

Caritas Bakhita House

2016 YEAR END REPORT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

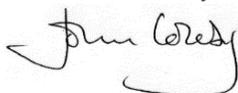
In early 2015 Pope Francis described human trafficking as a 'plague on humanity' and called on all people of goodwill to renew their commitment to improving the human condition of those suffering from this terrible exploitation. Cardinal Vincent Nichols and the Diocese of Westminster responded to this call by taking the lead and opening Caritas Bakhita House in June 2015, as an emergency safe house for rescued female victims of human trafficking in the UK.

Caritas Bakhita House exists as part of the unique working relationship between the Catholic Church, the Metropolitan Police, the UK's Anti-Slavery Commissioner and law enforcement agencies across the UK. Bakhita House provides guests with holistic care and support, including emotional, physical, mental, spiritual and legal aid, provided by professional staff, women religious and a wide range of volunteers and organisations linked to our Catholic network. The quality of these relationships, and the engagement with the catholic community, has delivered an experience for the guests which optimises their restoration and rehabilitation, and is a foundation for lasting hope in their lives.

The global network of the Catholic Church has allowed the work being achieved at Bakhita House to also serve as a model of best practice for replication. Five international embassies and other UK Catholic Dioceses have visited Bakhita House to see how this model works in reality. We hope to motivate other organisations and countries to set up similar safe houses to help victims in need on a global scale.

In 2017 we shall happily celebrate our two-year anniversary. All this would not be possible without the support of our donors and volunteers. On behalf of all the guests and staff of Bakhita House, I thank you for your continued generosity and support.

Yours sincerely,



John Coleby, Director of Caritas Westminster



John Coleby
Director of Caritas Westminster



Bakhita House guest & child, enjoying the Christmas tree this December 2016.

50 REASONS TO BE GRATEFUL, PROUD & HOPEFUL

Bakhita House has been open for eighteen months and I have fifty reasons to be grateful, proud and hopeful...

I am **proud** of our fifty guests, who have conquered many of their fears and have pushed themselves to start on the path to a new life. With support, many of these women have been courageous enough to help the police in the pursuit of their traffickers. I am also **proud** of our staff and volunteers, who work so hard to make sure Bakhita House is a welcoming home; full of love, respect, a sense of community and spirituality, and a place where our guests remain at the heart of our work.



I am **grateful** for the support of the Catholic Church, our donors (big and small) and for our support network. Without your help we would not have been able to help 50 women, three new-born babies and one toddler. Without help and support these women could have easily slipped through the cracks of our country's care and law systems and ended up back in the trafficking situation they had originally escaped from.

I am also **hopeful** that we can continue to help victims of trafficking and modern day slavery. I am **hopeful** that we can build upon our existing relationships with the police, St Mary's University, doctors, solicitors, therapists and hopefully many more. These organisations and people have become an important part of our guests support network, helping them rebuild their lives. I am **hopeful** that each guest who leaves Bakhita House does so with certainty of a better life and the knowledge they are actually cared for in this world.

My fifty reasons for being grateful, proud and hopeful are the fifty very individual guests, from 24 countries, aged between 17 and 66, who have walked through the doors of Bakhita House in the last eighteen months.

I could never be as dignified, resilient or as courageous as they have. They have shown me how important it is to fight injustice and live life to the full, all of which we can achieve together by working as a team at Bakhita House.

Thank you for all your support. Karen Anstiss, Bakhita House Manager.

Name: Sabeena Country of Origin: India Victim of: Domestic Servitude & Sexual Assault



I went to work for a family in Qatar as a house cleaner/child minder. Upon my arrival they took my passport and I never received a proper salary. When I tried to return home, they refused and threatened me. I was trapped and after many months of desperation I attempted suicide. Despite this, I was sent back to live with the same family.



