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ANNUAL REPORT

2021



Street LIGHT UK
offering fresh choices

EXPOSING THE HARMS | ENDING THE VIOLENCE | OFFERING FRESH CHOICES

ENDORSEMENTS



STREETLIGHT UK PATRON

RT REV THE LORD BISHOP OF CHICHESTER - MARTIN WARNER



The migration of people across continents continues to pose a risk for the most vulnerable people in the world today – women, children and young adults, most notably. It must remain shocking to us in Britain that we should provide so safe a base for the trafficking of human beings and their exploitation, especially for sex.

STREETLIGHT UK DOES GREAT WORK BY DISTURBING US WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MODERN SLAVERY; IT ALSO PROVIDES HOPE FOR THOSE WHO ARE THE VICTIMS. AS A CHRISTIAN AND AS A BISHOP, I AM GLAD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH STREETLIGHT UK'S FEARLESS AND COMPASSIONATE WORK.

DR TIMOTHY FOOKS FRCGP
HIGH SHERIFF OF WEST SUSSEX



Streetlight UK has become a beacon of hope to those exploited by sexual exploitation and human trafficking. Their compassionate and practical outreach and support changes the lives of those with whom they work. As a Doctor and High Sheriff, I am both inspired and deeply grateful for all that the charity does and stands for.

SOME OF OUR FUNDERS AND PARTNERS



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FOREWORD



HELENA CROFT
DIRECTOR

2020 has been a challenging year that none of us anticipated.

Our staff and volunteers have been exceptional in their response to the crisis situations facing many of our service users as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. As key workers, our support staff and outreach teams have continued to operate, supporting joint police operations, carrying out 1-2-1 support and reaching many more isolated women online.

Our intern programme has developed significantly, working with Loughborough, Kings College London and the University of Surrey specifically. I would like to give special acknowledgement to all our interns for the exceptional work they have produced throughout 2020 and into 2021, helping us through a very challenging period.

Much of our work is done in partnership and we are extremely thankful for the support of our funders. Their confidence to invest in our growing service has enabled us to achieve our goals in supporting a difficult to reach and vulnerable group of women in the community.

Special thanks must also be given to our Support Workers, who ensure every woman who has contact with Streetlight UK, has both the professional and compassionate support they need to be free from sexual violence and exploitation in all its forms!

NEIL JOHNSON
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

I count it a great honour to play my part in Streetlight UK, as the Charity truly does amazing and vital work. To reach out and support those who find themselves in difficult and precarious circumstances due to being trafficked, tricked or pressurised into prostitution, is redemptive and life-changing for them and hugely worthwhile for all of us. Streetlight UK offers hope and support and a fresh start to many who have nowhere else to turn. However, this would not be possible if it were not for the volunteers and staff team, who constantly go the second mile to come alongside women in a crisis situation.



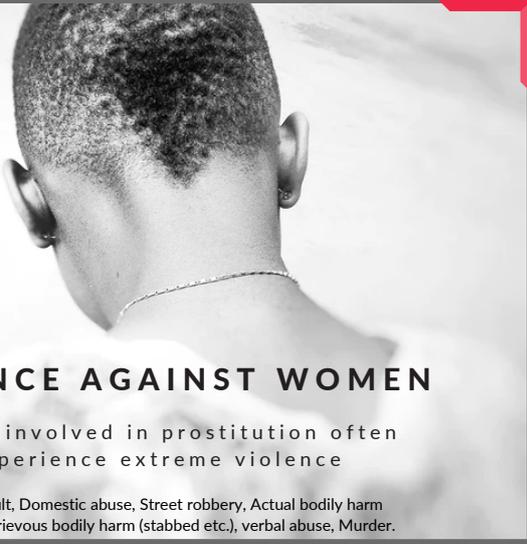
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PROSTITUTION-THE FACTS



105,000 individuals in the UK are believed to be involved in prostitution.
The vast majority of these are women.

Mothers, sisters, daughters, granddaughters, cousins, friends, wives, girlfriends, work colleagues, students, human beings!



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women involved in prostitution often experience extreme violence

Rape, Sexual Assault, Domestic abuse, Street robbery, Actual bodily harm (kicked, punched), Grievous bodily harm (stabbed etc.), verbal abuse, Murder.

105,000
Individuals

96%
WOMEN

WHY?

Some of the reasons are:

Financial hardship, Coercion and control (Modern Slavery), Loss, Poverty, Family illness, Leaving the care system, Physical or Sexual abuse.

