



Trust for London

Tackling poverty and inequality

A photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white textured sweater, looking down at a small object in her hands. She is positioned in front of a window with white lace curtains. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window. A teal banner is overlaid at the bottom of the image.

# A Chance to Be Free

## Tackling Modern Day Slavery final report

Rachael Takens-Milne

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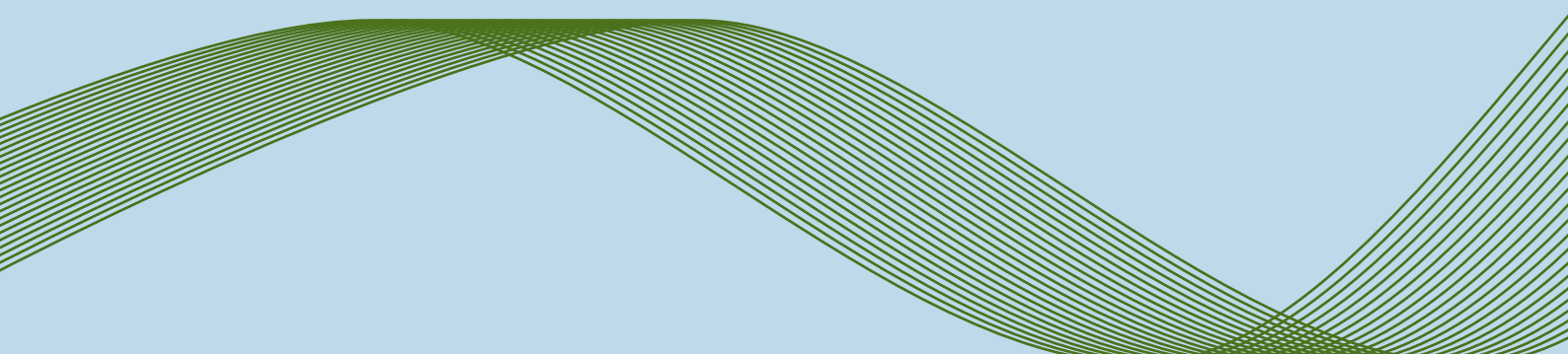
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Cover Photography: Karen Robinson/Panos

Egle (23) from Lithuania was trafficked five times in four years, including to the UK.

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## About Trust for London

Trust for London is one of the largest independent charitable foundations in London, providing grants to the voluntary and community sector of over £6 million per annum. Its mission is tackling poverty and inequality in London. During the period that this report covers, we changed our name from City Parochial Foundation to Trust for London<sup>1</sup> – we have used Trust for London throughout to minimise confusion.

## About Tackling Modern Day Slavery

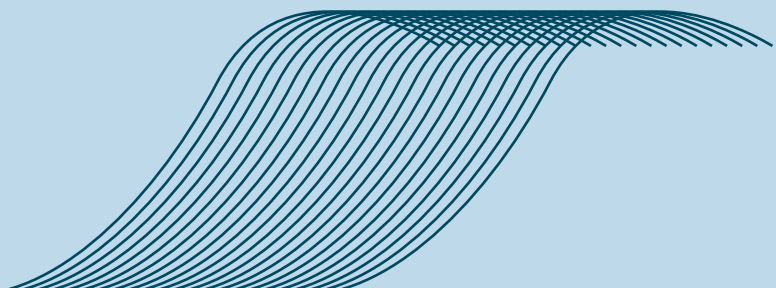
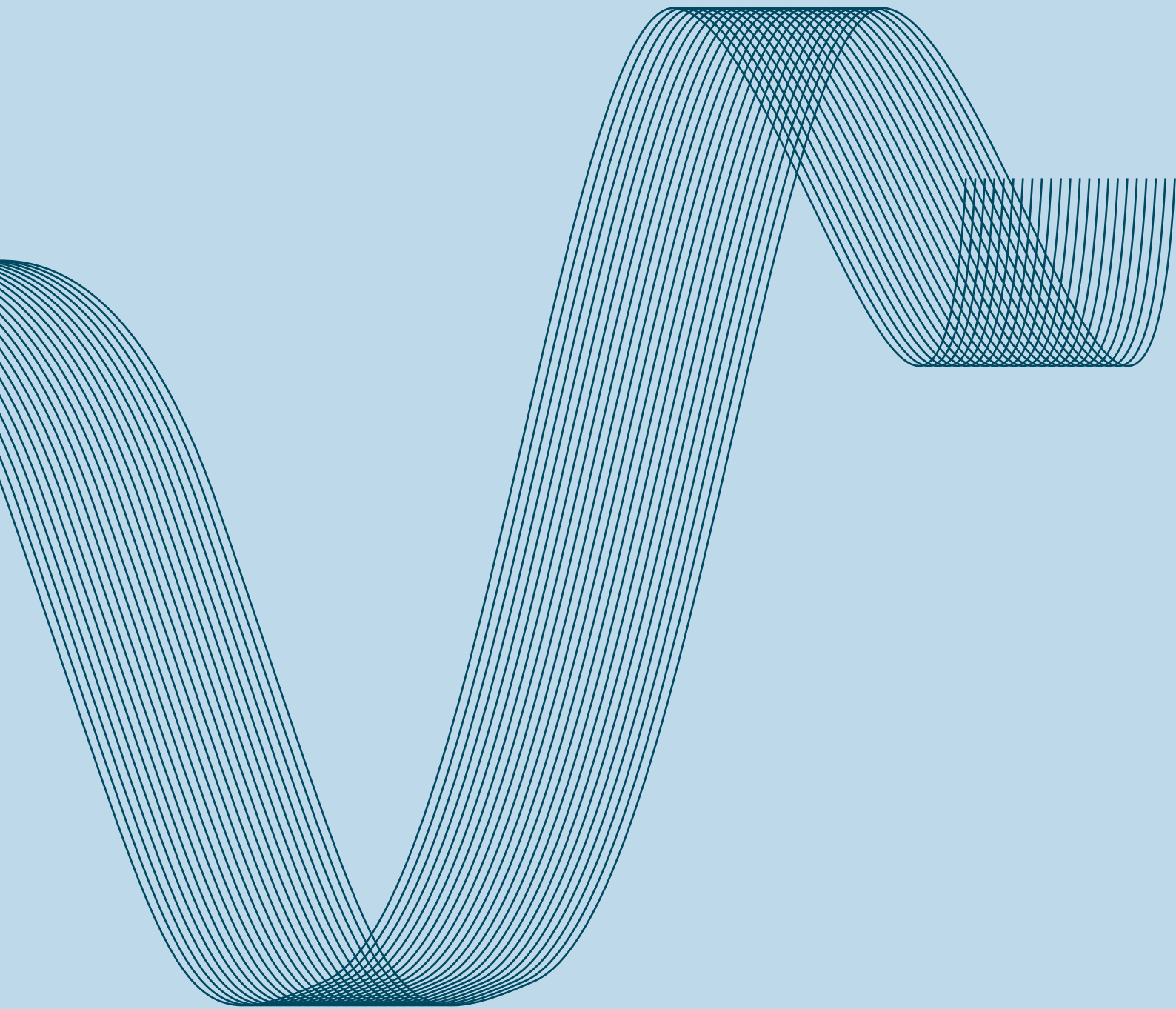
The Tackling Modern Day Slavery special initiative was established by Trust for London in 2007 to contribute to strategic developments in work challenging human trafficking, domestic servitude, forced labour and prostitution. The initiative fitted strongly with our mission: London is a major international transit and destination centre for victims of trafficking and exploitation, who are among the most marginalised people in the capital.

