



TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

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For: **Immediate Release**

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Join us in the Fight Against Child Sexual Exploitation

National Charity NWG Network asks all to unite against child sexual exploitation for their **National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Day – 18th March.**

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity.

The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Day aims to highlight the issues surrounding child sexual exploitation; encouraging everyone to think, spot and speak out against abuse and adopt a zero tolerance to adults developing inappropriate relationships with children.

Previous National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Raising Days have seen hundreds of events take place across the UK, ranging from poster and leaflet displays to whole authorities embarking on targeted campaigns across public services and shopping centres.

Working with over 13,000 professionals across the UK to help prevent and raise awareness of child sexual exploitation, NWG Network continue to leverage the strength of that network in order to tackle the problem head on.

'Each year we use our campaign to raise awareness of Child Exploitation and encourage **everyone** in our society to tackle the issues of exploitation of our children.

This year we are introducing a wear red element to the existing Helping Hand messages. If you ensure you share our social media messages along with the web address to point everyone to signs and symptoms and where to go for help it would be another step to spreading the word and helping to reduce the abuse of our children.

NWG is committed to **raising awareness** and training professionals to help create zero tolerance to child sexual exploitation. Your donation will help us continue this invaluable work and ensure that as many people as possible think, spot and speak out about against exploitation of the young and vulnerable and help heal the wounds of victims and their families.

Commented Sheila Taylor MBE, CEO

Notes to Editors:

- NWG Network is the only child sexual exploitation (CSE) network working across voluntary/statutory agencies tackling child sexual exploitation, with links across Europe, South East Asia, Africa, Canada and USA.
- The NWG Network has worked with or is currently working across the UK with professionals from Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB's), Police Forces, Health, Community Safety Partnership's, Voluntary and private sector organisations.
- NWG Network holds approximately 40 events every year that bring a range of organisations together to continually improve how we tackle CSE in the UK and across the world.
- The NWG Network in the UK spans across over 330 organisations with 14,000 + points of contact to disseminate information on the issue of child sexual exploitation.
- Our reach and national oversight allow us to address the issues surrounding CSE, Trafficking and Modern Slavery from Central Government level all the way through to hotel workers.
- Child Sexual Exploitation happens in ALL Towns and Cities. An Independent report found at least 1,400 cases between 1997 and 2013 (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Rotherham 2014)
- Over 2,400 children were victims of sexual exploitation in gangs and groups from August 2010 to October 2011: 'I thought I was the only one, the only one in the world' The Office of the Children's Commissioner's Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in gangs and groups: interim report
- The most common reasons for children to be trafficked are labour exploitation and sexual exploitation (National Crime Agency 2017)
- Over 360 children were trafficked for sexual exploitation last year (National Crime Agency 2017 MRM Statistics – end of year summary 2016)

The National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day has a brand identity in the form of a badge, and dedicated website educating all on the factors of CE, what it is, potential indicators and how you can help to stop it.

A full suite of marketing and campaign materials is available for partners and supporters to download from their stop-ce.org website.

On the 18th March NWG Network call for all to unite against child sexual exploitation. Show your support by writing a personal pledge and posting to your social media with the hashtag #HelpingHands to help them raise awareness of CE.

NWG are committed to the fight against child sexual exploitation and supporting victims and their families who are subjected to this abuse. But they cannot succeed without the support of people like you. Visit www.stop-ce.org to find out more about the National Awareness Raising Day and putting a stop to CE.

Help NWG Network to continue to tackle abuse and give victims of CSE a bigger voice.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn for more information and upcoming events.

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