

CATW

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

Annual Report 2011

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CATW's Mission

CATW 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 in 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 is the Palermo Protocol, the world's most recognized legal instrument on human trafficking.

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For more information about CATW and our abolitionist partners worldwide visit www.catwinternational.org and like us on Facebook.

Flower illustrations throughout this report represent the national flowers of each country.

(CATW is a green nonprofit, this report was printed on recycled paper.)

2011 Executive Director Report

Norma Ramos, Esq.

2011 has been a productive year in advancing abolitionism worldwide. 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.

On local, regional, state, national and international levels we continue to work to create a greater understanding that prostituted women and children are not criminals but are the most exploited among us. We are building awareness of the true nature of the prostitution industry and how prostitution is the endpoint of sex trafficking.

To end the demand for commercial sex, a signature of CATW's work, we remain a chief promoter of the Nordic Model which criminalizes the purchase of sexual services. Many significant advances occurred throughout the world in 2011 toward this goal.

CATW's work towards shifting the definition of prostitution by redefining it as the world's oldest oppression, and raising awareness around the realities of commercial sexual exploitation, the end point of sex trafficking is gaining significant ground as you will read throughout this report.

In 2011, CATW-Latin America and the Caribbean's Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz was awarded the *Gleitsman International Activist* award from the Center for Public Leadership at the *Harvard Kennedy School*, honoring her 40 years of work fighting human trafficking and violence against women. This was truly a remarkable evening for CATW.

CATW's Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet continued to advance. In 2010 through our demonstration which garnered the support of 87 co-sponsors, we called on Craigslist to set the industry standard by no longer hosting ads that facilitate sex trafficking on their website. These ads facilitate the commercial sexual exploitation of children and women worldwide.

Since our success in pressing Craigslist to remove its "Adult Services" section, Backpage became the *leading* online facilitator of sex trafficking throughout the US, and in a number of other countries.



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In November 2011, CATW held our first action in front of the Village Voice building, the NYC office of Backpage.com. This protest was cosponsored by over 120 leading national and international anti-trafficking organizations and prominent individuals including Equality Now, Soroptimist International of the Americas, Apne Aap, Alicia Keys, Gloria Steinem, Aboriginal Women's Action Network, Breaking Free, Buglisi Dance Theatre, Ambassador Mark Lagon, Frederick Douglass Family Foundation, Temple Committee Against Human Trafficking, and A Call to Men, among others. CATW continues to expand this campaign and work to generate public pressure on Village Voice Media (VVM) to cease hosting prostitution ads.

In 2010, Malka Marcovich of CATW, the Forum des Femmes de La Méditerranée, and Femmes Solidaires founded the *Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women.* The Network saw great advances in 2011.

CATW-Asia Pacific, CATW-Latin America and the Caribbean and IROKO strengthened their innovative work to educate young men and boys about gender equality to curb the demand that fuels sex trafficking.

In France, on December 6, 2011 a major milestone was achieved in the abolitionist movement in Europe. A resolution was adopted by consensus and supported by all political parties, reaffirming the abolitionist position of France on prostitution. CATW was among the first to congratulate the work of the Commission.

These are just a few highlights of the immense body of work carried out worldwide. CATW's bold advocacy would not be possible without the support of our partners and funders. I would like to express my great appreciation to our many supporters for standing with CATW as we work to end human trafficking in our lifetime.



CATW Around the World

IROKO: Addressing the Demand and Assisting Victims of Sexual Exploitation

In 2011, IROKO continued its work to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, the majority trafficked from Nigeria and Eastern Europe to Italy. IROKO provided services to a total of 157 women in Italy through training courses and financial assistance.

IROKO's educational program to discourage the demand for commercial sex in schools has flourished. IROKO organized and carried out ten seminars in 2011 throughout Italy. Furthermore, IROKO made significant inroads with the Board of Education and continues to press for the inclusion of this program in the school curriculum.

To strengthen our anti-trafficking efforts, IROKO partnered with the Milan Chamber of Commerce (ITALAFRICA) to carry out a project to address the problem of trafficking from African countries. This collaboration will include a presentation to the European Union, encouraging local Italian businesses to engage in African countries, and to provide employment for women as a preventative measure.

In Nigeria, IROKO continued to provide educational scholarships to women. IROKO's scholarship program is critical in supporting women and girls who are otherwise vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation in Nigeria.

