

The Medaille Trust

A parable of hope in a world of exploitation

PLEASE PASS ON THIS MAGAZINE TO A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE

Winter Edition 2013

A **charity** to support women, men and children freed from trafficking

CHRISTMAS EDITION - 20 PAGES



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*"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."
(Matthew 1:23)*

Foreword from Baroness Cox



I am delighted to have the opportunity to write a few words of introduction to this Christmas edition of **The Medaille Trust's** Magazine. My long term interest and concern over the issues of trafficking and slavery continues unabated and I share the Trust's passion and zeal in wishing to rid the world of these evils.

However these feelings must be tempered with a degree of sadness that it is necessary to return to these subjects once again and that the struggle to achieve a slave free world is such a protracted one. What prevents this sadness becoming despair is the witness of the work being done by **The Medaille Trust** and others.

On an international and national level I work tirelessly to try and ensure that these issues of slavery and the sale of human beings are placed at the forefront of the minds and agendas of politicians, policy makers and individuals and institutes of influence. Of necessity my work and that of others must be complemented by NGOs like **The Medaille Trust** who deal on a daily basis with the harvest of misery created by the perpetrators of this vile crime. It has been a challenging, but ultimately rewarding year for **The Medaille Trust** and I note with great interest their

first tentative steps into international preventative work. I have no doubt that in the fullness of time these will turn into confident and long strides.

I pay tribute to the contributions made, in all forms, by Trustees, staff, volunteers, donors and supporters often at great personal cost. It is when I see such support being mobilised that I am certain that, together, we can achieve the Trust's vision, in the fullness of time, of 'a world where the trafficking of human beings for sexual, economic and labour exploitation has been eradicated'.

To close I would like to wish all the Blessings of the Season upon those in **The Medaille Trust** and others who work so tirelessly on this the great, or perhaps the greatest, cause.

Together we can make a difference.

Caroline (Baroness) Cox

Message from **Chair of Trustees**

During the Summer we had fewer people in our Safe Houses, and so we now have four houses for the women, children and men in our care. We have two safe houses for women and their children and two for men. The women's houses always seem to be full. We want to use our house in the north for 'Move on' for our people and this will be starting very soon.



The extra time that the Staff had was spent in doing extra training - some with Di Killian and some with Mike Emberson, our Project Director.

A number of the men in our care wish to return to their own countries, and we do our best to support them in

this. We have also helped a couple to move to a different part of the country - to find a place to live and work.

As usual, the people in our care come from a variety of countries in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

Sister Margaret Herritty, Chair of Trustees

A Word from Mike Emberson

The Project Director



The Medaille Trust delivers its services unconditionally, without distinction between the faiths of the victims it serves, or their lack of faith.

Credo

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And I believe it was man and not God who made slavery

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

And I believe all things were made that men and women might live in freedom

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

And I believe He was made man that He might free the slaves

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

And I believe that there He keeps the seats for the slaves

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his Kingdom will have no end.

And I believe the slavers will tremble at His judgement and will have no place in the Kingdom

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

And I believe the Spirit fills the hearts of staff, volunteers and Trustees of The Medaille Trust.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

And I believe the life of the world to come will know no slavery.

NEWS FROM London Services

This art work featured is the work of some of the victims of human trafficking that **The Medaille Trust** have supported on their journey to recovery. Attending the Amies Project run by Pan Intercultural Arts has been an invaluable resource for these victims. We would like to pay tribute and express our gratitude to Annabel Rook and Adwoa Dickson who worked with the women attending the Amies Project and became an integral part of their recovery and re-empowerment.

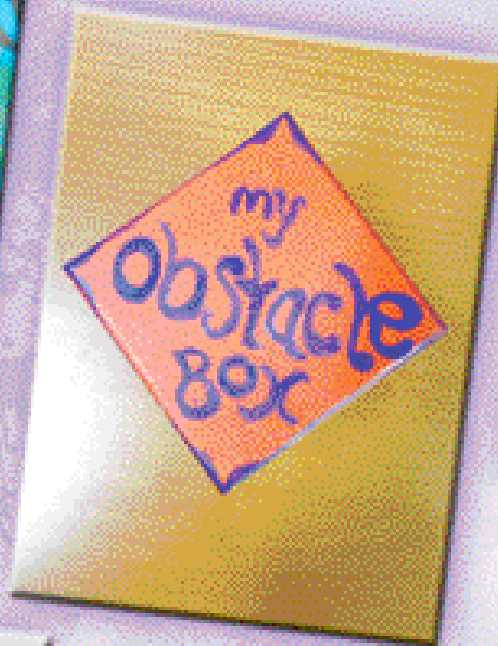


“recovery and re-empowerment”

The Amies Project aims to:

- Encourage the women to work together supportively in a group.
- Develop their physical and vocal confidence.
- Re-connect participants with creativity and the power of emotion.
- Encourage songs and scenes, which reflect aspirations and concerns.
- Role-play situations in their lives where they feel they lack confidence.
- Work as a team to create a performance.
- Record songs and scenes to give participants ownership of their work.

