

COALITION REPORT

— 2005 —

THE COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN



CATW IN ACTION POLICY, LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE – CAMPAIGNS

CATW TESTIFIES BEFORE U.S. HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON “THE ECONOMICS OF SEXUAL SLAVERY”

CATW Co-Executive Director Dorchen Leidholdt testified before the Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology Subcommittee of the House Committee on Financial Services, chaired by Rep. Deborah Pryce (OH), on Wednesday, June 22, at a hearing, entitled “Combating Trafficking in Persons: An International Perspective.” The hearing addressed the international dimensions of human trafficking, especially its global and financial implications. Other speakers included Michael O’Connor, International Justice Mission’s Director of Operations in Southeast Asia; Jessica Neuwirth, President of Equality Now; and Lisa Thompson, the Salvation Army’s Liaison for the Abolition of Sexual Trafficking.

In her presentation, entitled “The Economics of Sex Slavery: Follow the Money Trail,” Dorchen focused on, “the buyer, the bought, and the business.” She began by emphasizing that the economics of the global sex trade in women and children “starts with the dollars (or reals, pesos, rupees, won, yen, bhat, or yuan) in the pockets of the prostitution buyers, known as “johns” in the U. S., “kerb crawlers” in the U.K., and more often than not as ordinary husbands and fathers in their communities.” “Their collective demand fuels a gigantic global industry estimated by a 2004 European Parliament report to turn over more money each year than the total of all of the military budgets in the world.”

As for “the bought,” Dorchen stressed that frequently the women and children whose bodies are purchased never see the money exchanged. Instead, it is “handed off to her pimp, trafficker, madam, or husband; used to pay off inflated debts; or sent back to the family members who sold her into slavery.” She pointed to research that demonstrates that “even for the ostensible free agent, the money made from prostitution is spent on the drugs or alcohol she needs to numb her pain and depression so that she can endure another day in the sex trade.”

Instead of ending up with the women and children they use, Dorchen stated, “the dollars spent by buyers on prostitution fatten the bank accounts of a wide variety of sex industry profiteers, ranging from individual criminals and loosely or highly structured criminal organizations, including pimps, traffickers, brothel owners, and their agents, to legitimate businesses—travel agencies, hotels, clubs, and restaurants.” The money that the illegal portion of this global industry turns over has been estimated in the thousands of billions of dollars; the money generated

In This Issue...

CATW in Action	cover
Key Conferences and Events	5
International Human Rights Advocacy & UN Meetings	8
Coalitions Around the World	11
Grants	16
Publications and Videos	18

specifically by sex trafficking at 7 billion dollars annually, although Interpol has given a higher estimate of 19 billion dollars.”

Testimony at the hearing addressed the vastly different approaches and responses from governments and politicians to the astronomical profits of the industry. One constituency views the sex industry as a valuable source of tax revenue and has worked, often with the encouragement of sex industry entrepreneurs, to legitimize and regulate prostitution as work. This group contends that the only way to bring the sex industry under control and check its worse abuses is to confine it to tolerance zones or regulate it. “Such schemes have proved to be little more than a blank check to the sex industry.” During this time the size of the Dutch sex industry has increased by 25%.

In striking contrast, the speakers explained, Sweden has developed and passed an array of groundbreaking laws that address prostitution and trafficking as practices of violence and discrimination against women and girls. These laws strengthen penalties against traffickers and other sex industry entrepreneurs; direct services to victims while eliminating penalties against them; and criminalize the purchase of sexual services, recognizing that it is the buyer not the bought who should be sanctioned and punished.

Since the law went into force, the incidence of street prostitution has decreased by at least 50 percent and the recruitment of new women for street prostitution has ground to a halt. The most important effect of the law, however, has been its impact on trafficking. While Sweden’s Nordic neighbors have seen a sharp escalation in sex trafficking since 1999, trafficking into Sweden has declined. Swedish law enforcement officials have received communications from Europol and national police forces in other European countries that traffickers are averse to Sweden. As Swedish anti-trafficking expert Gunilla Ekberg points out, “Traffickers and pimps are businessmen who calculate profits, marketing factors, and risks of getting caught when they decide which countries to sell women into. Sweden is no longer a good place for traffickers to do business.”

Last year, the Korean government followed Sweden’s example, passing and implementing new laws against the Korean sex industry that feature strong penalties against the business and its buyers. In spite of the enormous profits at issue, the Korean government made an emphatic statement, through its new law, that the sex industry’s economic and human cost to Korean society outweighs the value of its revenue to the Korean GDP.

CZECH REPUBLIC REJECTS REGULATION OF PROSTITUTION TWICE IN 2005!

The Czech government’s pro-prostitution bill has been twice resoundingly rejected. On March 29, 2005, the Czech Chamber of Deputies rejected the government’s proposal to rescind its ratification of the 1949 *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*. Withdrawing from this convention would have been a first step towards a vote to accept a government bill legalizing/regulating the prostitution industry.

Only 89 votes were needed to stop the denunciation of the 1949 Convention, but a total of 103 MPs cast ballots against withdrawal. If the Czech Republic withdrew from the 1949 treaty, which prohibits the registering of persons in prostitution and other administrative controls that decriminalize the sex industry as well as the procuring of persons for prostitution and the keeping or management of brothels, the government’s pro-prostitution bill could have gone forward.

As part of a joint project on preventing trafficking through addressing legalization trends in Europe and elsewhere, Janice Raymond of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) and Colette de Troy of the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) spoke at a seminar on “Promoting Preventative Measures to Combat Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation” in Prague on March 24, 2005. The seminar, which was part of a joint project funded by the U.S. and Sweden, and sponsored by the Czech Women’s Lobby, the Institute for Gender Studies, the Catholic Women’s Union, the Association of Women Entrepreneurs and Soroptimist International, was organized especially to highlight the seriousness of potential Czech withdrawal from the 1949 Convention and the consequences of legalizing and regulating prostitution and the sex industry. Representatives of Parliament, the Ministry of the Interior, the governmental Council for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, the police, and NGOs attended the seminar. Thanks to all of these groups who organized this seminar within record time. MPs said that they had a greater understanding of the consequences of withdrawing from the 1949 Convention and the legalization bill after the seminar.

The government, however, launched its bill again in July of 2005, which would have given municipalities the right to regulate and liberalize the sex industry in their own cities and towns. The bill also mandated permits for women in prostitution, regular medical check-ups of the women, and women’s payments of health, social insurance and taxes to the government.

After a summer in which the international media bombarded publications with headlines such as “prostitution in the future will be regulated by municipalities under a bill approved by the government today” — glamorizing decriminalization of the Czech sex industry as if it were a fait accompli — the Czech Deputies rejected the government bill to regulate prostitution. On October 20, 2005 by a vote of 60 out of the 90 legislators present, the Deputies once more rebuffed the government’s proposal to annul the Czech Republic’s ratification of the 1949 *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*.

Critics pointed out that the State would ultimately benefit from the government bill by becoming a pimp. “Do we want Prague to turn into one huge European brothel?” asked KDU-CSL deputy Josef Janecek. Janice Raymond summarized CATW’s role in the debate by stating: “This is a major victory for all who have worked hard to promote real women’s rights! Indeed, many factors surely influenced the votes of the Czech parliamentarians, but it certainly feels good to have had a central role to play in this, with such good results.”

