

COALITION REPORT

— 2003 —

THE COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN



CATW IN ACTION POLICY, LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE – CAMPAIGNS

NEW ANTI-TRAFFICKING LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES

After 8 long years of advocacy CATW Asia Pacific, in concert with 30 other NGOs, has been successful in helping to pass a progressive anti-trafficking law in the Philippines. Working with the National Commission of Filipino Women, CATW Asia Pacific has been part of the drafting of this law since the very beginning leading up to its passage in the Senate on March 19, 2003. Former first lady of the Philippines, Sen. Luisa Ejercita led the bill through the Senate, and Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda were the bill's co-sponsors. On May 26, 2003, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo signed the bill into law stating that it was "A milestone in our quest for women's empowerment and gender equality."

The bill protects victims of trafficking, makes the consent of the victims irrelevant, and states that victims of trafficking shall not be penalized in any way. It also provides for comprehensive support to victims of trafficking.

The law punishes those who "recruit, transport, harbor, provide or receive a person by any means...for the purpose of prostitution, pornography, sexual exploitation, forced labor, slavery, involuntary servitude or debt bondage." Marriage marketing and matching is prohibited, as is the organizing of "tours and tourism packages for purposes of utilizing them for prostitution, pornography, etc." The law also penalizes the maintaining or hiring of a person to engage in prostitution or pornography. All these acts are punishable with imprisonment of 20 years and fines. The sentence becomes life imprisonment when the victim is a child, becomes insane or is afflicted with AIDS as a result of the act of trafficking, or when those who use a person in prostitution are members of the military or law enforcement institutions. Persons buying or engaging the services of a trafficked person for prostitution shall also be penalized.

The bill is a significant victory for all Filipinos. Congratulations to Aurora Javate de Dios, President of CATW's International Board of Directors, Jean Enriquez, Deputy Director of CATW Asia Pacific, and all the NGOs who worked so hard for this bill to become law. The new Filipino anti-trafficking legislation provides a model for similar legislation in many parts of the world. CATW Asia-Pacific will continue to campaign for an anti-prostitution law that will more specifically address the demand.

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FILIPINO SURVIVORS OF PROSTITUTION ISSUE MANIFESTO AND SAY NO TO LEGALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION

On October 21, 2003, the first National Conference of Filipino Victims/Survivors of Prostitution was held in Manila. Seventy-five prostituted women from General Santos, Cagayan de Oro, Cotabato, Davao, Cebu, Angeles, Olongapo and the National Capital Region denounced issuing business permits to legitimate prostitution, police abuse of women in prostitution, and police corruption and called for passage of the Anti-Prostitution Act. Alma Bulawan, President of BUKLOD in Olongapo City, stated: "Legalization of the industry is not necessary for social security benefits to apply to prostituted women. We want our rights as citizens, but we reject legalization of prostitution which will only maintain women's low status in society."

MANIFESTO OF FILIPINO WOMEN IN PROSTITUTION

First National Conference of Prostitution Survivors

Manila, The Philippines

October 20, 2003

We, organized women in prostitution, wish to remind the public of the reality that many Filipino women and children are placed in prostitution because of interrelated problems of women's subjugation, men's views that we can be bought and sold anytime they want, and the deep poverty in the Philippines,

Because, prostitution causes low self-esteem in women, woundedness in our bodies and souls, and the maintenance of inequality between women and men,

Because, prostitution is a form of violence against women and a violation of our human rights,

Because, the innumerable methods of physical violence, rape and degradation inflicted by customers and others who gain from prostitution, by the police and by the public, cause deep wounds in our being,

Because, this condition is worsened by laws and policies that treat us as criminals and scum of society, while customers, pimps, managers and establishment owners are rendered scot-free. Our condition is worsened by the government's practice of giving licenses to businesses of prostitution and of giving protection to the entire industry. This is also aggravated by the apathy of government agencies, mandated to give support to us as citizens,

Because, the majority of those who help and support women victim-survivors of prostitution are NGOs/POs, and their resources are not enough,

Because, many of our sisters die as a result of all the above-mentioned, yet the government and society do not take notice,

Because, we fear that our children will also be placed in prostitution because of the utter lack of a clear state policy for eliminating the industry,

Because, the return of US military forces to our shores significantly increases the number of women and children trafficked into prostitution,

Because, we dream of a life free from oppression as women, a life that is comfortable for ourselves and our children, a life where we have power as citizens,

Because, we dream of a society where women are able to claim and exercise their rights as human beings,

Because, we believe that even as organizing ourselves is difficult work, it is important that we organize, for this is where we are helped by our sisters, find directions in our lives, learn that we are not isolated, get to know our rights, and experience fighting within and against the system,

For all of the above reasons, we, the National Conference of Survivors of Prostitution, are making a unified stand, on behalf of our sisters in Gen. Santos City, Cagayan de Oro City, Davao City, Cebu City, Angeles City, Olongapo City and the National Capital Region, and state that:

- 1. Prostitution has to be eliminated; thus, it should not be legalized.**
- 2. The government should study and investigate deeply the issue of prostitution, in cooperation with the women, and accord it the necessary attention.**
- 3. The Anti-Prostitution Bill or the act that protects women victims in prostitution should be passed.**
- 4. It is the state's responsibility to ensure the following services for women in prostitution:**
 - Livelihood (seed funds, employment cooperatives, or places for livelihood),**
 - Free, accessible and decent housing,**
 - Skills training and scholarships for women and their children,**
 - Support for single mothers (day/night care),**
 - Free, sufficient, sincere and sensitive health services (medicines, hygiene, counseling),**
 - Safe and quality reproductive health care provided for in the Reproductive Health Care Act or House Bill 4110,**
 - Bigger budget for basic social services.**
- 5. Protection for victim-survivors of prostitution is necessary; respect their rights, hear their demands, stop arrests.**
- 6. In giving services, there should be equal treatment between child and adult victims of prostitution.**
- 7. The law should provide for alternative agencies, other than the Philippine National Police, to whom women can go for security and welfare. (Note that the new anti-trafficking law provides for victims to file complaints with any agency within the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking.)**

We will continue to strengthen and broaden our unity, promote our human rights and bring women/ourselves out of prostitution.

CATW TESTIFIES AT CONGRESSSIONAL HEARINGS

CATW testified at US congressional hearings on October 29, 2003. Holding a public hearing about “The Ongoing Tragedy of International Slavery and Human Trafficking,” the Government Reform Committee in the House of Representatives through its subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness invited 5 NGOs, along with officials from the US Trafficking in Persons Office and USAID, to present testimony. In addition to CATW, other NGOs who spoke at the Hearing were Save the Children, Free the Slaves, The Protection Project, and the International Peace and Justice Mission.

Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of CATW, spoke about the reluctance of many NGOs to focus on sex trafficking, who instead insist that labor trafficking is the real problem and that sex trafficking is “less harmless prostitution.” Listing factors promoting trafficking, Raymond emphasized the role of what she called “State-sponsored prostitution” in fostering sex trafficking in countries where systems of prostitution and the sex industry are legalized, decriminalized and legitimated as work. She stressed that the annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, published each year by the US State Department, needs to remove countries, such as the Netherlands and Germany, from Tier 1 – the topmost tier. CATW recommends that no country legalizing or decriminalizing the sex industry should be ranked in Tier 1.

Raymond also pointed out that organizations supporting legalization or decriminalization of the sex industry were still receiving funding from this administration, contravening the National Security Presidential Directive

(NSPD) on Combating Trafficking in Persons. The NSPD directs US agencies to review their grantmaking to accommodate provisions of the directive stating that prostitution and related activities are “inherently harmful and dehumanizing,” and opposing the regulation of prostitution as work or as an employment choice for anyone. Raymond encouraged government to put its money where its mouth is by funding NGOs that have long fought against legalization and decriminalization of the sex industry and who have not yet received grants.

CATW’s congressional testimony is available at www.reform.house.gov/WHR



KEY EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

OSLO MILESTONE CONFERENCE

On January 28, 2003, the Norwegian Center for Gender Equality held its Milestone Conference – a follow-up to the Norwegian Government’s Gender Equality Program. The conference was opened by Laila Davoy, Minister of Children and Family Affairs. Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of CATW, gave the keynote address on “The Fight Against the Trafficking in Women” followed by comments and questions raised by many of the 100 participants who attended the conference.

The afternoon’s session focused on the role of the media as a force for achieving gender equality. Particularly enlightening was the presentation of the publisher of *Dagbladet*, one of Oslo’s leading newspapers, who spoke about what led up to the paper’s decision to stop taking sex advertisements and the impact of this decision.

A report of the conference is available from the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs in Oslo, Norway.

CHICAGO CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON THE DEMAND

Represented by Dorchen Leidholdt, Meredith McGowan and Barbara Kryszko, CATW participated in the landmark Demand Dynamics Conference in Chicago, Illinois, on October 16-17, 2003. The conference gathered together advocates, experts, and key government officials, to confront and eradicate the demand for women and children in prostitution that fuels the global sex industry.

Recognizing that the crucial force in creating, sustaining, and enlarging the global sex industry is the demand by men for unfettered sexual use of women and girls in prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation, Captive Daughters, a Los Angeles-based NGO in conjunction with DePaul University’s International Human Rights Law Institute, organized this much-needed conference. Leading US experts on trafficking and prostitution discussed how prostitution perpetrators find their victims, the harms they cause to women and girls used by them, and concrete measures that can be taken to stop men from brutally consuming women and girls for the sex of prostitution.

Dorchen Leidholdt’s keynote speech gave an eloquent history of the feminist campaign against prostitution and pornography and showed how feminists in the 1970s and 80s fought against the sex industry and the pro-prostitution and pornography lobby. She explained the origins of the contentious debate over whether prostitution should be legalized and regulated as a legitimate form of work or whether prostitution must be viewed as a violation of human rights. Leidholdt showed how those arguing for the legitimization of prostitution as work for poor women have obscured the role of the buyer, or made him into a friend or financial contributor to the prostituted woman or girl, and the controlling role of the buyer in the tragedy of prostitution. Leidholdt’s speech earned a standing ovation and set the tone for the entire conference.

