



CATW

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

Annual Report 2010

CATW's Mission

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women is a non-governmental organization that works to end human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. CATW is the world's first organization to fight human trafficking internationally, and is the world's leading abolitionist organization. CATW and our partners engage in advocacy, education, victim services, and prevention programs for victims of trafficking and prostitution in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, and North America, including the United States.

Since 1988, CATW has provided widely recognized leadership on local, national, regional, and international levels, in promoting legislative, policy and educational measures to raise awareness about the root causes of human trafficking. CATW holds Special Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and was a key consultant at the UN Transnational Organized Crime Meeting from 1999-2000, the outcome of which was the Palermo Protocol, the world's most recognized legal instrument on human trafficking.

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For more information about CATW and our partners visit www.catwinternational.org.

The flower illustrations herewithin represent the national flowers of each country.

This report is printed on recycled paper.

2010 Executive Director Report

Norma Ramos, Esq.

There have been many new and exciting developments in 2010. CATW and our partners continue to work to create the legal, social and political conditions that are inhospitable to human trafficking throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, and North America.

CATW began 2010 by convening a highly successful meeting of our international board of directors. CATW is thrilled to announce the addition of three new board members: Agnete Strom of The Women's Front Norway; Esohe Aghatise of IROKO; and Ruchira Gupta of Apne Aap. This meeting also afforded us an opportunity to engage in strategic planning. Our meeting coincided with CSW 54 Beijing +15 where we hosted three powerful, politically rich parallel events to overflowing audiences.

Our advocacy continues to grow exponentially around the world. In Europe, CATW's Malka Marcovich in partnership with the Forum des Femmes de La Méditerranée, and Femmes Solidaires established the Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women (MNATW). Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge launched the Embrace Dignity Campaign in South Africa. CATW Latin America and the Caribbean, CATW Asia Pacific, and IROKO continue to expand their innovative

anti-trafficking programs, particularly to educate youth about gender equality and the demand for commercial sexual exploitation that is fueling sex trafficking.

As a part of our End Demand Campaign, CATW continued to advocate for the vigorous implementation of laws and policies designed to discourage the demand for commercial sex domestically and internationally. CATW's Senior Washington D.C. Policy Advisor, Eleanor Gaetan, is laying the groundwork for a strong 2011 TVPRA reauthorization.

As a direct result of the work of CATW and our partners, many countries have now included sanctions to address the demand. Guatemala and El Salvador have now passed laws that criminalize the demand, both of which participated in the *Second Latin American Congress on Trafficking in Persons: Migration, Gender and Human Rights*.

In light of the tragic 2010 earthquake in Haiti, CATW was able to financially and politically support CATW-LAC's Haitian partner, Guylande Mesadieu and our sisters in Haiti.

In 2010, CATW launched our *Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet*



and achieved a great success. With the co-sponsorship of 85 leading international and national anti-trafficking organizations and prominent individuals, CATW organized a protest at Craigslist's corporate headquarters in San Francisco, California (July 2010) to hold Craigslist accountable for its facilitation of sex trafficking in North America and internationally.

Craigslist exists in approximately 450 countries, 257 of which contained an "Adult Services" section. Craigslist was facilitating sex trafficking in countries that are experiencing some of the highest human trafficking rates on record, most notably in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Iraq and Thailand. We called upon Craigslist to set the industry standard by no longer hosting the "Adult Services" section. In the months following our protest, Craigslist ultimately removed all "Adult Services" sections worldwide. We will continue to build on this success.

CATW's profile continues to increase throughout the world. Many CATW leaders were recognized for their groundbreaking work to end human trafficking in 2010. Jean Enriquez, Executive Director of CATW-AP, was a recipient of The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service awards (TOWNS), Gudrun

Jonsdottir of Stigamot received the Gender Equality prize of Iceland, Anuradha Koirala, chairperson of Maiti Nepal, was selected as one of CNN's top 10 Heroes of 2010, and I was the recipient of the Annual Award from the Hispanic National Bar Association Commission on Latinas in the Legal Profession, to name a few.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to our many supporters for standing with CATW as we work to end human trafficking in our lifetime.

CATW at the UN

United Nations Beijing +15 and CSW54

In 2010, CATW convened a board meeting that coincided with the **54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** and the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This allowed for a key presence of abolitionists at significant meetings. CATW submitted written relevant statements, sponsored, and participated in three parallel events to overflowing audiences.

Co-sponsored by *UNANIMA International*, the first event, titled ***“Without Demand There Would Be No Supply: How Men Can End Commercial Sexual Exploitation,”*** featured Aaron Cohen, activist and author; Catherine Ferguson, UNANIMA International; Agnete Strøm, The Women’s Front of Norway; Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, CATW – Latin America and the Caribbean; Anas Aremeyaw, The New Crusading Guide; and was moderated by Esohe Aghatise, Associazione IROKO Onlus. Each panelist spoke about their work to end the demand for commercial sex and to change the social and cultural acceptance of violence against women.

On March 5, 2010 CATW co-hosted two events. The first, ***“Targeting Women in Armed Conflict: Trafficking, Prostitution and Pornography,”*** featured Rachel Eapen Paul, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA); Yanar Mohamed, Organization of Women’s Freedom;

Jean Enriquez, CATW – Asia Pacific; Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, CATW – Latin America and the Caribbean; Jimmie Briggs, author, *Innocents Lost: When Child Soldiers Go to War*; and was moderated by Malka Marcovich of CATW – Europe. Panelists spoke about the influence of armed conflict and how it exacerbates the sexual exploitation of women and girls in different regions throughout the world.

The following event, co-sponsored by the *Maryknoll Sisters*, titled ***“Mass Marketing Prostitution: Sexual Exploitation as Entertainment”***, included panelists Gail Dines, Stop Porn Culture; Malka Marcovich, CATW – Europe; Dorchen Leidholdt, CATW board member; Jonathan Walton, poet/activist; and was moderated by Norma Ramos, CATW International. Each speaker delivered a compelling analysis about the normalization of commercial sexual exploitation and pornography.

On March 8, 2010 *International Women’s Day*, CATW’s Executive Director Norma Ramos spoke on the Soroptimist International’s panel, ***“Stop Trafficking – Action, Advocacy and Progress Around The World Through Local and Global Efforts”***. Norma Ramos delivered a passionate abolitionist speech about prostitution for an audience of approximately 200 people. A lively dialogue ensued after the panel.



Exterior of the UN Building in New York City

The presence of CATW board members, partners and funders afforded CATW an opportunity to host additional gatherings throughout the week. Lori Cohen of Sanctuary for Families hosted a beautiful cocktail reception in her home. This intimate gathering gave CATW board members, partners and funders the opportunity to come together, connect, and discuss our work.

UN Group of Friends

The Ambassador of Belarus is chairing a new entity at the United Nations called the Group of Friends. On June 2, 2010, CATW was invited to participate in the first meeting convened by the Ambassador. The Group is comprised of 20 countries who self describe it as an advocacy group seeking to enhance the role of the UN in the fight against human trafficking. This meeting was designed to bring together international organizations to inform the Group about human trafficking and to develop a Global Plan of Action.