CATW HELPS SPEARHEAD ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAW IN NEW YORK STATE

Dozens of organizations working in New York State, including the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Equality Now, and New York State NOW, have come together as the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition to call for the passage of legislation to ensure that New York State has a strong and effective legal framework within which to combat human trafficking. The organizations, many of whom have extensive experience in fighting the harms of trafficking and working with victims of trafficking, recognize the urgent need to combat trafficking in New York, which is an entry, transit, and destination point for large numbers of trafficking victims.

Introduced on May 23, 2005 by Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz, the draft bill provides a comprehensive approach that addresses all aspects of human trafficking. The bill includes provisions that fully define sex and labor trafficking; create the possibility of effectively prosecuting those who create the demand for trafficking; recognize the link between sex tourism and sex trafficking; impose enhanced penalties for the trafficking of minors; and seek to ameliorate the harm done to trafficking victims by providing them with information about rehabilitative and legal services, restitution, a civil cause of action for damages against their traffickers, and immunity from prosecution.

The sponsoring organizations contend that these provisions are essential in creating an effective deterrent to traffickers, addressing the unique harms experienced by trafficking victims and ensuring the prosecution of all those who perpetuate and profit from the trafficking industry. Their hope is that the draft legislation will become law in New York State and serve as a model for other states’ anti-trafficking laws.

CATW Co-Executive Director Dorchen Leidholdt joined Ambassador John Miller, Director of the U.S. State Department’s Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Office and Ken Franzblau, Staff Attorney for Equality Now, at an experts’ roundtable in Albany on September 26, sponsored by members of the New York State Assembly. The experts, joined by members of the New York State Assembly, evaluated and debated the merits of several draft anti-trafficking laws. The clear consensus was in favor of the Dinowitz bill.

On October 25, CATW’s Eastern European Coordinator, Barbara Kryszko, testified on behalf of CATW at the day-long public hearing in New York City, also sponsored by the New York State Assembly. Also testifying at the hearing—against the legislation—were the operators of Big Apple Oriental Tours, currently under indictment by the New York State Attorney General for operating a sex tourism agency. Their claims to operate a harmless tourist agency that would be negatively impacted by the proposed legislation were emphatically refuted by Ken Franzblau, who built the case against the business that led to the State prosecution of it.

CATW TESTIFIES BEFORE CANADIAN SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOLICITATION LAWS AND COALITION OF ASIAN WOMEN CALLS FOR FEDERAL PARTIES TO END PROSTITUTION IN CANADA

CATW appeared as a witness before the Subcommittee on Solicitation Laws in the House of Commons, Ottawa, Canada, on April 4, 2005. Melissa Farley also appeared before the committee in March, 2005, in Vancouver. As the description of the task of the parliamentary subcommittee stated, “The subcommittee was established by the House of Commons Committee on Justice to study solicitation laws in order to determine the best course of action to improve the safety of sex-trade workers and to recommend changes that would reduce the exploitation of and

violence against sex-trade workers.” The parliamentary subcommittee was composed of 5 members from the different political parties in Canada.

A number of subcommittee members, as well as many of those who appeared as witnesses before the subcommittee, supported the decriminalization of the sex industry. Some invited “sex workers” and advocates of “sex work” testified that criminalization of solicitation, pimps, clients and “bawdy houses” or brothels do not protect women in prostitution. As the director of the Pivot Legal Society affirmed, “we don’t think that there’s a need for any legislation in the criminal law that’s specific to sex work.”

Edmonton women in prostitution told the subcommittee a different story — that they need help escaping prostitution – not legalization or decriminalization of the sex industry. Kathy King, mother of Cara King, a prostituted woman murdered in Edmonton, told the subcommittee members that “Canada must follow the example set by Sweden. Prostitution is a consumer-driven activity. And there seems to be a conspiracy in the world to protect the consumers and persecute the women.” Survivor of prostitution, Dawn Hodgins, said decriminalization or legalization is not the problem. “The problem is they are homeless, addicted.”

In testifying before the subcommittee, Janice Raymond emphasized that decriminalizing and regulating prostitution protects not the women but the sex industry. Decriminalizing buyers, pimps and brothels are not “new” solutions to the problem of sexual exploitation. They are very old and regressive measures. Canada needs to put forth solutions that do not lock women into prostitution, as in legalized and regulated systems, but that give women a genuine future.

The subcommittee, which was composed of a majority of pro-sex work legislators, recommended full decriminalization of prostitution as the outcome of the hearings. However, with the fall of the liberal government in the autumn of 2005, the recommendations will not go forward at this time.

Anticipating the 2006 Canadian elections and the possibility that the committee and the recommendations will be revived after the elections, a coalition of South Asian, Filipino, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Chinese and Indonesian women has formed to demand that federal parties indicate their positions about decriminalizing prostitution. “We don’t want our sisters, daughters or mothers to be sold on the street or in brothels or anywhere...that is why we are speaking out,” said Srvgeet Kaler. “To say that prostitution is the oldest profession is either the highest of cynicism or the most stubborn callousness. We will not agree to any move that results in the men making even easier profits from the prostitution of women and children,” said Sook C. Kong. “There is no need to reify women’s inequality. It already exists. But we want it to end.”

The coalition of Asian women is joining the call from the Native Women’s Association of Canada and the Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centres to end the criminalization of women who are prostituted. All three groups demand the legal protection of all women by arresting pimps, johns and procurers who are behind the buying and selling of women.

CROATIAN PARLIAMENT ROUNDTABLE

CATW was invited to address members of the Croatian Parliament about legalization of prostitution in Zagreb on May 30, 2005. Attended by 30 Ministers of Parliament and by 20 NGOs, the roundtable was organized by ROSA, the Centre for Women War Victims; PETRA, the Network of Women’s NGOs to Prevent and Suppress Trafficking in Women; and the Croatian Governmental Office for Human Rights. Rada Boric, one of Croatia’s representatives on the joint CATW-EWL project on “Promoting Preventative Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation,” spoke on behalf of PETRA and Luka Maderic, the chief of the Governmental Office for Human Rights, also spoke at the roundtable.

There have been several legalization initiatives put forth by the former Social Democratic Minister of the Interior, the former Deputy Minister of Health, the Tax Administration Office of the Ministry of Finances, and a major Croatian Trade Unionist. Up to this point, these initiatives have been much trumpeted in the media but not widely accepted in civil society.

Janice Raymond talked about the myths and misrepresentations about legalization and decriminalization of the sex industry in Europe. Particularly discussed was the way in which the pro-“sex work” lobby represents legalization as “the European trend” and encourages new independent countries to “join Europe” by legalizing, decriminalizing and regulating prostitution. Several roundtable participants stated that legalization and decriminalization of

prostitution are being extolled as a test of Croatian political maturity and modernity. MPs and NGOs are told that governmental legalization and decriminalization of the sex industry is indicative of a country's readiness to join the European Union and a sign of their willingness to implement democratic and human rights principles.

De-mythologizing these blatant misrepresentations, Janice Raymond pointed out that only 3 countries in Europe had legalized or decriminalized the sex industry and that another "European trend" was to penalize the demand – the so-called clients who buy women for the sex of prostitution. Moreover, she said, there is much evidence to suggest that legalization and decriminalization of the prostitution industry has failed to protect women in countries that have these legal systems and are thus failed policies. Governments should be studying the Swedish model that rejects legalization of prostitution as a violation of women's equality and, instead, makes men accountable for their role in creating the demand for prostitution.

In the afternoon, CATW joined several Croatian activists in speaking at a public forum for the general public on the same subjects. Both the parliamentary and public forums were widely covered in the Croatian media.