Other speakers included Melissa Farley of Prostitution, Research and Education (PRE) who explained how “johns” seek and obtain total control over the woman or girl, and how the acceptance of prostitution enables them to live in denial of the suffering they cause. Derek Ellerman of the DC-based Polaris Project described how johns of certain cultural groups in his area find brothels disguised as massage parlors through ads in local newspapers. His organization recruits non-offending men to pose as potential customers entering brothels and

gathering information, which the NGO provides to the local police and the FBI, who then close down the brothels and rescue trafficked women. Kenneth Franzblou of Equality Now, discussed their successful campaign to prosecute a sex tourism agency based in New York City for promoting prostitution. He described how the johns found the agency through the internet, and how they told one another of their exploits overseas, which provides proof of the crimes committed. As a former attorney for a union representing police officers, he also gave concrete examples of policy measures that could be taken to ensure police are not themselves perpetrators. Most stirring was Brenda Myers, who works with the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and is herself a survivor of prostitution, who discussed her experience with johns, including their self-delusions, abusive sexual behavior, and violence when their efforts to “fix” their own sexual problems through the use of a prostitute fail, as well as useful policy measures to deter johns.

Throughout the conference, participants spoke of the need to replicate the Swedish model, which penalizes perpetrators of prostitution and provides assistance to victims. Noting the lack of a national network of abolitionist anti-trafficking advocates, and the very strong presence of the Freedom Network, which does not share an abolitionist view on prostitution, participants dedicated themselves to creating a new U.S. national anti-trafficking/anti-prostitution network.

CATW'S NEW YORK NETWORK HOSTS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Throughout 2003 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 U.S. State Department and non-governmental organizations. Visitors included: Felicitas Bay, Director, Licensing Branch, Philippines Overseas Employment Administration, Manila, Philippines; Reynald Bacongus Bustillo, Police Senior Inspector, Pasay City, Philippines; Dr. Monoch Chockjamsai, Assistant Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai, Thailand; Surasak Lawhapidoolkul, Deputy Superintendent, Juvenile Aid Subdivision, Bangkok, Thailand; Khanh Nang Do, Deputy Director, Policy Division, Department of Social Evils Prevention, Ministry of Labor, War Invalids, and Social Affairs, Hanoi, Vietnam; Tam Thi Nhu Do, Vietnam Coordinator, Cooperation of Action Research on Aids and Mobility, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Rugnth A. Kesavan, Chairperson, Legal Aid Center, Petaling, Malaysia; Yu-Mei Meng, Public Prosecutor, Ministry of Justice, Taipei, Taiwan; Roland Pacis, International Advocacy Officer, Visayan Forum Organization, Manila Philippines; Ms. Maesuroh, Assistant Deputy Minister for Women's Empowerment, Coordinating Minister for Social Welfare, Jakarta, Indonesia; Alena Nestsiaruk, Trafficking Prevention Coordinator, La Strada Project, YWCA-Belarus; Mra Sabai Nyun, Sectoral Specialist, HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Project, Myanmar; Sothy Sun, Assistant Director, the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center, Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Alice Huguette Kipre, General Coordinator, Assistance and Rescue to Africa, Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire; Andrea Ilcochova, Member, Department of Trafficking in Human Beings, Organized Crime Unit, Czech Republic Police, Czech Republic; Taina Elina Riski, Secretary General, The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations, Helsinki, Finland; Marion Boeker, General Secretary for International Affairs, KOK (federal association against trafficking and violence against women in the migration process), Brandenburg, Germany; Padma Ramakrishna, State Coordinator, Joint Women's Program, Secunderabad, India; Nomi Levenkron, Legal Advisor, Hotline for Migrant Workers, Tel Aviv, Israel; Dalal Rahbany, Head of Aliens Department, Directorate of General Security, Beirut, Lebanon; Orben Simaata Sibeya, Control Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General, Oshakati, Namibia; Mina Sedai, District Coordinator, National Network Against Girl Trafficking, Kathmandu, Nepal; Indu Tuladhar, Chief Legal Aid Officer, Central Women Legal Aid Committee, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Kathmandu, Nepal; Nana Aishantu Abdulquadri, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Abuja, Abuja, Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria; Daniel Mihai Kozak, Public Information Officer, International Organization for Migration, Bucharest, Romania; Ingrid Baumannova, Executive Director, Slovak Helsinki Committee, Bratislava, Slovak Republic; Alenka Malensek, Head of Office, International Organization for Migration for Slovenia, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Wassana Kaonoparat, Head of Child Protection Team, Center for Protection of Children's Rights, Bangkok, Thailand; Cleophas Kwadjo Mally, Director, WAO-Afrique, Lome, Togo; Aida Aidarkulova, Department of Law Agencies of Justice, Kazkh Gumanitarno-Yuridicheskij University,

Almaty, Kazakhstan; Larissa Brovotaya, Editor-in-Chief, “No Strazhe” (On Guard) Newspaper, Almaty, Kazakhstan; Galing Morozova, President, Feminist League of Kokshetau, Kokshetau, Kazakhstan; Alexandr Mukha, Professor, Political Science and History, Mangistau Gumanitarniy College, Aqtau, Kazakhstan; and Yelena Petrenko, Founder, Center of Legal Support, Karaganda, Kazakhstan.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SEX TRAFFICKING IN WASHINGTON, DC

Over 400 grassroots activists, NGOs, and governmental officials from most parts of the globe took part in a conference organized by the U.S. Department of State in concert with the NGO War Against Trafficking Alliance. From February 23-26, many of those on the front lines of anti-trafficking efforts met together to talk about “Pathbreaking Strategies in the Global Fight Against Trafficking.”

