

MP for Milton Keynes North hears about hidden slaves in Milton Keynes

MARK Lancaster MP attended an exhibition in the House of Commons, highlighting the hidden nature of Modern Day Slavery.

The exhibition depicted the four different kinds of slavery hidden away in our society. Curtains, doors, drawers and tea chests concealed the stories and photographs of survivors.

The survivors who shared their stories with the Human Trafficking Foundation to create the exhibition attended the opening. Among them was Cristina, a Romanian girl sold by her mother into prostitution in Birmingham when she was 16 and who narrowly escaped being snatched from her local authority care home by her traffickers. There was also a man, duped by a job advertised in Hungary, and on arrival here forced to work without pay, compelled to open a credit card account operated by his slave master, forced to claim benefits for non-existent children.

No one knows the real numbers involved. Yet, the Serious Organized Crime Agency knows that at least 2,000 victims are found each year. However, they believe that is the tip of the iceberg and that for every victim found, another ten remain hidden. The Human Trafficking Foundation concludes there must be up to 20,000 slaves in the cities, towns and villages of the UK.

Of these victims that have come to light, 49.5% are known to have come from the South East.

MP for Milton Keynes North Mark Lancaster said:

"I was appalled to learn that Milton Keynes is affected by modern day slavery and that there will undoubtedly be deeply traumatised people who have been trafficked to the UK and abused living in our area.

As a result of what I've seen today, I want to ensure that everyone in Milton Keynes is more alert to the signs of modern day slavery."