

FATAL PROMISES - 13 days since our screening in Berlin

Dear reader,

I hope you are enjoying your summer and are getting a chance to soak up the sun before the fall. We here at the Fatal Promises office have had quiet a busy summer ourselves. As you know we have had the great opportunity to screen Fatal Promises in Berlin at the 15th European Summer School for Social Work, a great two week full time course held in Berlin, which brings together social workers and students from around the globe to learn, discuss and find solutions for various problems faced by the social work community.

This year the theme for the two weeks was exclusively Human Trafficking. The screening of Fatal Promise came towards the end of the workshop and was followed by a very interesting, constructive and intense discussion with Michael Junghans, the organizer of the Summer School and Virginia Moukouli from the University of Hamburg, as well as Anneliese Rohrer and myself. The discussion with the students was only engaging but also uplifting and thought provoking which is what we love about showing the film and meeting the audience. We believe that through exchanges like these we will all start to find a way to fight Human Trafficking together.

Best,
Kat

"Willingly no one chooses the yoke of slavery."

-- Aeschylus

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News

The up and coming generation

Roughly a year ago the Fatal Promises team got a message from a stranger via our Facebook site, saying that he was an activist in Germany and that he wanted to support us in getting Fatal Promises out there and cooperate in raising awareness. Of course we immediately accepted his friend request, but were not sure if his enthusiasm would really translate into any action.

Well, we were wrong: this stranger was Michael Junghans, the organizer of the European Summer School. Over the 12 months that followed we exchanged quiet a few emails with Michael and when the spring came around we even talked to him over the phone and that is when he asked us if we were willing to come out to Berlin and screen Fatal Promises at the European Summer School, we gladly accepted.

So, mid-July we flew to Berlin and met Michael for the first time in person at the Alice-Salomon-Hochschule in east Berlin.

We were not only impressed by the number of students who were present but by the discussion that followed the screening of the film. For one and a half hours the students engaged in a very lively and thought provoking discussion with director Kat Rohrer and producer Anneliese Rohrer.

The filmmakers even had a chance to ask the students questions about their participation in the summer school as well as some of the puzzlement some of them faced when telling their professors in their respective countries about their desire to learn more about Human Trafficking and their wish to become more active in the field.

For us, the Fatal Promises team, it showed us that there is an awareness as well as a desire by the up and coming generation of social workers and young people to become active and do something about Human Trafficking, which is what we need in order to continue the fight against this ever growing crime and to finally abolish slavery once and for all.



Human Trafficking in the News

[Craigslist and the Sex Trade](#)

[Ashton Kutcher fights Trafficking](#)

[Combined efforts of the French and UK police expose Trafficking Ring](#)

[The hub of Human Trafficking Texas](#)

What you can do!

As we have mentioned in many of our newsletters and blogs before there is a vast array of things you can do to help stop Human Trafficking the major three being: getting informed, spreading the word and getting involved. Here are some things going on in your neighbourhood that you can do:

The Northeast Tour of the Florida Modern-Day Slavery Museum

From July 25 - August 16, the Florida Modern-Day Slavery Museum will visit historic landmarks places of worship and community centers to explore connections between past and present slavery, and offer solutions to the human rights crisis in the fields.

The tour will also raise awareness about labor conditions in the tomato supply chains of Ahold's USA supermarket brands, including Giant, Stop & Shop, and Martin's.

Freedom Fest, Cape Cod- 14th August

Saturday August 14, 3-11 pm at Heritage Museum and Gardens
67 Grove Street, Sandwich MA.

Come have fun, celebrate, listen to music -- and help stop [Human Trafficking](#).

This is a family fun event -- Kids under 14 get in free!!!

Political News

Human trafficking, politics and hypocrisy abound

Some news can be really depressing. While it is estimated that there are currently 500.000 victims of human trafficking within the EU, the new British government refused to adopt an EU directive to give better protection to victims and to increase the prosecution of traffickers. According to media reports the Home Office says the UK is doing enough anyway. So much for all the calls at conferences for more international cooperation and for the fact that a global crime can only be fought globally if it is not even possible for EU countries to accept an EU directive. Denmark is refusing too.

It is a known fact that human trafficking, as a cross border phenomenon, can only be dealt with through cross-border efforts. The directive in question aims to establish common standards across member states for the prosecution of traffickers - but it also proposes greater protections for victims who have been involved in crimes in the country they are held in.

A spokesman for the Home Office in London called "combating human trafficking a key priority of the new government". How this statement can be in sync with the refusal of the conservative-liberal

government to accept the new EU guideline is not clear. And why the special anti-trafficking unit in London was dismantled when the fight against human trafficking is a priority is equally mysterious. Christine Beddoe, of Ecpat UK, a charity that helps children who have been abused and trafficked, has put her disappointment on the record: "The government claims that it wants to make the UK a hostile environment for traffickers but this cannot be achieved unless the whole EU takes a common approach."

Directive: <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/10/108>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-10861235>

www.fatalpromises.com