



WHAT WE DO...

Beyond the Streets is a UK charity working to end sexual exploitation.

Our vision is to see a world where people are free from exploitation, and where those involved in prostitution have the option to pursue genuine alternatives, free from constraints such as drug use, abusive relationships and poverty.

Prioritising the involvement of those exploited by the sex industry and drawing on 20 years' experience of providing support to those involved in prostitution we seek to move....

BEYOND PROSTITUTION

We believe in life beyond prostitution and understand that change becomes sustainable when a person is empowered rather than simply treated as a passive victim.

BEYOND THE LIMITS

We believe that people exploited by prostitution and sex trafficking deserve access to genuine and attainable alternatives.
Campaigning alone is not enough; alternatives have to be provided.

BEYOND THE LABEL

We believe that it is vital to look beyond the terms 'prostitute' and 'sex worker' and treat with respect and dignity the person behind the label.

HOW WE DO IT...

Everything we do is geared towards creating sustainable routes out for women exploited through prostitution.

Direct
Support for
Women
Affected by
Prostitution

ROUTES OUT

Developing and Equipping Projects

Changing the Context

STORIES FROM OUR YEAR...

In the last year we have worked to expand our direct support to those affected by prostitution, to resource projects to ensure access to effective tools and relevant resources to support those caught up in prostitution, and to challenge the underlying cause of prostitution. Here are some of the exciting stories from this year...

BEYOND SUPPORT

For a number of years we have provided direct phone support to individual women involved in prostitution who are not engaging with traditional outreach services. In 2014, we developed this work into a more proactive service, launching Beyond Support, a confidential call-back phone or email service offering listening and understanding; relevant information on what's out there to help women plan for the future; a safe place for women to explore options for change; and information about support services nearby.





OFF STREET SUPPORT

Amber is a new local initiative developed in partnership with one of our affiliates, The Gate, a charity which exists to support women in the sex industry in Southampton empowering them to reach their full potential by making positive lifestyle choices. Amber aims to offer confidential support for women working in escorts agencies and massage parlours in Southampton, filling a gap in existing service provision within the city. After researching the state of the sex industry and meeting with key strategic partners, outreach activities began in September 2014 to five locations.

EQUIPPING PROJECTS

We support a network of over 50 affiliated projects across the UK and during 2014 we carried out 45 project specific appointments, in person by telephone and over email, with around 30 of these projects. This has included ongoing specialist support and information on developing social enterprises as a route out for women exiting prostitution and trafficking.

SPECIALIST TRAINING

We regularly run specialist training sessions for those engaging with people involved in prostitution. In 2014, these included two learning days on 'Engaging in Off-Street Contexts' attended by 26 individuals from 14 affiliated projects across the UK and a session on social enterprise attended by 20 individuals representing 11 UK projects. We also ran four Awareness Days, providing training on 'Engaging with Prostitution and Trafficking in the UK' and aimed at those making initial enquiries about volunteering with a local project.

"Brilliant introduction to the issues.
Definitely makes you think & challenges some of the views taken by Church ministries"
Awareness Day Attendee



"Great content, research, and help with plans to move ahead"
Off-Street Learning Day Participant

BEYOND BARRIERS: 2014 CONFERENCE

In October 2014 we hosted our national conference. The theme this year was 'Beyond Barriers: Seeing the Bigger Picture'. The conference was attended by 100 individuals representing 36 projects from across the UK and training sessions explored how we can overcome both the barriers women face in exiting prostitution and the barriers projects face in providing sustainable routes out.





NOvember

NOvember is an initiative we launched in 2013 to raise funds and awareness to support our work enabling routes out of prostitution for exploited women. This year we again invited people to join with Beyond the Streets in saying NO to violence and sexual exploitation during the month of November. Individuals were invited to say NO to something and use the money raised to support our work. This year 42 individuals took part, giving up things such as sugar, tea, cooked breakfasts, meat and public transport and raising over £3100. Our very own Josephine even did a sponsored silence! Here's what Miriam had to say about taking part:...

"My mini challenge was to say 'No' to food for 2 days a week in NOvember.

Women all over the world are trapped in their daily challenge of survival as they are sexually exploited for money. I'd support something like this again, as it has been a chance to talk about the issue with a range of people."

Miriam

2014 IN NUMBERS





FROM THE DIRECTORS

This last year has been a significant one as we have been able to develop the work we are engaged in with greater confidence and impact. This is largely due to the increase in donations which have enabled us to scale up the work in a way we could not have done otherwise. We are grateful for this support and the opportunities it has created for us to help create routes out of prostitution for those who are vulnerable and who have been exploited.

As a small staff team we often have to make difficult decisions about what services we can realistically offer and so it has been exciting to be able to launch a number of new ventures this year. This has been made possible by the addition of great new staff members and an excellent intern. This growing team has enabled us to lay the foundations for further growth and to invest more in services that make a difference both to women directly and to projects across the UK who work in their localities. We asked one of the women who had experienced our phone support last year what difference it made. She said

"...knowing somebody was there on the end of the phone, someone who understands and wont judge you...it has been really key" (Phone Support Client, Feb 2015).

In what we do, we look to collaborate with other projects where possible and we have welcomed the opportunity to partner with the Gate in Southampton to launch Amber. Whilst we are still in the early stages of outreach and developing a tailored model we have been encouraged by the reception we have had both from the women and statutory services within the city. Our plan is to see this develop over the coming year and to increase the staff team to push Amber forward. Whilst the staff team are at the front end of the day to day work there are many who contribute to the charity in a wide number of ways. We remain grateful to all the donors who support us along with the volunteers, friends and trustees. We know that it takes a team to make change happen and we look forward to working together in 2015.

If we are not already in touch with you regularly, we do hope you'll take the opportunity in 2015 to get involved with our work. Perhaps you're eager to learn more about the issues and might benefit from taking part in one of our 2015 Awareness Days or maybe you want to join with us in saying NO to violence and sexual exploitation against women in November? However you choose to get involved, we look forward to journeying with you into 2015 and supporting more women to find a route out of prostitution.

Josephine Knowles and Mark Wakeling Co-Executive Directors



Beyond the Streets Team: Miriam, Josephine, Elly, Emma, Anna and Mark



LIFE BEYOND THE STREETS

Through supporting us, you can do something to help make life beyond the streets a reality. You can donate online, come to one of our training sessions, volunteer with a project in our network, or take part in a fundraising challenge or campaign. Your support is valued and will help change the lives of those who are affected by prostitution.

Beyond the Streets is funded entirely by donations and grants and we are only able to do our work because of this financial support.

Will you consider joining our story through making a regular gift?



For more information about all of our work please get in touch:

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