Pan Intercultural Arts is a dynamic London based arts company using intercultural performance work to help facilitate self expression and promote deeper understanding of our changing cultural identities. We work with a diverse range of communities across London and internationally: empowering people to use the arts as a tool for change in their lives.



After escaping from the man who trafficked her, Yolanda's next hurdle was convincing the UK authorities that she needed asylum. Jenny Cuffe (a volunteer with SWVG) reports on the immigration tribunal hearing which would determine whether she was sent back to Kenya or allowed to remain in the UK.

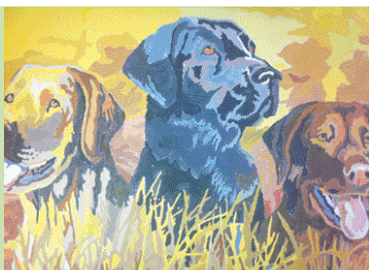
All we could do was remain calm and hope for the best. There were four of us waiting outside Court room 11 at the Immigration Appeals Tribunal in West London - Yolanda from Kenya, a friend of hers who was acting as witness, Julie Shanley from **The Medaille Trust**, and me. Although she had been through hell in her home country and here in Britain, Yolanda's request for asylum, like the vast majority of claims, had been rejected by the UK Borders Agency. I'd only known her for a few weeks but I had read her statements and talked to her at length and was absolutely convinced that to send her back home would be a travesty of justice. Any hope she had of happiness was pinned on this day.

Two years ago Yolanda was brought to England by a man she considered her saviour. She had been taken to hospital after being beaten for being a witch, an accusation that leads to women in Kenya being burned alive. She thought the white man hanging about the ward was a Christian missionary and she was overcome with gratitude when he offered to pay for her treatment. But the man was a trafficker and he tricked her into leaving her youngest child and travelling with her ten year-old daughter to a country where he told her she would be safe. As soon as he got her to Britain, took her to a house and closed the front door, he changed dramatically and from then on she was his sex slave, plied with drugs to make her compliant and forced to serve the men who visited on a regular basis. She and her daughter remained locked in a house in an unknown town in a country they did not know for a whole year. Then one day, when her trafficker had taken so many drugs that he was barely conscious, they managed to climb out of a window and start walking. Eventually she was referred to **The Medaille Trust**. In the charity's refuge, she and her daughter were given the kindness and professional support they so badly needed. Her daughter was doing really well at school and Yolanda was learning that she was not alone and nor was she to blame for the terrible things that had happened.

On that chilly April morning in the Immigration Tribunal building, our hearts sank when Yolanda's barrister warned us that the UKBA had sent along their most aggressive barrister who would do all he could to discredit her. Yolanda, who has been diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder, was silent and anxious. Julie and I tried to be upbeat for her sake but I felt sick with dread as I walked into that courtroom. Fortunately, the Judge (a woman) seemed very aware of Yolanda's vulnerability and treated her gently but as we expected she faced tough questioning from the UKBA barrister who tried to make her out to be a liar. He seemed extremely pleased with himself until the Judge reminded him a second time that he was dealing with a vulnerable witness and should be less adversarial. Although at one point he provoked Yolanda to the point of tears, she responded with an impressive dignity. Julie Shanley from **The Medaille Trust** spoke eloquently about the trauma she and her young daughter had undergone and the help they would need to recover and then the two barristers made final submissions. The UKBA man took just seven minutes but Yolanda's barrister spoke at length, referring to other legal cases involving trafficking. Dismissing the court, the Judge said it might take four weeks for her to read all the documents carefully and make a decision.

In my voluntary work supporting asylum seekers, I have learned to expect the worst. Too often decisions seem arbitrary and unfair. So I was overjoyed when, nearly six weeks after the hearing, Yolanda phoned to say she had won her appeal. She no longer has the terror of being sent back to the place where her torment began. Although she will need a lot more counselling and support to rebuild her life, she and her daughter have been given back their future.

Jenny Cuffe is a volunteer with SWVG, Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group, which befriends and supports asylum seekers and refugees.



For more information you can contact the group at SWVG, PO Box 1615, Southampton, SO17 3WF or by email to info@SWVG-refugees.org. Visit the website: <http://swvg-refugees.org.uk>

The Pottery Shop Therapy



My name is Claire, and I am a support worker at **The Medaille Trust** as well as an Artist; I do the occasional shift in a local Pottery Shop. Sometimes I will take the clients to the Pottery Shop; it is a relaxing and therapeutic activity. I started taking clients in 2012 and have found they all enjoy this activity very much and describe it as a way to release stress and forget about their problems for a short while. I believe that to be creative is one of the best ways to let go of any worries you may have and just immerse yourself in the present time and concentrate on what you are creating.

We have gone in groups as big as 10 and on these occasions I have held sessions where I have provided clay and just let them create whatever they like. This has given them the chance to be free and make their own decision, something that their traffickers took away from them for a long time.

These trips have been a fun and an important part of the client's recovery and I have encouraged more creativity within the houses too. Sometimes I have provided clay and tools for the clients to use at home as I understand that some days there is just not the energy to leave the house.