Against my choice the family took me to London with them. The husband raped me, and when I told his wife, she did nothing. I was locked in the bathroom and slept in the bathtub. One day, when workmen came to the house, I escaped. I approached an Indian family in the street and they found me refuge in a church in South London - they connected me to a charity for domestic workers, who referred me on to Bakhita House after hearing my story.



Upon my arrival at Bakhita House I was deeply traumatized. The support workers helped me to receive medical help and counselling, and supported me during asylum interviews, which I found really distressing. Having my support worker by my side, believing in me, made a huge difference to my self-confidence. My English lessons began immediately, which greatly reduced my sense of isolation. During house meetings for staff and guests everyone listened to my opinion; I started to feel like I had control over my life. I became human again, not an object. Since leaving Bakhita House I have been given housing for one year as I complete my asylum process - I am now in a strong position to fight for my right to remain, so that I can finally provide for my family.

***Photos used do not depict actual Bakhita House guests, in order to protect their identity.**

Guests Facts & Figures



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At Bakhita House guests receive pro-bono legal advice and assistance, counselling, medical help, translation, one-on-one English lessons, wellbeing & arts therapy, cooking & ICT classes, education and employment training and pastoral and spiritual care, provided by our professional staff, sisters religious and network of 33 volunteers.



50

Women have been received into Bakhita House.



24

The number of countries guests originated from.



3

Women have given birth to healthy new born babies during their stay.



76%

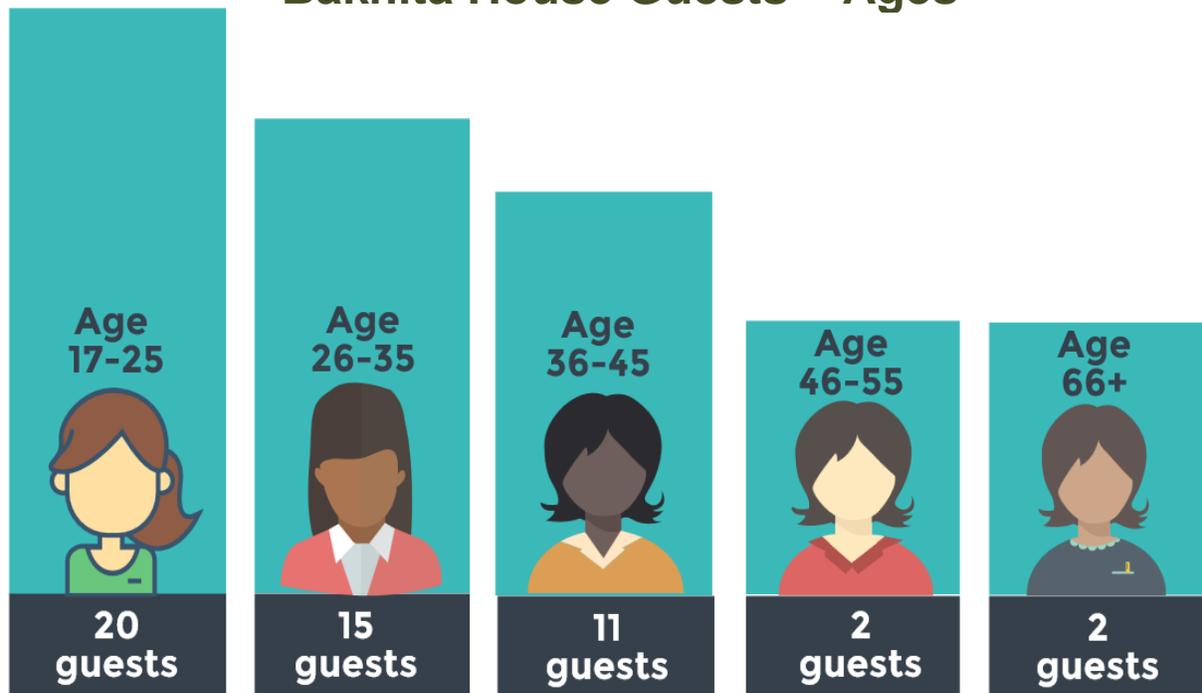
Of guests have signed the NRM, meaning they are eligible for public funding once they exit Bakhita House.