These forums were followed up in December, 2005 with a seminar addressing the continuing public debate of legalization of prostitution in Croatia. As part of a joint CATW-EWL project addressing legalization initiatives in 13 countries, Nermina Komaric from Zenska Soba presented proposed changes to the Criminal Code which, in opposition to the ideas in favor of legalization, anticipate a new offence of procurement of sexual services and abolition of penalties for women involved in prostitution.



KEY EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

IN MEMORY OF ANDREA DWORKIN

Andrea Dworkin died peacefully in her sleep on the morning of April 9, 2005. This is a great loss for all of us who are committed to ending violence against women, especially through pornography and prostitution.

Andrea was an unrelenting advocate against violence against women in her numerous books, talks and in her campaign to promote and pass an anti-pornography law based on women's equality during the 1980s in the United States and elsewhere. Most recently, she published articles in the British newspaper, the *Guardian*, on these issues.

Over the last 5 years, Andrea suffered from several illnesses. Her death marks someone passing from this world whose words and deeds were born of a feminist passion for women who have been hurt through the worst kind of violence and degradation.

Andrea once said that for a writer, endurance mattered more than anything, and that she hoped she would never disappear as a writer. Andrea's words and her defense of women's real freedom of speech will endure, because they speak for and to large numbers of women and men who are silenced by the sadism of pornography and prostitution, and because they resound with all who care about human rights and human dignity.

"To communicate and to survive, as a writer and as a woman: the two are one for me."

PRESS CONFERENCE - WHO SPEAKS FOR WOMEN IN PROSTITUTION?

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

On October 17, 2005 as part of their joint project on sex trafficking and prostitution, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and the European Women's Lobby organized a press conference at the European Parliament entitled "Who Speaks for Women in Prostitution?" The aim of this press conference was to amplify the voices of survivors of prostitution and what they have to say about the harm of sexual exploitation, the truth about the sex industry and the demand for prostitution, especially to the media who often romanticize prostitution as a woman's choice.

These survivors are not “sex workers,” and they reject the ideology that prostitution is “work” and a job choice like any other. In contrast to the “European Conference on Sex Work, Immigration, Labour and Human Rights” held in Brussels at this same time, survivors argued that prostitution is not “migration for sex work,” nor is it a form of labor or a human right. Instead, prostitution is a violation of human rights and violence against women.

The speakers addressed specific questions such as preventing trafficking, legalisation of prostitution, reducing the demand for sexual exploitation, supporting victims, investigating and prosecuting traffickers and practical steps to combat trafficking and prostitution. Survivors and others who spoke at the press conference were Sigma Huda, UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking; Inger Segelström, Swedish MEP, Social Democrat; Colette de Troy, Policy Action Centre on Violence Against Women, European Women’s Lobby; Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women; Yolande Grenson, Founder of Pandora, Belgium; Chong Kim, Founder of MAISIE, Minnesota, US; Fiona Broadfoot, NIA Project, London, UK; Vednita Carter, Founder and Director of Breaking Free, St. Paul, Minnesota, US.

HELSINKI, FINLAND

Janice Raymond spoke at an event organized by the League of Finnish Feminists and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland on September 23, 2005 in Helsinki. The forum was organized to promote the National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Human Beings, as Finland prepares for its publication and a proposed law against the demand criminalizing the buying of sex that is due to come up for a parliamentary vote in 2006.

Successful implementation of the National Action Plan requires cooperation between different sectors and agents in society. Thus the aim of the forum, entitled “Towards an Agenda for Action Against Human Trafficking: Preventive Means and Victim Protection,” was to chart present and future actions against trafficking and sexual exploitation and to bring different groups in Finnish society together. With Janice Raymond, the main speakers at the event were Zanna Jozef from the Estonian NGO, Living for Tomorrow, and Johanna Suurpaa from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Marjut Jyrkinen, a Finnish researcher, also spoke at the forum.

AFESIP CONFERENCE IN MADRID

From October 26-28, Somaly Mam – AFESIP Association held an international conference in Madrid, Spain on sexual exploitation and the trafficking of women. AFESIP fights against women and child sexual slavery, especially in Southeast Asia and, more specifically, in Cambodia. AFESIP has 5 reintegration centers for victims of sexual exploitation in Cambodia, one in Vietnam and another one in Laos. It also seeks to sensitize government officials and policy makers in changing and adapting laws against human trafficking.

The conference in Madrid was organized to address the following issues: Europe’s demand for sexual slavery that grows each year; recommendations for a common legal framework against trafficking in women in Europe; focus on the situation in Spain, Europe’s doorway for half a million victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation; policy informed by gender equality and the human rights of victims; and the combating the international mafias that organize trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Over 50 speakers took part in the conference, which drew hundreds of participants. Among those speaking were Marianne Eriksson, former member of the European Parliament from Sweden; Melissa Farley, director of Prostitution Research and Education; Asuncion Miuma, Director of the Equal Opportunities Department at the Municipality of Madrid; and Maria Jose Barahona, Professor at the Complutense University in Madrid. Janice Raymond, Co-Director of CATW, spoke at the beginning roundtable on gender equality and trafficking.

Talks from the conference are in the process of being published and will be available in early 2006.

ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA

As part of its 2-year project on “The Baltic Network to Challenge the Legalization and Decriminalization of Prostitution Industries and Focus on the Demand,” Janice Raymond, CATW Co-Executive Director, and Malka Marcovich, CATW European Program Officer of the project, visited Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in September, 2005. The project aims to strengthen information, research and advocacy networks in these 3 Baltic countries, conduct media campaigns and trainings, and educate law enforcement, politicians and others about the relationship between prostitution and sex trafficking as well as to promote legislation and programs that address the demand for sexual exploitation that encourages trafficking.

ESTONIA

In *Estonia*, CATW is working with ENUT, the Estonian Women's Center at the University of Tallinn. On September 29, 2005, a press conference was held in the Estonian Foreign Ministry to publicize the goals of the project and enlist media support. The press conference was also attended by representatives from the U.S. Embassy who, along with Ilvi-Joe Cannon from ENUT, Malka Marcovich and Janice Raymond from CATW, and Anne-Marie Martilla from the League of Finnish Feminists spoke about the project.

Since the project began, ENUT has encouraged considerable media articles on sex tourism in Estonia. In collaboration with the ENUT/CATW project, the Estonian Council of Churches has taken a public position in favor of criminalizing the buyers of persons in prostitution. Advertisements are being prepared publicizing taxi companies that discourage taking their passengers to brothels and sex clubs. At the same time, a poster campaign directed to the large taxi business that facilitates transportation for sex tourists to sex venues, says simply: "Don't Take a Taxi to a Sex Club." In addition, the project is circulating a joint Estonian-Finnish statement – part of a signature campaign — that lists names of prominent men who pledge not to buy women in prostitution. Organized and edited by Ilvi-Joe Cannon, a *Primer on the Male Demand for Prostitution* has been written and published in Estonian to answer commonly-asked questions about the demand aspect of prostitution and sexual exploitation. The Primer is currently being translated into Russian, Latvian and Lithuanian. ENUT has also conducted educational trainings in Russian-speaking schools and populations, as well as lectures in Rotary Clubs in Tallinn on the links between prostitution and trafficking.

LATVIA

The "Baltic Network to Challenge the Legalization and Decriminalization of Prostitution Industries and Focus on the Demand" began in *Latvia* in September, 2005, with a roundtable in the Parliament of Latvia, organized by the Coalition for Gender Equality in Riga. Many parliamentarians were in attendance, perhaps because it was a pre-election year. Ilvi-Joe Cannon introduced the regional importance of the project; Malka Marcovich spoke about the European situation and especially the pressure for new countries in Europe to legalize prostitution touted as the "European model;" and Janice Raymond spoke about the inadequacy of policy and legislation that promotes legalization of prostitution and decriminalization of the sex industry.