We are currently taking on volunteers who will be coming into the house and holding Art activities. I think this will have a very positive effect on the clients and speed up the recovery process. There are some things that people cannot say or express but through Art it can be a way to do all of these things.

We have a Romanian, female client who has recently escaped her abusive trafficker who would make her prostitute herself. She came to the Pottery Shop and at first she was quite hesitant to paint anything. I encouraged her and showed her some things other people had made

and she was happy to try. It turns out she is a fantastic free hand drawer and painted a beautiful rose onto a piece of pottery.

This rainbow lady in the photograph was made by one of our ex female clients who is from Kenya. She was accused of witchcraft and murdering her husband which caused her to flee for her and her daughter's own safety. She was brought to the UK by some one who called himself a priest and told her he could provide a safe place for her and her daughter. On her arrival in the UK it was a different story and she was forced to have sex with men as a prostitute where she would receive no money and was made to believe if she ran or told the police then they would send her home. She has since been given leave to remain in the UK which means she will not have to return back to Kenya where she could be killed. Her and her daughter with the help of **The Medaille Trust** are now in independent living and not living in fear.

"I believe to be creative is one of the best ways to let go of any worries"

News from Northern Services



SAM BAXENDALE
Service Manager

As service manager at Medaille Northern Services, I have an active interest in supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities and I am passionate about the challenges and rewards my job brings.



ADELE BARAKAT
Victim Care Facilitator

I'm very excited to be in my new role with Medaille. As a qualified Counsellor I am looking forward to working with the residents at the Northern Services' house to provide the practical and emotional support they may need. I am currently developing wellbeing activities and recruiting volunteers to be involved with Medaille.



HANA WAHEED
Administrator

Working to help vulnerable people have a better future brings me job satisfaction. After a recent trip to Cambodia where I volunteered in a charity for human trafficking, I saw the impact it had on the victims, from then I wanted to work for an organisation such as 'The Medaille Trust'

Hello - my name is Samantha Baxendale and I have now been the service manager for our Northern Project since April this year. I am glad to say that this has been a most enjoyable and at times a challenging experience.

We currently have a five bed contract funded by the Government and have now opened up our second stage move on accommodation to help those women who wish to remain within the service with some support. This service provision has been opened to all services/organisations across the UK as this is a specific service for females. We have generated some interest and hopefully these beds will start to be utilised in the near future.

We have recently had three clients who have been trafficked over to the UK for forced labour purposes, all of whom were rescued by the Police in an undercover operation and have been assisting the Police with bringing the perpetrators to justice. One of the gentlemen in

question was repatriated immediately as his wife was expecting a baby within the next three days of his arrival and so there was a real sense of urgency to assist him with returning home. The other two gentlemen have now returned to Europe and have been offered work with a reputable agency.

We have had another couple who having received a conclusive grounds decision that they are victims of trafficking have now been offered accommodation in a hotel in the North and have made the decision to stay in the UK.

We have recently had a client from Asia move in with us which has been a particularly complicated case. It has involved working through many issues, appointments with multiple agencies and a host of immigration concerns. Accommodation in the National Asylum Support Services has now been secured and it is hoped the client can begin to move on in their life in the near future

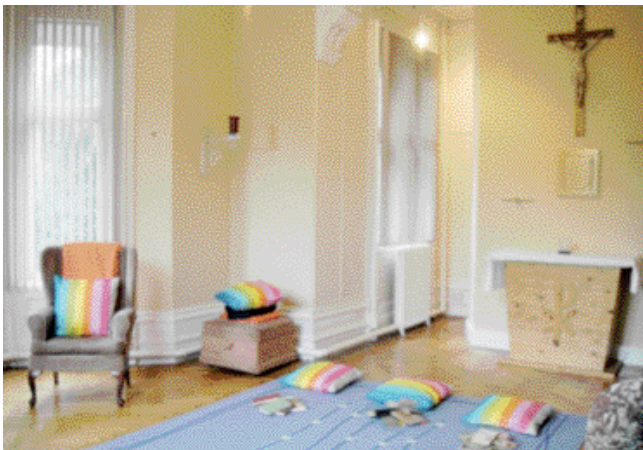
"... people are afraid of the consequences they could face"

'only two (clients) have decided to return to their home country stating that the language is too difficult to learn!'

Our client wants to assist the Police with finding their traffickers, however there are genuine concerns about the impact and repercussions that this might have on their family and loved ones back home, people are afraid of the consequences they could face and so this is a very real threat to their welfare and safety.

We have now been fortunate to have our new Victim Care Facilitator, Adele, join us. Adele has been extremely proactive in her ideas and in implementing various programmes to support our clients - over to Adele!!

Since April we have supported numerous clients with move on and most have successfully adapted to life in the UK, only two have decided to return to their home country stating that the language is too difficult to learn!



The Quiet room - a place for worship, prayer, reflection, meditation



One of our resident's bedrooms

CASE STUDY - Lucy

We currently work with a victim of human trafficking who has been forced to work in the sex industry.