IROKO partnered with the Infective Diseases Unit of a hospital in Ospedale Amedeo di Savoia which treats HIV positive patients. The program provides education to Nigerian women receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS, assists women who are HIV positive, and supports them in returning home. IROKO's initiatives are carried out in collaboration with the Turin hospital and the in West Africa.

On an international level, IROKO expanded its collaboration with governmental and non-governmental agencies like the Norwegian Police, the Swedish Institute, the African Tourism Organization (ATO). ATO has become an important partner since the 2010 drafting of an agreement to create the Among the main objectives of the Expert Group is to work to combat child trafficking, sexual exploitation and sex tourism. Another principal objective is to promote the human rights of youth, with special attention to the rights of the girl child. The Expert Group includes several key figures from the African continent and elsewhere.

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CATW - Spain

In Spain, Asunción Miura continues to represent CATW to advance abolitionism. Throughout 2011, Asunción worked to raise awareness about prostitution and sex trafficking, and participated in numerous radio and television programs.

In February, Asunción traveled to Albacete to participate in a forum on prostitution organized by the *Federacion de Mujeres Progresistas*. There were more than 100 people from both government and civil groups in attendance.

Celebrating *International Women's Day* on March 8th and the social, political and economic achievements of women past, present and future, Asunción participated in workshops centered on the issue of prostitution in several cities throughout Madrid. Asunción spoke passionately about abolitionism and connected with many other key individuals and groups.

In June, Malka Marcovich was invited to present on the French Parliamentarian Commission's report on prostitution that was launched in France in April 2011. The event was convened by several organizations including CATW and the *Commission de Investigacion de Malos Tratos a Mujeres*. Malka organized a press conference and spoke in El Ateneo. The event was well attended with extensive radio and television coverage.

In the fall, the Commission de Investigacion de Malos Tratos a Mujeres and CATW organized a conference in Almeria highlighting the demand for commercial sex. Malka Marcovich, Hubert Dubois (French filmmaker who directed 'The Dutch Showcase" a powerful documentary about the Dutch legalization of prostitution) and Agnete Strom of The Women's Front participated.

Asunción participated in events throughout November including a seminar on prostitution organized by Madrid's (l'EPIC) and a roundtable discussion organized by l'Univerity Carlos III in Madrid. With organizations from France and Spain, CATW co-sponsored a demonstration against sex tourism in Jonquera. This demonstration was well attended and Asunción's television interview was widely broadcasted.

During this time, Asunción also participated in a roundtable discussion organized by the Swedish Ambassador to Madrid with other professionals including magistrates, prosecutors and police.

The year concluded at the *University of Seville* with Asunción's dynamic presentation about sex trafficking. This was a highly successful year for CATW advancing abolitionism in Spain. Our relationships with other activist, political and civil individuals and organizations have been forged and strengthened.

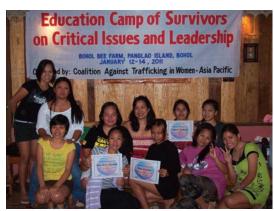
CATW - Asia Pacific

Throughout the year, CATW-AP carried out its comprehensive work to end the commercial sexual exploitation of women and children. CATW-AP continued to implement its visionary camps on gender, sexuality, and prostitution to end the demand for commercial sex

Graduates of the youth camps formed the national advocacy organization, *Youth and Students Advancing Gender Equality (YSAGE).*Building on the success of the two chapters of YSAGE formed in 2010, in 2011 two more chapters were formed in the National Capital Region as well as in the northern region of llocos Sur.

Through radio, television and online media, and follow-up youth forums, YSAGE continues to grow allowin AGE was cited by the second most-read broadsheet in the Philippines as the first of 10 "youth groups that shine in 2011."

In the Philippines, camps are organized by YSAGE leaders throughout the archipelago. Forums are held at universities to inform students about sex trafficking, all forms of violence against women and children, as well as what young men can do to stem the demand. To express their support, the young men have produced advocacy shirts with slogans such as: 'real men do housework', 'real men do not buy women', and the like. As a result of these forums in 2011 over 1,000 youth throughout the Philippines were reached.









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YSAGE continues to prioritize youth in indigenous communities, rural areas, and the discriminated Moslem population in the south in organizing youth camps. YSAGE, with the guidance of CATW-AP, continues to ensure that marginalized groups, including gay youth are well represented in the leadership as shown in the elections that occurred at the Reunion camp in May 2011. Equal representation of youth from each province and countries whose representatives joined the Philippine Reunion Camp/ Special General Assembly is also ensured.