Invited conference participants chose several workshops from topics ranging from “Cleaning Out Corruption” to “Bridging the Gap Between Policy and Practice.” All workshop leaders were asked to recommend best practices emerging from their discussions. CATW representatives and affiliates attending from different countries were Aurora Javate de Dios and Jean Enriquez, Philippines; Teresa Ulloa, Mexico; Luis Enrique Costa Ramirez, Venezuela; Fatoumata Sire Diakite, Mali; Esohe Aghatise, Nigeria/Italy; Sigma Huda, Bangladesh; and Janice Raymond, USA.

Undersecretary of State for Global Affairs, Paula Dobriansky, US Attorney General, John Ashcroft, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, Claude Allen, Rep. Chris Smith, Rep. Frank Wolf, USAID Administrator, Andrew Natsios, and Francisco Santos Calderon, Vice President of Colombia delivered keynote addresses. However, the highlight of the conference for CATW and others was the address given by former Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, Margaret Winberg, who addressed the connections between prostitution and trafficking, located sexual exploitation clearly within the context of gender and the abuse of women’s rights and spotlighted the role played by male demand in the increase in trafficking and prostitution worldwide.

Conference Recommendations have been published in hard copy and are also available on the web site of the U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at www.state.gov/g/tip

CATW LEADS NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO SEMINARS FOR JOURNALISTS

WBUR, Boston’s National Public Radio (NPR) News Station, received a grant from the U.S. State Department to host journalists’ visits to the United States and to acquaint journalists with U.S. organizations working to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation. As part of the program, WBUR organized several seminars focused on media coverage of trafficking issues. Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of CATW, led 2 seminars on the connections between trafficking and prostitution for journalists from Southeast Europe, which included participants from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia.

URBAN POLICIES TOWARDS PROSTITUTION IN FRANCE

The Association of Mayors of large cities in France (L’Association des Maires des Grandes Villes Francaises) organized an innovative conference on “Urban Policies Towards Prostitution” (Les politiques urbaines face a la prostitution) from June 12-13, 2003. Initiated by the cities of Nantes and Paris, the meeting’s purpose was to support the large cities of France in combating trafficking for sexual exploitation and help develop coherent public policies that respect basic human rights and French values.

Set in the beautiful coastal city of Nantes Atlantique at the Cite de Congres, the conference drew over 200 people from France and other European countries. Malka Marcovich, President of the Movement for the Abolition of Prostitution and Pornography (MAPP), was the technical advisor to the conference committee and helped

design the meeting. Among the principal speakers were CATW representatives and affiliates, including Asuncion Miura from Spain; Esohe Aghastise from Nigeria/Italy; and Janice Raymond, CATW's Co-Executive Director, from the United States. Gunilla Ekberg, Coordinator of the Nordic-Baltic Campaign Against the Trafficking in Women, spoke about the results of the Swedish law penalizing men who buy women for prostitution. Another featured speaker was Yolande Grenson, founder of Pandora in Belgium and a survivor of prostitution. Hubert Dubois's film documenting the sex industry in Amsterdam, entitled "Les vitrines d'Amsterdam," premiered at the conference.

Speakers and round table discussions addressed key themes of the conference; the current state of sexual exploitation worldwide and the international debate; the different urban prostitution policies in Europe – diversity or disaster; historical perspectives on urban policies and prostitution; traffickers and pimps in France; and results of urban prostitution policies in several French cities. This last round table included local representatives from the cities of Angers, Bordeaux, Lyon, Montreuil, Mulhouse, Nantes, Paris, Rouen, Saint Denis de la Reunion and Strasbourg. Proceedings from the conference are in the process of being published. The urban policies conference will meet again in Paris in 2005.

VANCOUVER — TOLERANCE ZONES ARE SACRIFICE ZONES

In response to a proposal to create sex industry tolerance zones, launched by some Vancouver city council members with the alleged support of the mayor, the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter organized a press conference and Public Forum on Ending Prostitution to speak out against the proposal on October 10, 2003.

Vancouver has seen dozens of women in prostitution killed over the last decade. Robert William Pickton, a pig farmer and well-known "john," has been charged with 22 of these murders. Advocates of tolerance zones, such as Jamie Lee Hamilton who tried to mount an unsuccessful 2002 court challenge to the legality of the "bawdy house" laws in Vancouver, claim that the zones will make it safer for women. Opponents of the zones maintain they actually protect sex industries and sex entrepreneurs by creating legal brothels and turning pimps into legitimate sex businessmen overnight.

Prior to the forum, Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter set up learning centers throughout the auditorium, using CATW's "10 Reasons for Not Legalizing Prostitution," as the basis of an interactive display. Each of the 10 reasons was illustrated with neighborhoods in Vancouver, and then used to explain the harms of these zones to women in prostitution, the neighborhoods and the society.

Speakers at the Forum were Lee Lakeman, Director of Rape Relief and Women's Shelter; Cherry Kingsley, Executive Director of the International Centre to Combat Exploitation of Children and a survivor of prostitution; Terri Brown, President of the Native Women's Association of Canada; Lorina Serafico of the Committee for Filipino Domestic Workers and Caregivers Rights; and Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of CATW. 400 persons attended the forum, and most of the participants who spoke after the presentations in the lengthy participants' session that followed voiced their opposition to tolerance zones and other legalized sex industry venues. Many participants stated that such zones would only promote prostitution industries and encourage traffickers to see Vancouver as a magnet for the sex trade. Rape Relief and Women's Shelter will continue to monitor and oppose the creation of these zones.