Our client is a young transgender, pre-operative person from Asia. They were brought to the UK in the belief that they would be able to have a job as a house maid within the London area.

Unfortunately they were forced to work in a brothel as a prostitute and this has had a huge impact on their emotional and physical wellbeing. She managed to escape her traffickers and came to The Medaille Trust after being rescued by the Police.

We are now in the process of supporting our client with her asylum claim in the hope that she will be able to remain within the UK to work as a hairdresser - something she was qualified for back home prior to being trafficked to the UK.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

October 2013



The Medaille Trust does not normally engage in the Party Political Conference circuit but an invitation from the Christian Socialist Movement (CSM) to be, along with International Justice Mission (IJM), a featured charity at the opening ecumenical church service was too good to miss. The service was well attended and Ed Miliband spoke about the need for Social Justice. Our Project Director, Mike Emberson, was 'interviewed' by Zoe Hart from CSM and the highlights are below:

What is the Medaille Trust?

The Medaille Trust is a charity formed in 2006 by Catholic Religious to fight against human trafficking in every way possible but particularly to make a significant contribution to the care of victims of this horrific trade.

What are you doing at the moment?

Our major focus continues to be on the provision of safe housing - we run services across England that support victims rescued from their traffickers offering support such as counselling, health care, legal advice and language lessons that allows victims to recover from their ordeal and begin to make informed decisions about their future. We encourage victims to cooperate in prosecution of offenders and make arrangements for them to return home or resettle in the UK - whichever is appropriate. As well as this we carry out some awareness raising and educational work in schools and communities in the UK.



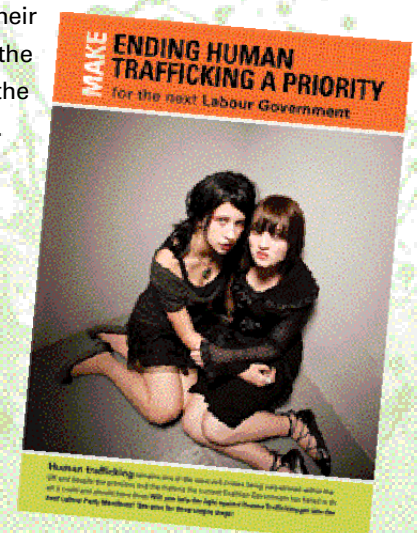
Our latest ventures are international - we are working in partnership with groups in Kenya and Albania to explore projects that will provide effective programmes that prevent people being trafficked in the first place.

What are your hopes for the future?

Well there is the beauty queen answer 'a world free of trafficking' but we are more pragmatic. We are looking for better support for rescued victims in the UK and adequate Government resources allocated to funding that support. More prosecution of traffickers to improve the UK's woeful record in this area is also a priority. A greater understanding that this is a human rights issue would also be useful so that decisions in this area are not being made by immigration officials.

What message would you leave for people?

Educate yourself about this dreadful crime - become aware. Get all Governments, current and future, to make this a priority and put it in their manifestos. Pray for the victims and pray for the end of this evil trade.



(Right) The Medaille Trust 'flyer' - 5,000 were distributed calling on the Labour Party to make the fight against human trafficking a manifesto priority

"Pray for the victims and pray for the end of this evil trade"

A VISIT TO KENYA



In July 2013 it was decided to develop our partnership with Mama Margaret's in Kenya by visiting the project and to meet a request we had received for some pro bono consultancy on developing their business model. Our Project Director Mike Emberson formed one part of the visit and Garry Smith from GenesisTCC Ltd - a business consultancy - formed the other half of the team.

The first thing to say has got to be how impressive the project run by the Salesian Sisters is. Nestled in the heart of Dagoretti - a sprawling slum near Nairobi - it offers an oasis of tranquillity amongst the squalor, deprivation and violence of the surrounding shanty town.

With the exception of Sister Eleanor, a staunch Scot, the other Sisters are all Kenyan and the Love of Christ shines out brightly in all they do. The Sisters' craft and workshop facilities are widely used by the local 'Mamas' as an alternative and honourable source of employment in the slum that allows them to feed and support themselves and their families. As such it keeps a substantial number of women safe from traffickers and exploiters.

Perhaps the second thing to say is to recognise the air of dignity that surrounds the project. Dignity for the Mamas and their children, dignity for the Sisters and dignity for visitors - a quality of human interaction often missing from the lives of the women.

Mike assures everyone he worked very hard but it is fair to say that Garry did the lion's share by providing an audit

and then advice on procurement, division of labour, costings, quality management, pricing and distribution. The focus was on helping Mama Margaret's understand the cost and value of the goods they were producing, how to price them to create a surplus for further good works and how to get them to **The Medaille Trust**. It is Mike's challenge to find a way to sell the attractive items (see photos) in the UK.

Working together **Medaille Trust** and Mama Margaret's can make a difference.



*Below Left: Sr Lucy and quality control
Below Middle: Garry Smith checks the figures
Below Right: Some of the goods*



IT HAPPENS HERE:

Equipping the United Kingdom to fight modern slavery



A comprehensive report was launched in March 2013 gathering evidence from across the UK on the nature, extent and responses to modern slavery in the UK. Nearly two hundred individuals and organisations were interviewed over two years. The report then went on to make eighty recommendations as to how the UK could begin to deliver a coherent baseline response to the issue.