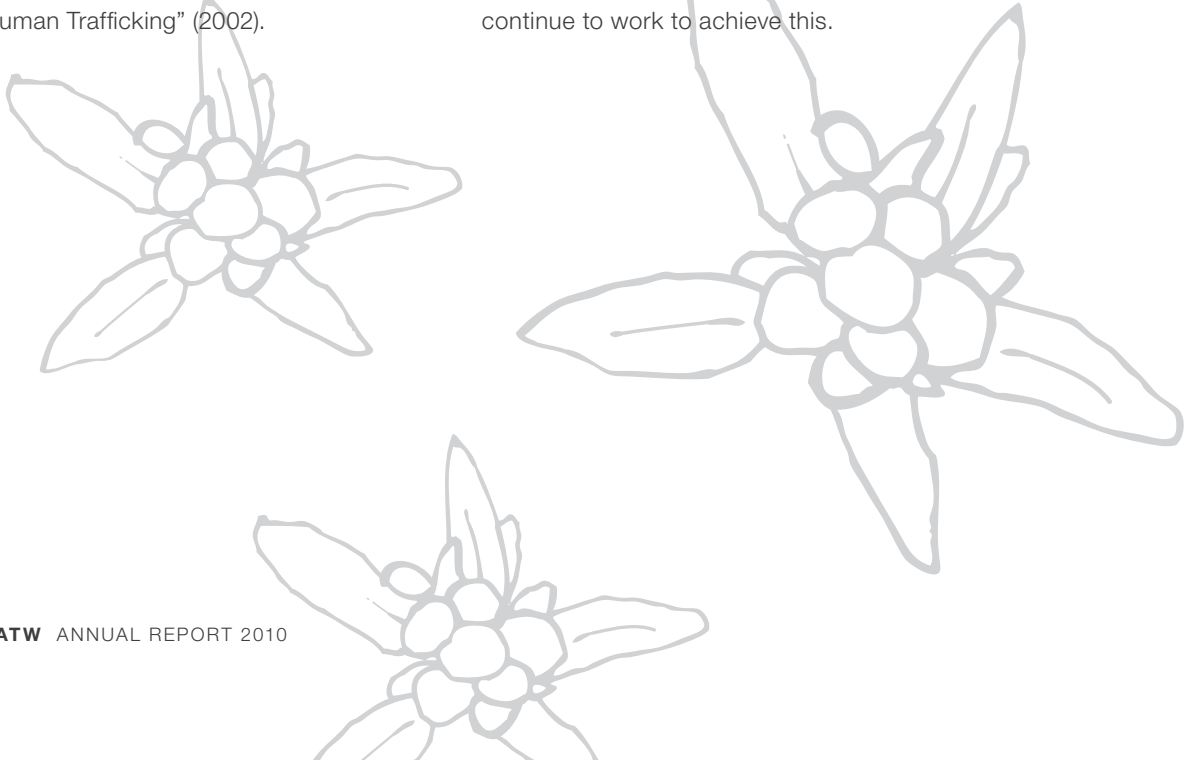
CATW's Executive Director Norma Ramos presented at the meeting and received positive feedback from attendees. CATW submitted formal comments on the Plan of Action. The Group will have an ongoing dialogue with NGOs, and CATW was invited to send additional comments.

IGO Contact Group on Human Trafficking - United Nations (Geneva)

Throughout the past year, Marta Torres of CATW has been involved in numerous meetings and sessions of the IGO Contact Group on Human Trafficking at the United Nations (Geneva). The IGO Contact Group is a group promoted by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and composed of various international bodies, the Council of Europe, anti-trafficking non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and human rights advocates with consultative status at the United Nations. From a human rights approach, its main purpose is to exchange experiences, best practices, and to develop tools that can be used by states, international organizations and NGOs, to provide full protection to victims and to prevent, prosecute and punish trafficking in all its forms and at all stages. The main tool is “The Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking” (2002).

Our work within this group has focused on promoting a comprehensive vision that includes trafficking and exploitation as two related phenomena, which must be addressed and eradicated together. CATW continues to promote the abolitionist approach to prostitution and all forms of commercial sexual exploitation as a violation of human rights, an extreme manifestation of gender violence and a form of sex discrimination.

In 2010, we continued to advocate in international bodies to make visible that women and girls are the primary victims of trafficking, and to integrate a gender perspective into their policies and proposals. We continue to emphasize the need to re-establish specific working groups to analyze each and every one of the forms of trafficking, and to propose solutions and real alternatives for victims. We continue to work to achieve this.



CATW Around the World

Political Progress in Australia

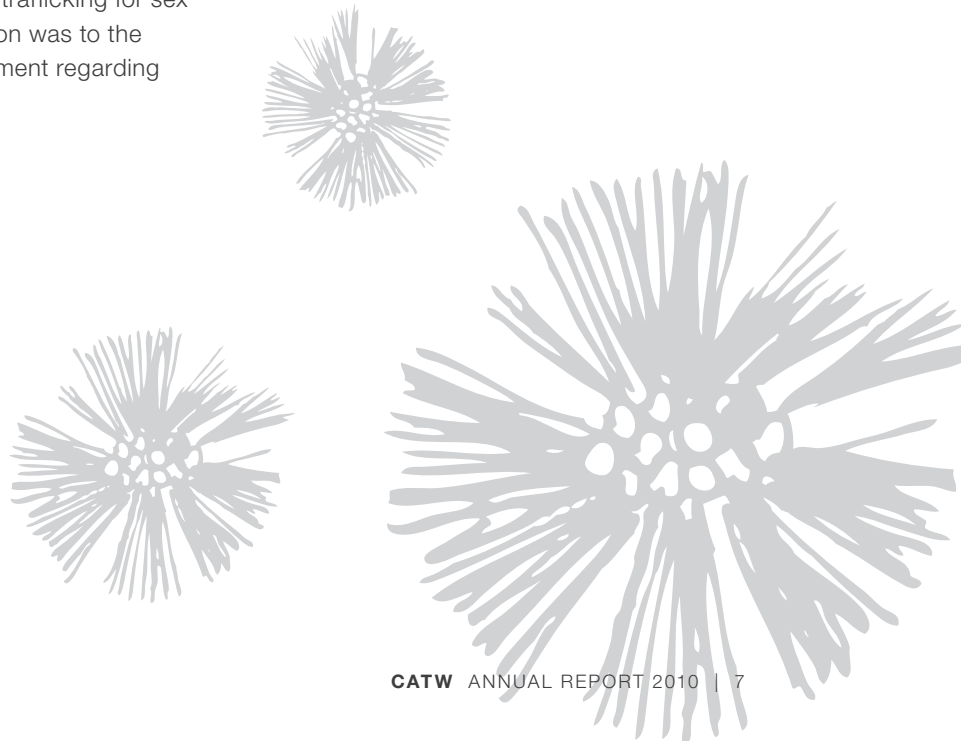
Members of the **Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Australia (CATWA)**, over the last year, have organized public events, written submissions to government and appeared before parliamentary committees.

As part of the global 16 days of Activism to End Violence Against Women in December 2010, CATWA held an event at the University of Melbourne to launch the report ***Not Just Harmless Fun: the Strip Club Industry in Victoria***. Attended by over 40 people, the event featured Guardian columnist Julie Bindel via Skype, and Dr. Meagan Tyler.

CATWA made two submissions to the Victorian state government. The first submission was to the state government's drugs and crime committee looking at 'trafficking for sex work'. The second submission was to the government's justice department regarding

the enactment of Hate Crimes legislation. This submission addressed the need to include women in this legislation as a category of 'hate crime victim'.

Throughout the year, Sheila Jeffreys, CATWA Executive Director, appeared in a French-made documentary against prostitution. Sheila was interviewed by the film crew in front of a number of brothels throughout Melbourne. Caroline Norma also sent a letter and information to the Australian Sex Discrimination Commissioner, Elizabeth Broderick, regarding her scheduled attendance at a conference that openly supported prostitution.



Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Prostitution of Iraqi Women and Girls

Many factors have promoted the expansion of sex trafficking and prostitution in Iraq and throughout the region: the US-led war and occupation, and the chaos it has generated; growing insecurity and lawlessness; corruption of authorities; the upsurge in religious extremism; economic hardship; marriage pressures; gender-based violence and recurrent discrimination suffered by women; kidnappings of girls and women; the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of crimes, especially those against women; and the development of new technologies associated with the globalization of the sex industry. Women and children were the primary victims who suffered the consequences of the brutal reign of Saddam Hussein and the Baath Party, and of the two earlier wars between Iraq and Iran in the 1980s, and the Gulf War in the 1990s.

A three-year consultation process on violence against Iraqi women culminated in the launching of a report on “**Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Prostitution of Women and Girls in Iraq**” on November 29, 2010, in Amman, Jordan. CATW members collaborated in this process — a project of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), directed by Rachel Eapen Paul, its regional program manager for civil society and human rights — and six women’s organizations from Iraq: Al Mustaqbal Center for Women, ASUDA for Combating Violence against Women, Baghdad Women’s

Association, Khanzad Culture and Social Organization, Organization for Women’s Freedom in Iraq (OWFI), and the Women’s Leadership Institute.