A Webcast of the Public Forum on Ending Prostitution, hosted by the Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, can be found in Real Video, Real Audio and Windows Media Player formats at <http://www.workingtv.com/mainp11.html>

*** CATW also gave keynote addresses at conferences on trafficking at Gonzaga Law School in Spokane Washington; the National Liberty Museum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and in Madrid, Spain.**



INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADOVACACY and UN MEETINGS

CATW MEMBER AND SURVIVOR OF SEXUAL ABUSE IS PLENARY SPEAKER AT 47TH SESSION OF CSW, MARCH 2-14, 2003

Coalition member, Elena DiPaolo, was one of three experts on the CSW plenary session panel discussion, attended by more than 350 NGO representatives. Elena, a survivor of the Internet Mail Order Bride Industry and of domestic violence told her story of being trafficked into the United States and married to a man who abused and sent out sexually objectifying photographs of her over the internet.

“My internet meeting with Ed led to my being victimized in three ways. I was a victim of domestic violence, of sexual assault, and trafficking...There were no pimps or organized crime rings. In my case, the internet was the vehicle for my sexual exploitation. It enabled Ed, a sexual predator, to lure me across the world into a situation in which I had no choice but to submit to his sexual demands. I was not his first victim, and I will not be his last. I have heard that he has a new Russian bride, and my heart bleeds for her.”

“Some of you might say that I chose this situation. That I was responsible for what happened to me and my daughters. I would respond that I didn’t choose to be sexually exploited and abused. Like hundreds of thousands of women from Russia and Eastern Europe, I was trying to extricate my family from a future of poverty and sexual exploitation...I would never have left Russia if I had known what he had in store for me.”

Following Elena’s presentation, CATW activists led several of the break-out sessions on issues of violence against women. The final recommendations of the Consultation included CATW positions—that the customers of prostituted and trafficked women be penalized and that victims/survivors receive support and services.

Two CATW-organized and sponsored panel discussions held at Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium the first week of CSW explored two critical thematic issues of the session: violence against women and the media. The first was entitled, “Prostitution: Male Violence Against Women.” Panelists included Melissa Farley of Prostitution Research and Education and Sheila Jeffreys, Associate Professor, University of Melbourne and Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Australia. CATW International’s South Asian Coordinator, Anindita Chatterjee Bhaumik, moderated the panel discussion, which was attended by close to 100 participants.

On March 5, CATW presented a panel discussion entitled, “Sex Trafficking by the Military and Peacekeepers.” The panelists were Aurora Javate de Dios, President, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and former member of the CEDAW Committee, Hilary Sunghee Seo, CATW’s Korea Expert, and Pamela Shifman, Gender Consultant to UNICEF. The panel was moderated by Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Deputy Minister of Defense, South Africa, and Former Chair of the ANC Parliamentary Women’s Caucus.

More than a dozen CATW members lobbied the governmental delegates, urging them to adopt language in the final document that addressed prostitution and trafficking as practices of violence against women that violate human rights and called for a strong criminal justice and human rights approach. During the second week a CATW-drafted intervention was presented to the delegates on behalf of CATW, Equality Now, the Good Shepherd Congregation, the Elizabeth Seton Federation, International Public Policy Institute, Global Women, Soroptomist International, and World Federation for Mental Health. The intervention condemned prostitution “as a form of violence against women” and insisted on the “very clear and close link between trafficking in women and girls and prostitution, asserting “without the demand for prostituted women and girls there would be no trafficking in women and girls for prostitution.”

COALITION PARTICIPATES IN 28TH SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

Dorchen Leidholdt, CATW Co-Executive Director and CATW members Malka Marcovich, founder of MAPP (Movement Against Prostitution and Pornography) and Esohe Aghatise, Executive Director of Associazione Iroko Onlus, participated in the 28th Session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery held at the United Nations, Geneva, from June 16-20, 2002. The major theme of this year's session was child marriage and forced marriage. Dorchen gave an intervention that focused on the interconnection of child and forced marriage with domestic violence and trafficking and urged the Working Group to consider these gender-based violations of human rights contemporary forms of slavery and slavery like practices. Dorchen gave two other interventions, the first recognizing the important contributions made by the governments of Sweden and the Philippines in developing model legislation and policy for the prevention and suppression of prostitution and trafficking in women and the second calling attention to the dangers of an "Annotated Guide to the Trafficking Protocol" that misrepresents the Trafficking Protocol supplementing the UN Transnational Convention on Organized Crime. Malka Marcovich presented the proceedings of a recent conference in France for municipal leaders to address prostitution (see article on Nantes Conference), and Esohe Aghatise described the problem of the trafficking of Nigerian women into Italy for sexual exploitation.

Other participants in the session included Action for Children Campaign, the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), and Anti-Slavery. There was strong support from both the participating NGOs and the Working Groups's Experts for CATW's approach to prostitution/trafficking as a practice of violence against women that violates human rights and for CATW's policy and legislative advocacy.

The final unanimous recommendations of the Working Group included strong and unequivocal statements opposing the legalization and legitimization of prostitution as work and ringing endorsements of the Swedish Government's legislation prohibiting the purchase of sexual services and the Nordic-Baltic prostitution/trafficking prevention program.