79%

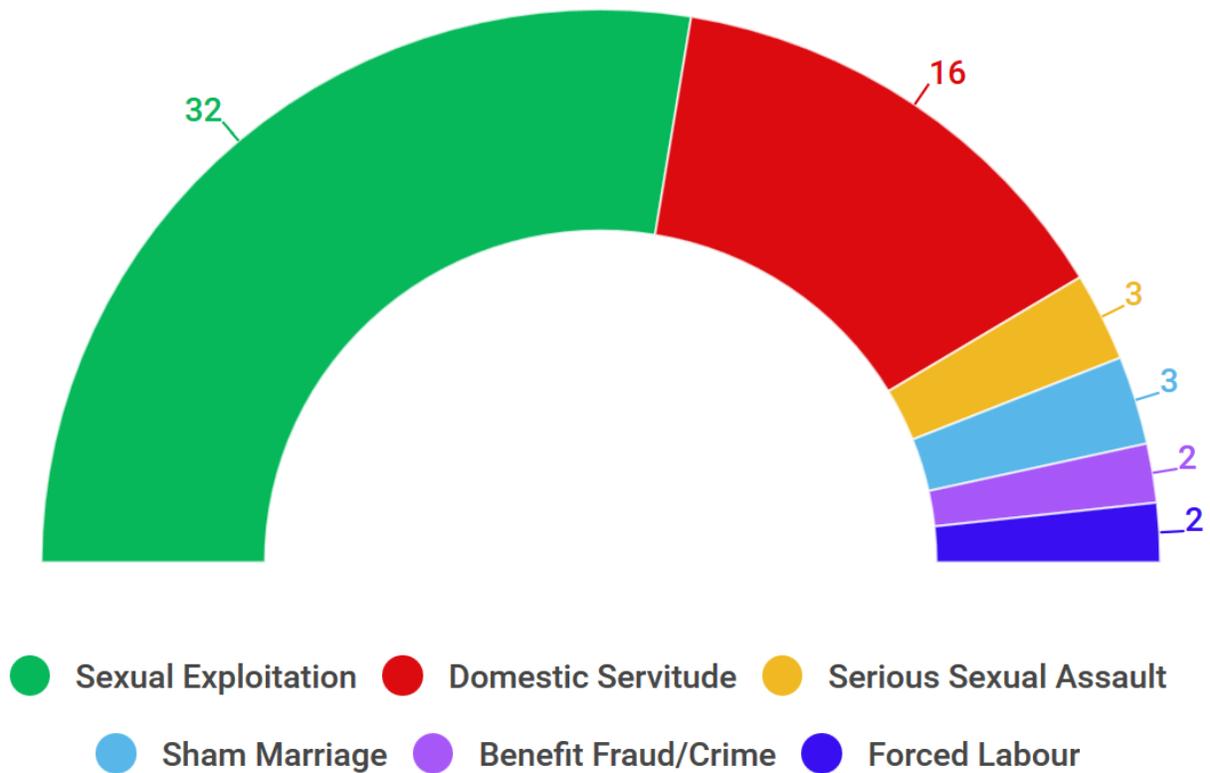
Of guests have reported the crime and are working with the police.