The sex industry in Riga center is "in your face." Step into a taxi and dashboard advertisements trumpet numerous sex clubs in the area. Several times, we asked taxi drivers to remove the offensive advertisements. Once, we removed them ourselves when the driver said no. One of the aims of the Latvian network's project will be to enlist the support of the Riga City Council to discourage taxi companies from placing advertisements in the cars promoting the sex clubs. The network is also in the process of preparing posters to be put in the Riga airport warning sex tourists not to buy sex, and it hopes to dismantle the airport advertising that exists currently promoting sex tourism. Another goal of the project is to publicize the names of tourism agencies that have resisted promoting sex tourism.

The project will engage in a series of activities to combat sex tourism, address demand, and discourage legalization of the sex industry in Latvia. The Latvian network is preparing a statement against the promotion of mass scale prostitution venues and the encouragement that the German government is giving to the sex industry in allowing upwards of 40,000 women to be brought into the country to service men attending the World Cup Games in June, 2006. The network will petition the Lithuanian football team to publicly oppose the buying of sex. Because Latvia is in violation of its ratification of the 1949 convention in monitoring and registering women in prostitution in some districts, the network will consider bringing the government to Latvia's constitutional court via the Latvian Human Rights Commission in order to revoke municipal regulations that monitor, health check and register the women. The Latvian project will also take advantage of a public television bridge between Riga and Tallinn that may make it possible to obtain an unpaid public information spot against the buying of sex in both countries.

LITHUANIA

The "Baltic Network to Challenge the Legalization and Decriminalization of Prostitution Industries and Focus on the Demand" began in Lithuania in September, 2005 with a roundtable in the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania. Rima Baskiene, Chair of the Parliamentary Commission on Family and Child Affairs, opened the

session. Igoris Basylevas, Deputy Chief of the Ministry of the Interior presented Lithuania's Action Plan for Combating Trafficking. Speakers included Kristina Misiniene of Caritas Lithuania who coordinates one of the most important services for victims of trafficking in the country; Janice Raymond who explained the links between trafficking and prostitution, and Ilvi-Joe Cannon who emphasized why this project was happening in the Baltics.

The Lithuanian part of the network held its first meeting on September 30, 2005. Organized by the Women's Issues Information Center in Vilnius, the network also includes the State Council of Youth Affairs, the Center of Families with HIV/AIDS (Centre Demetra), the Missing Persons Family Support Center, Caritas, Lithuania, IOM Vilnius, the Vilnius Shelter Movement, and a representative from the Ministry of Social Affairs. The project will carry out an information campaign for the general public in Lithuania including the following activities: posters on street stands; translating the *Primer on the Male Demand for Prostitution* into Lithuanian and distributing it to police, regional and central government officials, and heads of big businesses; a campaign against sex tourism including an open letter from women's NGOs and others directed to the upcoming sex tourist season in Lithuania; articles and advertisements in newspapers publicizing the campaign, stickers in the clubs and cafes in Vilnius and other regions, and messages against sex tourism sent to the taxi companies. The Lithuanian network will also conduct seminars and trainings for journalists, psychologists, social workers and local NGOs about the campaign and about trafficking and sexual exploitation in Lithuania.

ALBANIA

In May of 2005, Janice Raymond and Malka Marcovich visited Albania to begin the joint project, *Promoting Preventative Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation*, coordinated by the European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW). They met with members of the Women's Media Group who will be coordinating the project in Albania and with journalists from Radio Plus in Pristina, who will be facilitating the project in Kosovo.

Both Janice and Malka spoke to students at the University of Tirana on the subjects of trafficking, prostitution, sex tourism and legal measures to address the demand for sexual exploitation that promotes trafficking. They also met with parliamentary candidates for the upcoming elections, the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health, the President of the Committee for Equal Opportunities, the head of the anti-trafficking center, and a police representative in Tirana. They were taken to Kajava, a small seaside town, now being filled with casinos to attract tourists and a potential site for sex tourism. On this visit and a trip to the mountainous countryside outside of Tirana to see a shelter for victims of trafficking, it was possible to get a sense of the poverty and misery of these small towns and villages from where women are trafficked and prostituted.

The Women's Media Group is very dedicated to the project and will begin a campaign called "No to Sexual Tourism; Yes to Cultural Tourism" to prevent encroaching sexual tourism in the country before it begins (See New Grants and Projects below).



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND UN MEETINGS

49TH SESSION OF CSW – BEIJING PLUS 10

The 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations in New York, which was held from 28 February to 11 March 2005, conducted a review and appraisal of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing 1995) and Outcome Document of the 23rd Special Session of the General Assembly (2000) and reviewed the thematic issue of current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls.

CATW members were very active throughout the session. For instance, CATW worked through the trafficking caucus to advocate for strong language, and helped draft both written and oral interventions regarding a resolution

addressing the demand for trafficked women and girls (Resolution 49/2). As adopted by the CSW, the resolution is particularly significant in that it calls upon States to “Take all appropriate measures to eliminate the demand for trafficked women and girls for all forms of exploitation” and “Take appropriate measures to address the root factors, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as external factors that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures.”

CATW co-sponsored five very well-attended events at Beijing Plus Ten. First, CATW had a reception for NGO representatives and government delegates in honor of the new UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Sigma Huda, and Mali’s new Ambassador to Northern Europe, Fatoumata Sire Diakite, President of CATW in Africa. Next, CATW held two panels, the first on “Legalizing Prostitution: Making States Pimps” with Aurora Javate de Dios, President, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Esohe Aghatise, Executive Director, IROKO, Sheila Jeffreys, Professor of Political Science, University of Melbourne, Rachel Lloyd, Executive Director, GEMS, Malka Marcovich, President, Mouvement pour l’Abolition de la Prostitution et de la Pornographie, and Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, and a second panel on “The Demand for Prostituted Sex: The Challenge to Gender Equality” with Aurora Javate de Dios, President, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Kenneth Franzblau, Esq., Equality Now, Ruchira Gupta, Executive Director, Apne Aap, and Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, Latin American Regional Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women. Additionally, CATW presented at a Workshop on Trafficking and Human Rights and a Teach-In on Pornography and Patriarchy.

CATW also worked closely with organizations such as the Sisters of the Congregation of the Good Shepherd and Unanima International to prepare two official NGO written statements on trafficking and violence against women and to create a poster which was distributed to other NGOs stating “we are not for sale” in several languages.

CATW’S NEW YORK NETWORK HOSTS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Throughout 2005, the New York Network of the Coalition Against Trafficking conducted seminars for and exchanged information and views with a steady stream of international visitors from every world region—most NGO leaders or government officials in their countries—on tours hosted by the United States State Department.