As a pioneering and model approach, CATW-AP's project is being replicated throughout the region. Not only were the youth camps replicated in Thailand and Indonesia, but they were also brought to India in 2011. The organizers saw how the involvement of youth, could set the tone for civil society to involve the youth, particularly boys in other countries to fight sex trafficking.

In addition to working with youth, CATW-AP organized a third *Survivors' Basic Education Camp on Gender Issues, Sexuality and Prostitution, and on Leadership, Organizing and Financial Management* on January 12-13, 2011 at Panglao, Bohol. Two survivors who graduated from the second camp acted as co-facilitators of the highly successful camp.

The first-ever Regional Meeting of Survivors was organized by CATW-AP in New Delhi, India on April 2-5, 2011. With four survivor leaders attending from the Philippines they shared model strategies which will be emulated by survivors and advocates in India, Nepal, Taiwan and South Korea. Agnete Strom of *The Women's Front* was a keynote speaker.

CATW-AP together with *BKCI* (Bagong Kamalayan Collective, Inc.) continued to conduct outreach to women and children in prostitution.

At least five mothers and relatives reached out to CATW-AP during the year requesting help to locate their daughters who were trafficked to Malaysia. CATW-AP was ultimately successful in facilitating the rescue of the girls and is currently facilitating their reintegration.

A comprehensive report of all of CATW-AP's achievements in 2011 can be found on its website www.catw-ap.org





CATW - Latin America and the Caribbean

With the proliferation of organized crime and spread of armed groups, women in Latin America and the Caribbean have become war trophies. There has been a tremendous increase in trafficking throughout the entire region. The cartels are taking advantage of the revenue potential in trafficking for sexual exploitation and pornography purposes. Most recently, 'snuff' films, which depict the inhumane torture of women and girls, are being sold for up to \$50,000 each.

In the face of this, CATW-LAC continues to implement the *Red Alert System* to locate and rescue missing women and children. Through the Red Alert System, CATW-LAC helps consolidate the work of government agencies, migration authorities, office of passports, the ministry of foreign affairs, general attorneys, prosecutors' offices and police to rescue trafficking victims. In the search for Adriana Morlett, CATW-LAC held two undercover operations in Colombia and Venezuela. It was devastating to discover that she was ultimately murdered.

In Mexico, although the Law to Prevent and Sanction was passed in 2007, by December 31, 2011 there has only been four convictions and sentences as a result. A Constitutional reform was passed which established a deadline to approve a General Law to Prevent Trafficking in Persons and Related Crimes of January 13, 2012. However, there is little interest and commitment in the Mexican Congress to comply with the deadline.



Ambassador Swanee Hunt presenting CATW-LAC's Teresa Ulloa Ziáurriz with the 2011 Gleitsman International Activist Award.

Despite the relentless violence, CATW-LAC has had major achievements throughout the region. In 2011, CATW-LAC's Regional Director Teresa Ulloa Ziáurriz was awarded the *Harvard Gleitsman International Activist Award* recognizing the 40 years she has worked for women's human rights and to end all forms of sexual violence, especially human trafficking.

CATW-LAC worked for the inclusion of a sanction targeting the demand in the Anti-Trafficking Law in Argentina. Although it was not approved in the Senate, CATW-LAC continues to lobby to have it included in the lower chamber.

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CATW-LAC continues to participate in the Federal Commission to Prevent and Sanction Trafficking in Persons, and in the Mexico City Commission.

The Tlaxcala State Commission requested that CATW-LAC participate in a Specialization Course for public servants where pimping flourishes.

CATW-LAC continues its presence at Organization of American States (OAS) through our Central American Coordinator at SICA. Several governments of throughout Latin America and the Caribbean have reached out to CATW-LAC to coordinate public policies and new laws.

In 2011, CATW-LAC succeeded in getting one of the nation's most well known newspapers "El Universal" to remove the publication of sex ads. The newspaper is considered the journal of Mexico's life and distributed nationwide. It has been reported they profited over 9 million pesos from these ads.

On September 23 CATW-LAC awarded "El Universal" the *LAC Award for the Life and Security of Women and Girls* for being the first newspaper to take this action.