Modern Day Slavery/trafficking:

There remains a small percentage of the number of women involved in prostitution in the UK who have been trafficked.

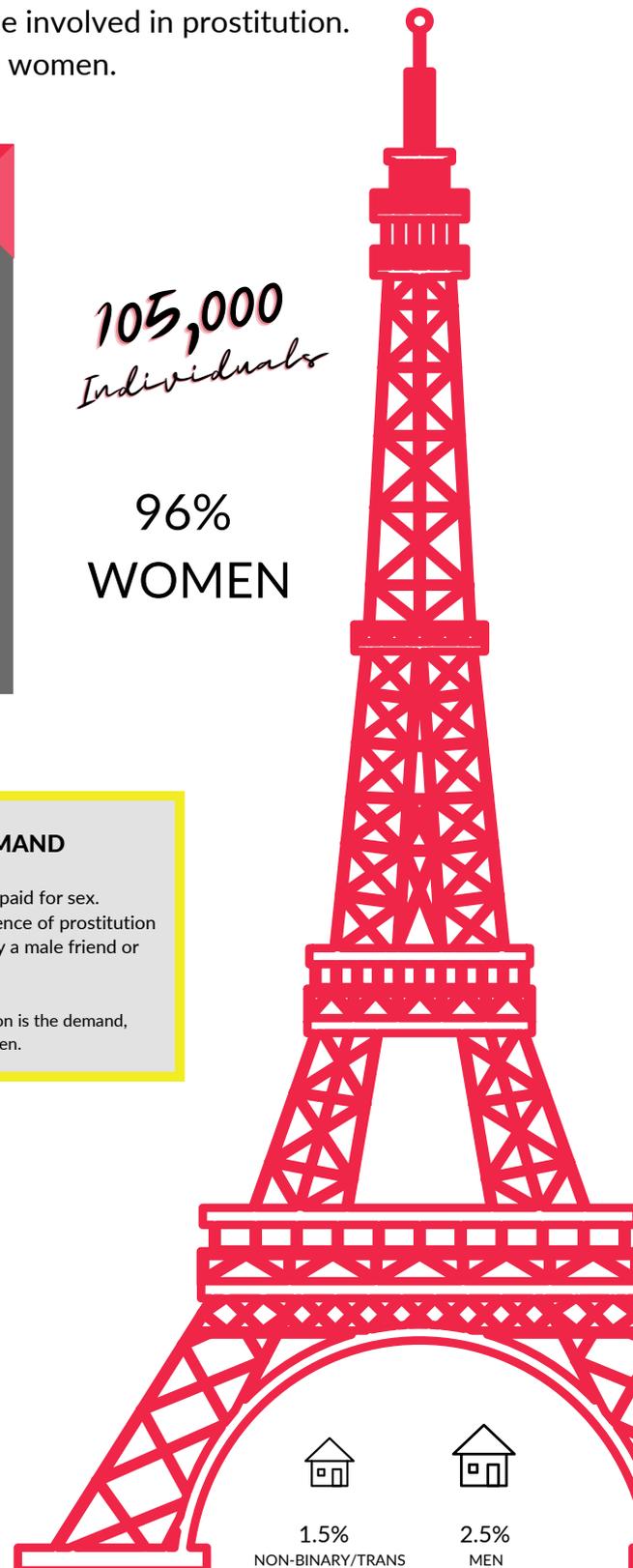
SUPPLY AND DEMAND

1 in 10 men in London have paid for sex.
8 out of 10 men's first time experience of prostitution is encouraged or accompanied by a male friend or family member.

A primary root cause of prostitution is the demand, predominately by men.

Women in prostitution can be from any age and any background. The average age of women advertising sex online is 24.

The average age of white British women tends to be older at 32 - however Streetlight recently supported a woman of 70+ years - in over 20yrs in prostitution, she had never been offered support to exit.



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SUSSEX



An overview of the scale and nature of prostitution in Sussex.

ADULT ONLINE ADVERTS - SUSSEX

Site/Sussex	Brighton	Bognor/Littlehampton	Crawley/Gatwick	Chichester	Eastbourne	Horsham	Sussex Total
AdultWork	321	24	232	52	63	43	735
AdultSeek	68	6	163	20	35	59	351
Friday Ad (online)	129	5	129	2	25	18	308
Punterlink	33	13	838	75	2	200	1161
UKAdultZone	245	72	414	75	160	172	1138
VivaStreet	55	4	34	4	8	4	109
Area Total	851	124	1810	228	293	496	3802

IN 2020, STREETLIGHT ENGAGED WITH 2,807 WOMEN INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION ACROSS SUSSEX - DIRECTLY SUPPORTING 213 WOMEN.