Malka Marcovich, Mariam Abdo and Janice Raymond represented CATW at various meetings that were part of the consultation process, including those in Kuwait, Amman and Istanbul. In addition, regional representatives from NGOs in Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and the United Arab Emirates, as well as international experts and activists from Albania, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the United States also participated. Malka Marcovich conducted the interviews for the report, coordinated the information, and drafted the report on behalf of the NCA gender team and the six Iraqi organizations.

The six Iraqi organizations that participated in the interviews and consultation meetings displayed great courage as they entered and became part of this process. Despite the constant dangers that they face everyday, these women’s human rights defenders continue to provide basic services to women in Iraq and to report on the current situation of violence against Iraqi women.



The IROKO Project: Addressing the Demand and Assisting Victims of Sexual Exploitation

In 2010, **IROKO** expanded our work to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, the majority from Nigeria and Eastern Europe, in Italy.

To discourage the demand for commercial sex, IROKO strengthened our educational activities targeting students and teachers in local high schools. We continued to carry out our victim empowerment program, which encourages victims to be actors in their own process of social integration and inclusion. IROKO made an additional commitment in service provisions by working with women and girls to create commercial activities to economically support themselves. To this end, IROKO organized monthly themed fundraising dinners to provide financial assistance to women who participate in IROKO's programs.

In these difficult economic times, IROKO continued to succeed in securing employment for women. IROKO also succeeded in creating a group of 'FRIENDS of Casale del Rio'. This group consists of professionals, architects, engineers, medical doctors and local business people, who have volunteered for the sustainable farmhouse project. Through this project, IROKO, will convert a farmhouse in Northwest Italy into a sustainable multifunctional cultural and agricultural tourist center. The creation of the sustainable farmhouse will provide employment and housing to women assisted by IROKO.



Mother and daughter receiving support services at IROKO.

On the national and local levels, IROKO's networking with authorities and NGOs has led to new beneficial areas of collaboration. IROKO connected with a nationally acclaimed writer who is working to raise public awareness on the commodification of women's bodies in television commercials. This collaboration will include the combination of our demand project methodology and her writer's angle to create a powerful message to impact the general public. This collaboration will also include increased lobbying of politicians to support our project.

In collaboration with the Nigerian NGO, Society for Youth Empowerment, IROKO continued our educational support project on violence against women through public seminars in cities throughout Northern Italy. This has proven to be highly significant as it continues to bring the abolitionist analysis to the attention of the general public in Italy.

Scaling New Heights in Asia-Pacific

CATW-Asia Pacific began 2010 by organizing the *First Education Camp of Sex Trafficking Survivors on Critical Issues and Leadership* at the Bohol Bee Farm on Panglao Island. The Camp was attended by 15 leaders of three survivor groups; Bagong Kamalayan, helping women trafficked to the streets of Quezon City; **BUKLOD**, the oldest survivors' group, helping women trafficked into the bars and streets of Olongapo City; and Batis AWARE, survivors and returnees from Japan. The Camp included training sessions requested by the survivors' leaders during the training needs assessment. These trainings included topics such as women's human rights, laws for women, organizing, leadership, counseling, and debates on prostitution.

This Camp was followed by the *Survivors' Basic Education Camp on Gender Issues, Sexuality and Prostitution*, conducted at Lagos del Sol, Lake Caliraya, Cavinti Laguna on August 23 to 25. During the Camp, survivors revisited their dreams and plans before they were trafficked, an important step towards self-recovery. In learning about women's human rights, the women realized much of their experiences have been volatile, and current relationships were defined by unequal gender relations. The training facilitated reflection and initiated a journey towards healing.



Participants at the young women's camp in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. At the camp, participants were divided into three groups, each named after an Indonesian heroine. This group, facilitated by Jean Enriquez, was named after RA Kartini.

In April, **CATW-AP** assisted in the return of a Filipina who was used as a drug mule to the Philippines. We lobbied the Congress to amend the anti-trafficking law to include the act of using women's bodies as drug carriers, where women should be protected instead of criminalized. The amendment is currently undergoing review at the Senate. The Filipina's traffickers were charged in cooperation with the National Bureau of Investigation and Interpol.

A young men's camp (9th YMC) was held in the Philippines, May 20 to 22, at St. Joseph's Inn in Sagada, Mountain Province. Partners from South Korea, Indonesia, India and Papua New Guinea observed the YMC as part of the training of trainers (TOT), which will allow them to replicate the project in their own countries.



Jean Enriquez with survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution from Quezon City, Philippines.

Last year was momentous as the replication of the young men's and young women's Camps occurred in Indonesia. Prior to the Camps in Indonesia, Rifka Anissa and LBH-Apik conducted focus group discussions (FGD) in six areas. The FGD's yielded significant insights into the views and practices of young men in their country as part of the demand side of sex trafficking. The research results have been integrated into the module for the youth Camps.

Seven additional echo Camps were held by the Filipino graduates of the Camps in their provinces. Leaders of the *Youth and Students Advancing Gender Equality (YSAGE)* were invited by UNANIMA International in New York to share their successful project in May. Representatives included Ray Justin Ventura (Palawan) and Clydie Pasia (Batangas).

In June, the *Training on Human Rights Documentation for Trafficking Cases* was successfully conducted at SEAMEO Innotech, in Quezon City. It was attended by documentarians from member organizations of CATW-AP in Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Papua New Guinea.

In September, we brought our trafficker-watch model to the Pacific. We conducted two very successful seminars on trafficking in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea for NGOs and government agencies. The participants were hugely grateful for the information on trafficking, how to respond to it, and assistance to embark on interventions. At that time, we organized a Pacific-wide workshop to discuss bills on trafficking and people smuggling. Executive Director, Jean Enriquez, and lawyer Cristina Sevilla urged for the harmonization of the bills with the Palermo Protocol.

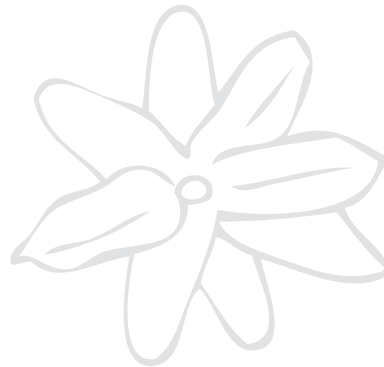
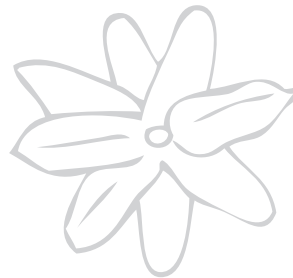
Both print and radio media, were present to cover the event and disseminate greater awareness about human trafficking. A memorandum of agreement was signed among the stakeholders, NGOs and government organizations alike for prevention at the community levels, aimed at the protection of victims.

We have broken the hegemony of legalization or decriminalization of the commercial sex industry in this sub-region as our partners in Papua New Guinea are united in the fight against sex trafficking. Additionally, we continued to expand in Taiwan, Japan and South Korea.

We began to develop a model of a cooperative for survivors in the Philippines who are proving that there is life after prostitution. We also continue to pressure states for sustainable jobs and full employment.

As youth continue to organize and protest, it is encouraging that in June our leaders in the Philippines, South Korea and Japan came together to protest the neo-liberal economic model that continues to impoverish our countries, as well as the strong arm of militarism that keeps this economic divide.

This year our very own Executive Director **Jean Enriquez** was recognized with a string of awards – as one of The Outstanding Women in the Nation’s Service, with the **Award of Excellence for Human Rights Work** from Quezon Province, and as the Philippine nominee for Soroptimist’s Ruby Award. Additionally, CATW-AP President **Aurora De Dios** was appointed as *Philippine representative to the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Women and Children (ACWC)*.