CATW-LAC has increasingly become a reference for mass media, radio, television, and online media regarding sex trafficking. This has proven to be a very powerful instrument in promoting our work against the demand. The media interviews were uncountable throughout the region.

Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Award for the Life and Security of Women and Girls

In Mexico, CATW-LAC hosted the Fourth Edition of the Life and Security of Women and Girls in Latin American and the Caribbean Award in 2011. The Award was created to generate positive accountability and monitoring mechanisms surrounding human trafficking. These awards recognize best practices in advocacy, protection, prevention, prosecution, academic research, media, and cultural or artistic expressions against human trafficking and/or in favor of victims with special emphasis on the demand.

The LAC Prizes were awarded on the evening of September 23rd to commemorate the International Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Prostitution and all forms of Sexual Exploitation. The award ceremony was hosted by CATW-LAC at the Human Rights Commission of Mexico City, in the Auditorium "Digna Ochoa". A total of eight prizes and three honorable mentions were awarded, as well as three special awards. CATW-LAC received 15 nominations. Awards were presented to important figures in the community who have taken significant actions against human trafficking. For instance, one was awarded to the General Attorney Office of Mexico who secured the first two sentences to trafficking rings that held organized crime accountable. There was wide media coverage of the Ceremony.

CATW - Australia

Throughout 2011, CATW Australia (CATWA) made numerous submissions in support of the Nordic Model to State and Commonwealth inquiries and consultations. In response to the Standing Committee (Australian Capital Territory - ACT) on Justice and Community Safety's review of the operation of the Prostitution Act 1992, CATWA recommended the ACT adopt the Nordic Model, thus providing exit programs and moving the responsibility of monitoring the sector from local councils to the police. Caroline Norma gave testimonial evidence to the committee in Canberra.

In response to a Bill proposing legalisation of prostitution in Canberra, CATWA made a submission to the West Australian (WA) Attorney General recommending that WA adopt the Nordic Model. In response to the Attorney General's Inquiry into the regulation of billboard and outdoor advertising, CATWA recommended that outdoor advertising by sex industry businesses, as is currently permitted in Australia, be banned on the grounds it constitutes sexual harassment and that would be civilly actionable if posted in Australian workplaces.

Additionally, CATWA made a submission in response to the request by the Attorney-General's Department for public comments on forced and servile marriage. CATWA recommended the creation of a new criminal offence of forced and servile marriage, and to amend the definition of exploitation in the Trafficking in Persons Act to include forced and servile marriage including

establishing support services for women and girls seeking to avoid or escape forced marriage.

CATWA continued our lobbying activities throughout Australia. CATWA emailed all state politicians about the Nordic Model and explained the problems with legalisation of prostitution in Victoria. This action was followed up with a press release. We also issued a second press release on trafficking in response to the Victorian Government's proposed changes to the "Sex Work Act" which was in response to media exposés of the trafficking of women into legal brothels.

CATWA mailed copies of the CATWA report on strip clubs entitled "Not Just Harmless Fun" to all Victorian politicians. This mailing was accompanied by a letter requesting that they consider strip clubs to be the same as brothels with regard to liquor licensing laws which would ban alcohol from strip clubs.

CATWA's Executive Director Sheila Jeffreys met with Lilly D'Ambrosio, Shadow Consumer Affairs Minister, State of Victoria, at her request to discuss policy on prostitution and trafficking. Further, Sheila Jeffreys spoke and took part in the Regional Meeting of Survivors, General Assembly and Board Meeting of CATW-Asia Pacific in Dehli. Later in the year, CATWA also hosted a forum at which Professor Gail Dines spoke about her book on pornography, Pornland.





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Advancing Abolitionism in France

CATW continued to carryout strong abolitionist advocacy in France. The Collectif National Droit des Femmes (CNDF) is one of the major organizations working to change the law on violence against women in France. Each November 5th a large-scale demonstration including political parties, unions and other organizations is organized in cities throughout France. For the first time in 2011, the CNDF included the criminalization of the buyers in its statement and call for demonstration. CATW was co-partner to the demonstration in Paris.In the past two years there has been a push in France to have, like in other countries in Europe such as Switzerland, sexual assistants for disabled persons. The first journalist to analyze this trend is our journalist partner in France Claudine Legardinier, along with Maudy Piot, president of an organization of disabled women Femmes pour le dire. Malka Marcovich co-signed several articles with Claudine Legardinier in newspapers throughout France regarding this.