SUSSEX VOLUNTEERS

At the heart of our service is a team of enthusiastic and trained volunteers.

During 2020, our volunteers selflessly gave 204.5 hours of their time, using their passion and expertise to support women involved in prostitution.

ONLINE OUTREACH

- Ongoing 1-2-1 support for over 70 women in Sussex during 2020.
- Contact with over 2500 women electronically, resulting in **176 direct online referrals**.
- Average age of the women supported is 25-34.
- **116 self-care kits** given out across Sussex and Surrey.

CRAWLEY BREAKFAST CLUB

Was affected by COVID. However, it did continue during the pandemic, enabling Streetlight UK to support **18 women** directly.



SUSSEX POLICE JOINT OPERATIONS

Supported by



IN 2020 OUR SUPPORT WORKERS ACCOMPANIED SUSSEX POLICE ON MULTIPLE OPERATIONS, RESULTING IN WELFARE CHECKS AND REFERRALS FOR TRAFFICKED VICTIMS IN SUSSEX.



"I feel honoured and proud to be part of an innovative, dynamic and dedicated team. Working together, we advocate for women to live free from sexual exploitation." Jeana, Sussex Women's Support Worker



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SURREY



An overview of the scale and nature of prostitution in Surrey.

ADULT ONLINE ADVERTS - SURREY

Site/Surrey	Guildford	Epsom	Redhill	Farnham	Surrey Total
AdultWork	113	54	39	44	250
AdultSeek	121	31	65	48	265
Friday Ad (online)	38	16	36	24	114
Punterlink	382	101	234	246	963
UKAdultZone	305	64	104	95	568
VivaStreet	69	11	3	1	84
Area Total	1028	277	481	458	2244

IN 2020, STREETLIGHT ENGAGED WITH 2,356 WOMEN INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION ACROSS SURREY - DIRECTLY SUPPORTING 153 WOMEN.

JOINT POLICE OPERATIONS



IN 2020, OUR SUPPORT WORKERS ACCOMPANIED SURREY POLICE ON 10 POLICE OPERATIONS, SUPPORTING 13 WOMEN, LEADING TO REFERRALS FOR TRAFFICKED VICTIMS IN SURREY.



Our Surrey volunteers used their expertise and knowledge to reach out to women advertising sex online for over **40hrs** in 2020.

REPORTING ABUSE

Not every service user will tell us if they experience any forms of violence, but some do ask for assistance in making reports to the police.

The Surrey Support Worker was asked to file a Crime Stoppers report on behalf of a service user who wished for her report to remain anonymous.

This is not an uncommon stance from women in the sex industry as they face stigma/discrimination in many forms and are often worried that the police will not believe them or will not take them seriously.

WE PROVIDED 1-2-1 ONGOING SUPPORT FOR **OVER 30 WOMEN** INVOLVED IN PROSTITUTION IN SURREY IN 2020.



THE AVERAGE AGE OF WOMEN WHO CONTACTED US IN SURREY WERE BETWEEN **25-34 YEARS OLD**. **69 OUT OF 153 WOMEN** IN SURREY WERE BAME.



"Joining the team during the COVID -19 pandemic really opened my eyes to the effect it has had on the women we support and how difficult the past year has been for them and many others. Our aim is to provide well-rounded, service user-led support, for all the women we meet, enabling them to feel comfortable in making their own decisions and looking forward to the future.

Keely, Surrey Support Worker



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LONDON



London On-street Outreach in Enfield & Edmonton.

129 HOURS OF LATE NIGHT OUTREACH



Our staff and volunteers provide **weekly late-night outreach** to women working in on-street prostitution. The women are offered **hot drinks and care packs** and are often signposted to housing, sexual and physical health clinics and substance abuse services. **In total, we conducted 30 visits to North London, as well as supporting others across the city.**

OUTREACH VAN



In 2020, the London Team directly supported **65 women** across London. Our new outreach van was particularly welcomed in the cold winter months to give out hot food, drinks, coats, gloves and hats and other essentials.

VOLUNTEER DEDICATION

Our team of trained volunteers provided **OVER 250 hours of their time** on outreach in London during 2020.