Trust for London invested almost £600,000 in this initiative, alongside staff time to convene networking meetings, organise events and training, broker links with other stakeholders and share learning and knowledge with other funders. Our funding included grants to:

1. **Anti-Slavery International** – £110,000 over three years towards policy and campaigning work on trafficking, especially adults in forced labour.
2. **Eaves** – £148,000 over three years to employ an Exiting Prostitution Development Officer to research and develop strategies for women who wish to leave prostitution.
3. **ECPAT UK** – £107,000 over three years to employ a campaigns officer to strengthen its campaigning against the trafficking of children.
4. **Kalayaan** – £93,700 over three years towards the costs of the Community Support Worker, for advice and advocacy with migrant domestic workers (MDWs).
5. **Women and Girls Network** – £66,000 over three years to maintain and develop the Butterfly Project, the trafficked women's counselling and support service.

In addition, in 2009, a one-year grant of £48,000 was made for the **Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Project** to gather, analyse and report on evidence about the UK's implementation of its new obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. The project is a partnership of NGOs, including four from the initiative, and is hosted by Anti-Slavery International. It is co-funded by Comic Relief.

<sup>1</sup> City Parochial Foundation and our sister fund Trust for London amalgamated on 30 June 2010. The new organisation is known as Trust for London and continues to give out funding of approximately £6 million a year





## Introduction

This report reflects on more than three years of the Tackling Modern Day Slavery special initiative. It aims to review and report on the whole initiative, which is ending during 2010, and to share the learning and achievements with others, especially policy-makers, independent funders like us, and other agencies in the voluntary sector. It also updates the interim report<sup>2</sup> published in Autumn 2008.

An important caveat is that much of what has been achieved, particularly in campaigning, is thanks to a whole range of individuals and organisations, not just those funded by this initiative. The report includes those achievements where there is evidence of the significant contribution to change made by post-holders the Trust has funded. It is not in any way intended to take all the credit, least of all for the Trust itself. By the same token, this report reflects only a small part of all that the organisations have achieved over this period; it is not a comprehensive reflection of the progress that has been made (nor the challenges faced) in tackling trafficking and exploitation in the UK.



Photo: Helen McGhie

<sup>2</sup> Takens-Milne, R. (2008) *Tackling Modern Day Slavery: an interim report on the special initiative*, London: City Parochial Foundation

## Background

We established this special initiative to mark the bicentenary of the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade in 2007. It also responded to an opportune policy context. The UK Human Trafficking Centre (UKHTC) had been created in 2006 as a central, co-ordinating body for police and other agency activity. The then Prime Minister, Tony Blair, announced his intention to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings in January 2007. Whilst the commitment was warmly welcomed, it was crucial that this was translated into real change through ratification (and hence implementation) of the Convention.

In parallel, in 2006, the Government published a strategy, which for the first time challenged the view that 'prostitution is inevitable'<sup>3</sup>, and raised the debate about the role of demand in fuelling sexual exploitation including trafficking. Conversely, the announcement of the new immigration Points-Based System threatened to increase the risks of trafficking and exploitation of migrant domestic workers (MDWs) by removing their right to change employer.

Through the initiative, we made grants to five organisations tackling different forms of 'modern day slavery'. Each organisation had a specific focus whether it be adults, children, domestic workers or women in sexual exploitation. We were keen to cover a breadth of beneficiaries and approaches, especially to support links and learning between charities with different areas of expertise. In particular, we recognised that the distinction between a person who is trafficked or exploited in other ways (whether in prostitution or domestic work) is not always clear-cut. We also became aware that, although some women may choose to sell sex, the evidence shows that the majority would like to exit<sup>4</sup> but need support to do so.

<sup>3</sup> Home Office (2006). *A Coordinated Prostitution Strategy and a Summary of Responses to Paying the Price*, p1 London: Home Office

<sup>4</sup> For example, a nine-country study found that 89% of women working in prostitution wanted to exit. Farley, M., 2003. 'Prostitution and Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder'. In *Journal of Trauma Practice*, 2:3/4, pp.33-74.



## Outcomes

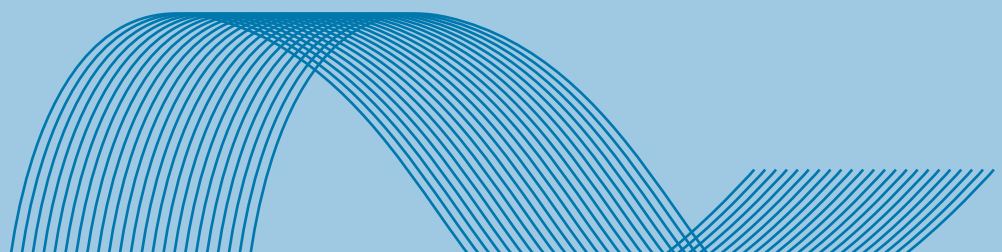
Our over-riding aim in the Tackling Modern Day Slavery initiative was **to strengthen the role of the voluntary sector in improving the position of people vulnerable to exploitation in the UK**. This report assesses how far we have delivered on the four outcomes that we hoped to achieve:

1. Increased voluntary sector capacity to campaign on issues of contemporary slavery including trafficking.
2. Enhanced, sustainable support services for trafficked and other exploited people.
3. Stronger multi-lateral links between charities tackling different forms of 'modern day slavery'.
4. Increased opportunities to share the learning arising from the charities' work, especially where there are links across sectors and client groups.



