



# STOP

HUMAN TRAFFICKING



## newsletter

July 2007

**Director Peter Gray**

As they say, "much water has passed under the bridge" these past 30 days and with the amount of work Steve Morrish (Executive Director) has been doing, it seems like the entire Mekong River has passed under that bridge! Apart from coordinating the set up of SISHA, Steve has just completed a four (4) week training program for the Cambodian Anti Human Trafficking and Juvenile Protection Police at Siem Reap province Cambodia. It is worth noting, the anti human trafficking training Steve is providing is the only police training to International Standards provided to the Cambodian Police that combines criminal investigation theory with practical exercises. It is little wonder so many child sexual abuse and child trafficking prosecutions are unsuccessful in this country.

This month we welcome **Ed Kelly** to the SISHA Board of Directors. Ed, who is located in Bangkok Thailand, is a partner in the well known law firm Tilleke & Gibbins International Ltd and is recognised as one of Asia's leading business lawyers. Ed has shown great passion in helping exploited men, women and children in South East Asia and has expressed his wish to help SISHA in any way he can. As a director of SISHA, Ed will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board. We all look forward to hearing from Ed in future newsletters.



### **'Director Steve Morrish training police in Siem Reap Province'**

On Wednesday the 25th of July, SISHA applied for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Royal Cambodian Government. Once granted, the MOU will allow SISHA to conduct our operations legally in the Kingdom of Cambodia. With SISHA operational, poorly prepared and presented evidence during investigations, unsuccessful rescues and prosecutions will be a thing of the past. Finally the traffickers, brothel keepers and child abusers will receive their just rewards.

While SISHA is primarily an Anti Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Investigation/Prosecution NGO, our ultimate aim is to rescue women and children from dangerous and potentially life threatening situations, and remove them from harms way. Ideally, once rescued, women and children will be,

1. Placed into assessment centers, provided short term medical care and counseling and depending on individual needs, placed into the care of organisations (NGO's) that specialise in the treatment and care of sexually or physically abused women and children.
2. Receive psychological counseling, medical care, education and vocational training and offered tangible employment opportunities.

3. Reunited with their families, which is dependent on the willingness of the victim to go back to the family, status of the family and their willingness to re-integrate the victim back into the community, potential for the victim to fall prey to trafficking and exploitation again and in many cases whether or not the family advocated or instigated the victim being trafficked or exploited in the first instance.

As a result of the great work that SISHA and partner aftercare centers do, hopefully, for the first time in their lives, exploited women and children will begin to live a 'normal' life. My responsibility at SISHA is the management of aftercare and placement of exploited women and children into quality centers and I will ensure that our supporters and readers are updated regularly on the progress of rescued victims.



### **'Helping SISHA protects children'**

**Fund raising** is part and parcel of running an NGO. We hate doing it, (scrounging for money) but it has to be done to ensure the job of rescuing women and children can continue. Where does the funding come from? Ultimately You! ....and other like minded individuals who have an understanding of Cambodia's recent past and the truly horrendous situation that approximately 30% of the very poorest part of the population find themselves in. I find it almost impossible to describe the environment these women and children are forced to live in. Nothing can prepare you for it. Yet they endure it, sometimes only just.

If you choose to give, you can rest assured every cent (minus essential administration and staff costs) will be used to help exploited women and children of Cambodia and Thailand start a new life. As a volunteer (as are all directors with the exception of the Executive Director) we give our time, our knowledge and our passion for exploited women and children without payment or reward of any kind.

If you are interested in sponsoring or helping exploited women and children please contact Steve, myself or any of the directors via the Contact Us page on the SISHA website. All enquiries will be responded to immediately and believe me, anything you contribute really will make a difference.

In the next newsletter we hope to report on the commencement of successful raids which have resulted in exploited women and children being rescued and offenders prosecuted and share stories on individual children and how their lives are now changing.

Peter Gray  
Director / Cambodia