issue of trafficking within Croydon. They have found that there are at least 100 brothels advertising in the Croydon area. Within them, 84% of the women working are likely to have been trafficked.

Using professional skills, citizen power, advocacy opportunities and spare time the CCAT are acting to stop people trafficking from continuing in their community.

- Please pray for the CCAT, and similar community groups around the UK, who are ordinary people committed to bringing an end to trafficking in their community. Pray for the safety of everyone involved
- Please pray that positive relationships, based on trust, will build between CCAT with local police, local media and women working in the Croydon sex industry.
- Prayers that CCAT will change the punter situation in Croydon – that demand will decline as result of education, and awareness and behaviour change will follow.
- Please pray for the employment opportunity of project coordinator for CCAT, for the right person to be employed.

For more information about CCAT go to [www.theccat.com](http://www.theccat.com).



**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

There is a huge problem of trafficking going on within the Philippines, chiefly from countryside areas to towns or cities. Many of those being trafficked to and within the Philippines are children, and they are being forced into the sex industry.

*Janet was given by her mother to a pimp, tricked into believing that somehow her daughter would meet a foreigner this way and marry into wealth, escaping a life in poverty. The pimp, instead, took her to a sex club where her life of exploitation began. Janet was eventually rescued, but it took her almost a year of therapy to tell her horrific tale. Today she is recovering, attending school and picking up the pieces of her broken life.*

Working in Metro Manila, Preda rescues children from sexually abusive situations and provides a residential home complete with a therapeutic recovery programme. Through building up the child's self-esteem, confidence and personal dignity, Preda empower them to stand up for their rights and seek justice. There is both formal and informal education available at the home and includes training on HIV/AIDS awareness, drug abuse, child abuse. Public workshops and seminars are also conducted in local towns.

- Pray for girls like Janet who are now at the Preda project, working through the experience they have been through and learning to live once more.
- Pray for the staff at Preda who are going out to the streets of Metro Manila and finding victims of human trafficking. Pray they will be protected as they go into some dangerous situations and would have wisdom in locating and rescuing the girls.
- Pray for the staff working with the girls in centre, as they build relationships with the girls and help them come to terms with all that has happened.

For more information about Preda go to [www.preda.org](http://www.preda.org).



**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Internal trafficking, or pimping, within the UK is an emerging trend. UK national girls are exploited by men who befriend them, groom them and then force them into prostitution, controlling the girls with threats and violence. These girls are trafficked between towns and cities through out the UK. Reports suggest that girls, as young as 12 years old, are being forced to perform sex acts up to 20 times a night.

*In September 2007 Sheffield Crown Court convicted a man of 4 counts of sex with a child and 4 counts of rape, sentencing the man to 10 years in prison. A second man was sentenced to 30 months for sexual assault. These conviction were brought about because of the bravery of a vulnerable 15 year old who had been pimped – trafficked –and gave evidence against them.*

CROP – Coalition for the Removal of Pimping – aims to support those who suffer from sexual exploitation. It works with parents, carers and those victimized by pimps to enable them to resist and break free, to repair the damage and recover the possibilities of a secure life. It forms local groups of affected parents and carers, where they can overcome isolation, share experience, learn from each other and so be empowered to work with professionals and enjoy their respect. CROP works with professional agencies, to promote understanding of the forms and methods of pimping.

- Please pray for parents of girls and young women who are being pimped and trafficked. Pray that they will be drawn to CROP and support through the organisation.
- Pray for social services, police and other agencies that they will increasingly recognize the issue of internal trafficking in the UK and respond to parents and guardians pleas for help.
- Pray for CROP as they build a coalition of organizations and individuals who's lives have been victimized by pimps. Pray their voice will have influence in high places and leaders of CROP will have understanding in how to guide the organisation forward as it grows and develops.

For more information about CROP please go to [www.crop1.org.uk](http://www.crop1.org.uk).



**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

**The South Asia Centre for Missing and Exploited Persons (SACMEP)** is a new and exciting anti-trafficking project, who have been partly funded by Stop The Traffik, working through out India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

SACMEP works in 3 main ways:

- **A Missing Person's Program** focusing on women and children reported missing.
- **An Early Encounter Program** focusing on runaways and potential victims of trafficking.
- **The Urban Community Network Program** focusing on economically and socially disadvantaged individuals within communities who are vulnerable to trafficking.

Already SACMEP have seen success stories. Here is just one of the many stories that SACMEP tell...