A lot of media interest and coverage was created with a guarded response from the UK Government. The report highlighted how much was still to be done if the UK was to have a credible response to the scourge of modern slavery. The weight of evidence showed that there were five key areas that needed focus:

- Injecting new and effective leadership to match the seriousness of the crime;
- Developing better information about the extent and pattern of modern slavery in the UK in order to bring clarity and transform our national and local responses;
- Equipping those on the frontline to recognise modern slavery and act;
- Offering more compassionate and radical support to rebuild the lives of survivors and
- Ensuring that the business community plays its part to stamp out this crime, including by ensuring transparency in their global supply chains.

To prevent the report from gathering dust, we continued our on-going dialogue with the government that had started during the evidence and report writing phases, about how the recommendations could be implemented. I was asked to chair the Home Office's Joint Strategic Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery and invited to join the Inter Departmental Ministerial Group to effectively continue the discussions.

We were delighted when the Home Secretary decided to announce the Modern Slavery Act.

It is currently proposed by the Home Secretary that the Modern Slavery Act, with a focus on the prosecution and disruption of slavery will encompass these five main areas:

- Bring all modern slavery offences under one Act
- Introduction of an Anti-Slavery Commissioner
- Introduction of trafficking prevention orders
- Transparency in Company Supply Chains
- Increase police powers to board, intervene and instruct vessels on the high seas.

Everyone agrees that this bill is a good first step in changing the UK's response to modern slavery. In order for us to take effective action against modern slavery it is clear we need to develop superior methods to really tackle this increasing crime. We must not forget the perpetrators of the crime of slavery are absolutely determined, driven, highly organised and utterly ruthless in their treatment of human life as a mere commodity to be bought and sold. To put an end to this war on humanity we need to be better-equipped and new legislation is a part of this process.

Moreover, we need a victim-focused response that doesn't hinder the prosecution and conviction of criminals but has clear legislation under one Act, with tough sentences for the perpetrators. Remember that victims of slavery are just that - they are first and foremost victims. They have been deceived, forced, harmed and exploited. Often misinterpreted as immunity from prosecution; the individual's status as a victim of modern slavery must be considered from the start. Victim centred strategy remains at the core of what **Medaille Trust**, Unseen and other service providers working with survivors do.

Finally, engaging the business community is vital. 82 per cent of those interviewed in a YouGov poll (for the Centre for Social Justice) said large companies should have to report in their annual reports on their efforts to ensure modern slavery isn't part of their business practices. Making businesses accountable on their efforts to eliminate slavery from their supply chains makes not only ethical but also commercial sense. Finally, focused leadership will help give a more strategic and consistent approach to this battle.

The report led the government to act by announcing the Modern Slavery Act. Implementation of the bill and coordinating all effort to eradicate modern day slavery is the next step.

Andrew Wallis

*Andrew Wallis is the CEO of Unseen (www.unseenuk.org) - a charity established to disrupt and challenge modern slavery. Andrew is the Chair of the Centre for Social Justice's landmark report: *It Happens Here: Equipping the United Kingdom to fight Modern Slavery* <http://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/publications/it-happens-here-equipping-the-united-kingdom-to-fight-modern-slavery>, which led to the government adopting the majority of its recommendations and the proposed new Modern Slavery Act and independent Commissioner to lead the UK's response. He currently serves as Chair of the Home Office's Joint Strategy Group on Human Trafficking. He is a Member of both the UK Inter Departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking and the EU Civil Society Platform on combatting human trafficking.*

What happens in the Cyber Space?

As per the Oxford English Dictionary, the proper definition of social media is: "the use of web-based and mobile technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogue." In simple words, it is like a dinner party where guests arrive with presents - instead of wine or flowers, think kind words or photos. Begin with slight conversation and during dinner, share stories; controversial viewpoints start debates.

Golden rule of social media

Do not just jump into a conversation and start asking for money - even if people know it is a fundraising platform!

Why all the Fuss?

Facebook

Over 500 million active users (Jan 2011)

250 million log on everyday

One in 13 people in the world on Facebook!

There are 30,595,980 Facebook users
in the United Kingdom alone!

(www.socialbakers.com, March 2012)

Twitter

180 million unique visitors per month.

You Tube

Over 2 billion people view every day.

Source: newphilanthropycapital.wordpress.com

How it all started?

The Medaille Trust facebook page was set up on 24 April 2012. Today the average weekly reach of the page is 500 people. The page has been growing from strength to strength ever since it was formed. There are however, some concerns remain that are common to all of you.



To visit the Medaille Trust facebook page go to:
www.facebook.com/MedailleTrust

Who can visit the facebook page?

Anybody is able to visit and 'like' the facebook page. However, they will not be able to post any photo or videos on it.



Who is using it now?

Staff, Volunteers and Friends of The Medaille Trust are on the facebook page now.