The feminist organization Rupture organized a coalition of organizations called Handicap, sexualité, dignité (Disability, Sexuality, Dignity). CATW has participated in this organization since its origin. Malka Marcovich delivered several speeches on this issue both inside this coalition and under the invitation of Maudy Piot and her organization Femmes pour le dire. This coalition has written to members of the Government, parliamentarian. The Ministry of Health, Roselyne Bachelot, delivered a speech after the adoption of the Resolution at the French Parliament on December 6, 2011 for the abolition of prostitution. In her speech she affirmed that in no way should France legalize sexual assistants because this is prostitution.





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Women's Worlds 11 Ottawa, Canada

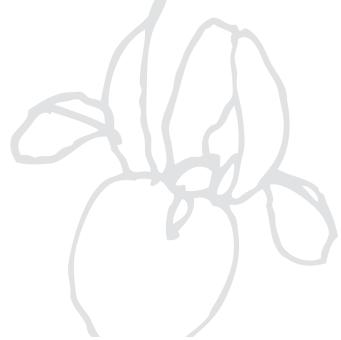
CATW continued to work to fight the legalization of prostitution in Canada. Norma Ramos wrote an Op Ed that was published in Canada's leading newspaper The Globe and Mail. CATW received special recognition for our abolitionist work in Canada from Member of Parliament Joy Smith. In July 2011, members of CATW including, Esohe Aghatise, Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, Vednita Carter, Sheila Jeffries, Kathleen Barry (CATW Co-founder), Norma Ramos, representative of the MNATW Raja Berrada (Morocco), Sigma Huda and Torríl Nustad (The Women's Front) participated in the feminist conference Women's Worlds 11 in Ottawa, Canada, The conference was attended by approximately 2,000 women from 93 countries. The conference organizers thanked CATW for their reliance on CATW's global network to provide prominent speakers for many of the panels. The press coverage of the conference highlighted the strong abolitionist agenda.

The Expansion of the Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women

In 2010, Malka Marcovich of CATW, the Forum des Femmes de La Méditerranée, and Femmes Solidaires founded the Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women. 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.

Throughout 2011, the Network continued to share information and develop regional strategies to fight human trafficking. The *Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women's* website has grown to be one of the key websites of the region with articles published in English, French and Spanish.

In 2011, the Network expanded its partnerships with important organizations throughout the world in Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, and Syria.



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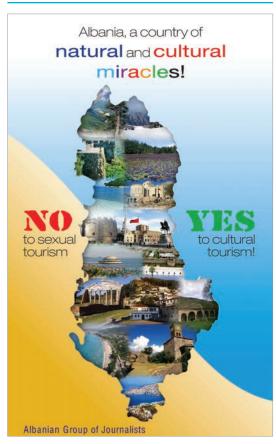
The Southern Mediterranean Anti-Sex Tourism Campaign

In 2010, CATW's 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.

Building on the success of this campaign in 2010, in 2011 a more concentrated effort was implemented in Kukes. The region of Kukes continues to have the highest rates of unemployment and poverty in Albania. This Region is particularly important because Kukes is a border town with Kosovo and it is the main entrance into Albania. Kukes has high potential for tourism development because of its attractive natural and environmental resources.

Further, a significant number of international armed forces are located in Kosovo and prostitution and trafficking is increasing. Thus, in 2011 the public awareness campaign was expanded to become a cross border initiative. A video spot was designed and aired on local Kukes television. This was highly effective in helping people understand that cultural tourism affects both economic and social life.

Students were a key element in public awareness campaign and they distributed posters and flyers at hotels, schools, bars, and at the Morina border. In local schools, drawing competitions were used to engage children in visualizing their dreams for Albania. Over 78 children participated in the competitions with drawings depicting both summer and winter tourism in Albania.



Southern Mediterranean Anti-Sex Tourism Albania Campaign Flyer.

Many of the images showed the children's dreams and interests in the European Union. In their drawings the children represented a life of development and positive change in Albania.

We look forward to the continued expansion of this Campaign in 2012.

CATW in Action

Abolitionist Law in Mexico

In 2010, 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 publication of advertisements promoting commercial sex. It addresses the crimes of trafficking, slavery, exploitation of labor, forced begging, prostitution or any form of sexual exploitation, forced marriages, servitude, trafficking in organs, tissues or its components, etc., with sanctions from 25 to 70 years of imprisonment when the victim is murdered.