Sheila (20) was trafficked to the UK from Uganda, after she was orphaned at 15.

Photo: Karen Robinson/Panos



## 1. Increased voluntary sector capacity to campaign on issues of contemporary slavery including trafficking.

This was a critical focus of the initiative, with four of the five grants supporting campaigning (at least in part). Funding from the special initiative increased capacity through the creation of two new posts (at ECPAT UK and Eaves) and sustaining core staff undertaking campaigning work at Anti-Slavery International and Kalayaan.

Funding for the Anti-trafficking Monitoring Project supported the participation of one additional organisation and increased the capacity of all eight partner charities (including Anti-Slavery, ECPAT UK, Eaves and Kalayaan) to collect and share robust and consistent data confidentially. The project's monitoring report recorded that all participating organisations 'have more clarity about what is required to undertake rigorous and coordinated monitoring of this Convention and how to analyse their information quantitatively. This means that [they] are in a better position to... have influence over policies and mechanisms that respond to trafficked persons in the UK.'

Evidence of increased capacity includes:

- Kalayaan joined the UK Border Agency's steering group on overseas domestic workers.
- Eaves' membership of the Women's National Commission and the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade.
- ECPAT UK's development of e-campaigning including over 1,500 Facebook supporters and almost 500 followers on Twitter.
- Anti-Slavery International's Trafficking Programme Co-ordinator was appointed to the European Commission's Experts Group on Trafficking in Human Beings.



Moreover, the campaigning which we have helped to make possible has contributed to significant changes in policy and practice. Some key examples include:

- Government accelerated by two years its planned timetable for ratifying the Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. In implementing this legal obligation, the Government offered more generous terms in some areas<sup>5</sup>, thanks to lobbying by NGOs including Anti-Slavery International, Eaves and ECPAT UK.
- The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring project has contributed to the development of plans for data collection by the Council of Europe's formal monitoring mechanism (GRETA) of states' adherence to their anti-trafficking obligations under the Convention.
- Migrant domestic workers have retained their existing rights (above all to change employer), following an intensive campaign by Kalayaan (in partnership with others including Unite trade union and Oxfam) against threatened changes incorporated in the new Points-Based System for immigration.
- Diplomatic Domestic Workers have retained their (limited) existing rights, even though technically they have been included in Tier 5 of the Points-Based System for immigration. Again this was due to Kalayaan and partners.
- The UK's reservation to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has been lifted, one of ECPAT UK's calls as part of its Three Small Steps campaign. This means that all children in the UK have equal rights irrespective of their immigration status.
- Following a short, intense campaign by Anti-Slavery (in partnership with Liberty), a new criminal offence of servitude and forced labour was passed into law in England and Wales in Autumn 2009. Anti-Slavery International worked with the Crown Prosecution Service on its guidance on using the new legislation, which came into force in April 2010 with a maximum 14 year prison penalty.

<sup>5</sup> For example, the reflection period is 45 days (Convention minimum: 30 days) and the temporary residence permit available is 1 year (Convention minimum: 6 months)

- Anti-Slavery International has contributed to a broadening and refinement of the definition of human trafficking to be included in the forthcoming EU Directive, especially in order to protect children trafficked for forced criminality and begging.
- Following a campaign by Eaves (in partnership with OBJECT and Rights of Women), which included working closely on the drafting of new legislation with the Home Office and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade, the Policing and Crime Act 2009 outlawed the purchase of sex from someone who has been subjected to exploitative conduct (Part 2, Section 14).
- ECPAT UK's support to Anthony Steen MP (Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking until April 2010) helped ensure his Private Member's Bill calling for a UK Anti-Slavery Day became law just before the 2010 General Election.

The challenge now is for these major policy changes to translate into better practice on the ground. This is slow, but influencing and partnership work is making some progress. For example:

- Some local authorities reported that being approached by the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring project has helped them to understand the issue better and catalysed them to clarify the systems and mechanisms within their organisation, including identifying who is responsible for what.
- Kalayaan reports that in its direct work with clients, the police are now far more likely than three years ago to take seriously reports from Migrants Domestic Workers of employers stealing their passports, some missing persons units now recover passports from employers and there have been improvements in the recognition of trafficking for domestic servitude. In addition, fewer MDWs are reporting difficulties registering with a doctor.
- Following revelation in its Big Brothel report<sup>6</sup>, Eaves was asked by the London Borough of Brent to help develop its first strategic approach to prostitution<sup>7</sup>, which includes support for women to exit. Eaves has now also been invited to work with councils in Camden, Greenwich, Lambeth, Newham and Westminster.

<sup>6</sup> Bindel, J., and Atkins, H. (2008), *Big Brothel: A Survey of the Off-Street Sex Industry in London*. London: The Poppy Project.

<sup>7</sup> Brent Council (2010), *Services for Women in and Exiting Prostitution: An Overview & Scrutiny Task Group Report*.

## Looking Ahead

Beyond the life of this special initiative, there are key campaign goals that are still in progress, for example:

- The Government recently announced that it did not intend to sign up to the forthcoming EU Directive on human trafficking, which broadens the definition as well as strengthening routes to legal redress. Organisations including Anti-Slavery International and Eaves will press for a review of this decision, which jeopardises Europe-wide consistency on an inherently cross-border problem.
- ECPAT UK continues to push for an Independent Trafficking Rapporteur, on a similar model to The Netherlands.
- ECPAT UK has two new calls within its 'Three Small Steps' campaign to address the shocking proportion (at least 50%) of trafficked children who go missing from care<sup>8</sup>: safe accommodation and a system of guardianship. There is evidence of progress on both including support from the Home Affairs Committee<sup>9</sup>, 70 MPs signing an Early Day Motion and the Scottish Government adopting guardianship.
- In July 2010, Anti-Slavery International launched a European project on better compensation and access to justice for victims of trafficking across the EU.
- Diplomatic Domestic Workers still do not have the right to change employer outside the Diplomatic mission, making them extremely vulnerable – as evidenced in the disproportionate numbers recognised as trafficked. Following extensive work by Kalayaan, an expected announcement on this issue was timed out by the General Election. Kalayaan and partners are now in contact with the new Government to secure this crucial right for diplomatic domestic workers.
- Eaves continues to campaign for the full decriminalisation of vulnerable people exploited in prostitution.