Reena grew up in a village in central Bangladesh with her 5 brothers and sisters. Her father was a weaver but due to rising costs of materials, his business was not profitable and the family struggled financially. About 8 years ago, Reena's Aunt and Uncle from Dhaka visited the family and offered for Reena to live with them. The family readily agreed, thinking it would mean a better life for her. From time to time Reena's parents enquired after her and were given a positive response, but they did not see her or speak to her and began to worry. Both the Uncle and Aunt died, the Uncle beaten to death because of rumours of his involvement in trafficking. By this point, Reena's parents had no idea what had happened to Reena. Hearing nothing for so many years, they assumed that she had died.

In reality, Reena had been trafficked to India and ended-up working in a brothel in Mumbai. Fortunately she was rescued and taken to a government home, which has connections with Stop The Traffik member SACMEP. Realising Reena's Bangladeshi origins, SACMEP began tracing Reena's family. Stop The Traffik in India connected with Stop The Traffik in Bangladesh to look for Reena's family. Using a description that Reena gave to her social worker, key workers from the Salvation Army visited Reena's home village and found her mother. When they reassured Reena's mother that her daughter is alive and well in a home in Mumbai, Reena's

mother cried out, she desperately wants her daughter back home. Reena's family and neighbours say that Reena is not to blame but is a victim; they will receive her openly and help her to get married if she returns.

SACMEP and other Stop The Traffik members are continuing to work with Reena and her family as repatriation procedures go through so Reena can return to Bangladesh, be reunited with her family and supported in rebuilding their lives together.

- Lets give thanks to God for this story, and so many others like it, that have come about through a dedicated staff team on the ground, bridges and relationships that Stop The Traffik have bought between organizations, and funding that many generous individuals and organizations have helped to raise.
- Pray for Reena, as her case goes through the courts in India and she prepares to go home to her family. Pray that Reena will be prepared for her return to Bangladesh and will be able to settle back into her community.
- Pray for Reena and her family as they begin the process of understanding what happened and get to know each other again after 8 years apart.

For more information about SACMEP go to [www.oasisindia.org/childrenatrisk](http://www.oasisindia.org/childrenatrisk).



**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January**

Albania is a major source of victims of people trafficking. Mainly women are trafficked mostly for sexual exploitation but also for labour and begging. A large number of victims are children, others have mental and physical disabilities.

*Keta is fourteen year old girl, the eldest of five. Her family is poor and in desperate need of money. One of their neighbours knew the problems the family were having and suggested that Keta go to Italy, get a job and send money back. Keta thought this was a great idea but her parents were not so sure. The neighbour assured them that she would be safe, she would travel with her and introduce her to some people she knew in businesses in Italy and who would be able to give her a job.*

*In Italy, Keta was introduced to two men, one Italian and one Albanian. Her neighbour told her they would get her a job and find her some accommodation, then she left. Keta was sold into prostitution. She felt so alone and missed her family so much. She was determined to return to her family. Eventually she called home and told her parents it had not worked out and she wanted to come home. Her father came to Italy and brought her home. They reported this to the police and they eventually caught the neighbour who was arrested.*

- Although Keta has returned home and receives love and support from her family, she is still having nightmares about what has happened. Pray for girls like Keta who have been exploited and are struggling to re-build life after her abuse.
- Pray for families like Keta's who are also trying to come to terms with what has happened and support family members in the best way.
- Pray for local organisations and agencies in Albania who are working to raise awareness about the dangers of people trafficking across the country. Pray this will help families such as Keta's to make more informed decisions about migration.
- Pray for projects in Albania that are trying to find solutions to the issues of poverty and unemployment that are facing the country. It is only when these fundamental problems are tackled that girls like Keta will not longer be so vulnerable to traffickers.



**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> January**

The POPPY Project was set up in 2003. It is funded by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (reporting to the Ministry of Justice) to provide accommodation and support to women who have been trafficked into prostitution. It has 35 bed spaces in houses throughout London.

The POPPY Outreach Service works to improve the safety and wellbeing of women from all over the UK who have been trafficked and who are in need of short term support and advocacy.

POPPY Research and Development provides education, training and lobbying to raise awareness about trafficking and exiting prostitution. This area of POPPY's work is funded by London Councils.

The POPPY's work is massively important in providing a safe place for women who have been trafficked to begin coming to terms with all that they have been through and rebuild life skills.