CATW REPRESENTATIVES MEET WITH NEW UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

CATW European representatives Malka Marcovich and Esohe Aghatise met with the new UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, Dr. Yakin Erturk from Ankara, Turkey, at the United Nations in Geneva. They discussed CATW's various projects in many parts of the world, CATW's position on trafficking and prostitution, and the importance of legally addressing the demand for prostitution that fosters sex trafficking. Dr. Erturk will visit Sweden in the near future to discuss with officials and NGOs there the impact of the Swedish legislation prohibiting the buying of sexual services.

CATW ADVOCATES AGAINST THE DECRIMINALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION IN NEW ZEALAND

In May 2003, prostitution was decriminalized in New Zealand (NZ) by a one-vote majority of its Parliament. While appearing to promote the interests and the public health of women, the NZ law in fact protects the privacy of pimps and generally represents the interests of johns. The law fails to address the multiple harms and health effects and the range of injuries and illnesses that are intrinsic to the sexual violence of prostitution.

Sponsored by CATW and others, Melissa Farley of Prostitution Research and Education went to Auckland and Wellington before the law was passed, and worked with some courageous New Zealanders in lobbying against the law, and in conducting interviews with the press. Despite the valiant efforts of Melissa and many groups and individuals, the law squeaked by with a one-vote majority. Days before its passage, many thought there was a

good chance the law would be rejected. However, it appears that votes were bought, and political pressure was put on a few MPs at the last minute to ensure the law's passage. The one person who abstained from voting, thus allowing the law to pass, told Melissa Farley several days earlier that he planned to vote against the law. On a first round of voting, he had indeed voted against it but after meetings with the Prime Minister and others supporting the passage of the law, subsequently decided to abstain on the day of the vote.

Feminists Sandra Coney, Jo Fitzpatrick, Miriam Saphira, and Jeffrey Masson were allies in opposing the law and in explaining the New Zealand political landscape. Mama Tere, a community activist in South Auckland, survivor of prostitution, and tireless supporter of her people repeatedly spoke out against the law. Her life was threatened in the heat of the political battle over the law. A number of politicians valiantly fought against the law, which was supported by the Prime Minister and her Labour Party, as well as by the NZ Green party. MP Diane Yates introduced the Swedish law as an alternative to decriminalization and as a legal model for what New Zealand should be proposing. MP Nanaia Mahuta, along with a number of other Maori MPs, consistently struggled to raise consciousness in Parliament about the overwhelming harms that the law would facilitate against indigenous peoples in New Zealand.

One of the ardent supporters of the law was quoted as saying that feminist arguments against the law were "intellectually strong but practically weak." One implication of this statement is that prostitution is indeed violence against women but, nonetheless, the law must be practical and accommodate men's right to buy and sell women.

Political pundits were certain that the NZ law would not have passed without a last-minute amendment that enabled local jurisdictions to zone prostitution into the neighborhoods of those who could least afford the legal battle to keep it away from their homes. Since passage of the NZ law, conflict has arisen regarding the zoning of prostitution. Legal challenges, both to the law itself and to the zoning of prostitution, have been posed.

Another law, the New Zealand Human Rights law, has provisions that protect women from sexual harassment. It is a far more protective law than the NZ law that decriminalizes prostitution in the name of women's health, safety and right to work. Since one of the job requirements of prostitution is tolerating sexual harassment, a legal challenge to the decriminalization of prostitution might be to ask how the NZ Human Rights law would protect women in prostitution from sexual harassment.



COALITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

AFRICA

MALI

CATW Africa has continued to implement country workshops on national and international legal tools against trafficking and sexual exploitation in Africa. CATW Africa is also in the process of compiling the different legal texts on trafficking and prostitution that exist in African countries and preparing the compilation for publication .

In many African countries, trafficking in women has been a relatively neglected issue compared to trafficking in children. To help publicize the severity of the issue, CATW Africa has targeted sectors such as hotel owners and workers, travel agencies, tourist guides and agencies with whom CATW organized a one-day conference on "Trafficking in Women and Girls: Your Role in Combating the Phenomenon." To make its work more well-known in Africa, CATW has designed, printed and distributed 300 brochures describing its mission and principles.

CATW Africa continues to hold meetings with national authorities and UNICEF in Mali to cooperate in the fight against trafficking of women. As a result of these meeting, the National Department to Promote the Rights of Women's has given priority to the trafficking of women issue in its Five Year Plan of Action. During the drafting

of the Mali national report prepared for the CEDAW committee, CATW Mali was successful in getting the issue of trafficking of women in Africa included. In fact, CATW Mali drafted this section on trafficking for the national report presented to CEDAW.

Currently, CATW Africa is working to address several cases of very young girls brought to Saudi Arabia to become “wives” of some Malians living there, who ordered their “brides” from Mali through marriage marketing networks. After arriving in Saudi Arabia, these young girls became sexual slaves and face tremendous violence. CATW Africa is now investigating and tracking down the head of this network, and has turned his name and address over to the police. It is also common that during the period of pilgrimage to Mecca, many Malian young girls and women become victims of trafficking in the Middle East.

NIGERIA/ITALY

Through the IROKO Association in Italy, which is a part of CATW Africa and CATW Europe, CATW helps provide temporary housing facilities, temporary economic assistance and psychological and medical support to victims of trafficking, the majority who come from Nigeria to Italy. IROKO also assists victims of trafficking from Albania and other Eastern European countries. Assistance is also provided to children of victims and, in some cases, to victims of other forms of violence.