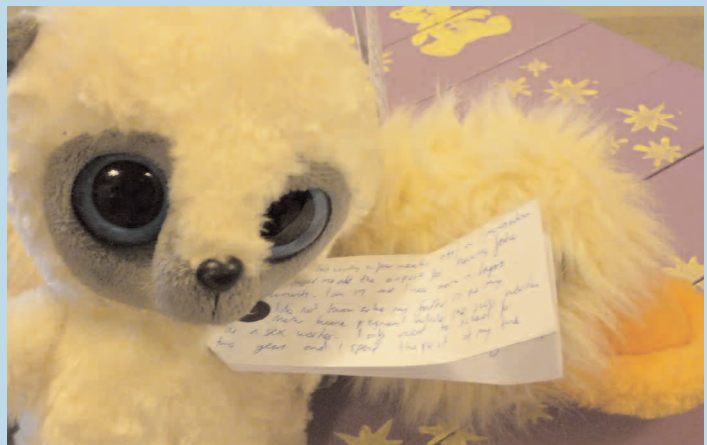
<sup>8</sup> Beddoe, C. (2007), *Missing Out: A Study of Child Trafficking in the North-West, North-East and West Midlands*, ECPAT UK; Kapoor, A. (2007), *A Scoping Project on Child Trafficking in the UK*, CEOP

<sup>9</sup> Home Affairs Committee (2009) *The Trade in Human Beings: Human Trafficking in the UK*

## 2. Enhanced, sustainable support services for trafficked and other exploited people

Campaigning has made a significant contribution to achieving this goal, primarily because ratification of the European Convention entitles people recognised as trafficked in the UK to psychological support, safe accommodation and medical assistance. Realising these entitlements remains highly problematic, however. Up to 18 January 2010, 557 potential victims had been referred to the National Referral Mechanism, the identification procedure established by the UK under the Convention. Details of the decisions or the support offered were not, however, published. Although the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group has identified some pockets of good practice, for example in Bristol and Wales, it concludes on balance that the system in the UK is not 'fit for purpose'<sup>10</sup>. (See Looking Ahead below.)

London Councils has created a new funding stream for work supporting women to exit prostitution, partly in response to Trust for London's grant for the unique new role of Exiting Prostitution Development Officer at Eaves – and the post-holder's promotion of the need for such services. Eaves and Women & Girls Network both won contracts to deliver parts of this work, which includes the development of satellite centres across London. Women and Girls Network has also been commissioned to run the new Rape Crisis Centre in West London, which will include specialist services for women who have experienced prostitution or trafficking.



A message from a trafficked child  
Photo: ECPAT UK

<sup>10</sup> The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (2010), *The Wrong Kind of Victim? One year on: an analysis of UK measures to protect trafficked persons*



Anti-Slavery International's groundbreaking research on compensation for victims of trafficking<sup>11</sup> is being widely used by lawyers in successful claims at employment tribunals for people exploited in forced labour. Anti-Slavery and Eaves have jointly produced practical guidance for legal professionals on securing compensation for victims, based on the test cases brought to date.

The initiative also funded direct support including the creation of a unique service by Women and Girls Network for women trafficked into sexual exploitation, which combines therapeutic work to overcome mental distress with practical support. Through the project, WGN developed a distinct clinical model for these clients, including longer and more flexibly timed therapy – as they found the needs to be more complex than their other clients'. All of WGN's 49 clients over the period had improved mental health on nationally recognised clinical indicators, as a result of psychotherapy and support. For 13 of them, WGN provided expert witness statements to the courts. The organisation was shortlisted for the GlaxoSmithKline impact awards.

During the three-year initiative, Kalayaan registered 1,017 new Migrant Domestic Workers who had escaped abusive employers, most of whom had been referred by word-of-mouth. In addition to policy and media work, the Community Support Worker post we funded at Kalayaan delivered over 1,000 individual advice sessions, as well as ongoing casework support for service users and managing advocacy support volunteers.

Anti-Slavery has responded to growing requests for advisory work on individual cases and expert witness statements. It has assisted in 12 cases where people have obtained status in the UK (for example as refugees), including landmark cases that overturned negative country guidance.



Photo: ECPAT UK

<sup>11</sup> Lam, J. and Skrivánková, K. (2009), *Opportunities and Obstacles: ensuring access to compensations for trafficked persons in the UK*, London: Anti-Slavery International

## Looking Ahead

For victims of trafficking (including those in domestic servitude), the key goal looking forward is to ensure that the UK fully meets its obligations under the Council of Europe Convention on Trafficking, which came into force on 1 April 2009. The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Project, which tracked the experiences of victims in the new system, concluded that the UK Government was not compliant with the Convention or, where it relates to children, with other aspects of UK law or best practice<sup>12</sup>. The Home Affairs Committee concluded that ‘it is obvious that greater thought needs to be given to the practicalities of identifying and assisting victims.’<sup>13</sup> Some of the main issues include:

- The National Referral Mechanism (NRM), staffed by UK Border Agency, appears to be operating as a gatekeeper rather than, as intended, a gateway to support for victims of trafficking.
- The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Project concludes that in practice, the NRM is working to detect illegal migrants rather than to protect people.
- Because of these difficulties of operation – as well as the complex referral system – the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Project collected information on 130 people who were identified by support organisations as trafficked but not referred into the government system. This means they may not access entitlements, as well as depressing the official figures for trafficked people in the UK.