What if someone posts explicit content on the Medaille Trust page?

Administrators will delete the content immediately. Report the person posting it resulting in their profile being blocked by facebook forever!

Who has admin rights to the page?

Staff and Consultants of The Medaille Trust chosen to update the facebook page.

How does The Medaille Trust monitor the facebook page?

Insights - facebook has built in monitoring mechanism to trace visits and visitor profiles.

How is social media more efficient than what we have always done?

It is NOT on its own. However, it is a strong catalyst in pushing messages across to large groups of people in the shortest time span!

It is safe as the content is controlled and monitored by the administrator. So go ahead and visit our facebook page, like us, promote us and keep in touch with us.

Social media for the young reader

Thanks to Ben Shepherd, Trustee, Medaille Trust we are on Twitter now. Ben has been tweeting about the Medaille Trust regularly. Those of you who are active on twitter, do follow his tweets and share your own.

Go to <https://twitter.com/MedailleTrust>



Lakshmi Kaul, Editor, The Medaille News

LAURA'S HOUSE

A Safe Haven for Trafficking Victims in Norway

Laura's House is a safe house for victims of trafficking in Norway. The inspiration behind the safe house is Laura Nadheim, who was a caring woman who spent her life trying to help women working on the streets. I am told she was a selfless soul and that she actually died in post during 1967, waiting outside in the cold for someone to be released from "Botsen", the local jail in Oslo.



Laura died many years ago, but she has remained an inspiration and helps to remind us of what social work should be about. Her picture is strategically placed when you enter Laura's House, as if she is welcoming you and wishing that she can help relieve some of your pain somehow.

Laura's House is organised under Nadheim, a part of the church city mission in Oslo, Norway. Nadheim has existed for more than thirty years now, being a centre where victims of prostitution (male and female) can seek care, counselling and help. Nadheim is trying to map how prostitution is organised in Norway. The staff at Nadheim not only assist victims to leave prostitution but also to hear their stories of violence and loss of freedom. All these men and women have at some point unwillingly travelled through Europe and have been forced to work as sex slaves, and found it very hard to escape.

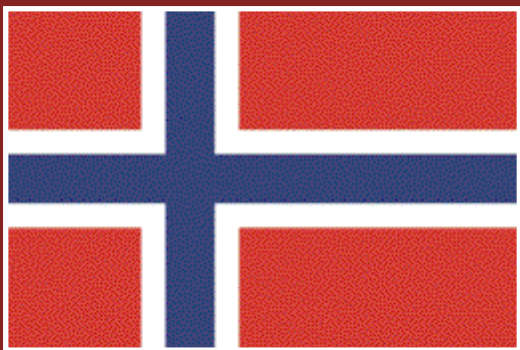
The rescued victims of trafficking in Norway, either live in a state shelter or if they are lucky, in a crisis centre. Laura's House is, for just a few of them, a one of a kind safe house, an initiative taken by Nadheim and made possible with government funding from several state departments.

“. . . the residents are slowly able to form and function in normal relations with others.”

The project has grown in experience since it started four years back - it completed 5 years in September this year. When it started, the purpose was primarily to provide safe living quarters with easy access to social workers. We anticipated single women from Eastern Europe and/or Asia. The reality was that the project has had several pregnant women enter, whom we have followed up closely in their pregnancies and births. Most of the women in the project so far have come from Nigeria.

In the first four years 19 women with 12 children have passed through Laura's House. Initially residence was expected to be for 6 months, in reality the average time is around 2.5 or more years. The reason for this being mainly that it takes a long time to reach a final decision concerning whether or not the person gets to remain in the country legally. You can stay at Laura's House regardless of your legal status - asylum seeker or in the reflection period. In fact, many have changed status during their stay. This was one of the more important issues for the founders. Also after permission is granted to remain in Norway, it is increasingly difficult to find living quarters for this group of people, either they get help from the local commune (county) which, depending on the type of granted stay, many get, or they have to go out to the private rented sector.

The laws exist to help these victims to settle down, but the systemic delays and of course, the lack of opportunities, causes further delays. This waiting period is the hardest for them, hardened further by the number of restrictions, limited means, fewer rights and possibilities.



'the staff help the residents to re-establish interpersonal relationships.'

One positive aspect of this is that the staff help the residents to re-establish interpersonal relationships by focusing on areas that are highly damaged in these individuals. As an outcome, the residents are slowly able to form and function in normal relations with others, and able to develop adequate parenting skills when traumatised, even though they never had role models themselves worth following.

Even though Laura's House does not practice treatment or therapy in its true form, that is still close to what goes on in the main house, which contains 5 separate apartments plus quarters for staff. Three other apartments are connected to the project at other locations around Oslo, and they function as the next stage where some residents may move when the need for direct help is decreased.

The main areas we focus on are mental and physical health, activities, advocacy concerning permits to stay, network/relations and the cultural integration aspects of being in a new country. These focused areas are pretty much the same today as the original ones when the project started, giving credibility to Nadheim's mapping of what the needs of this group are.