In 2003, a total of 13 trafficked women and 5 children were given financial assistance. IROKO also set up an employment program where trafficked women work in Italian families while they are applying for residence under the Italian social program for victims of trafficking. Women are also assisted to find sustained employment and to take courses in Italian language and to gain educational skills.

IROKO also provides housing for victims of trafficking. During 2003, 10 victims of trafficking and two children have passed through the residential program in apartments set up in cooperation with community housing in Turin. Six were assisted to obtain independent housing of their own.

All victims of trafficking have benefited from other services of the IROKO program including cultural mediation and accompaniment to services, translation of documents for immigration purposes, legal advocacy and medical assistance.

ASIA

PHILIPPINES

ADDRESSING THE DEMAND SIDE OF TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION

CATW Asia Pacific has initiated an innovative 3 year project in the Philippines to prevent sex trafficking by discouraging the demand for prostitution. The project targets young boys and men in schools and communities in the Philippines where prostitution flourishes.

The overall objective of the project is to change the sexual attitudes and practices of boys and men that result in the sexual exploitation of women and children by employing various educational tools: reproduction of an innovative video entitled “First Time” to be distributed in VCD format, illustrating how young men go through male rites of passage by using women in prostitution; use of education materials such as flyers and flipcharts detailing causes of prostitution and trafficking; comic books portraying the stories of women who have been in prostitution, including the role of male buyers; workshops in 12 regions of the Philippines over a period of 2 years educating young boys and men about the harm of prostitution and trafficking, men’s role in perpetuating sexual exploitation and the sex industry, and men’s potential role in being catalysts for change.

CATW Asia Pacific has used the first year of the project to prepare thoroughly for its implementation during Years 1 and 2. Among other preparatory activities, it has designed a questionnaire and discussion format, to be used with young men, with input from survivors of prostitution NGOs in the Philippines; established criteria and methods for male trainers who will help conduct workshops for boys and young men; and conducted 7 Focus Groups to pre-test the questions to be asked in future workshops with boys in 12 regions of the Philippines. Focus group participants have been drawn from various sectors: male students of mixed class background in 4 colleges of the Philippines; 2 focus groups from selected communities; and 1 focus group composed of working class, urban poor jeepney drivers in metro Manila. The focus groups have been used to test and modify the questions and the discussion process.

Janice Raymond, CATW's international Co-Executive Director, visited the Philippines from January 5-9 to observe the project and to discuss its design, implementation and changes with CATW Philippines staff. Raymond personally observed the focus group discussion that was conducted with the jeepney drivers in a metro Manila "Wendy's" restaurant. The fact that this group of men was reached through contacts with the drivers' union is in itself remarkable.

The session was impressive. Questions and discussion at first centered on why men thought prostitution exists, followed with questions about what men get out of prostitution? How do men feel after having sex with a woman in prostitution? What do men tell their friends about their experiences engaging in the sex of prostitution? How do men think that women or girls feel when they are having sex with a prostitution customer? And ultimately, men in the focus group were asked whether they had engaged in sexual activities with women in prostitution. Almost all responded affirmatively.

There was a lot of joking among the men and a certain level of discomfort among some in responding to the questions. But after the interactive discussion was finished, the CATW staff talked for about 15 minutes about their own responses to the questions and CATW's work and experience in working with women in prostitution. Responses then began to change and some of the men acknowledged that men's role in buying women for the sex of prostitution perpetuated the problem. Some even made suggestions about how to change male patterns in the jeepney drivers' environment. One suggestion made was for drivers, who are approached by street women in prostitution to engage in sex in exchange for giving the women a free ride on the jeepney or in exchange for money, instead give them a free ride or the money, rather than engage in exploiting the women.

Finally, the men were given T-shirts with various messages, for example, saying "Stop the Sale of Women and Children" or "Women Should be Valued, Not Sold." In departing, men said they would wear the shirts and seemed pleased with the session thanking the facilitators for what they had learned. This is not to say that a mass conversion took place among the men but rather to suggest that it appears that some significant learning did occur and that men themselves recognized this.

The second year of the project will begin in March, 2004 and will focus on the actual implementation of the workshops/camp sessions in 12 regions of the Philippines continuing into Year 3, and working with hundreds of young men from these regions.

LATIN AMERICA

TERESA ULLOA ZIAURRIZ – NEW CATW LATIN AMERICA DIRECTOR

CATW is proud to announce that the new director of the Coalition in Latin America is Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz from Mexico. Teresa succeeds Zoraida Ramirez Rodriguez of Venezuela who died in 2002 of cancer.

Teresa is a feminist and has been a tireless advocate for the rights of women and children in Mexico. She is an expert on issues related to gender violence and discrimination and has written several publications on these

topics. She has served as a consultant to UNICEF and the Federal Government of Mexico in a campaign designed to discourage the trafficking and sexual exploitation of children. In Mexico City, she participated in the reform of the Criminal Code and helped draft reform legislation against gender violence, domestic violence, violence against children, and the sexual exploitation of children. She also drafted the first law for the Rights of Children in Mexico City. As the Director of Social Projects for Women and Children in the first democratic government of the Federal District in Mexico City, Teresa has implemented and directed projects and public policies to assist women and children who have been sexually abused is prostitution, pornography and who are victims of sex trafficking. Teresa also directs a Mexican NGO called Popular Defenders and has established a national network of 50,000 community promoters of the human rights of women and children.



Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz

Teresa assumed the directorship of CATW, Latin America early in 2003. In record time, she and her project team have already designed a trafficking and prostitution prevention program in 3 districts of Mexico City (see accompanying article on CATW Mexico). They hope that this program will serve as a model to prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation that can be used in other areas of Mexico and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

COALITION PLAYS CRUCIAL ROLE IN LATIN AMERICAN/CARIBBEAN FORUM AGAINST CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Dorchen Leidholdt represented the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women at the International Forum on Child Commercial Sexual Exploitation, sponsored by the Commission on Gender Equality of the Mexican Senate and held from August 17 -19 in Mexico City. The forum brought together 29 legislators from most countries in Latin America, including Brazil, Argentina, Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rico, and Honduras, with the leadership of the Mexican legislative branch of government. The U.S. Trafficking in Persons Office sent Marcia Liss as its representative who also spoke at the conference.

Leidholdt gave the first plenary panel presentation, addressing the subject of child sex tourism and its relation to adult prostitution and trafficking. Other panelists spoke about services to victims, child pornography, and the role of organized crime. The next panel focused on judicial responses to child sexual exploitation and included the Deputy Director of the Costa Rican based Program for Gender Justice, who also stressed the interconnections of the sexual exploitation of children and adults and the role of gender discrimination and violence.

A highpoint of the conference was the keynote speech of Gunilla Ekberg, speaking on behalf of the Swedish government, who described the Swedish “violence against women” approach to prostitution and trafficking which focuses on addressing the demand for commercial sexual exploitation by criminalizing the buyers. Gunilla’s presentation was followed by a screening of the powerful film, *Lilya 4-Ever*, which was attended by all of the participants.

The conference was attended by more than 300 participants, with heavy attendance by members of the Mexican legislature. It provided Coalition members with an opportunity to network with elected officials throughout Latin America. The final declaration, drafted by CATW’s Latin American Director Teresa Ulloa, called for concerted

action by the Mexican government against all forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children and was signed by all 17 female members of the Mexican Senate.

NEW PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION PROJECT IN MEXICO

CATW Latin America has begun a new 3 year project to prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and teenagers in three targeted counties (Delegations) in Mexico City that have the highest incidence of trafficking and sexual exploitation. As part of the project, the Coalition has developed a video to be presented on buses, airlines, and at other transportation facilities, warning those arriving in Mexico City, as well as parents and teenagers, about the risks and penalties of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

A major part of the project is to train and give tools to teachers to help students both in defending themselves and in taking the offensive against recruiters and exploiters. CATW Mexico met with the national trade union of teachers to introduce the project and has prepared a training manual for high school teachers on prevention of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The Ministry of Public Education and Vice Ministry of Education Services for the Federal District of Mexico are cooperating in the project, as is the Ministry of Communications and other entities who will sponsor the videos in the transportation centers and get the airlines, bus services, as well as television stations on board. Twelve training workshops for teachers will be conducted in years 2 and 3 of the project.

REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

SHORT COURSE ON EXPLOITED MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING

CATW is supporting a new 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. FCRS has initiated a program to prevent trafficking and exploited migration by offering a short course on the realities of the trafficking and migration experience.

Since the break up of the Soviet Union, it is estimated that one million out of 5 million people in the Republic of Georgia have left the country. The majority of those leaving Georgia with a goal of studying or working abroad do so illegally. The potential risk of their being trafficked is high, and many have been trafficked for sexual exploitation and for labor. During the last 3 years, FCRS has interviewed hundreds of victims of trafficking, including students and au-pairs, who have been sexually exploited in the process of migrating abroad.

The short course informs potential migrants of what can happen when their fates are placed in the hands of traffickers and smugglers who take advantage of them. CATW has helped fund the start up of the FCRS project beginning with a hotline; the publication of flyers describing the program and contact information for would-be migrants; advertisements in newspapers publicizing the new program; and trips to Kakhetia and Samegrelo, high Georgian trafficking regions, to publicize and prepare the program with local authorities and educational institutions. After only a two month period of operation, the program has received 20 applications from individuals who will learn about the potential perils of the journey they may undertake, legal venues for migration, visa and travel requirements and documents, how to regularize their migration, practical information about the migration process, migrants’ rights and responsibilities abroad, minor language skills and computer literacy.



PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS

Prostitution, Trafficking and Traumatic Stress edited by Melissa Farley, a clinical and research psychologist and director of Prostitution Research and Education in San Francisco, California, has been published by Haworth Press, 2004 (\$23.96 softcover). The book examines the connections between prostitution, incest, sexual harassment, rape and battering, the psychological consequences of sexual exploitation, social support and services for women escaping prostitution, online prostitution, and the connections between prostitution and trafficking. International in scope, the book contains cutting-edge articles on all these topics and more. Several CATW representatives and affiliates have contributed articles to this anthology including Dorchen Leidholdt, Janice Raymond, Vednita Carter, Norma Hotaling and Wendy Freed. The book can be ordered from The Haworth Press, 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, New York 13904-1580 or online at www.HaworthPress.com

The Dutch Showcase is a film directed by Hubert Dubois that presents the reality of the Dutch prostitution industry. Contact Dubois directly in Paris. E-mail is dubois.hubert@free.fr

Request the video in either VHR/PAL for Europe and other countries or VCR format for the United States.

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