

You are invited to attend the Lydia Project AGM and this gives notice :

Saturday 26th April 2008

AGM 12:00

Meet Natalia & Tamara, working against the trafficking & exploitation of children in East Europe!

12:30 – 4:00 pm

Lunch & time to chat, followed by Presentations by Tamara & Nata of work in Moldova, Belarus etc.

Gillis Centre, 100 Strathearn Rd, Edinburgh (0131 623 8946)

Natalia Pleskachova is a psychologist from Minsk. She worked for 'Children of Chernobyl' and now with Non-governmental organisations including "Children – Not for Abuse" to prevent the abuse and trafficking of children and women. Poverty and unemployment put children and teenagers at risk; many are trafficked between 15 and 17 years of age. Nata worked in a centre for returned trafficked women and works to raise awareness of all forms of abuse, working with the Charity Sisterhoods Union of the Belarusian Orthodox Church. Nata joined Lydia Project programmes in 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2007.

Tamara Botin, a former teacher, attended Lydia programmes in 2002-3, 2006 and 2007, and has become adept at setting up and organising new social outreach programmes for the Moldova Orthodox Church. Her recent task has been to learn about and help to tackle the way that up to 40% of children are leaking through the borders eastward into bordering countries for begging, petty crime, sexual exploitation and pornography. She has joined others to plan an international preventative programme.

Other events to which all are welcome in April 2008:

GALASHIELS Tue 22nd, 7:00 pm, Trinity Church, Galashiels.

(Contact: Mrs. Paterson, 01896 752392)

ABERDEEN Wed 23rd April 7:00 p.m.

(Contact: Rhoda Wright, 01224 324415).

GLASGOW SUN 27th April – 11a.m. Wellington Church, morning service & 7: - 9: pm, Renfield St. Stevens Church, Glasgow

"Holy City" workshops & celebration

(Contact: Sally Beaumont 0141 334 3663)

Contact: email:

, tel. 0131 332 6127 for details.

Lydia Project, 100 Strathearn Rd, Edinburgh EH9 1BB, 0131.623 8946



Dear Friends ,

Spring 2008

In October, a core group in Kiev carried forward plans for joint projects which were first launched in summer 2006. They tackle issues that might defeat some of us, but continue to find new resources in themselves and are encouraged by your support. It is good to know that some people work for the resurrection of new life out of deathliness and destruction.

Recent TV programmes and news articles have informed us of the modern form of slavery and people trafficking: – workers, young women tempted by the promise of jobs and comfort elsewhere than in their poor villages, where former social support systems have collapsed, and where parents are so often unemployed. What has not been visible so far is the increased trafficking of children.

Some children live in situations that echo the lives depicted by Dickens – where for some sort of group life and shelter, children are used for begging or for sexual and pornographic exploitation. In a context of great poverty, some young people are either powerless or believe that they have little alternative to selling their bodies, especially if they have no skills to offer and no chance of gaining any.

“Children – not for sale!” is a programme planned to prevent such exploitation by training those in positions able to recognise and help; police, social workers, clergy or church workers and teachers. This programme is organised by Moldovan, Belarus and Armenian women. The first seminar in summer 2008 will be in Romania or Moldova, as they experience a high incidence of children melting away through borders, often chased away by domestic violence and extreme poverty.

“Never Too Late to Learn” is a collaboration to empower senior citizens in communities where they may be the population’s majority, but with shrunken pensions and humiliating circumstances, they can be very isolated. Options such as lunch clubs, drop-in centres, or organised activities will be explored with trainee facilitators from ten regions and guests from other countries in Tirgu Mures, Transylvania, Romania, in autumn, 2008.

“Children on the Edge” continues supporting gypsy and orphan children in Ukraine, Romania and Russia, those without family or state for further education. The Georgian street and abandoned children had a wonderful first summer camp and work continues.

While these programmes are underway, there will be several options in the last week of April to meet Natalia and Tamara, both preventing child trafficking.

We are delighted to inform friends and supporters that the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland has granted us co-funding for administration and organisational costs.