The project is still a project, but with a kind of blessing from the government as we have been and still are an official part of the Norwegian nation's plan against human trafficking, and we receive positive feedback on how we are functioning and developing.

So, what are our challenges for the future?

The project has evolved in shape, form and structure but still needs to go a long way. We have learned a lot about facilitation, intervention and rehabilitation for these residents and transforming them into positive contributing members of the community. We see that the largest obstacle for this group lies not within themselves, but in the public system with its twists and turns and the long periods of waiting. We see this as a unique, one of a kind project, we can provide useful insights to those higher up in the system about the real needs of trafficking victims. In a small country such as Norway there is a real possibility of influencing change. The distance between a Government Minister and a social worker can as we have experienced, be reduced to a kitchen table and two cups of coffee.

Last year, in November we had the opportunity to visit one of **Medaille Trust's** Safe Houses. It gave us precious inspiration and a possibility to connect with others who are dedicated to working for trafficking victims. We learned that as social workers, we are not that far apart, with of course, our local set of procedures and practices but the two different nations have larger differences when it comes to regulations and laws.

Thanks to Mike Emberson, Bernice Anderson and all the others we had the pleasure of meeting, for welcoming and taking such good care of us. Hope to see some of you soon in Oslo!!

Eva Kristin Aune, Project Leader



Human Trafficking in India

What if every morning you woke up to immense physical, mental and sexual abuse? What if you are held captive in a shanty building with dozens of others with not enough food and water?



What if you realised that you've been sold to a child trafficker for a mere 800 Rupees and that your life is never going to be the same again? What if there was absolutely no one to hear your plight? What if there was no escaping? What if?

Every year, approximately 90 per cent of the 200,000 humans trafficked in India are victims of inter-state trafficking and are sold within the country. Trafficked under false promises of a better life and a sustainable job, some are sold to the traffickers due to intense poverty. There are many who fall prey to bride trafficking or bride buying. Kids as young as a mere 5 years old are sold to massively operated begging networks and as bonded labour in small-scale factories like manufacturing of fire crackers, light bulbs, bangle making, production of toys etc. These children are forced to work long hours and are given minimal pay.

According to a 6 year long analysis conducted by Empower People - one of the pioneer organisations in India focusing on the issue of human trafficking, 23 per cent of girls from West Bengal are trafficked. Bihar is next at 17 per cent followed by Assam at 13 per cent, Andhra Pradesh at 11 per cent, Orissa and Kerala at 8 per cent and 6 per cent respectively. These are, however, only numbers. The lives of today's trafficked women, girls, children and youth in India is cloaked with secrecy. These people do not have a voice, nor do they have the social-standing or resources to find one and raise it. Although, there are hundreds of organisations working around-the-clock to stop this menace, yet, the problem is on the rise.

Consider the case of Avtar aged 10, who hailed from a very poor family in a small village in a rural surrounding. His uncle lured him with the promise of a better life with food, education and a place to live in. Avtar readily agreed to go with him. Once in the city, his uncle sold him along with three other children to a child trafficker for Rs 800 (8.50 Euros approx). A few months later, a fire broke out in the room where the children were kept captive. Avtar died in the fire. His uncle was informed of the deaths and as compensation was paid Rs 500 (5.50 Euros approx). Sadly, his mother was never told about her son's death.

Rani, aged 23, was trafficked to UK when she was only 10. She was sent as a domestic help by her parents because they could not afford to feed their 6 children in India. For almost a decade, Rani was emotionally, physically and mentally abused by her 'owners'. She was not allowed to leave the house premises nor talk to anyone outside the house. She was unpaid and was forced to work for long hours. Ill-fed and ill-kept, Rani had to run away in order to find a better life for herself. Instead, due to lack of money, education and support, she was caught in the malicious web of sex trafficking.

What fuels human trafficking is poverty. What aggravates it is violence. What makes it a menace is the lack of opportunities and injustice. What makes the victims vulnerable is their wish for survival. What traps them into slavery is their wish to access basic human needs.

Human trafficking is not someone else's problem. It is ours. It is US who will have to fight against poverty and will have to uphold human dignity. We will have to stand against the violation of human rights and stand up to protect the integrity of the human person.

If not us, then who? If not now, then when?

Sugam Singhal



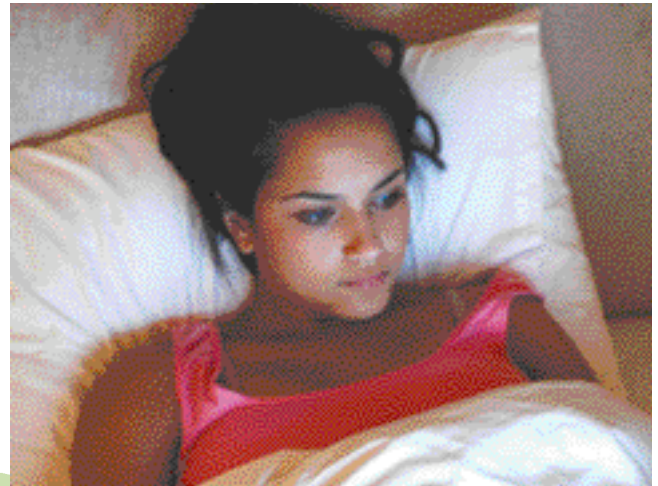
Diary of a Child Protection Officer

Phoolamati, now aged 20, from Thuttiamma village recounts her story as she ran away from home with a placement agent who promised her good money and a good life to work as a domestic help in Delhi. Seven years later she returned pregnant, empty handed with nothing to fall back on.

