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Equality charity sets up Jersey branch

By Lucy Stephenson

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A JERSEY branch of the Channel Islands equality charity Liberate has been set up. Originally set up in Guernsey, Liberate was a vocal participant in the recent debate on the introduction of same-sex marriage.

Other issues discussed at the local group's first meeting earlier this month include plans for a sex discrimination law and the need for a social focus for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Jersey since

the closure of the Island's last gay nightclub a number of years ago.

With that in mind, the organisation has arranged a social event on 20 September at Ce Soir at the Weighbridge.

The co-ordinator for Liberate's Jersey group, Vic Tanner Davy, said: 'We are looking forward to working with the committee in Guernsey on issues that affect both islands, such as the provision of LGBTQ care in old age and educational programmes that can be delivered in schools in Jersey and Guernsey. 'We also want to provide support to those

who may be questioning their sexuality, and one of the ways to do that is to create a safe social space.'

'To start to grow that initiative, we are planning a social event on 20 September at Ce Soir to try to bring back some of the community spirit that used to exist when the nightclub Cosmopolitan was a social hub where people who were just coming out could go and feel safe.'

Details of the Ce Soir event can be found on Facebook. Liberate Jersey can be contacted at hello@liberate.gg.

Survey gives Airport stamp of approval

Which? magazine commends Jersey on its range of services

By Harry McRandle

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JERSEY Airport has performed well in a consumer survey of Britain's best and worst airports.

In the survey, carried out by consumer organisation Which?, the Island's Airport gets a five-star rating for queues at security. There is also a four-star rating for the amount of seating available at the Airport.

Overall, Jersey gets a 76% satisfaction rate, which puts it roughly in the middle of 15 small UK airports assessed.

The best of the smaller airports were London Southend and Doncaster Robin Hood, which got ratings of 85%. The worst two were Leeds Bradford (52%) and Belfast City George Best (56%).



Jersey Airport was given a 76% satisfaction rate by the survey conducted by Which? magazine

In the larger airports – the ones which handle more than four million passengers a year – top of the table was Newcastle with a 66% rating followed close-

ly by Birmingham International's Terminal 2.

London Gatwick's North Terminal, where many flights from the Island arrive, was demed to

be the worst with 49%. Gatwick South Terminal, Belfast International and the three Manchester terminals were only marginally better.

Sex gangs can earn £1,000 a day

(Cont from page 1)

used as a brothel and that the women being used are from Eastern Europe.

The paper has received further information that the allegations are not confined to one property and some of the women are encouraged to take illegal substances before being forced into sex.

'I'm not at all surprised it's in an area like Jersey. I'd be very surprised if it wasn't. It's just hidden,' Mr Steen added. 'We've seen big cases in Ireland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and southern Portugal.'

Reported cases of human trafficking around the world have exploded in recent years, according to Mr Steen, but he ad-

ded that the number of convictions remained static.

'People are now more aware of it [human trafficking] and they're noticing it more. We are finding more and more victims but there have been less than 40 convictions over the past three years,' he said.

'The police just go on convicting and chasing the victims. It is very easy to go after these girls, it's much more difficult to go after the traffickers. The ones that are found tend to be from the bottom of the pyramid. The real gangsters are living on yachts in Monte Carlo.'

Many of the women brought over to work are likely to come to the Island legitimately,

according to Mr Steen, who said EU passports make trafficking easier for criminals.

Lorna Kearney, manager of the Jersey Women's Refuge, says it is 'disturbing' if women were being exploited in this way. She added that trafficking was not something that the refuge had come across before.

Ms Kearney said: 'I think it's re-assuring that it's being investigated to see if there is a problem. If there are women being treated in this way it is disturbing. Because we are a small Island it means that things can get picked up quite quickly.'

Anyone with information is being asked to phone the States police on 612612 or 0800 555111.

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