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Response from Eaves' Poppy Project re the sentencing of Nigerian trafficker Anthony Harrison

Following the on going court case involving two Nigerian teenagers trafficked to the UK for sexual exploitation, Eaves' Poppy Project is very pleased that today at Woolwich Crown Court, Anthony Harrison was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment for four counts of trafficking.

Denise Marshall, Eaves' chief executive says 'The Poppy Project has been supporting victims of trafficking for almost a decade now and in that time have seen traffickers receive very low sentences for the most heinous of crimes. It is so important that the judicial system recognise the seriousness of these crimes and that people like Anthony Harrison are handed sentences that are reflective of the crimes that they have committed. This case is a big step forward to organisations like Poppy because not only was the police case handled very well, but Harrison is the first person to be convicted for trafficking young girls out of the UK. We hope this case sets a precedent for future sentencing of traffickers and sends a message to traffickers that the UK will not tolerate violence against women.

It is also really important that we commend the victims for giving evidence in court against Antony Harrison, especially given the fear of black magic that is involved in this case. If the victims hadn't felt safe enough to help the police, then Harrison would probably be still committing these horrendous crimes here in the UK and it is therefore crucial that the UK invests in high quality services to help victims of trafficking come to terms with their experiences'.

-NOTES TO EDITORS-

The Poppy Project provides vital support and accommodation for women trafficked to the UK for the purpose of exploitation.

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.

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