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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement: response to sex trafficking gang jailed for 52 years

“We at the POPPY Project are very pleased with this result. The lengthy sentences given to the majority of these men will send the message that treating women as property, abusing them and destroying their lives, is completely unacceptable and will be punished accordingly by the British courts.

“Ms X, from Slovakia, came to the POPPY Project ten months ago and we have been working with her since to help her recover from her experiences and to support her through the trial. She is an incredibly strong young woman and deserves full credit for taking her traffickers on and having the courage to give evidence.

“Our only regret is that Ms X’s last pimp, who stabbed her in the back with a knife as well as forcing her to work in prostitution, was given a three-year sentence only. We believe he should be facing a longer sentence.

“However, overall this is a fantastic result and we would like to pay tribute to Ms X, and the other woman who testified, for their bravery in helping to put these men where they belong – behind bars for a long time.”

Denise Marshall OBE
Eaves (POPPY Project) chief executive

– NOTES TO EDITORS –

Ms X is unfortunately unavailable for comment.

The POPPY Project is funded by the Ministry of Justice to provide accommodation and support to women trafficked into the UK for the purposes of sexual exploitation. It is the UK’s only Government-funded service supporting women trafficked into prostitution. It has 35 bed spaces and an outreach team which works with women still involved in the sex industry. It also has a research and development unit, which specialises in counter-trafficking and exiting-prostitution work.

Eaves also runs Eaves Women's Aid – a series of refuges for women and their children fleeing domestic violence – and a research department called the Lilith Project, which works to support the violence-against-women sector through research, education and training.

For further information about Eaves, contact Eaves' communications officer Anna Bowden on 020 7840 7126 or at anna.bowden@eaveshousing.co.uk.