Visitors included representatives from a wide array of countries, as follows:

Albania: Albana Dautillari, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Albania to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; **Belarus:** Natalia Viktorovna Zhak, Program Manager, International Organization for Migration; **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** Galic Slaven, Military Advisor, Permanent Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; **Brazil:** Dalila Eugenia Maranhao Dias Figueiredo, Member, State Council for Women’s Issues, and Debora Ferreira Giannico, Director, Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Sao Paulo State Secretariat of Justice and Citizenship; **Brunei:** Haji Omar Bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Acting Commissioner of Labor, Labor Department; **Cambodia:** Mony Lin, Chief of Women’s Affairs, Cambodian Human Rights and Development Association, and Sin Ly Pao, Confidential Shelter Coordinator, Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center; **Cameroon:** Yolande Yvette Fouda Manga, National Coordinator, Project on Combating Child Trafficking in Cameroon, International Labor Organization; **Canada:** Graham Burton, Operations Sergeant and Supervisor; Royal Canadian Mounted Police; **Croatia:** Martina Petek-Stupar: Diplomatic Counselor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; **India:** Sunitha Krishnan, Prajwala, Madhumita Sarkar, Manager, Gender, Care India, Roop Sen, Coordinator of Campaigns and Advocacy, SANJOG, Semeda, Programme Coordinator, Madras Christian Council of Social Service; **Israel:** Miri Sharon, Legal Advisor, Department for International Agreements and International Litigation, Ministry of Justice; **Italy:** Dr. Oria Gargano, Executive Director, Rome Anti-Violence Center; **Macedonia:** Nenad Kolev, Deputy Head of Mission, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; **Mozambique:** Lea Boaventura, Program Coordinator, International Campaign Against Trafficking; **Nepal:** Shankar Prasad Koirala, Chief Immigration Officer, Department of Immigration; **Nigeria:** Adaku Celine Odom, Managing Director, Wallhouse Ltd.; **Philippines:** Dolores Sto Domino Alforte, Executive Director, End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes; **Poland:**

Marek Adamczyk, Director, Office for International Cooperation and European Integration, Polish Border Guard Headquarters, Col. Marek Adamczyk, Director, Polish Border Guard HQ, International Co-Operation and European Integration Bureau, Andrzej Jan Niewielski, Prosecutor and Deputy Director, Justice Minister's Office, Ministry of Justice; **Romania:** Adina Cruceru, Specialist, Human Anti-Trafficking Unit, General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and Illegal Drugs; **Senegal:** Moussa Sow, Director of Avenir de L'enfant; **Serbia and Montenegro:** Kristina Milosavljevic, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Serbia and Montenegro to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; **Sierra Leone:** Maria Bangura, Field Officer, Association for Rural Development; **Slovenia:** Katjusa Kodele Kos, President, Kljuc Society; **Ukraine:** Hon. Heorhii Buyko, Member of Parliament and Parliamentary Committee for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption; Natalia Froglagina, Deputy Head, Women of Donbas; Oleksandr Semenenko, Prosecutor; Vasyl Syrotynskyy, Senior Officer, Anti-trafficking Division, Department of Criminal Investigations, Ministry of Internal Affairs; Hon. Oleh Tsitsak, Judge, Uzhhorod City Court; **Thailand:** Montri Sumbtoonnanondha, Superintendent, Chiang Rai Police Station; **United Arab Emirates:** Khalfan Ali Saif Bannan Al Kaabi, Lawyer and Law Enforcement Officer, Ministry of Interior, Department of Legal Affairs

UNITED STATES RATIFIES PALERMO PROTOCOL

On December 3, 2005, the United States became an official party to the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, also known as the Palermo Protocol. This is a significant event as the United States has ratified few UN Conventions and Protocols. Ambassador John Miller and his staff at the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons are to be congratulated on the work they did in advancing this crucial international legislation in the House and Senate.

The Trafficking in Persons Protocol accompanies the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. It is an important international instrument to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation and supplements the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. CATW worked hard during the drafting of the Palermo Protocol especially to develop a universally agreed-upon definition of trafficking. This definition stands today as the accepted international consensus on the meaning of trafficking. Since its establishment, the Palermo definition has been adopted verbatim into the domestic positive law of several states, and it continues to frame governmental and NGO anti-trafficking initiatives at the local, national, and international levels.

30TH SESSION OF WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY - GENEVA

Malka Markovich and Laura Chavez represented the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women at the 30th Session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from June 5 through 10, 2005. The 2005 session of the Working Group has brought a new team of experts from Belgium, Cuba, Egypt, India and eastern Europe.

In this period of restructuring of the UN, the future of the Working Group was the main agenda item. Some experts argued for a Special Rapporteur on Slavery to replace the Working Group. Malka Marcovich, CATW's European Director, strongly argued for the continuance of the Working Group. CATW talked about the importance of the Working Group's reports and recommendations and the unique forum that the Working Group provides for NGOs and victims of slavery. She also argued that special rapporteurs only focus on one aspect of their mandate every year and that the Working Group can gather multiple sources of information from many governments, agencies, special rapporteurs and NGOs.

Given that some NGOs had argued that the Working Group is ineffective because the three anti-slavery conventions have no treaty body, Malka Marcovich stated that this weakness would not be repaired through a special rapporteur mechanism. As with the Working Group, the UN system in general, should be reformed – not destroyed — to make it more effective. The fact that the Working Group is composed of many experts representing different regions of the world makes it more democratic than replacing it with a special rapporteur.

All other NGOs attending the Working Group session, with one or two exceptions, supported CATW's recommendations. The Working Group experts themselves after hearing the debate made the recommendation to keep the Working Group active.

Malka Marcovich also spoke on the importance of the 1949 convention in opposing legalization of prostitution and the results of addressing the demand for sexual exploitation in Sweden, the Philippines and Korea, the UN Peacekeeping forces, and the Municipality of Madrid. Future problems that are certain to promote sexual slavery are the upcoming World Cup Games in Germany where mega-brothels and drive-in cubicles are being built to accommodate men's demand for prostituted women; sex tourism in Europe, especially in the Baltics and Balkans; and new trends in trafficking in which the majority of victims have regular documentation. Laura Chavez also did an excellent presentation critiquing the Dutch model from both the viewpoint of a Netherlands resident and a Latin American immigrant to the Netherlands.

The Working Group makes recommendations to the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. This year they decided to shorten the recommendations of previous years which they considered too lengthy.

57TH SESSION OF THE UN SUB-COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

CATW intervened at the 57th session of the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights, which met from July 26-August 12, 2005. Most of the discussions this year were on the future of the Sub-Commission. Halima Warzazi, who for many years was Chair of the UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, gave a very moving presentation on harmful traditional practices, taking an historical perspective and criticizing the lack of money and support that the Special Rapporteur on Traditional Practices receives.

The resolutions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery were adopted. Of particular note is the thematic focus of the Working Group for 2006 which will address the "human rights dimensions of prostitution."

Malka Marcovich delivered an oral statement on behalf of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, emphasizing the importance of the Working Group for NGOs; the need for a new protocol for the 3 anti-slavery conventions, recalling the resolution of the Sub-Commission in 2001, which called for this mechanism; the importance of the 1949 Convention and the need to ratify this instrument as well as the UN Protocol on Trafficking; and the need to recognize prostitution as an extreme form of violence against women. She welcomed the UN Peacekeeping policy prohibiting UN forces and employees from having "sex with prostitutes" and which makes no distinction between trafficking and prostitution, and the joint questionnaire and future report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children. Malka Marcovich also drew the attention of the Sub-Committee to the groundbreaking 2005 CSW resolution against the demand for trafficking and sexual exploitation.



COALITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

AFRICA

MALI

During 2005, CATW Africa devoted itself to organizing 2 major projects. The first was a training on the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and children for journalists from 8 regions of Mali. Since mainly the trafficking of children is a topic known to the public, the workshop publicized the fact that women are also trafficked for sexual exploitation in large numbers in Mali and in Africa in general. The aim of the training was to give media the tools with which to communicate about trafficking and to join in the fight against it in Mali. Both print and radio journalists took part in the training. Media representatives received audio tapes, which they can use for broadcasts

and to help them prepare programs on the consequences of trafficking and sexual exploitation for women and children.

