



19 March 2009

Government award £3.7m to POPPY Project

Response from chief executive Denise Marshall

“We are happy to be able to announce that the POPPY Project has been awarded the Government tender for work supporting trafficked women. As an agency long committed to providing high quality support services and promoting best practice nationally and internationally, we are gratified by this recognition of the work that we do.

“The funding will enable us to expand our services to include support for women trafficked into domestic servitude, and we are pleased that this form of exploitation has now been recognised as a gendered form of violence. We will also be working with new partners to expand our services on a national level.

“We look forward to working with the Home Office and UKBA regarding implementation of the European Convention and we will ensure that victims of trafficking are identified as such and receive the support they need and deserve.”

– NOTES TO EDITORS –

The POPPY Project has been providing vital support and accommodation since 2003. This new investment will allow us to build on this work by:

- Adding 19 extra bed spaces (increasing the number from 35 to 54), including five extra spaces in London plus 14 new spaces nationally;
- Expanding the number of support workers available to work with and offer support to women
- Ensuring continued access for women to counselling and other services around physical and mental health
- Expanding the outreach team and locating workers within the UK Human Trafficking Centre to work in partnership with the police, UK Border Agency and other partners
- Enabling more women to access independent legal advice;
- Creating a new national co-ordinator who will set minimum standards of support and help local areas deliver targeted support for victims.

The POPPY Project is run by Eaves, a women's charity working to combat all aspects of violence against women through accommodation, support services, research, education and lobbying.

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