Campaigning to criminalise the purchase of sex from someone subjected to exploitative conduct

Photo: Eaves

<sup>12</sup> The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group (2010), *op cit*

<sup>13</sup> Home Affairs Committee (2009), *op cit*, paragraph 138

- Not all those recognised as trafficked are gaining the safe accommodation to which they are entitled, especially outside London. Even fewer receive psychological support.<sup>14</sup>
- Many local authorities remain unaware of their obligations under the European anti-trafficking Convention and have not yet put in places processes and structures to deal with trafficked people.

For women involved in prostitution, it is a major step forward that for the first time, dedicated, specialist statutory-funded services with a pan-London remit have been commissioned to support those who wish to exit. Nevertheless, Eaves notes that funding for these services remains low priority and is at risk from public funding cuts in the current climate. There also needs to be realism from commissioners – particularly in relation to targets, monitoring and evaluation – about the complex nature of exiting, and the time and resources required to support women to turn their lives around safely and effectively. Moreover, Eaves and others will need to work alongside community and residents groups to prevent a swing back to an enforcement approach if, as intended, policing priorities will become more locally-driven.



<sup>14</sup> Home Affairs Committee (2009), *op cit*

Divia (28) from India was formerly a domestic slave in the UK.  
Photo: Karen Robinson/Panos



### 3. Stronger multi-lateral links between charities tackling different forms of 'modern day slavery'

There were pre-existing links between the five organisations funded by the Trust, especially on a bi- or tri-lateral basis. However, the initiative has convened opportunities for multi-lateral contact, including regular networking meetings.

The most concrete illustration of this outcome has been the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Project. Although there had been previous informal conversations, this idea emerged as a recommendation from an NGO/funder human trafficking event we organised (see below), which raised concerns about the lack of accountability of statutory and voluntary agencies in this field. The Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Project has systematised multi-lateral working between Anti-Slavery, Eaves, ECPAT UK and Kalayaan (within the initiative) and TARA Project (Scotland) and Helen Bamber Foundation. Anti-Slavery and Kalayaan jointly devised the 'systematic reporting form' for direct service provider partners to transfer case information to the project.

Moreover, the Monitoring Project has acted as a catalyst for multi-lateral links with organisations who are not members of the steering coalition. For example, a close working relationship has been established with the Anti-Trafficking Legal Project (a voluntary grouping of legal professionals that work with cases of trafficking), which contributed to defining the project indicators. Discussions with other non-members (such as the Aire Centre) also informed the choice of indicators. A call for evidence was widely circulated and responded to, including by Women and Girls Network.



Photo: Kate Roberts/Kalayaan



Another illustration of multi-lateral working was a ‘summit’ at Toynbee Hall in September 2009, responding to concerns about prostitution in relation to the construction and hosting of the Olympics. This ‘Open Space’ event brought together key voluntary and statutory players across the host five boroughs to make sure that prostitution is not forgotten in planning for the Games and to start to build consensus around some minimum commitments. Not only may demand grow but there is a real risk that police will prioritise enforcement to “clean up the streets” in the run-up to 2012, rather than considering the needs of a vulnerable group of women. Eaves was a partner in the event, which was also attended by Women and Girls Network.

The organisations in the initiative continue to deliver much of their work in partnership with others. We would just highlight here three more examples of multi-lateral working:

- The creation of the Trafficking Law and Policy Forum by the Trust-funded post-holder at Anti-Slavery, working with Garden Court Chambers and 1 Pump Court, to increase co-operation and knowledge sharing between lawyers and the voluntary sector.
- Kalayaan’s successful campaign to retain the rights of MDWs could not have been delivered without its network of allies including those with a much higher profile and with access to a supporter base, such as Anti-Slavery, Unite and the TUC.
- Eaves worked in partnership with OBJECT and Rights of Women to secure a change in the law to criminalise the purchase of sex from someone subjected to exploitative conduct by a third party. As part of the campaign, they gathered signatures from 68 organisations across a broad spectrum to a joint statement in support. Women and Girls Network presented expert evidence at the launch.

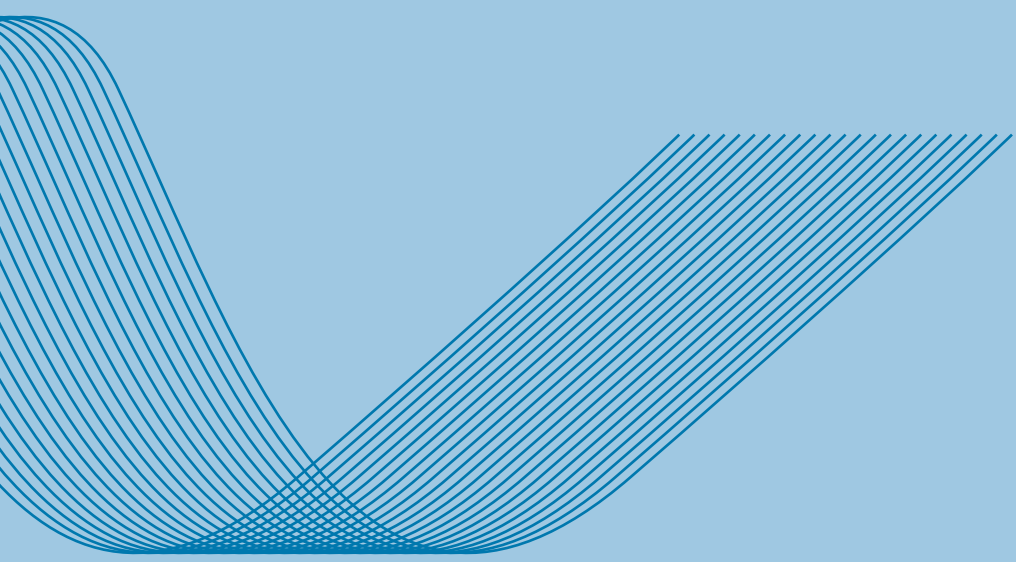


A Migrant Domestic Worker campaigning for her rights at a Kalayaan event.  
Photo: Uri Sadeh/Kalayaan

## Looking Ahead

Some key examples of future multi-lateral working include:

- The continuation of the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Project to track the Government's fulfilments of its commitments under the European trafficking convention. Anti-Slavery remains the host organisation, with core partners including ECPAT UK, Eaves and Kalayaan.
- Trust for London is now funding Safe Exit<sup>15</sup> at Toynbee Hall to build on the momentum generated at the event on prostitution in relation to the 2012 Olympics. This includes joint local work with Eaves and Women and Girls Network.
- As part of the 'Human trafficking in relation to London 2012 Network' (hosted by the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the Greater London Authority), Anti-Slavery International and Eaves have been asked to chair the two subgroups, involving multiple charities and statutory agencies.
- ECPAT UK has secured three-year funding for its future campaigning from The Body Shop, which involves partnership with ECPAT organisations worldwide.