CATW in Spain

Asunción Miura, CATW's representative in **Spain**, continues to advance the work of the Coalition to end the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. Asunción Miura is a vocal and reliable presence at key conferences advancing the abolitionist analysis. Throughout 2010, she continued to raise awareness of prostitution and sex trafficking and participated in numerous radio and TV programs.

In February in Paris, France Asunción provided assistance and interventions at a conference organized by the French "Mouvement du Nid" and the Foundation "Scelles" on "The Situation of Prostitution in Europe".

In March, she participated in workshops within the framework of the United Nations **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Beijing + 15**. The following month, Asunción participated in the conference on "Human Rights and Prostitution" in Getafe, Madrid, (Research Commission-Battered Women).

Organized by the Government of Extremadura and held in Extremadura, Spain, Asunción participated in the "Conference on Prostitution and Trafficking" (Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Women) as well as the Commission of Investigation of Battered Women in the campaign "Blue Heart Against Human Trafficking".

In September, in Alicante, Asunción participated in a seminar organized by the "Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Women" of the working group "Prostitution: A Form of Normalized Sexual Violence". In October, Asunción was an activate participant in a conference organized by the Soroptimist in Madrid.

Embrace Dignity – South Africa

In 2010, **Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge** and **Loveday Penn-Kekana** partnered to carry out the **Embrace Dignity Campaign** in South Africa. *Embrace Dignity* was designed to initiate a public dialogue in South Africa on prostitution and sex trafficking from a women's rights perspective, and to advocate for public support of legislation that protects the rights of women to live in dignity, freedom from harm, exploitation and sexual violence. *Embrace Dignity* provides input and recommendations for law reform to promote the Nordic Model, eliminate the demand for prostitution, and to create effective exit strategies for women.

Legal scholar and women's rights attorney, Catharine MacKinnon was invited to present at a legal seminar co-hosted by the Centre for Applied Legal Studies at Wits University, followed by a seminar for parliamentarians co-hosted by the Heinrich Boll Foundation in Cape Town. Both seminars challenged South Africans to look at the benefits of the Nordic Model.

Another seminar, co-hosted by the Sexual Violence Research Initiative of the Medical Research Council, was attended by researchers in the field of sex trafficking, including **Dr. Melissa Farley** of Prostitution Research and Education (PRE), and **Max Waltman** of Stockholm University. Both provided valuable input on the Nordic Model and its proven efficacy at discouraging sex trafficking.



Embrace Dignity and Masiphakameni celebrate the end of a successful year of organizing and solidarity.

Following the seminar, Dr. Farley participated in interviewing 100 prostituted women. This provided us with valuable information on which to base our advocacy and to form an organization of women who want to exit prostitution, *Masiphakameni (Stand Up)*.

Masiphakameni is organized into small self-help, self-organize, self-empower groups. Through weekly meetings and trainings, the organization has grown with each group taking on its own initiatives and providing ongoing support to the women. Cases of abuse are reported to the police, and the Independent Complaints Directorate is taking on cases that involve the police. *Masiphakameni* met with the Ministry of Women who responded by facilitating meetings with other government



Embrace Dignity Staff with consultant and Board member at Strategic Planning Workshop, November 2010.

departments to advocate for services for survivors. A journalist from Spain initiated a project of teaching members of *Masiphakameni* to write their stories.

The *Embrace Dignity Campaign* was launched with an online petition and media event attended by local celebrities. The petition was sent to President Jacob Zuma and contained 1,700 supporting signatures.

In April 2010, *Embrace Dignity* made its first submission to Parliament on the Combating and Prevention of Trafficking Bill. *Masiphakameni*, CATW board member Ruchira Gupta, and Rev. Keith Vermeulen of the South African Council of Churches and the South African Human Rights Commission supported our recommendations.

During the week of the public hearings on the Bill, we hosted an art exhibition, *Slavery Has Gone Indoors*, which linked human trafficking with slavery. Ruchira Gupta opened the exhibition and spoke about Apne Aap Women Worldwide. A viewing of the exhibition and performances by local musicians and poets followed.

As a part of the ***FIFA Soccer World Cup Campaign***, we developed a petition to raise awareness of trafficking and prostitution during the 2010 FIFA World Cup. Leading South African men and women endorsed the petition: President Jacob Zuma, deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe of South Africa, cabinet ministers, women leaders, celebrities, soccer players, religious, media and entertainment leaders. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, was the first person to endorse the petition. Through the help of volunteers, we secured program and logistical support to monitor the extent of prostitution during the FIFA World Cup.

Throughout the year we established a media presence in local and national radio and newspapers, participated in powerful networks, and partnered with organizations to further our work. We are looking forward to our partnership with the University of Cape Town to support our research work by post-graduate students.

Enslavement Prevention Alliance – West Africa (EPAWA)

Enslavement Prevention Alliance – West Africa (EPAWA) carried out a number of legislative, educational and awareness raising initiatives in 2010. EPAWA launched the project “Our Voices, We Must Be Heard,” sponsored by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. The project was founded on our belief that a long-term solution in the fight against human trafficking rests in the knowledge and voices of youth, who constitute the majority of human trafficking victims in Ghana. Consisting of three main components, the project was designed to educate, engage, and mobilize youth nationwide in the fight against human trafficking.

The first project component, an educational campaign entitled, *I Want to Know About Human Trafficking*, reached approximately 5,000 students in over 30 schools in the Greater Accra, Volta, and Northern Regions. EPAWA designed and taught a full-day curriculum on human rights utilizing anti-human trafficking materials and interactive exercises. Students learned about human trafficking, the Human Trafficking Act, as well as preventive measures. An online dialogue forum was developed to facilitate further discussion among the students.

The second project component was a national writing competition titled, *I Say NO to Human Trafficking*. EPAWA received hundreds of illustrative and written entries from children



Men's March Against Violence Against Women in Accra, Ghana

throughout Ghana. These entries were ultimately incorporated into a book about the effect of human trafficking on youth in Ghana.

The third project component, a *Forum on Human Trafficking for Youth and Children: Hear Me*, brought together over 200 students from across the nation to formulate their own policy on human trafficking. Students learned about human trafficking from top activists and learned how to formulate their own policies. The students worked in groups to pass resolutions to present to the government in Ghana. Simultaneously, approximately 30 teachers and civil society members underwent a training to learn to teach others about human trafficking in their communities and schools.

In 2010, a legal team of two attorneys from the U.S. and the Netherlands, Manda Sertich and

Marijn Heemskerk, volunteered with EPAWA to conduct a nationwide review of the Human Trafficking Act (694) and its application five years after its passage. The team is developing a report to identify the gaps in the law.

EPAWA developed a curriculum on the basics of human rights and life skills such as money management and taught weekly classes for survivors of human trafficking at AGREDS, a shelter in Accra.

EPAWA initiated a comprehensive nationwide campaign addressing sex tourism in Ghana. Partnering with the Ghana Tourist Board, we conducted educational sessions for the Ghana Tourist Board and Accra Hotelier's Association on human trafficking. EPAWA also partnered with Jewel Woods, of the Renaissance Male Project, to conduct a media and university educational campaign addressing male demand for commercial sex.

During *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, Human Trafficking and Male Demand*, EPAWA partnered with the Ministry of Women and Children, Domestic Violence and Victim Protection Unit of Police, Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment and other organizations to carry out a nationwide awareness campaign utilizing radio and television. A television commercial featuring Ghanaian male leaders was released as a part of the



Cover of book illustrated and written by Ghanaian youth about human trafficking

campaign. In Accra, on December 4, the inaugural **Men's March Against Violence Against Women** was held. This historic march brought together politicians, military, police, students, human rights and religious leaders to encourage men's participation in eliminating violence against women.

Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Latin America and the Caribbean

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the rate of organized crime and trafficking in persons is staggering and corruption is pervasive. We live in continual fear and under the threat of violence in a society with failing systems of security and justice. When a mother, Marisela, is killed in front of the State Government's Palace fighting for justice for the murder of her sixteen-year-old daughter, our abundant work at times seems insignificant. With more than 50,000 widows and 100,000 orphans as a result of organized crime, and despite the many women's human rights defenders that have been killed, we continue to fight.