The second major project of CATW Africa during 2005 was to hold educational workshops and literacy training for women and girls migrating to the city from rural areas who end up working as domestics for families in Bamako. The workshops and trainings warned women of the dangers of violence, sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS that they may face both in the cities and in their workplaces, informed them of their rights, and gave them tools to help them avoid exploitation in the families where they find jobs. The trainings put these women in touch with CATW Africa as an organization to which they can turn for assistance, and is following up with these women and girls in their workplaces.

In March 2005, CATW Africa participated in the Beijing Plus 10 meetings that were held in New York as part of the CSW conference. Later, CATW Africa took part in a day of solidarity with women from the North and South in the Francophone regions that was co-organized by PAFFA (Partenariat Femmes France Afrique) and APDF. As part of a continuing campaign against female genital mutilation, CATW Africa joined the 6th Regional Conference of the General Assembly of the Inter-African Committee to fight traditional practices that have health consequences for women and children.

CATW Africa participated in an international conference organized by the Municipality of Madrid in June, 2005. Its representative spoke about the trafficking of African women to the west as prostitution slaves and how this undermines life, liberty, peace, prosperity and the unity of African peoples. During the 10th meeting of the Espace d'Interpellation Democratique (EID), CATW Africa in partnership with APDF questioned the Minister of Women, Children and the Family on the issue of trafficking in women in Mali and asked for a stronger governmental engagement with this issue in order to help the public recognize the pervasiveness of the exploitation of women and children and to fight it.

In November, 2005, CATW Africa took part in a training on the technical aspects of grants and project drafting. This training, organized by SNV, will help reinforce CATW Africa's capacity to organize grants and draft proposals.

NIGERIA/ITALY

Project IROKO, which represents CATW in Italy and in Nigeria, provides support to victims of trafficking, children of victims and, in some cases, to victims of other forms of violence. Since the beginning of IROKO's 3-year OAK grant in January 2003, over 70 women and children have benefited directly from IROKO's temporary housing and economic assistance programs. All victims have also benefited from IROKO's other services of cultural mediation and accompaniment to welfare and social services, free medical care and legal counselling, psychological support, translation and preparation of documents for residence permits and other immigration purposes, and training for employment insertion. The Piedmont Regional Council recently awarded IROKO the sum of € 71,000 to IROKO to fund its employment insertion program for women victims of trafficking.

In 2004, IROKO acquired an old farmhouse in the village of Villamiroglio in the Province of Alessandria in Piedmont, about 50 km from Turin, Milan and Genoa, for the creation of a multi-functional center. This will serve as an employment program for victims and as a cultural and social center aimed at raising awareness about violence against women and children.

The work of refurbishing this old farmhouse is an ongoing project and, as funds become available, the reconstruction continues. Built in the 1700s and set on the sloping hillsides of the Basso Monferrato, a wine and tartufo producing area of the Piedmont Region, the farmhouse project will ultimately be a multi-service center. It will include a typical Italian cuisine restaurant, hotel rooms for guests, a fitness room, a sauna, horse riding, fishing, biking and trekking facilities. It will also house laboratories for the training of the women who have been assisted by IROKO, a small theatre for social and cultural events and various training courses ranging from self-help groups to live-in conference activities. Women will be trained in restaurant and hotel management and after working there for a temporary period may then go out from the program and obtain employment in the tourism, hotel and restaurant sector, with the possibility of future employment training in other sectors as well.

In 2005, IROKO opened an office in Benin City, Nigeria to assist women and girls before they become victims of trafficking. Over 60 percent of the victims trafficked into Italy for prostitution are from Nigeria. IROKO was already present in Benin City where it has been carrying out an awareness raising campaign against trafficking and

prostitution. However, with the opening of its new office, IROKO intends to actively address the lack of educational opportunities for girl children and the dearth of employment opportunities for women that makes them vulnerable to being trafficked. To this end, IROKO was granted € 16,000 by the Italian National Commission for International Cooperation in Developing Countries for scholarships to young girls at risk of being trafficked and it provides economic assistance to the mothers of these girls.

The program in Nigeria will also enable IROKO to work on assisted re-entry for victims of trafficking who return to Nigeria and need aid to return home, an assured job, and the know-how to avoid being re-trafficked.

In 2006 as part of its Oak-funded renewal project, IROKO intends to address male demand for prostitution, which IROKO firmly believes is one of the root causes of trafficking for prostitution.

ASIA -PACIFIC

CATW Asia Pacific's (CATW-AP) campaigns in the region centered on three themes:

1. protecting women and children in prostitution from arrests and abuse, through education of law enforcers about laws relating to women's rights;
2. addressing the demand side of sexual exploitation, mainly through prosecution and education;
3. making concrete links between sexual exploitation and structural issues of globalization and militarism, thus mobilizing other social movements.

In India and the Philippines, CATW-AP cooperated with local partners in publicizing anti-trafficking laws and educating law enforcers, prosecutors and the judiciary on trafficking, prostitution and the need to arrest the buyers and all those who profit and gain from the system.

The first conviction under the Philippines anti-trafficking law took place on December 4, 2005 in Zamboanga City, a pilot area in CATW-AP's project called *Bantay-Bugaw* (Trafficker-Watch). Here, CATW had conducted educational seminars with local government agencies including police and prosecutors. In Quezon and Calbayog Cities, similar activities were held and memoranda of agreement were signed with the police to stop the arrest of women in prostitution, and instead focus on investigating the perpetrators. Cases have already been filed against pimps in these areas.

In India, CATW Asia Pacific joined CATW international during May 2005 in Mumbai to conduct trainings for police and to begin a manual to be used by police and other government agencies focusing on protection of victims in prostitution and decreasing the demand through closure of brothels and arrest of buyers.

In Korea, CATW-AP marked the 1st year anniversary of the Korean anti-trafficking law, strengthening ties with women's groups and other social movements to clarify the law's intent in the face of challenges from the brothel owners and some pro-prostitution groups in the country.

In Australia, Jean Enriquez presented the keynote address at the 4th Conference of the Australasian Council for Women and Policing, emphasizing the need to refocus police efforts towards addressing the demand side of prostitution to eliminate trafficking. She emphasized that laws in the Australian states legalizing prostitution have to be challenged, and the policewomen agreed.

CATW-AP also held two young men's camps in the major islands of Visayas and Mindanao in the Philippines, to educate boys on gender issues, sexuality and prostitution. At least 50 boys participated in each of the camps, and some of the graduates have organized post-camp forums in their respective schools. As one graduate expressed: "First is for me to internalize the lessons I have learned and share them with my friends and then with different people in our school and in our community." Jean Enriquez and Minda Pascual, a prostitution survivor, spoke in Davao del Sur (a southern province of the Philippines) at forums attended by 200 high school students and another 200 college students. Six graduates of the camp from that province testified about how the sessions had deeply affected them, encouraging them to organize other young men to campaign against rape and prostitution.

With survivors of prostitution, CATW-AP actively campaigned to prosecute the American servicemen in Olongapo accused of raping a 22-year-old Filipina. Buklod, a survivors' group in the city, was at the forefront of the campaign,

effectively linking militarism to the demand for sexual exploitation. CATW-AP vowed to file trafficking cases against the American military men, using its documentation of the case as a basis.