<sup>15</sup> Safe Exit is a Toynbee Hall project which co-ordinates multi-agency work to improve approaches to prostitution in Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs.



London lollipop ladies and gentlemen campaign to Stop Trafficking of Children and Young people for Sexual Exploitation

Photos: ECPAT UK

#### 4. Increased opportunities to share the learning arising from the charities' work, especially where there are links across sectors and client groups

Our funding contributed to the groups generating knowledge and sharing learning including:

- Research by Eaves exploring motivations, attitudes and behaviours of men who pay for sex<sup>16</sup>, which is contributing to the implementation of Section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act.
- Mapping of brothels in London, including information on the availability and demographics of women, services and prices, which was published by Eaves<sup>17</sup>. This has led directly to work on the ground with boroughs highlighted in the survey.
- Unique new research by Anti-Slavery International into the possibility of access to compensation for trafficked people in the UK, and its contribution to successful reintegration<sup>18</sup>.
- Analysis of the experience of abuse by migrant domestic workers who have sought help from Kalayaan, published in partnership with Oxfam<sup>19</sup>. This was a key tool in the campaign to retain MDWs' rights.
- Specific funding to strengthen the data collection within the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring project means the organisations are able to produce more robust data – excluding duplicate cases – on victims identified by support organisations across the UK.
- Findings and recommendations from the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Group report are shared by ECPAT UK through its multi-agency training courses on child trafficking for professionals including social workers, immigration officials and police officers.

<sup>16</sup> Farley, M., Bindel, J. and Golding, J.M. (2009) *Men who buy sex: Who they buy and what they know*, London: Eaves

<sup>17</sup> Bindel, J and Atkins, H, *op cit*

<sup>18</sup> Lam, J. and Skrivánková, K., *op cit*

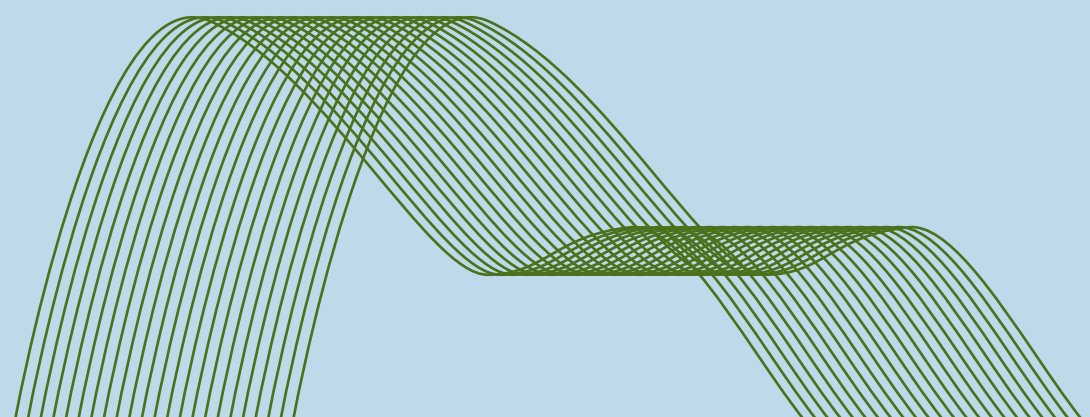
<sup>19</sup> Wittenburg, V. (2008), *The New Bonded Labour? The impact of proposed changes to the UK immigration system on migrant domestic workers*, Oxfam and Kalayaan

- Anti-Slavery reports that organisations taking part in the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring project have ‘highlighted that the structure of this coalition has facilitated them to share information more effectively than they were doing previously.’
- Women and Girls Network found that all of its Eastern European clients had experienced rape or sexual assault prior to meeting their traffickers. Although this is not a robust sample, it corroborates earlier findings of the prior vulnerability of trafficking victims<sup>20</sup>.
- Eaves has delivered training on prostitution and trafficking in diverse settings including women’s prisons, central government and local authority bodies, academic and educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, statutory and voluntary service providers and community groups.
- Extensive media coverage including news and features on BBC Politics Show, Radio 1, Radio 4, Radio 5Live, Sky News, The Times, The Guardian, The Observer, The Independent, The Metro, The Sunday Times and the Daily Telegraph.

As noted above, the monitoring project’s learning has been shared with GRETA. It also attracted interest from the Italian organisation On the Road, which is undertaking an EU-funded project on the impact of anti-trafficking efforts in several European countries. Eaves has also used its learning so far to secure funding from Big Lottery Fund for a three-year in-depth research project in partnership with London South Bank University to assess the effectiveness of interventions across England designed to support women to exit prostitution.

In addition, Trust for London has directly facilitated the sharing of learning through hosting networking meetings of the funded organisations, organising events with other independent funders and producing and disseminating a printed interim report on the initiative. This report is also intended to be part of the process. Key events included:

<sup>20</sup> e.g. Zimmerman, C. et al (2006), *Stolen Smiles: a summary report on the physical and psychological health consequences of women and adolescents trafficked in Europe*, The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine





- A Human Trafficking Funder/NGO conference in September 2008, jointly organised with Comic Relief and Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It brought together independent funders and voluntary organisations to explore how funding might most effectively be applied to achieve a step-change in addressing human trafficking in the UK. Held at Amnesty International’s Human Rights Action Centre, the event attracted over 50 attendees – with a good balance of funders and NGOs.
- We hosted a follow-up lunch for independent funders. This led to the collation and sharing of basic information on what and who we were funding (or likely to fund in future) around human trafficking. Staff met separately with the London team at the Equality and Human Rights Commission, who were keen to explore its role in relation to trafficking.
- Trust for London was approached by Ariadne – a new network of European human rights funders – to host a briefing on human trafficking. Held at our offices in October 2009, the briefing attracted ten different independent funders and included a presentation on trends across Europe from Dr Jennifer Rubin of think tank Rand Europe.
- Trust staff were asked to chair a workshop with the Netherlands National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking at Ariadne’s first conference in Brussels in November 2009.

