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## News

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### November meeting report

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In the year which remembers the 200th anniversary of the abolition of slavery, our November meeting about the trafficking of women in the UK was a solemn reminder that for many people slavery is still a horrible reality. Basing her talk on the recent Amnesty International report 'Under the Covers', we were privileged to have Leanne Wood, Plaid Cymru Assembly Member, to speak to us.



- 'Trafficking in human beings' means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception,... for the purpose of exploitation.
- In the UK, there is particular evidence of cases of trafficked victims in sectors such as the hospitality and catering trade, domestic labour, care sectors, agricultural and food processing sectors, construction and prostitution.
- It was shocking to learn that within Cardiff and Newport at any one time there are 60 or 70 women from overseas forced to work in prostitution, lured to the UK on the promise of work, easy to trap by unscrupulous but very organised gangs, by their alone-ness and sometimes lack of legal status.

You can find out more, and also sign the on-line petition asking the government to do more to address this problem, at

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10314&ArticleID=2452>

A lively and thought-provoking discussion followed Leanne's talk, and we agreed two specific actions that we could take.

1) The Welsh Assembly Government has set aside £1.5 million to set up a safe haven for some of these women, in the locality of Newport and Cardiff. Write to your Assembly Government Members, asking them to ask Brian Gibbons, Minister for Social Justice and Local Government, what the plans are for this money, when the safe haven will be ready, how these women are to be protected locally and their health and welfare needs addressed, what the provisions are to be in other parts of Wales etc.

You can find out who your AM's are at

<http://www.assemblywales.org/memhome/member-search.htm> and write to them at:

Welsh Assembly Government  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA.

2) As well as seeking help for these women locally, we need to request continued activity by Central Government, both to bring a stop to the trade of human trafficking and to provide more protection for these women. For this, you need to write to your MP, asking him or her to ask the Home Secretary to seek preventative measures.

Find out who your MP is at

[http://www.parliament.uk/contact/contact\\_us.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/contact/contact_us.cfm), and write to them at

House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA.

Sample letters for both campaigns have been e-mailed with this newsletter, which you can use as they are or edit to make more personal.

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## Our Next Event

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### Human Rights Day Vigil

**3.15pm Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2007**

Queen Street, Cardiff  
(meet near Boots)



On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December we will be holding our annual Human Rights Day vigil on Queen Street. We will be meeting at about 3.15 by Boots to start at 3.30pm (for around an hour). Please join us if you can, bringing a lantern or candle.

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## Take Action

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### Taking action online

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If you have access to the internet there are plenty of options to take action via our website ([www.amnestycardiff.org.uk](http://www.amnestycardiff.org.uk)). There are links to actions for most of our campaigns as well as other urgent actions.

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## Next meetings

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Meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Quaker Meeting House (downstairs meeting room), Charles Street, Cardiff city centre.

We now have a full programme of meetings planned through until the spring (see the website for details).

December 10<sup>th</sup> 2007

### Christmas Social

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Please note this event will be at Paul and Naomi's house. Please e-mail [amnesty.cardiff@btopenworld.com](mailto:amnesty.cardiff@btopenworld.com) for details.

January 14<sup>th</sup> 2008

### Death Penalty

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Update on Amnesty's worldwide campaign against the death penalty and what you can do to help.

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## Other Events

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December 10<sup>th</sup>

### "Why Not Torture Terrorists"

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**Christians Against Torture  
Human Rights Day Event**

7.30pm Ararat Baptist Church, Whitchurch

Guest speaker Roy Jenkins

This clashes with our Christmas social but as this will only last an hour you are welcome to join us at the social afterwards.

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## Contact Us

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If you would like to contact the Cardiff Group of Amnesty International please e-mail [amnesty.cardiff@btopenworld.com](mailto:amnesty.cardiff@btopenworld.com) or see our website at [www.amnestycardiff.org.uk](http://www.amnestycardiff.org.uk)