To locate and rescue women and children reported missing as a result of organized crime or trafficking, **CATW-LAC** continues to operate **The Red Alert System** in Mexico. *The Red Alert System* provides evidence of the disappearances of women and children into trafficking networks, which remain largely undocumented and invisible. It consolidates the efforts of government agencies, migration authorities, the Office of Passports of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, general attorneys, prosecutors' offices and police departments at local and federal levels to rescue trafficking victims. In its five years of operation, over 690 women and children have been rescued.

To prevent women and girls from becoming victims, CATW-LAC continues to carry out our



Teresa C. Ulloa Zúñiga conducting a workshop against the demand.

educational training model tailored to young men and boys in school systems and community organizations to combat the demand for commercial sex as it fuels sex trafficking. These workshops educate youth about the construction of traditional masculinity and the consequences of the demand for commercial sex, while promoting an alternative conception of male sexuality based on gender equality.

In 2010, we traveled to Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Panama, Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina and trained approximately 150 trainers in the CATW-LAC Educational Model as well as our national networks. In each country, the trainers carried out four workshops on *Masculinity*, *Sexual Initiation*, and *the Consumption of Prostitution* and, in total, educated 840 young males.

Throughout 2010, CATW-LAC continued to train the Mexico City Police and the Victim's Lawyers of the General Attorneys Office. Upon the completion of each course, the participants expressed their understanding and commitment to ending the demand. A total of 150 persons were trained using the third edition of the *Manual Rule of Law, Violence Against Women and Trafficking in Persons with Sexual Exploitation Purposes*, developed by CATW-LAC.

Additionally, CATW-LAC was selected to be part of the *Consultative Sub-Commission of the Federal Inter-Ministerial Commission* and part of the coordinating committee of the Blue Heart Campaign, launched at the international level in Mexico. As part of the *Consultative Sub-Commission*, we were consulted regarding the *National Plan to Prevent and Sanction Trafficking in Persons in Mexico*, which was authorized and issued December 23, 2010. CATW-LAC was also invited to join the *Consultative Sub-Commission of the Mexico City Inter-Ministerial Commission*.

“Robbery and murder are evils that have always existed, but no society ever thought of saying: Since we cannot eliminate robbery or murder, let us agree to a way of living that will submit them to certain regulations and monitoring so that, for example, the law will determine in what places, at what times and under what conditions stealing and killing are permitted.”

- Josephine Butler 1875

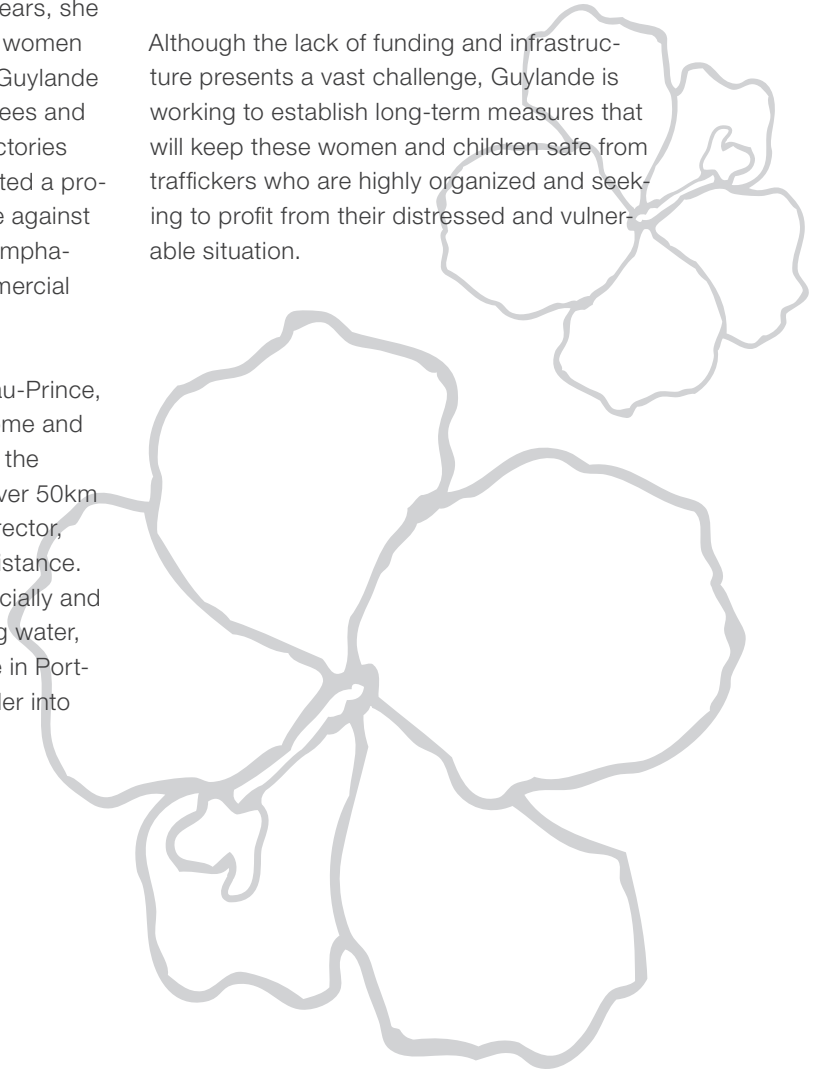
CATW in Haiti

Guylande Mesadieu carries out the work of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Latin America and the Caribbean to end human trafficking in Haiti. Prior to the devastating earthquake in 2010, Guylande led Haitian women's organizations and collaborated with other Haitian women's rights leaders to work against proposed legislation that would legalize prostitution in Haiti. For over 15 years, she has worked against the trafficking in women and children for sexual exploitation. Guylande has advocated for the rights of refugees and workers in slave-like conditions in factories throughout Haiti. She also implemented a program to address all forms of violence against women and children with a special emphasis on trafficking in persons for commercial sexual exploitation.

Like so many Haitians living in Port-au-Prince, Guylande and her family lost their home and all of their possessions as a result of the earthquake. Guylande had to walk over 50km to contact CATW-LAC's Regional Director, Teresa Ulloa, to request CATW's assistance. At that time, CATW was able to financially and politically support Guylande. To bring water, food and supplies back to her village in Port-au-Prince, she had to cross the border into the Dominican Republic.

In the midst of the chaos, Guylande organized a team of volunteers and documented the names of women and orphaned children in her village and the surrounding areas to determine their immediate needs. With no safe place to go, these women and children were – and are – highly vulnerable to being victimized by traffickers.

Although the lack of funding and infrastructure presents a vast challenge, Guylande is working to establish long-term measures that will keep these women and children safe from traffickers who are highly organized and seeking to profit from their distressed and vulnerable situation.



CATW in Action

CATW's Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet

In 2010 **CATW** took a bolder step in increasing the pressure on Craigslist to remove the “Adult Services” section of their website here in the US and internationally. CATW partnered with Dr. Melissa Farley of **Prostitution Research and Education (PRE)** to organize a protest in front of Craigslist’s corporate headquarters in San Francisco, CA.

On July 8, 2010, CATW held a very successful protest co-sponsored by 85 leading anti-trafficking organizations and prominent individuals including **Equality Now, End Child Prostitution and Trafficking (ECPAT-USA), Center for World Indigenous Studies, Gloria Steinem, Mark P. Lagon, Former Ambassador-At-Large to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Congresswomen Carolyn Maloney, Jackie Speier**, and many others.

As CATW arrived at Craigslist’s headquarters, we found Craigslist hired painters painting over their corporate logo. This action signaled an instant sense of victory. Norma Ramos immediately initiated the protest by calling attention to this cowardly act. **Joy Friedman of *Breaking Free*** followed with a compelling speech recounting her personal story and indicting Craigslist for their role in facilitating the sexual exploitation of women and girls.



