

London 'slaves' rescued after 30 years

24th November, 2013



Three women have been rescued from a house in south London after being held in captivity for 30 years. Police raided the home of a 67-year-old man and woman who

reportedly held the women against their will for three decades. Police told reporters the captives were kept in "horrific conditions". The rescue took place after one of the women managed to gain access to a telephone and contacted Freedom Charity, which specializes in freeing victims of forced marriages. The police found a 69-year-old Malaysian woman, a 57-year-old Irish woman and a 30-year-old Briton. The British woman is believed to have been born in captivity and have no experience of life outside the house in which she was enslaved.

London police said: "This is the very early stages of a complicated and sensitive investigation. These women are highly traumatised, having been held in servitude for at least 30 years with no real exposure to the outside world." They added that: "Trying to find out exactly what has happened over three decades will understandably take some time." A spokeswoman from Freedom Charity expressed amazement at how the women could have been kept for so long in the middle of London without anyone knowing. She said: "In a very busy capital city, we often don't know our neighbours. We're looking at people who were kept against their will in an ordinary residential street in central London."

Sources: BBC / Sky News / Daily Mirror

Writing

We all have a duty to visit our neighbours and find out more about them. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

rescued / captivity / three decades / horrific / charity / victims / forced marriages / early stages / complicated / sensitive / traumatised / amazement / capital city

True / False

- a) The women were rescued by a special unit from the British Army. T / F
- b) The rescue took place after one of the captives telephoned for help. T / F
- c) The woman called a charity that frees victims of forced marriages. T / F
- d) None of the women who were held captive was British. T / F
- e) London police suggested it would not be a difficult case to investigate. T / F
- f) The police said it would take time to get to the facts of this case. T / F
- g) The charity wasn't surprised this could have happened in London. T / F
- h) The charity said it can be difficult to know who your neighbours are. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. rescued | a. distressed |
| 2. captivity | b. slavery |
| 3. raided | c. confinement |
| 4. freeing | d. intricate |
| 5. experience | e. saved |
| 6. complicated | f. wishes |
| 7. traumatised | g. contact with |
| 8. servitude | h. stormed |
| 9. will | i. unremarkable |
| 10. normal | j. releasing |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What other news have you read or seen on this story?
- b) What things do you think the police will look into?
- c) Do you think the women will ever be able to lead a normal life?
- d) What advice would you give to the women?
- e) What three adjectives would you use to describe the captors?
- f) Could this kind of thing happen in your town?
- g) How well do you know your neighbours?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the police officers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. after being | a. forced marriages |
| 2. gain | b. in captivity |
| 3. freeing victims of | c. what has happened |
| 4. believed to have been born | d. stages |
| 5. the house in which | e. held in captivity |
| 6. the very early | f. to the outside world |
| 7. a complicated and | g. street |
| 8. no real exposure | h. she was enslaved |
| 9. find out exactly | i. sensitive investigation |
| 10. an ordinary residential | j. access to a telephone |

Discussion – Student B

- What did you think when you read the headline?
- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'captivity'?
- What do you think about what you read?
- Why do people keep others captive?
- What punishment should the captors receive?
- Many cases like this have come to light over the past few years. Is this the tip of the iceberg?
- How can society now help the three women?
- What would being held captive for 30 years do to a person?

Spelling

- being held in ypitacivt
- reylotredp held the women
- ofhrrcii conditions
- specializes in freeing svicmit
- ocedrf marriages
- the house in which she was eseldavn
- a complicated and nvesitsej investigation
- highly saamrduttie
- having been held in ureedvsit
- no real upxorsee to the outside world
- expressed amztnmeae
- an ordinary netlsiiedar street

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. c	3. h	4. j	5. g
6. d	7. a	8. b	9. f	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Saying hello every day

You think saying hello every day is the best act of neighbourliness. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their acts. Also, tell the others which is the least neighbourly of these (and why): inviting neighbours for coffee, helping neighbours with odd jobs or helping neighbours do their shopping.

Role B – Invitations for coffee

You think inviting neighbours for coffee is the best act of neighbourliness. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their acts. Also, tell the others which is the least neighbourly of these (and why): saying hello every day, helping neighbours with odd jobs or helping neighbours do their shopping.

Role C – Helping with DIY / the garden

You think helping neighbours with odd jobs is the best act of neighbourliness. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their acts. Also, tell the others which is the least neighbourly of these (and why): inviting neighbours for coffee, saying hello every day or helping neighbours do their shopping.

Role D – Going shopping for them

You think helping neighbours do their shopping is the best act of neighbourliness. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their acts. Also, tell the others which is the least neighbourly of these (and why): inviting neighbours for coffee, helping neighbours with odd jobs or saying hello every day.

Speaking - Neighbours

Which of these neighbourly deeds are important? Which do you do and how often do you do them?

- Say hello
- Invite them for coffee
- Send New Year cards
- Keep a spare house key
- Go shopping for them
- Help with their DIY / garden

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.