

RELEASE WOMEN EMAIL - September 2019

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Release Women Monthly Email September 2019

Hello Friend

Equipping Cinderella

I'm sure that we are all familiar with the story of *Cinderella*, a well-known fairy tale, and as the Christmas season gets close, it will no doubt be a popular pantomime for the children. You may well be wondering what pantomime has to do with persecution and where does Cinderella fit in!

Well, let's explain. *Cinderella* is the title of one of the drama presentations to be performed at the **Release Women National Conference** on Saturday, October 12, by Endeavour 831, an up-and-coming theatre company. Motivated by their Christian faith and inspired by the work of Jesus, Endeavour 831 has one key mission: to use the arts to spread one very simple message – 8 letters, 3 words, 1 meaning – 'I Love You'.

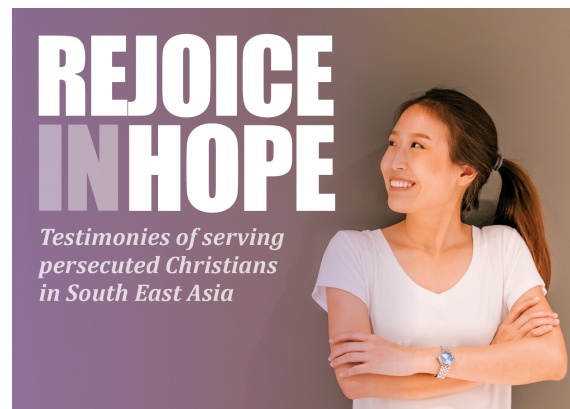
Endeavour 831 is committed to standing with, speaking up and advocating for, the vulnerable, by challenging decision-makers, empowering grassroots communities and mobilising people to make a difference and challenge injustice. At the conference they will do this by sharing extracts from their pioneering production *Hidden in Plain Sight*, which

exposes the issue of violence towards women as a form of religious persecution.

They use the story of Cinderella to present the issue of how young Christian girls, living in poverty and under oppression in predominantly Muslim countries, can be tempted by the promise of a better life to marry outside their Christian communities. Some are even abducted from the street, sexually abused, raped and forced into marriage after converting to Islam. Sadly, there is no 'fairy tale romance' or 'happily ever after' ending. Once the girls become pregnant, they are often divorced by their husbands and sometimes even rejected by their own families when they try to return home.

The issue Endeavour 831 presents through this drama is one that we hear of often from our partners in countries such as Pakistan and Egypt. One of our partners in Pakistan has dealt with 20 such cases in just the first six months of this year. But at our conference [Rejoice in Hope](#), we will also hear how being trained in creative skills is giving some young Christian women in Pakistan, today's 'Cinderellas', the ability to build their resilience to persecution of this kind and stand for Jesus.

Everyone is warmly invited to come and join us on Saturday 12th October at our conference, from 10.00am – 4.00pm, at [St. Michael's Church](#), **Chester Square, LONDON SW1W 9EF**. Doors open at 9.30am for coffee and registration. Get your tickets today from [Eventbrite](#), by calling the Release office 01689 823491 or on the door on the day. Come and hear how you can make a difference to the lives of Christian girls and young women in Pakistan today.



Blessings,

Release Women Team

Through our international network of missions, Release International serves persecuted Christians in 30 countries around the world by supporting pastors and Christian prisoners, and their families; supplying Christian literature and Bibles; and working for justice.

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