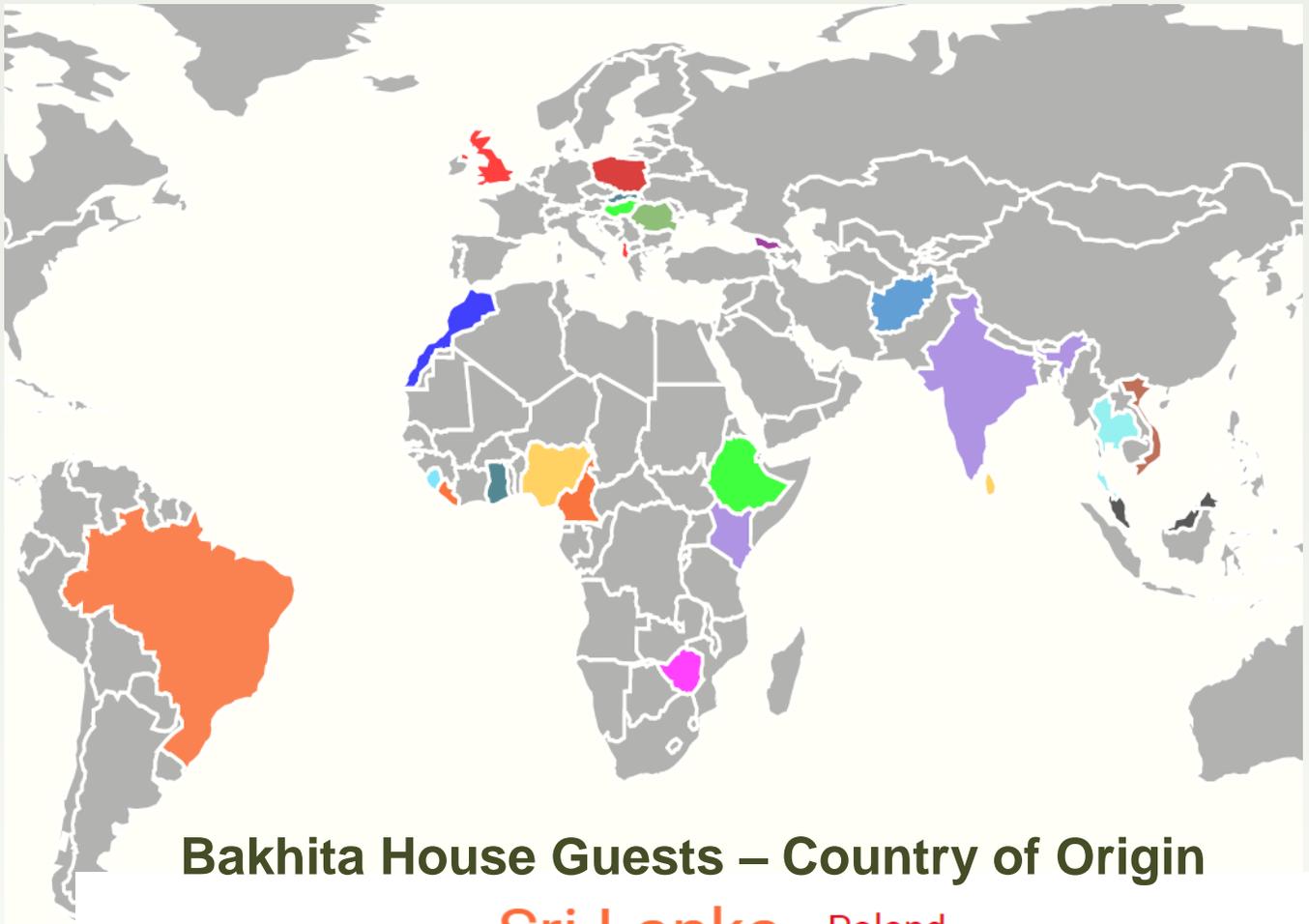
Bakhita House Guests – Ages



Bakhita House Guests – Exploitation Facts

Eleven of the women were subject to more than one of the below counts of exploitation.





Bakhita House Guests – Country of Origin

Sri Lanka Poland
 Morocco **Nigeria** Sierra Leone
Romania
 Thailand **Albania** India
 Liberia UK Cameroon
 Georgia
 Kenya Brazil Gambia
 Ghana
 Afghanistan **Ethiopia** Slovakia
 Jamaica Hungary
 Zimbabwe