

## **Media Release**

**January 2010**

### **Charity well-placed at London Gatwick Airport to combat human trafficking**

#### **Launch of STOP UK posters January 29 2010**

The charity STOP UK (Supporting Trafficked & Oppressed People) believe they have taken a significant step in the struggle to counter human trafficking, by now having a case worker for the charity at London Gatwick Airport.

STOP UK posters raising awareness of this criminal offence will now be displayed both landside and airside to the airport.

STOP UK is working in partnership with UK Border Agency (UKBA), UK Border Agency (UKBARI) and Sussex Police.

The outreach work by STOP UK supplements the work undertaken by these agencies in relation to the prevention of human trafficking.

The charity is supporting the authorities in their difficult task of assisting vulnerable individuals who are being coerced by traffickers, from exploitation in the UK. The potential victims are given the opportunity to consider the advice and help offered from the charity. Much of the relevant assistance given at this point is crucial as it is an area within the authorities' control and beyond the traffickers' reach.

Her Majesty's Inspector Jackie Morey says: "The UK Border Agency aims to make the UK a hostile environment for trafficking, and protect victims and potential victims from this abhorrent crime.

We are glad to have STOP UK working with us to achieve this. They provide assistance and advice on safety to vulnerable passengers who are at risk of being exploited by others."

The charity's patron Lord Carlile of Berriew Q.C says: "STOP UK forms part of a partnership of agencies working together at Gatwick Airport. Effective protection is being provided against trafficking and many other ills. The continuation of these schemes for the protection of the public and especially for vulnerable men and women remain vital."

This aims of partnership, combined with the poster campaign will:

- Benefit individuals over the age of 16 and age-disputed individuals vulnerable to human trafficking
- Harness the expertise of STOP UK in support of the primary role of Sussex Police, UKBA and the GIU, in the disruption of human trafficking activities and to provide additional resources to tackle the problem

- Help raise awareness of the crime of human trafficking among airport-based service providers and staff
- Act as a call to action for those with information about human trafficking
- Help raise awareness to the general public, passing through Gatwick Airport, of the crime that is modern day slavery.

**'Prevention before Tragedy' 'Make it STOP'**

**Media Enquiries**

Please contact Brian Cowan at the charity STOP UK on 07752 478549 or email [media@stop-uk.org](mailto:media@stop-uk.org)

**Available for interview:** Lord Carlile QC Brian Cowan CEO Juliet Singer

**Images available:**

- STOP logo
- STOP UK Gatwick poster

**Notes to Editor:** STOP (Trafficking UK) is a charity established to support trafficked people and raise awareness of the urgent problem of modern day slavery in the UK. (Registered Charity No. 1116332)

STOP operates a confidential helpline **0844 800 33 14** to provide support and advice to those who find themselves victims of forced labour, domestic servitude or prostitution.

Donations can be made online at [www.justgiving.com/stopuk](http://www.justgiving.com/stopuk)

For further information visit [www.stop-uk.org](http://www.stop-uk.org)

**Key facts:**

Human trafficking is thought to have a turnover exceeding US \$10 billion. Estimates suggest that the number of people trafficked annually is between 600,000 (US government figure) and three million (International Labour Organisation figure).

**STOP can provide a support network and assistance with:**

Rescue and shelter, physical and medical conditions, legal problems, family tracing, witness co-ordination.