18 Days of Freedom: Celebrating Freedom

Most of us take our freedom for granted. But 3 million people across Europe have no freedom (source OSCE). Men, women and children are trafficked, enslaved into sexual or labour exploitation.

"18 Days of Freedom" is about celebrating what freedom means to all of us. For 18 days, from 1 to 18 October people across Europe will post their freedom photos at *#18daysoffreedom*. But, on 18th October, the European Union's Anti-Trafficking Day, they will also remember those who have no freedom and why this is so.

"18 Days of Freedom" is the idea of partners of the European Freedom Network, an initiative of the European Evangelical Alliance. EFN is a coalition of 130 projects involved in anti-trafficking work in 32 nations.

"18 days of freedom" will be celebrated in at least 11 countries. The initiative involves EFN partners and many others, united in their concern about exploitation.

"All who care about exploitation are invited to share what freedom means to them and then pause on 18th October to remember the toll of human trafficking in Europe," says Jennifer Roemhildt Tunehag, EEA Human Trafficking Associate and EFN core team member.

Many partners are choosing to underline the exploitation within prostitution and its links to human trafficking. They will highlight how Sweden's law to criminalise the purchase of sex has not just halved the amount of street prostitution but also made it socially unacceptable to buy sex.

"Change the way we think and we change the world, "says Julia Doxat-Purser, EEA Socio-Political Representative and EFN core team member. "We want Europe to say a firm no to exploitation of human beings and to implement the policies which can stop exploitation from happening in the first place."

Facts: The campaign "18 Days of Freedom" lanuches on social media on Oct 1st. For eighteen days, friends of freedom are invited to post pictures answering the question; "What is freedom to you?" using the hashtag #18daysoffreedom.

#18daysoffreedom
www.europeanfreedomnetwork.org