- Please pray for the women who are currently living in the POPPY project, that they will find rest, peace and healing after the horror and exploitation that they have lived through.
- Please pray for the safety of the women living at the POPPY project both from threats made by their traffickers and as they make the difficult decision of whether to prosecute their traffickers
- Please pray for the mentors and care workers who are working alongside the women to support them. Pray that they will have understanding, empathy and wisdom in these roles.

For more information about the POPPY Project go to [www.eaves4women.co.uk/POPPY Project/](http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/POPPY_Project/).



**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January**

In Haiti, there are a high number of people living in severe poverty. Traffickers make false promises of well paying jobs across the border in the Dominican Republic (DR). Deceived by these false promises, Haitians end up working in very bad conditions for very little money and with the constant threat of deportation.

Christian Aid partner, **The Support Group for Refugees and Repatriated Persons (GARR)**, runs a human rights monitoring programme along the Haitian border, working with the Haitians and Dominico-Haitians who have been forcibly removed from the DR and left to fend for themselves at the border. GARR provides them with emotional support and practical help. GARR visits imprisoned migrants and offers them legal assistance, and informs their families of their situation. It also raises awareness about trafficking through radio broadcasts and public debates, to encourage people to pressure the Haitian authorities to reduce people trafficking.

- Please pray for imprisoned Haitian migrants who have lost their freedom and are forced to work as slaves. Pray that they will find freedom and release from these situations.
- Pray for The Support Group as they seek to provide services and support to people whose lives have been torn apart by trafficking.
- Pray for The Support Group as they seek to raise awareness about the dangers of trafficking. Pray that they would have a significant and influential voice among government authorities and law enforcers to help reduce people trafficking.

To find out more about the work of Christian Aid and The Support Group go to

[www.christianaid.org.uk/world/where/lac/partners/0012garr.htm](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/world/where/lac/partners/0012garr.htm).



**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January**

Please join with Stop The Traffik, and pray specifically for this campaign as we look ahead to the forthcoming weeks and months. Today, please pray for us particularly around vision and strategy...

- Please pray that the team at Stop The Traffik would have a clear vision and sense of purpose through out 2008 as big projects begin to take shape and Stop The Traffik continues to grow and develop.
- Many opportunities constantly present themselves to Stop The Traffik. This is brilliant, and we pray such opportunities would continue to emerge. However, with limited resources, please pray for the team at Stop The Traffik to have wisdom in working out which opportunities are right and which opportunities should not be pursued.



**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January**

Please join with Stop The Traffik and pray with us for the success of opportunities that are beginning and developing through out 2008. There are so many areas that Stop The Traffik are working in, to prevent trafficking, prosecute traffickers and protect the victims.

- Please pray for the Global Declaration that was talked about earlier this month. It is so so important that Stop The Traffik gather **one million signatures** to the Global Declaration in order to launch the Global Fund. Please pray that all of the things Stop The Traffik are doing to gather the signatures will have success!
- Please pray for continued creativity in the coordinating team to tell as many people as possible about people trafficking and equip them to get involved with Stop The Traffik.



**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

Together, lets pray for an end to trafficking!

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
Because he has anointed me to preach the good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim  
freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the  
prisoners;

To proclaim the year of the Lords favour and the day of vengeance  
of our God, to comfort all who mourn and provide for those who  
grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of  
ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning and a garment of  
praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of  
righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.  
*Isaiah 61:1-3*

Thank you for walking with Stop The Traffik through this prayer  
diary during January. We hope you have had a blessed first month  
in 2008 and hugely value your support and prayers to Stop The  
Traffik.

If you would like to continue supporting Stop The Traffik in prayer  
please contact [laura.simmonds@stopthetraffik.org](mailto:laura.simmonds@stopthetraffik.org) for ideas and  
information.

Here are a few verses that may help focus your prayer for people trafficking:

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. **18** He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt. Deuteronomy 10:17 - 19.

'Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter – when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?'  
Isaiah 58:6-7

Seek good, not evil, that you may live. Then the LORD God Almighty will be with you, just as you say he is. Hate evil, love good; maintain justice in the courts.  
Amos 5:14-15

With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?  
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?  
He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God.  
Micah 6:6-8.

On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"  
"What is written in the Law?" Jesus replied. "How do you read it?"  
He answered  
"'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind' and, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'"  
"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus,

"And who is my neighbour?" In reply Jesus said  
"A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

"Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"  
The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."  
Jesus told him,  
"Go and do likewise."  
Luke 10: 25-37