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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement: response to Government's intention to ratify European Convention Against Trafficking In Human Beings (ECAT) in 2008

“We welcome the announcement that the Government intends to ratify the Convention, committing itself to protecting and ensuring the rights of all trafficking victims in the UK for the first time.

This is a very important step towards offering victims of such a major human rights violation the time and support they need to recover from their experiences and shows that there has been a clear shift in perception of trafficked people, by the authorities, from perpetrators to victims of crime.

In order to access the rights contained in the Convention, it is of paramount importance that victims are identified correctly, and the POPPY Project has been working closely with the Government to ensure that law enforcement agencies, including police and immigration, along with health and social services, are fully trained in recognising victims of trafficking.

We applaud this latest move and, as the UK's leading specialist service for victims of trafficking, we look forward to working together with the Government towards achieving the final goal; the implementation of a full set of systems and procedures for ensuring the protection of trafficking victims.”

Denise Marshall OBE
Eaves chief executive

– NOTES TO EDITORS –

The POPPY Project is funded by the Ministry of Justice to provide accommodation and support to women trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. It is the UK's only Government-funded service supporting women trafficked into prostitution. It has 35 bed spaces and an outreach team which works with women still involved in the sex industry. It also has a research and development unit, which specialises in counter-trafficking and exiting-prostitution work.

Eaves also runs Eaves Women's Aid – a series of refuges for women and their children fleeing domestic violence – and a research department called the Lilith Project, which works to support the violence-against-women sector through research, education and training.

For further information about Eaves, contact Eaves' communications officer Anna Bowden on 020 7840 7126 or at anna.bowden@eaveshousing.co.uk.