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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement: response to proposed legislation criminalising men who buy sex from women “controlled for gain”

“Eaves Poppy Project welcomes these new measures, which seek to protect the increasing numbers of women exploited in prostitution in this country. We are delighted that the Government is taking a stance on this issue and will criminalise men who buy sex from these vulnerable women.

“However, although this is a positive step forward in the direction of reducing the problem of violence against women, this is not a solution to trafficking. It will not stop men from buying sex with trafficked women or from trafficking women. We also have to ask how the courts will enforce the legislation; will the onus be on a woman to prove that she is being controlled?”

“Ultimately we would like to see a blanket criminalisation of buying sex, along with a decriminalisation of women who sell sex.”

Denise Marshall OBE
Eaves (POPPY Project) 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 only Government-funded service in the UK 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.