CATW Executive Director Norma Ramos initiating a protest at Craigslist’s corporate headquarters accompanied by protestors including Joy Friedman of *Breaking Free* (left).

Protestors gathered with politically inspired posters including actual ads from the Adult Services section linking Craigslist to trafficking and organized crime.

Speakers included: **Glenda Hope**, Executive Director of **SafeHouse San Francisco** for **Homeless Women Escaping Prostitution**; **Victor Malarek**, Author/Activist; **Aaron Cohen**, Author/Activist; and **Kathleen Bowers**, representing a socially responsible classified ads website that refuses to host prostitution ads, **www.Geebo.com**.

There was significant media coverage of our protest, mostly online, such as ABS-CBN North America News Bureau, the San Francisco Citizen, the Huffington Post and San Francisco's CBS 5/BCN.

Following CATW's action, **Norma Ramos** debated **Jim Buckmaster**, CEO of Craigslist, on an NPR affiliate station KQED based in San Francisco. At the time, Craigslist was established in approximately 450 cities spanning 50 countries, with approximately over 200 of the sites containing "Adult Services" sections.

Within weeks of CATW's action and one week after the radio debate, Craigslist shut down their "Adult Services" section in the United States. In December 2010, Craigslist removed the remaining "Adult Services" sections on all its international sites, including those in Canada, Asia, Europe, South America and Africa.



From top left, Dr. Melissa Farley of Prostitution Research & Education, Aaron Cohen author and activist, Norma Ramos of CATW and Joy Friedman of Breaking Free.

“Women Strike Back” in Iceland

Almost one year after **Iceland** became the third Nordic country to pass legislation against the buying of sexual activities, **Skottunarn** (an umbrella organization of 15 Icelandic women’s organizations with over 10,000 members) organized an international conference on male violence against women called “**Women Strike Back.**” The conference was followed by a “Women’s Strike” to demand economic justice.

Among the distinguished speakers at the conference was the Minister of Justice in Norway who is also a member of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon’s Network of 14 Men Leaders to combat violence against women. **Minister Knut Storberget** spoke directly and incisively about male violence against women and about the Norwegian law penalizing the demand for sexual activities that came into force in 2009. CATW board members who spoke at the conference were **Esohe Aghatise, Ruchira Gupta** and **Janice Raymond**. CATW board member, **Agnete Strom**, was also in attendance.

The next day after the international conference, thousands of women took to the streets of Reykjavik during the “Women’s Strike.” Women’s strikes have a long history in Iceland. In 1975, 25,000 women (out of a female population of about 157,000) paralyzed the society by leaving their homes and workplaces to demand equality. Thirty years later, in 2005, almost 50,000 women repeated the strike

to protest earning 63.5 percent of what men earn. The women left work at precisely 2:14 pm to signify that they had completed 63.5 percent of the workday for which they were being paid.

The 2010 strike day was bitterly cold, wet and windy. Yet thousands of women marched under the protectorship of the first ever, democratically elected, female president, Vigdis Finnbogadottir (elected and re-elected three times from 1980-1996). It is any irony that Iceland is #1 on the World Economic Forum’s index of countries, yet women there now earn 65.5 percent of what men earn. It is a testimony to the persistence of women’s organizations that they held this strike in the aftermath of Iceland’s worst economic crisis.

Iceland’s current **Prime Minister is Johanna Sigurdardottir**, whose administration supported these events. Every one of the women’s organizations in Iceland agreed on the focus of the conference and the strike and took part in both.

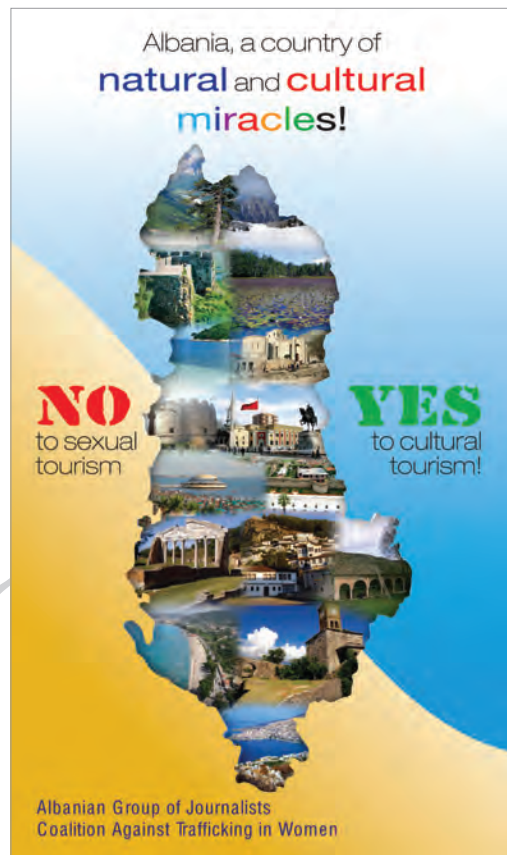
In the old sayings of Iceland, women’s spirits or ghosts are not easily dispersed. This conference and strike were testimonies to the political staying power of Icelandic women and feminism.

Southern Mediterranean Anti-Sex Tourism Campaign

Sex trafficking has become a major concern throughout the Mediterranean. Due to the geo-position between east and west, it is a region of destination, origin and transit of trafficking. Sex tourism in the countries of Southern Europe and the Balkans is a growing industry and little has been done to prevent these regions from becoming centers of sex tourism. The region's natural beauty, coastline and landscape increasingly are being negatively impacted by sex tourism, particularly from Italy and Western Europe.

In 2010, CATW's European Representative **Malka Marcovich** and Albanian partner the Women's Media Group launched the campaign **No to Sex Tourism, Yes to Cultural Tourism** in cities off the coast of Albania. The campaign fights sex tourism by promoting cultural tourism, raising awareness of women's rights, and advocating against initiatives that favor decriminalization of the sex industry.

CATW collaborated with the tourism ministry, journalists, central and local authorities, media, the state police and civil society to carry out the campaign to promote ethical and cultural tourism that builds on Albania's natural resources and cultural traditions. As a result, many other networks have followed this initiative.



Southern Mediterranean Anti-Sex Tourism Albania Campaign Flyer.

CATW met with representatives of the Albanian government, the Albanian Journalists Group, Albanian Parliament Speaker Jozefina Topalli, and the Speaker of the House of Lords in Great Britain, Baroness Helene Hayman. CATW worked closely with the Deputy Minister of Public Order, Mrs. Iva Zajmi, who leads the anti-trafficking committee. She agreed to join CATW's public awareness campaign and lobby against sex tourism. As a result of this collaboration, the Albanian Ministry of Culture established *The Tourism Awards*, awarded to the journalist with the strongest paper on tourism in Albania.

Young people distributed posters and flyers with information on historical and cultural centers of Albania under the inscription, **No to Sex Tourism, Yes to Cultural Tourism**, at hotels, streets, schools and bars. T-shirts were printed featuring the slogan. TV shows promoted the campaign and articles were published in Albanian newspapers. CATW developed a *YouTube* video depicting Albania, its people, and places to visit, with rhythmic music, typical to Albania.

As a result, the Albanian police conducted a large operation in hotels throughout the Albanian coastline and announced, on July 28, that at least three owners of hotels in Vlora and Durres were arrested for harboring pimps.

“It is the women
in prostitution
who pay.”

- Catharine MacKinnon

CATW Testifies at Hearing in the French Parliament

The Legal Affairs Committee of the French Parliament (Assemblée Nationale) is holding hearings on the French prostitution law, which is mainly abolitionist, to consider how it should be reinforced and amended. In 2003, France adopted an anti-trafficking law that contradicts some provisions of the anti-prostitution law.

CATW board members, **Malka Marcovich** and **Janice Raymond**, were invited to testify before this parliamentary committee in November and December 2010. Malka Marcovich testified about how French abolitionist policy has regressed since 2002, particularly in the way that victims have been criminalized in violation of France's obligations under the 1949 Convention. She also criticized the new trends in Europe, especially the backlash against women's human rights, the promotion of the sex industry in some countries, and the rise of religious extremism that stigmatizes and criminalizes women in prostitution. She recalled the important role France historically played as a leading voice internationally for the implementation of the 1949 Convention. Since France has a major voice at the UN Human Rights Council, she urged that France use this position to promote abolitionist standards. She also urged that the French Defense Ministry draft a code of conduct against the use of sexual services.