Phoolamati says when she left with the agent, an older girl from the neighbouring village, she had no idea of where she was going or who would she be working for. Then, at barely 12 yrs of age, the option of running away from poverty and a village where in her words, "even soap is not available" was enough to lure her away. Phoolamati is, today still open to going back to the city. She needs money to take care of her child; she sees the future lies in the city where she could resume some paid work. This time however she says she will be better informed. When asked if she was willing to share her experiences with other girls who may be just as vulnerable as she was a couple of years ago, she reluctantly says yes.

Phoolamati met a group of adolescent girls, between the age group of 14-19 years in Teetertoli village, who'd all come back (some for Christmas) after their stint in Delhi. Shy at first, the girls slowly opened up about their experiences - some favourable and a few rather alarming. It was observed that the girls who were closely related or known to the trafficking agent were placed in 'decent' households and had regular checks built in to ensure that their contact with their family members is maintained, that they are able to come back home at least once a year and that money reaches their village regularly. However, there was one case where a girl had to suffer serious physical abuse at the hands of the landlord and escaped after getting pregnant, when she was only 13 yrs of age. 90 per cent of the girls admitted that they hadn't received payment as had been promised to them.

A huge area concerning regulations is apparently rather very weak or non-existent, as a result of which the placement agencies mostly at the destination point (Delhi) are able to get away with violations of norms pertaining to safety, security and protection of their rights and entitlements. There's a clear demand and supply chain that thrives primarily because of the strong collusion among the local agents and the placement agencies. The very first step of experiencing abuse and exploitation starts with the moment the girl is handed over to the agency at the destination point. It's also worth mentioning there is a lack of coordinated efforts and awareness at village, community, local government and beyond to ensure the girls who go out on labour migration as domestic help to cities are safe, secure



and are governed by certain parameters within this unorganised employment sector. This is compounded by the fact that there's no system of registration that exists which can tell one how many girls have migrated out and so on. Gaps in information with respect to rescue and re-integration needs closer research and this will hopefully better inform the strategy to address the issue.

Certain proactive measures have been taken to address the issue and according to Superintendent of Police, Chhatisgarh in the last 6 months, almost 96 girls have been rescued and brought back to the villages. Missing person's data of the last 10 years is being collated to ensure that 4-5 years old cases are acted upon. Information, Education and Communication materials such as posters/ pamphlets are underway. A toll free Government Telephone Helpline and CHILDLINE has been instituted, which was one of the key recommendations of one of the consultations held in 2011.

UNICEF undertook 3 consultations in partnership with district administration in 2011 that helped gain better understanding on the magnitude of the issue, its various dimensions including what views stakeholders held and what actions they were taking. Apart from community level engagement, a draft campaign strategy to address trafficking is being developed and inputs will be sought in the forthcoming State consultation followed by a plan for implementation in partnership with district administration and civil society groups.

Gargi Saha,
Child Protection Officer, UNICEF
Contact: gsaha@unicef.org

THANK YOU

The Medaille Trust is profoundly grateful to all who support our work. Financial support, gifts in kind, gifts of time through volunteering, words of advice and kindness are all received with thanks. Prayer and properties, support and supplies are some of the gifts received. A big thank you to all of those who have helped - visible and in the background. Particular thanks to those who have elected to remain anonymous. Thanks to Trustees, volunteers and staff. Without your support we could not do what we do.

Thanks to:

- Religious Orders
- Churches large and small!
- Mother's Union
- Porticus
- COR Scotland
- Knights of St Colomba
- Catholic Women's league
- Justice and Peace groups large and small
- Garfield Weston Trust
- Individual Donors

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- Restoring Hands
- Gangmasters Licensing Authority
- Human Trafficking Foundation
- Love146
- Sophie Hayes Foundation
- Mama Margaret's
- Genesis Ltd
- International Justice Mission
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- Stop The Traffik
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- Mary Ward Loreto
- DMK Consultancy
- CARE
- Christian Socialist Movement
- Whypoll Trust
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"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

(James 1:17)

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We urgently need properties throughout the UK to continue our work and meet the needs of the victims we care for. If you have a property you could make available at no cost to the Trust please write to us care of the Caritas address.

The Medaille Trust is a Charity founded by Catholic religious congregations to work for the **eradication of human trafficking** and to offer **support** to those who have been trafficked.

Believing in the **intrinsic dignity** and **worth** of every individual we provide **safe housing** and **specialist services** for rehabilitation and **raise awareness** of these modern forms of slavery.



Medaille Trust, c/o Caritas Diocese of Salford, Cathedral Centre, 3 Ford Street, Salford M3 6DP
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