CATW-AP made its presence felt on International Women's Day, the International Day of No Prostitution, and during the World Trade Organization (WTO) 6th Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong, linking prostitution with globalization and militarism, two push and pull factors of trafficking. CATW-AP spoke about these linkages in international forums in New York, Hong Kong, Canada and Norway. Especially at the WTO meeting in Hong Kong, CATW-AP was able to enlist the support of trade union workers and migrant groups in creating a position statement to eliminate prostitution as we



“Filipino Survivors Say No to Prostitution”

fight globalization and militarism, strengthening linkages with networks opposed to unfair trade and war.

LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO

CATW Mexico Holds Evaluation Seminar on Its Prevention Projects

Theresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and Children (CATW), Latin America, held an “Evaluation Seminar on the Prevention of Commercial Child Sexual Exploitation in Mexico” on December 2 and 3, 2005, in Mexico City. The seminar was widely covered in Mexican City newspapers and on television.

Bringing together a wide array of stakeholders in the key projects of CATW Mexico, including activists, educators, students, governmental officials, and representatives of the media, the conference highlighted the organization's significant accomplishments in preventing child prostitution and sex trafficking. Introductory presentations by well known and respected women's rights leaders, including Luz Rosales Esteva, General Director of the Federal District's Institute for Women and Dr. Maria Rosa Marquez Cabrera, General Director of the Institute of Social Integration Assistance, underscored the critical importance of preventing the sexual exploitation of Mexican children. Recent statistics suggest that each year as many as 80,000 Mexican children are subjected to prostitution and related forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

During the first day of the seminar, the participants focused on the impact of CATW Mexico's *Manual for the Prevention of the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Mexican Children*, which has been used by dozens of teachers in several states, including Veracruz, Chiapas, and Tlaxcala. Teachers from these states who have used the Manual to develop lessons described their experiences in the classroom. Both male and female, the teachers stressed that the Manual has been extremely effective in equipping them to identify students at risk of commercial exploitation and to teach students to recognize the tactics of recruiters and traffickers. The teachers emphasized that it would be easier for them to incorporate education about the risks of commercial sexual exploitation into their lesson plans if the Ministry of Education made it part of the official curriculum.

On the second day of the conference, participants addressed the comic book, “Nothing Will be the Same,” which tells the story of a young Mexican girl who is lured into prostitution through an internet chat room. The artist who depicted the story, a charismatic young rock musician named Arturo Ruelas, explained the challenges of the task and the efforts he made both to communicate the graphic reality of the child's experiences without eroticizing the child and to ensure that the story was consistently communicated from her perspective. He said that at the end of his rock concerts, he now autographs copies of the comic book. After his presentation, several students in their early teens described their efforts using the comic book to educate their peers about the tactics of pimps, recruiters, and traffickers and the realities of child prostitution.

The seminar also evaluated the effectiveness of short public service videos developed by CATW Mexico to educate travelers in bus and train stations and in airports about the harm of prostitution to children and the consequences to perpetrators. The final session of the seminar explored a new curriculum developed by CATW Mexico to educate students about a new understanding of masculinity that is not based on sexual objectification and exploitation.

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

SHORT COURSE ON EXPLOITED MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING

Georgia is a region surrounded by major conflicts in Ossetia and Chechnya. It is also the site of a major oil pipeline that starts in Azerbaijan, passes through Georgia, and proceeds along the Turkish border. The pipeline has brought thousands of foreign workers into the country. Georgian women from poor northern regions are trafficked for prostitution to the compounds of mobile homes where the workers live. Soon, a gas pipeline will be constructed also passing through Georgia. In effect, Georgia suffers from both external and internal trafficking of women for sexual exploitation, much of the internal trafficking ending up in the pipeline regions. Women are trafficked out of the country for prostitution mainly to Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Georgia has been selected as one of the countries to benefit from the UN Millennium Goal Development Fund. Georgia aims to use these funds to develop its tourism sector because tourism grows a fast economy. FCRS will have to be vigilant about the possible growth of sex tourism, especially in areas such as Batumi near the Black Sea and close to the Turkish border, which already has a sex tourism infrastructure of sex clubs, male travelers and internal trafficking of women to the region.

CATW continues to support a project in the Republic of Georgia on “Preventing Trafficking and Illegal Migration from the Republic of Georgia: a Short Course on What Potential Migrants Need to Know Before Migrating Abroad.” Directed by CATW’s partner in Georgia, the Center for Foreign Citizens and Migrants Rights and Security (FCRS), the project addresses trafficking at the prevention level by offering a short course on the realities of the trafficking and migration experience.

During 2005, 85 women participated in the course in 3 centers of the country: Tbilisi, Gurgaani and Gori. Although the economy is improving slightly compared to past years, the situation is such that many women, particularly single mothers, internally displaced women and refugees, are moving to the Capital seeking jobs. Others, not understanding their vulnerability to being exploited, and lacking job skills and working experience, see their last chance for survival in going abroad.

The course educates women about trafficking and sexual exploitation and their rights and responsibilities living abroad as citizens of Georgia. The courses have also provided information to potential migrants about major destination countries for Georgian women — France, Germany, Greece and the United States. FCRS also familiarizes course participants with legislation in respective destination countries that addresses the legal status of migrants, as well as the cultures of destination countries.

Courses additionally equip women with professional training and job-seeking skills such as how to create resumes and go for interviews, and they provide computer training and English-language education. The courses use exercises in which students have to enact a scenario, for example, where one student is the company manager, another a receptionist, and a third student a job seeker waiting to be interviewed. Students are asked to role play and simulate various interactions. Each threesome has the opportunity to evaluate their interactions, as well as those of other small groups.

FCRS initially put up posters in Tbilisi, Gori and Gurgaani to advertise the course and then interviewed prospective applicants. Teachers were also interviewed to



Students Receiving Certificates of Completion of Course at the University of Gori

fill English-language, computer literacy, and psychologist positions. Two training courses of 3 months duration were held in each of the 3 regions of the country.

In October, 2005, Malka Marcovich, CATW's program officer, attended the closing ceremonies in Gori where women students were given Certificates of Completion. The ceremony was also attended by the head of social affairs at the Municipality of Gori, which recognizes the program's value to the region. FCRS attempts to maintain contact with all students who graduate from these courses so as to provide them with needed assistance in their future development and situations. Nineteen women who attended the course currently have secured jobs.



NEW GRANTS AND PROJECTS

Promoting Preventative Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation is a project jointly coordinated by the European Women's Lobby (EWL) and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW). The purposes of this project are to address gaps in current anti-trafficking programs and policies that avoid focusing on gender equality, the demand, and the links between trafficking and prostitution. This project is funded by a 20 month grant of \$670,000 from the governments of Sweden and the United States.

The project will support NGOs working on these issues in 13 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Albania, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro to:

- Develop sustainable "best practices" and strategies to prevent and combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of human beings, especially women and children.
- Promote gender equality and the building up of cultural and political consensus in order to change the legal framework and establish adequate mechanisms for gender equality.
- Raise awareness about the root causes of prostitution and trafficking in women and children for sexual purposes.
- Highlight the links between violence against women and the normalization of sexual exploitation throughout the sex industry that are fundamental violations of women's rights.
- Promote preventative and awareness raising measures to discourage the *demand* for sexual exploitation that fosters trafficking, with a special focus on the Swedish model to combat prostitution and trafficking in human beings
- Encourage alternatives to legal and policy measures that attempt to legalize the sex industry, decriminalize pimps and brothels, or regulate different prostitution activities, for example, through medical monitoring of women and State taxation schemes.