Janice Raymond contrasted the failure of the legal regime in Germany, which has decriminalized wide sectors of the sex industry, to the success of the Nordic Model that penalizes the buyers of sexual activities in Sweden and Norway. She discussed the findings of a 2007 key federal government report in Germany, which acknowledges that the prostitution legislation passed in 2003, has thus far "...not been able to make actual, measurable improvements to prostitutes' 'social protection';" and "there are as yet no viable indications that the Prostitution Act has reduced crime...in the world of prostitution." In contrast, she compared the 10 year results of a Swedish government report that evaluated the 1999 law criminalizing the buying of sexual services. While acknowledging that much remains to be done, the Swedish report's findings are overwhelmingly positive: street prostitution has been cut in half, "a direct result of the criminalization of sex purchases;" there is no evidence that the decrease in street prostitution has led to an increase in prostitution elsewhere, whether indoors or on the Internet; and, extensive services exist in the larger cities to assist those exploited.

The Legal Affairs Committee will continue to hear testimony during the next few months and make recommendations relating to the prostitution legislation in France to the full Assemblée Nationale.

The Second Latin American Congress on Trafficking in Persons: Migration, Gender and Human Rights

CATW-LAC's abolitionist participation was significant throughout the *Second Latin American Congress on Trafficking in Persons: Migration, Gender and Human Rights*, hosted by Ibero American University in Puebla, Mexico, on September 21 to 24, 2010. A total of 25 representatives of the region were present, which facilitated an exchange of best practices not only across Latin America but Argentina, Colombia, Haiti, Norway, Sweden, and the United States. CATW board member **Janice Raymond** presented on *Gender Equality, Gender Violence and Prostitution*, and board member **Dorchen Leidholdt** presented on *Understanding and Combating Trafficking in Persons*.

To build on our impact at the Ibero American University events, CATW-LAC sponsored and coordinated two additional key events. CATW-LAC hosted the third award ceremony for *the Life and Security of Women and Girls in Latin America and the Caribbean*. These awards recognize best practices in advocacy, protection, prevention, prosecution, academic research, media, and cultural or artistic expressions against trafficking in women and girls and/or in favor of victims and potential victims in Latin America and the Caribbean with an emphasis on combating the demand. The LAC Prizes were awarded on September 23 in commemoration of the *International Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Prostitution and all forms of Sexual Exploitation*. A total of eight prizes, three honorable mentions, and three



Participants at the 2nd LAC Congress including Board Member Dorchen Leidholdt.

special awards were given.

Following the event, CATW-LAC hosted the world premier of *My First Time*, an original theater production that illustrates the link between organized crime, prostitution and human trafficking. We also hosted a private press conference and released our campaign to fight the demand. CATW-LAC obtained significant media coverage and appeared in over 25 local and national journals and newspapers.

Furthermore, El Salvador and Guatemala have now passed laws that criminalize the demand for trafficking with sexual purposes. Both of these initiatives were stressed at the Congress. CATW-LAC gathered information from all 25 national networks to prepare a Monographic Report of Trafficking in the LAC Region. This report has been printed both in English and Spanish, and is posted on the CATW-LAC webpage.

CATW News

CATW Honors Denise Pouillon Falco

Denise Pouillon Falco is the President of the Union contre la traite des être humains, the first abolitionist and feminist organization created in France in 1926. Today, Denise Pouillon Falco is 93 years old and has dedicated her life to the fight against sex trafficking and prostitution from a feminist perspective. In the 1980's, she worked with Kathleen Barry to establish the first international network against women sex trafficking, before it became the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) in 1988.

In May 2010, a celebration was held in her in honor at the office of lawyer Linda Weil Curiel,

vice president of the International League for Women's rights, created by Simone de Beauvoir. Attendees included CATW board members Dorchen Leidholdt, Janice Raymond, CATW board president Aurora Javate de Dios, along with many representatives from French and international women's organizations, such as the Albanian Journalist Group, and officials from the French Ministries. Messages of support were sent from former UN agency representatives, including Wassyla Tamazali, the former director for the promotion of women in the Mediterranean at UNESCO.

Tribute To Denise Pouillon Falco, May 17, 2010

Denise, I am so happy to be here this evening to honor you and your work. You have been a key advocate of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women since it was founded in 1988 by Kathleen Barry and Dorchen Leidholdt. You have continued to support the work of the Coalition at critical events for over 20 years.

Denise, I hope you realize what an inspiration you have been to feminist abolitionists in different parts of the world. You are a great figure of this movement, but you are not a prima donna. You have never been above doing even the small tasks that must be done.

You were one of the early founders of this movement who dared to insist that prostitution is violence against women and one of the worst forms of women's inequality. You continue to insist.

A great part of your legacy to all of us is that you teach us how to continue. You teach us all to be as active as we can in the struggle to eliminate trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Thank you for your life and your work, Denise.
Janice G. Raymond

Hommage à Denise Pouillon Falco, Le 17 mai 2010

Denise, je suis tellement heureuse d'être ici ce soir pour pouvoir vous honorer, vous-même et tout votre travail. Vous avez été une porte-parole essentielle de la Coalition Contre la Traite des Femmes depuis sa fondation en 1988 par Kathleen Barry et Dorchen Leidholdt. Vous avez continué à soutenir le travail de la Coalition lors d'événements cruciaux pendant plus de 20 ans.

Denise, j'espère que vous êtes consciente de l'inspiration que vous avez été à des abolitionnistes féministes dans tant d'endroits divers du monde. Vous êtes une grande figure de ce mouvement, mais vous n'êtes pas une star. Vous n'avez jamais refusé de faire même les petites tâches qui doivent être accomplies.

Vous étiez l'une des fondatrices pionnières de ce mouvement qui avait osé insister que la prostitution est une violence contre les femmes et l'une des pires formes de l'inégalité des femmes. Vous continuer à insister là-dessus.

Une grande part de votre legs à nous toutes est que vous nous montrez continuer. Vous nous enseignez à nous toutes qu'il faut être aussi actives que possible dans la lutte pour éliminer la traite et l'exploitation sexuelle.

Merci, Denise, pour votre vie et pour votre travail.

Launching of the Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women (MNATW)

CATW Europe's **Malka Marcovich**, the Forum des Femmes de La Méditerranée, and Femmes Solidaires founded the *Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women (MNATW)* in 2010. The Network was officially launched on November 25, in Marseille France, on the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, and includes representation from all 14 countries of the Mediterranean region.

At the *Forum for the Protection of Migrant Women*, at the Regional Council of Provence of Marseille, the MNATW presented extensively. Malka Marcovich spoke on the situation of trafficking in the region. **Sabine Salmon**, President of Femmes Solidaires, presented the newly established Network and its website in French, Spanish, Arabic, and English. **Briseida Memma**, Albanian representative and President of the **Women Journalists in Albania**, presented the campaign against sex tourism, which will serve as a model for the *Mediterranean Campaign Against Sex Tourism*. CATW board member, **Asunción Miura**, attended the conference, as well as many representatives of the Maghreb region including **Fouzia Assouli**, from Morocco.

To learn more about the MNATW visit,
www.reseau-mediterraneen-contre-la-traite-des-femmes.org

Now, in the new challenges thrown up by the economic crisis, women in the West and in India are being asked to accept once again the legitimacy of exploitation as work. In many places if we accept this proposed erosion of our rights, we are told it is our choice. And then the most dangerous of all—we are told; if we ‘choose’ to be exploited that we are not exploited at all.