## Looking Ahead

The dissemination of this final report, including proactive media work, is part of our ongoing commitment to sharing learning. It was launched in Autumn 2010 at an event to mark the end of the special initiative, with an invited audience of independent funders, and voluntary and statutory sector partners. The event featured a performance of a specially commissioned new script by iceandfire<sup>21</sup>, which wove together verbatim testimonies from people who had experienced ‘modern day slavery’. Organisations within the initiative will be able to use all or part of the script in future as useful. Further performances may be requested from iceandfire.

<sup>21</sup> iceandfire is a charity that explores human rights stories through performance. <http://iceandfire.co.uk>

## Assessing Trust for London's contribution

By creating a special initiative, Trust for London invested substantial staff time, in addition to funding, because we felt that there were opportunities to make stronger connections between organisations tackling modern day slavery during a time of significant policy interest. This was in the context of a Trustee decision to become more strategic in our grant-making, using our knowledge, skills and contacts more systematically and proactively to facilitate, influence and leverage. So what has been the added value of our involvement?

Certainly, the organisations in the initiative say that bringing them together every six months has been helpful and has strengthened links, helping to provide a shared platform to undertake more effective campaigning. Feedback on the (free) media and evaluation training we offered was highly positive. They also told us that working with the Trust has (unusually) felt like a real partnership, that our advice helped to steer the direction of their work and that our monitoring prompted changes to improve outcomes for clients.

In addition, there are clear achievements from Trust for London's direct input:

- Organising an event for funders and NGOs on human trafficking led directly to the first joint voluntary sector 'audit' of anti-trafficking activity in the UK, including helping to secure a substantial grant from Comic Relief.



David Cameron at an exhibition on trafficking at the House of Commons  
Photo: ECPAT UK

- Support to improve data collection, including by commissioning a consultant, has enabled the collection of much better information about trafficked people in the UK. The partner organisations in the Anti-Trafficking Monitoring Project have secured funding to continue joint monitoring. In a field where data is so highly contested, it is a valuable legacy to strengthen the quality of the evidence base.
- Trust for London staff used relationships built through other aspects of our work to garner support for the Eaves/OBJECT campaign to outlaw the purchase of sex from someone subjected to exploitative conduct.<sup>22</sup> This played a critical role in the final passage of the legislation through the House of Lords.

We also hope that, by speaking about issues of contemporary slavery with other funders including across Europe, there is a raised awareness and understanding that may contribute to more informed funding – and potentially to additional monies in this field. We recognise, however, that this will be almost impossible to track or demonstrate.



<sup>22</sup> Policing and Crime Act 2009, Part 2, Section 14

A Migrant Domestic Worker speaks about her experience  
Photo: Kalayaan

## Lessons for funders

We would like to share with other funders some lessons that we have learnt from this initiative:

- Sadly, forms of slavery are a reality in modern Britain, although the nature of its hidden criminality means firm numbers are impossible to ascertain.
- Investing in campaigning and influencing has enabled enormous progress to be made in a relatively short time period.
- Given the poor quality and lack of statutory-funded services for people escaping contemporary slavery, there is still a need for independent funders to fund specialist support.
- Funding technical support around data collection has made a critical contribution to campaigning – and ultimately to securing support services.
- Although these issues may seem risky, they involve some of the most vulnerable and marginalised people – a central concern of many of us.
- Forced labour is much less talked about than sexual exploitation – but may involve as many people. Men and boys are also vulnerable.



Enamur, trafficked to the UK for forced labour in the catering industry  
Photo: Pete Pattison



- Organisations that combine direct service delivery with campaigning can be among the most influential campaigners. However, it can put a significant strain on small organisations when existing staff have to balance the urgent needs of clients against longer-term campaign goals.
- At a national policy level, debates around prostitution are complex and divided, although there is growing awareness of exploitation. Funders who do not want to take a position on these issues can still recognise the vulnerabilities of the women involved and support vital services to enable some to make different life choices.
- There can be real added benefits when grants staff take a more involved role. However, clearly this is not possible with all issues and organisations so funders will need to make judgements as to their own priorities and capacity.
- Funders may have useful contacts – including Trustees – who could be influential allies for organisations we support.



Rajan (27, Nepalese) is a former domestic slave  
Photo: Karen Robinson/Panos

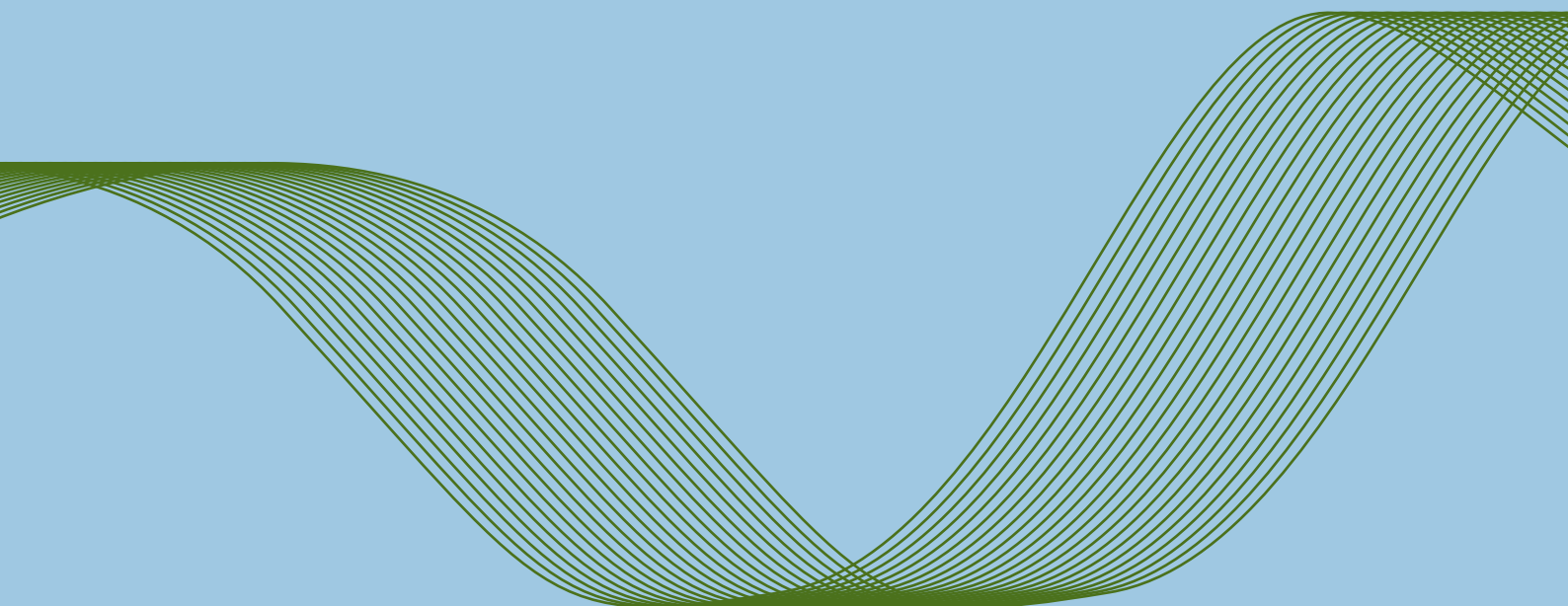
## Beyond the Tackling Modern Day Slavery initiative

