

Jury finds Burton nail bar couple guilty of human trafficking of teenage girls

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BY SADE MTOWA ON NOVEMBER 4, 2017

A couple from Burton-on-Trent have been found guilty of human trafficking after exploiting teenage workers at a nail bar in the town.

Viet Hoang Nguyen (known as Ken), 29, and his wife Giang Huong Tran (known as Susan), 23, both of Barker Round Way, Burton, were convicted of trafficking offences after a trial at Stafford Crown Court.

The court heard how a sophisticated operation, involving five police forces and the National Crime Agency, to track two Vietnamese teenagers aged 17 and 18 led them to a nail bar on Abbey Arcade in Burton.

The girls had initially been taken into care after a welfare visit to the Nail Bar Deluxe in Bath city centre in February 2016.

But they disappeared again and were eventually tracked to the Burton outlet.

Viet Hoang Nguyen and Giang Huong Tran were arrested and charged under the Modern Slavery Act, accused of exploiting the young women for labour purposes.

Nguyen was found guilty of conspiracy to arrange or facilitate the movement of people for labour exploitation.

Both Nguyen and his wife, were found guilty of conspiracy to require others to perform forced or compulsory labour.

A third person – Thu Huong Nguyen, (known as Jenny), 48, of Southdown Road, Bath – was found guilty of conspiring to arrange or facilitate the movement of people for labour exploitation.

She was also found guilty of conspiring to require others to perform forced or compulsory labour.

Cash in excess of £60,000 in £50 notes was found stuffed inside a teddy bear in a wardrobe at Thu Huong Nguyen's home.

Viet Hoang Nguyen and Thu Huong Nguyen were remanded in custody. Tran was granted conditional bail.

Sentencing will take place at Stafford Crown Court in January 2018.

DI Clair Langley, of Staffordshire Police, said: "This has been a significant and extensive investigation and a prime example of how police forces have to work together to target the traffickers."

Unseen has launched a UK Modern Slavery Helpline.

If you're concerned for someone or are experiencing slavery please call 08000 121 700 for confidential advice, or you can text 21700, or visit www.modernslaveryhelpline.org