COUNTRY PROJECTS:

Albania - *No to Sexual Tourism; Yes to Cultural Tourism* focuses on encroaching sexual tourism in the country, promotes awareness of women's rights, and advocates against initiatives that favor decriminalization of prostitution in Albania. Coordinated by the Women's Media Group, this project includes a grassroots campaign to organize roundtables and TV debates on the dangers of sexual tourism, the establishing of an advocacy network of opposition to laws favoring the prostitution industry, and the writing and publishing of articles against the decriminalization of the industry in Albania.

Bulgaria - Coordinated by the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, this project will be an information campaign against trafficking for sexual exploitation aimed at potential victims and clients. It aims to make people aware of the links between prostitution and trafficking and to dissuade the Bulgarian government from institutionalizing prostitution.

Croatia - Coordinated by the Centre for Women War Victims (ROSA) and the Women's Room, this project is entitled *Shifting the Image on Prostitution and Trafficking in Women in Croatia - Lobbying for Legal Changes*. The main aims of the project are to promote changes in the laws and provisions concerning prostitution and

trafficking by preparing a legislative draft document that would shift focus toward the demand and prevent legalization of prostitution in Croatia; and to conduct forums against legalization of prostitution in Croatia.

Czech Republic – Coordinated by Caritas, *Let's Discuss It* is a project to launch a nation-wide discussion on the issues of trafficking in women and prostitution and to highlight different societal approaches and perceptions. The project aims through public forums and leaflets to bring together various sectors of civil society to discuss these issues.

Estonia – Coordinated by ENUT, the Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre, this project is a grassroots campaign to combat trafficking and prostitution focusing on demand. The main aims of the project are to: adopt legislation to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation effectively; raise public awareness about sex trafficking, its causes, the negative social effects of prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation; influence public opinion to find trafficking, prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation unacceptable; and insure better law enforcement.

Hungary – Coordinated by the “Way Out With You” Association that gives direct assistance to women in prostitution, the main aims of the project are: to establish a drop-in centre for victims of trafficking and prostitution in Budapest that is an alternative to one that promotes legalization of prostitution; to give media prominence to the “Way Out with You” goals and services; to produce 3 one minute video ads about the dangers of prostitution and trafficking and to distribute these ads nationwide; to produce a movie about the harm of prostitution to women, addressing what has happened in countries where legalization has occurred vs. the Swedish model.

Latvia – Coordinated by Marta, the Resource Centre for women, the title of this campaign is *Airport – Public Awareness Campaign in the International Airport of Riga*. The project will hand out cards and use stickers to warn women leaving Riga by air about their rights in foreign countries and where to seek help. It will also be a anti-sex tourism campaign warning men arriving in Latvia about the dangers and penalties of sex tourism.

Lithuania – Coordinated by the Women's Issues Information Center, this project aims to support a current law against the demand recently passed by the parliament and to insure that it is publicized and enforced by the police. The project will conduct trainings for various groups on the demand. At the same time, the project aims to raise awareness in society about the need to penalize sex buyers by conducting a poster campaign placed in public areas using slogans such as “She could be your daughter, sister...”

Kosovo – Coordinated by Radio Plus, Pristina, this project is a media awareness campaign using 7 radio spots broadcast 5 times daily for a period of 12 months to make clear that prostitution is an incitement to trafficking; to promote prosecution of those who prostitute and traffic women; and to present an alternative legal framework to normalizing the institution of prostitution and trafficking that will focus on demand. Content of all produced materials and radio spots will focus on the links between prostitution and trafficking and the demand. The interviews will contain questions to ascertain current perception of these links, and public discussions will follow. Radio spots will be distributed without cost to partner stations in Kosovo.

Moldova – Coordinated by the Association, Women for Contemporary Society (AWCS), this project is entitled ‘No’ to *Trafficking in Human Beings and Sexual Exploitation*. The main aims of the project are to inform the public about the



PIRKTI MOTERĮ – GĖDINGA!
Be to, anksčiau ar vėliau VISI tai sužinos*

Dabar baudžiamas ir PERKANTIS prostitucijos paslaugas asmuo:
Toliau mes, kaip visuomenės darome, turime atlikti šią užduotį. Jei šis asmuo, kuris buvo parduotas, atliks šią užduotį, jis bus laisvas ir galės grįžti namo.

PRISIDĖK
Kosovo
Kosovo
Kosovo

Societinis
aprašymas
Kosovo
Kosovo

SENAMENIS: (8 - 5) 2629-003
Kosovo
Kosovo

Kosovo
Kosovo
Kosovo

**IT IS SHAMEFUL TO BUY A WOMAN!
MOREOVER, SOONER OR LATER EVERYBODY WILL
FIND OUT ABOUT IT!**

dangers of trafficking and sexual exploitation; to demonstrate the consequences for women and for society; to identify who are the women who end up in prostitution and who are the clients; to initiate discussion about current trends to legalize prostitution; and to create a trained group of volunteers.

Montenegro – Coordinated by the Women’s Safe House, the main aim of the project is to develop legal measures to criminalize the buyers and decriminalize the women. This project will prepare a draft law following the Swedish model for penalizing clients in collaboration with relevant state institutions such as the Ministry of Justice and parliamentarians.

Russia – Coordinated by the Angel Coalition, Mira Med Institute and Project Keshet, *The Volga Project* is an information and public awareness campaign. Its aims are to educate the community about trafficking and prostitution as violence against women, related to domestic violence, that leads to women’s inequality; to promote a different view and attitude towards women in the society by focusing on the demand side of trafficking and prostitution as a new lens through which to view the problem; to link prostitution, trafficking and the demand for sexual exploitation in 3 cities in Russia. The project will conduct educational workshops, training seminars and print and distribute leaflets and media materials.

Serbia – Coordinated by the Committee for Human Rights – Majdanpek, the main aim of the project is to develop strategies to prevent and combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of human beings, especially women and children. For a long time, the police and prosecutors had no knowledge, experience, or means of intervention in trafficking cases. In the absence of the rule of law, and in a state of constant insecurity, the prevention and combating of trafficking in women and girls were far from being a state priority. The project will organize 2 seminars and several information campaigns targeting medical and court personnel, social workers, NGOs, journalists, politicians, and especially those who live near the border as well as village people.



“BEST OF AMERICA” SEAL OF APPROVAL

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women has been certified by Independent Charities of America to display the “Best of America” seal. 1500 out of 50,000 charities were chosen who met the most rigorous “watchdog” standards of review set by the National Council of Nonprofit Associations. CATW documented that it met those standards and tests. We hope that this 3rd party endorsement or “seal of approval” will encourage donors as they look for aids in helping to make their giving decisions.



PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS

Video now Available in DVD as well as VHS. *So Deep a Violence: Prostitution, Trafficking and the Global Sex Industry*.

CATW is distributing Hubert Dubois’s video now available in DVD entitled *The Dutch Showcase*, a descriptive inditement of the Dutch sex industry. French language with English-sub-titles.

Both DVDs and the video are \$29.95 within the U.S.; add \$4.00 outside the U.S. Order and make check payable to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (PO Box 9338, N. Amherst, MA 01059 USA).

Demand and Debate by Dorchen Leidholdt in booklet form. A history of CATW and the feminist understanding of trafficking and prostitution. Online and can be ordered from the above address.

CONTACT:
Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)

P.O. Box 9338

N. Amherst, MA 01059 USA

Fax: 413-367-9262

E-mail: info@catwinternational.org

Website: www.catwinternational.org