CASE STUDY- Ms F

Our London Team got to know Ms F through on-street outreach during lockdown.

In November, she was **sleeping rough in the bins area** of a housing estate. She had difficulty in getting housing support as she had **no access to a phone** and would be out working when the overnight housing support team could visit her.

Streetlight UK provided her with a phone and put her in touch with housing services. When we saw her **before Christmas she was in stable accommodation** and has indicated that she is now **ready to begin receiving support to exit prostitution.**

SELF - CARE KITS

Include:

- Pregnancy Tests
- Panic Alarms
- Condoms
- Toiletries
- Sexual Health Information
- Relevant Support Information

I volunteer for Streetlight because I care about the women who are involved in prostitution. Everyone who works or volunteers with Streetlight are passionate about offering support and hope to the women we meet - Sue, London Volunteer Team Leader



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WOMEN WE SUPPORT



The Direct Impact, Told By Women.



CASE STUDY - MISS A

Streetlight UK made contact with Miss A through our online outreach service. We were the **only service to reach out to Miss A in the 22 years she had been working in prostitution**. Miss A is over 70 yrs old.

Throughout her 22 years in the sex industry, Miss A has worked independently, for agents and in brothels. When Streetlight UK presented Miss A with a self-care kit, Miss A returned the condoms to the support worker stating she wanted to exit. **Miss A wanted to use her experiences to benefit and protect other women in the industry**. Since being in contact and receiving support from Streetlight, Miss A has not escorted.

Miss A helped Streetlight and the Support Worker create and design a leaflet to be provided alongside our self-care kits. Some of the advice Miss A recommended was very valuable for women involved in prostitution. **She felt appreciated that we had asked for her input**.

Upon receiving her birthday gift from Streetlight, Miss A felt valued and grateful that the team had remembered and told Streetlight that **she sees no way forward for continuing to work in the sex industry** following Covid-19, especially after she has bought her new car.



Since that initial meeting, I have been meeting with my Support Worker **every fortnight for the last year** and have come so far in terms of confidence.

Thanks to meeting people in college and working with Streetlight to create boundaries and set realistic goals, I have **become a more well-rounded and independent individual who is better prepared to make my own decisions going forward**.

- Annie*



Thanks to Streetlight's Support Worker visiting me at my home, I was **finally able to accept support** which I had been wanting to have on many occasions -severe anxiety had often prevented me from doing so.

Through the practical and emotional support provided by the Support Worker, I have been **able to move into permanent accommodation and explore ways in managing my depression and anxiety**.

- Holly*



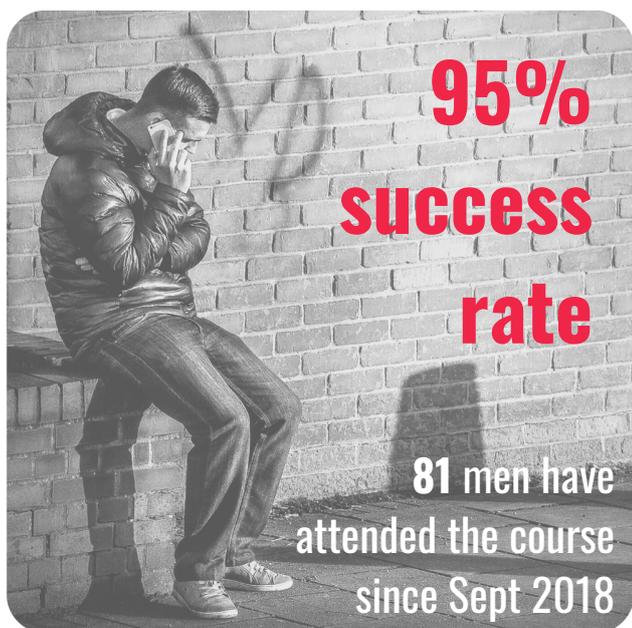
*All names have been altered to respect the confidentiality of the women we support.

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THE YOU CHOOSE COURSE



Streetlight UK Perpetrator Course



SOME OF THE SUBJECTS DELIVERED BY OUR TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS

- PROSTITUTION'S IMPACT ON WOMEN, MEN & COMMUNITIES
- CHOICES & CONSEQUENCES
- SEXUAL HEALTH
- PROSTITUTION LAW
- WHAT SURVIVORS SAY!

