

Vigil for woman in American prison

A VIGIL will draw attention to the plight of a Slough woman in prison in America.

Supporters of Chantal McCorkle, 36, who was sentenced to 24 years in an American maximum security prison nearly six years ago, will gather outside the US embassy in London on Wednesday to petition for her release.

Mrs McCorkle, whose parents Diane and Len Forrester live in The Frithe on Wexham Court Estate, was living in California with her husband, William, when they were both arrested for fraud.

William McCorkle set up a series of televised info-commercials selling videos that promised to make the buyer rich.

Because they used actors in the adverts playing rich people rather than individuals who had become rich through watching their tapes, they were convicted of fraud.

Prosecutors contended that over a six-year period the McCorkles had made 28m dollars. They were charged with fraud, conspiracy and because they had an off-shore bank account, money laundering.

Legal experts in the United Kingdom claim that if Mrs McCorkle had been prosecuted here she would probably only have received a suspended sentence.