- **Ruchira Gupta**
 Founder and President of Apne Aap

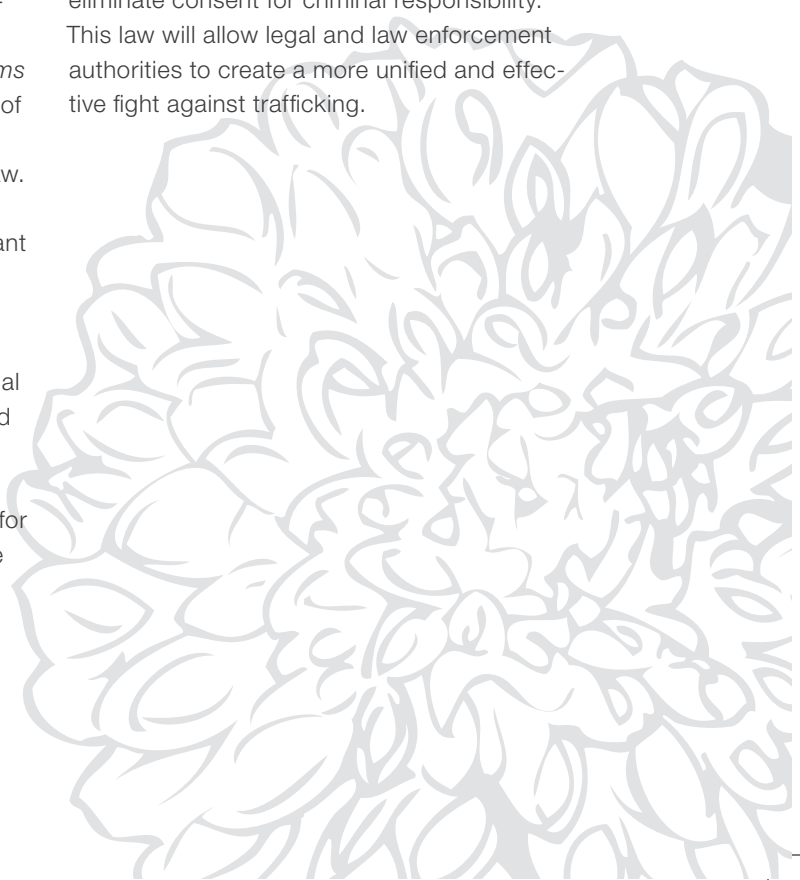
Drafting a New Abolitionist Law in Mexico

In collaboration with the Special Commission Against Trafficking in Persons of the Federal Chamber of Deputies and the Center for Advancement of Women and Gender Equity, CATW-LAC drafted an abolitionist law that includes a sanction addressing the demand, as well as a sanction against the promotion and publication of advertisements promoting commercial sex. It addresses the crimes of trafficking, slavery and exploitation of labor, forced begging, prostitution or any form of sexual exploitation, forced marriages, servitude, trafficking in organs, tissues or its components, and others, with sanctions from 25 to 70 years of imprisonment when the victim is killed. CATW-LAC drew from participation in three forums, innumerable meetings and discussions, as well as a review of the UNDOC Guide, *Best Practices for Protection of Victims of Organized Crime* and the UN Declaration of the Rights of Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, and other documents, to draft this law.

The drafting of this law is extremely significant because it is modeled after the abolitionist **Nordic Model** and can be adopted in countries utilizing the Roman Law System. The law includes a chapter containing special protection measures for victims of organized crime in the legal procedure, and another that mandates and regulates a Special Victims Unit including protection measures for victims, their families, and witnesses. These

protection methods could include national or international relocation, change of identity, humanitarian visas and measures for family reunification. Additionally, the victim is granted 6 months before being requested to present the legal case.

The drafted law clearly defines trafficking and provides clear and coordinated efforts to combat, prevent and sanction this crime. The drafted law contains 5 titles, 20 chapters, 80 articles, and 9 transitory articles, as well as other reforms or additions to other federal laws. It includes 14 proposals to reform the present anti-trafficking law by different federal deputies, which mainly address the need to eliminate consent for criminal responsibility. This law will allow legal and law enforcement authorities to create a more unified and effective fight against trafficking.



Tenancingo, Mexico

The following details an interview with Dorchen Leidholdt about her visit to Tenancingo, Mexico conducted by Kim Sykes:

There is an area about an hour outside of Mexico City in the State of Puebla—you might call it the sex trafficking capital of Mexico—where there are towns whose entire economies revolve around sex trafficking. All the men in the town are schooled to be traffickers, to be pimps. The victims are the women in the town or other young women from the surrounding areas. As the Legal Director of Sanctuary for Families, an organization that works with battered and sex trafficked women, I began working with the victims of some of these pimps in New York.

I learned that there are three schools of pimping in this region and throughout Mexico. First there is the “Old School,” which relies on pure violence—threats and coercion—to traffic women and girls into prostitution. But the pimps of Tenancingo have come to realize that this is not the most effective way of recruiting victims. They have now embraced a set of tactics they call the “New School” or the “Fresh School.” And that means romance and seduction. They’ve found that securing psychological control over their victims by appealing to their desire for love and family is so much more effective than terrorizing them. The pimps of Tenancingo cultivate feelings of love, they

promise their victims a beautiful home, and then they lure them into prostitution by telling them that their earnings will enable them to enjoy their new homes with their children.

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to attend a conference in Mexico and I met a man from that area, an expert about what was happening in these Mexican towns. I asked him to take me to one of them, and he took me to Tenancingo. Although he feared for his safety and the safety of his family, he agreed.

The town was a study in contradictions. A beautiful, at first apparently sleepy Mexican town with narrow little streets and a church and a square at the center of town, old ladies, children and dogs. Then on the outskirts, I saw the big garish houses of the pimps. The way I describe it is: imagine the Taj Mahal painted garish orange with a crown where the dome should be. It was this grotesque display of wealth in the midst of this little impoverished Mexican town. All the doors were closed; windows and shutters were down. You could see one of the shutters open and then close again. Our presence had been noticed.

Next to the mansions were beauty parlors and little hotels. I learned that the hotels are where the pimps take the women and hold them while they groom them to be prostituted. The beauty parlors are places where the women

can be spruced up before being trafficked into brothels in other parts of Mexico and the United States.

All of a sudden, down the street, comes a religious procession: villagers carrying flags and standards with religious emblems, walking with their priest towards the church.

Everybody in this town knows what's going on. The hideous mansions are inescapable. All of the recent construction—the hotels, the mansions, the beauty parlors—as well as all of the improvements in this town—the new schools, the community center—are the result of the sex traffickers that run it. However, the townspeople pretend to turn a blind eye when they celebrate their religious holidays.

It was an extraordinary experience to see this. It was gratifying to be there because I wanted to be able to come back to New York and tell the survivors of the Tenancingo pimps that I've been there. I've seen it. I know what you're talking about. You can read about it in a book, but seeing it up front it's an entirely different experience. I haven't thought about trafficking in the same way since then.

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CATW salutes the human rights leaders around the world who with great vision have successfully worked to change the legal framework that discourages sex trafficking, now known as the **Nordic Model**.

SWEDEN 1999

A person caught buying sex shall be sentenced to a fine or imprisonment for up to six months. An attempt to purchase sexual services is punishable under Chapter 23 of the Swedish Penal Code.

*Since the enactment of this law Sweden is reporting a 40% decline in sex trafficking.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA 2004 (SOUTH KOREA)

The Act on the Punishment of Procuring Prostitution and Associated Acts stipulates that anyone who buys sex shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year or by a fine not exceeding 3 million won (\$2600). In 2006, a survey found that of the 49 percent of men who had previously used women in prostitution, 85 percent had desisted after the enactment of the law.

NORWAY 2009

Any person who engages in or aids and abets another person to engage in sexual activity or commit a sexual act, on making or agreeing payment, shall be liable to fines or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both. The Norwegian legislation addresses sex tourism by including the purchase of a sexual act outside Norway. In 2009, 334 buyers were arrested, charged and fined.

ICELAND 2009

Those caught paying for prostitution could face a fine or up to one year in prison. If the victim is under the age of 18, the buyer risks up to two years in prison. Reykjavik has also been successful in closing down 10 of its 13 strip clubs.



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