“I would like to thank you and your colleagues for not being judgemental and laying into us... I left your rehab with a positive and insightful frame of mind with what I learnt.”
Course attendee 2020

"Despite COVID - 27 men attended the course in 2020"

HELENA CROFT - DIRECTOR



The partnership approach between Tower Hamlets Police and Streetlight UK has moved from strength to strength over the last year.

Streetlight have managed to run a number of courses with clients that were committing offences on the borough. The course provides guidance and advice as well as aiding in the rehabilitation of the offenders. There has continued to be positive feedback from the clients attending the courses. We hope that this success will continue during 2021.

DAVE DEAL - Tower Hamlets Police



Working in Partnership with Tower Hamlets Council and Police, Streetlight UK provide a deterring re-offending course for perpetrators.

The course is for first time offenders, arrested for kerb crawling and engaging in 'on-street' sex.



The You Choose Course helps men arrested for kerb crawling look at the detrimental impact sex buying has on women, men and society and will alter the choices they make in the future - Charlotte, Women's Support Worker, London



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PARTNERSHIPS



Streetlight UK Partnership Approach

Streetlight UK support a significant group of vulnerable, yet often forgotten group of women. Partnering alongside Local Authorities, voluntary services and other NGO's, is an effective way to support women in prostitution holistically.



JOINT POLICE OPERATIONS, FORUMS, TRAINING DAYS, COURSES, SIGNPOSTING AND AWARENESS EVENTS.

STREETLIGHT UK WORK WITH A VARIETY OF PARTNERS INCLUDING:

VAWAG FORUMS LIFE CENTRE RAPE CRISIS MY SISTERS HOUSE SUSSEX POLICE SURREY POLICE GATWICK AIRPORT HMP DOWNVIEW KENT, SUSSEX, SURREY REHABILITATION FORWARD TRUST	ENFIELD POLICE TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL & POLICE LONDON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION MET POLICE SWAG FORUM HMP BRONZEFIELD SALVATION ARMY ENFIELD COUNCIL CIRCLES SOUTH EAST BRITISH RED CROSS
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IMPACT OF COVID-19

<p>IMPACT ON WOMEN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased homelessness. • Increased isolation, suicide attempts, sexual assaults and mental health issues. • Many needed basic items - food and clothing, support for the first time. • Immigration issues - women trapped by lockdown, unable to travel, who turned to prostitution. 	<p>IMPACT ON STAFF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulties working from home. • Moving to remote working. • Learning new technology and ways of working. • Finding a safe and confidential space to work within the home to support service users. <p>IMPACT ON OUR SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streetlight staff deemed Key Workers. • Demand of support from service users doubled. • 1-2-1 support needs/time increased significantly. • Outreach needs - doubled. • Staff numbers increased by 100%. • Volunteer travel severely impacted. 	  
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OUR STREETLIGHT TEAM



At the heart of our service is a team of trained, dedicated, enthusiastic and professional staff and volunteers.



We are delighted to welcome new volunteers, staff members and several student interns with the growth of our charity during 2020.

STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

With the expansion of our charity in 2020 we have been delighted to welcome 3 new student interns to join our London team. 2 Research Interns on placement from the University of Surrey and 1 Communications Intern, from Kings College, London.

We have also introduced 2 placement students to our Sussex and Surrey team and look forward to having more student interns in the coming year.



WORKING HERE HAS BEEN AMAZING. SEEING THE PASSION THE WHOLE TEAM HAS TO HELP AND FOSTER CHANGE INSPIRES ME DAILY TO DO MORE.

CHARLOTTE, COMMUNICATIONS INTERN
KINGS COLLEGE LONDON



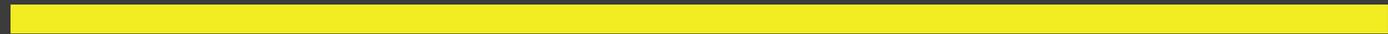
I LOVE SEEING THE RESEARCH AND PROJECTS I WORK ON DIRECTLY HELP THE VULNERABLE WOMEN WE SUPPORT. THIS DRIVES MY MOTIVATION.

ZOE, RESEARCH INTERN,
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

THE TEAM IS EXTREMELY COMPASSIONATE AND SUPPORTIVE, PLACING THE WOMEN WE SUPPORT AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING WE DO. I AM SO PROUD TO BE PART OF SUCH AN IMPACTFUL MOVEMENT!

JASMINE, RESEARCH INTERN
UNIVERSITY OF SURREY





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