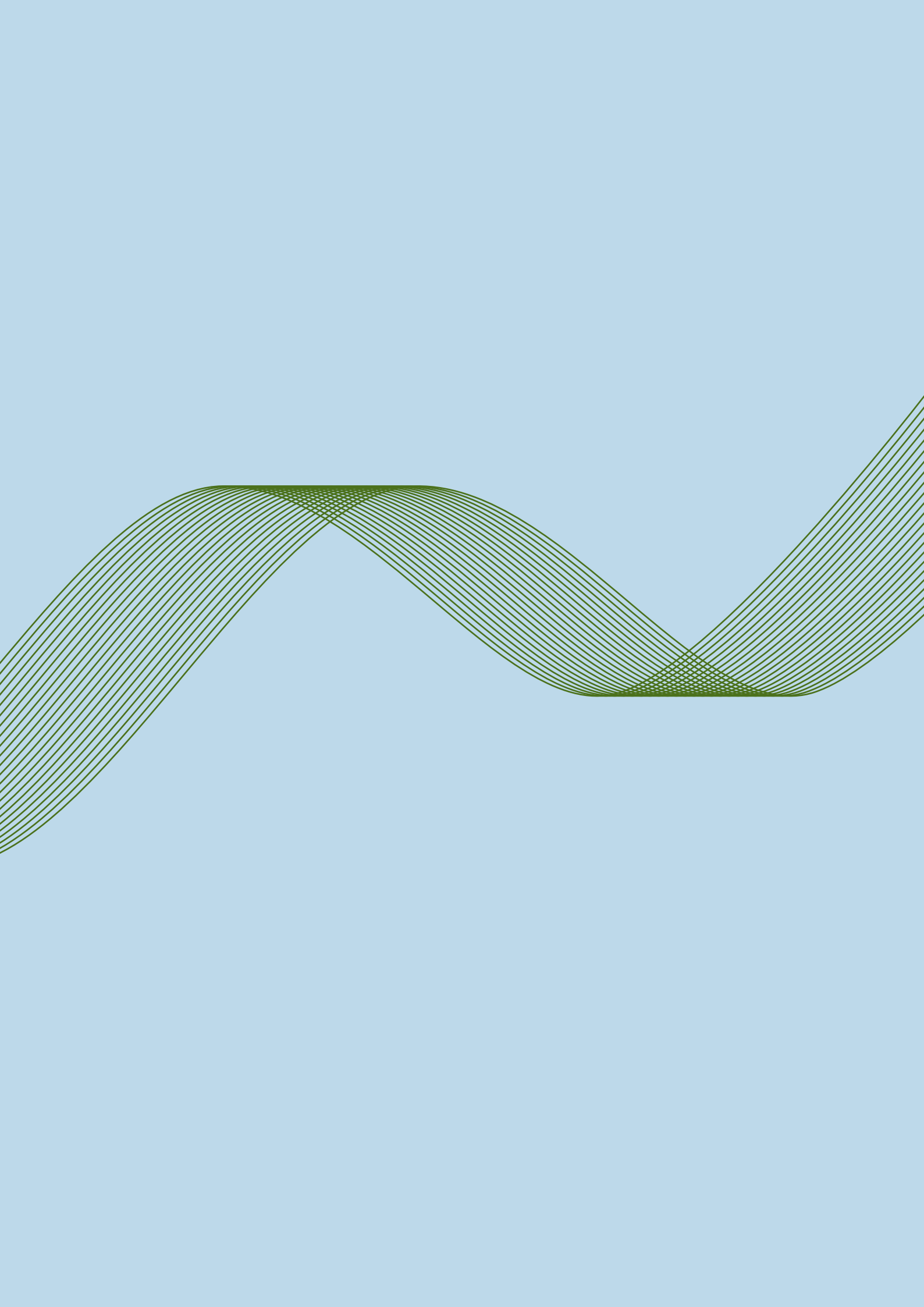
Whilst enormous progress has been made, there is still a mountain to climb, particularly to ensure protection and support for the vulnerable people that this initiative is ultimately about. This is clearly a challenging time for all in the voluntary and public sectors. It is vital that work to prevent exploitation and to protect its victims is not forgotten or overlooked.

Although the Tackling Modern Day Slavery initiative has now come to an end, the Trust is still funding work around these issues through its open grants programme. At the current time, we have a particular focus on the risks and opportunities associated with the London 2012 Olympics.

We will continue to make connections with organisations we fund in related fields such as migration, employment rights and violence against women. In addition, we will look for new opportunities for linkages with funders, including through the Association of Charitable Foundations and Ariadne, the network of European human rights funders.

Finally, we would want to commend the quality, value and effectiveness of the work undertaken by the five organisations within the initiative. We have learnt an enormous amount from them and are constantly impressed by how much they have achieved in only three years. It has been a privilege for Trust for London to play a small role in that achievement.







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