In drafting this law, CATW-LAC drew from participation in three forums, innumerable meetings, as well the UNODC Guide, "Best Practices for Protection of Victims of Organized Crime" and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power. In 2011, with the Model law drafted for the Mexican Congress we have made a key step. This will become a landmark to commit the States in preventing, prosecuting and assisting/protecting victims. The law was presented to the Mexican

Congress on August 3, 2011 and was turned for revision and approval to the Commission of Human Rights and the Commission of Justice of the Chamber of Deputies. CATW-LAC is currently in the process of devoting a significant amount of time to lobbying, revising and pushing the approval of the law.

On December 16, 2011 CATW-LAC organized a demonstration and press conference to push the approbation of the Anti-Trafficking Law in Mexico.



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Commission on the Status of Women

At the 55^{5h} Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations (UN) in New York City, CATW submitted written statements and organized three parallel events for overflowing audiences.

For the first time, CATW organized a panel in French at CSW. The panel, Campaigning Against Sex Tourism the Mediterranean:

Defending the Right to Decent Work, featured Sabine Salmon, Luljeta Buza, and moderator Gwendoline Lefebvre. The panelists presented on the campaign No to Sex Tourism, Yes to Cultural Tourism which promotes cultural tourism in lieu of sex tourism in the Southern Mediterranean.

The second panel, *Trafficking, Prostitution and Work* included Sigma Huda, Rachel Eapen Paul, Cherry Smiley, CATW Board Members Vednita Carter and Ruchira Gupta, and was moderated by Dorchen Leidholdt. CATW's Executive Director, Norma Ramos opened by posing the question "What employment carries with it a 40 times higher mortality – what job has a murder rate all?" In fact, each speaker delivered a compelling presentation on why prostitution is not sex work. The room was filled beyond capacity, and a lively discussion followed.

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CATW's third event, co-sponsored by UNANIMA International, was titled Corporate Responsibility: The Internet and Sex Trafficking. Panelists included Jean Enriquez, Jewel Woods and Norma Ramos. Norma Ramos presented on CATW's Craigslist Campaign (part of our Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet), which included CATW's street protest in front of Craigslist's corporate headquarters in CA. She spoke about how Craigslist could not be at odds with 85 leading human rights organizations, and how that action was a turning point for Craigslist to remove the "Adult Services" section from its website. Jewel Woods spoke about the increase in sex tourism of American men to countries like Brazil, and how online groups facilitate this. Jean Enriquez presented on CATW-AP's work with youth, specifically through boys camps that are aimed at reducing the demand for commercial sex by educating young men about gender equality.

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Conference at the Albanian Parliament

Malka Marcovich of CATW and Anne Marie Lizin, former President of the Belgium Senate, were key speakers at the international conference, "United Against Women's Abuse! The Albanian Parliament for the Protection of Their Rights" held at the Albanian Parliament in January 2011. This conference was organized as follow-up on previous actions in Albania from 2000 to 2009 with the Association of Women Journalists of Albania. The conference was organized to address several key issues including: the need to promote the image of Albania; to promote equality between women and men; the fight against discrimination against women; the links between prostitution and trafficking as violence against women; the need to address the demand; and to implement the international standards that Albania ratified such as 1949 Convention. CEDAW, CRC, and the Palermo Protocol.

While it seemed that the pro-prostitution lobby was trying to push for the legalization of prostitution, no legislative proposals were on the table at the Parliament. Throughout the summer, numerous media debates took place for and against legalization, thus it was important to be the first to organize an open conference at the Parliament to oppose the prostitution industry.

Key speakers at the conference included Josephina Topalli, President of the Parliament, Anne Marie Lizin, Honorary Speaker of the Belgian Senate, and Malka Marcovich, CATW Europe. There were representatives of UNDP, IOM, Minister



of Interior, Minister of Labour, Minister of Health, as well as many journalists, NGOs, and Ambassadors from Egypt, France, and Switzerland. Janice Raymond's presentation at the French Parliament was given. The Southern Mediterranean Anti-Sex Tourism Campaign and the Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women were promoted as well.

Briseida Mema of Albania spoke extensively about the need to use adequate terminology when speaking about violence against women, prostitution and trafficking so as not to victimize the women and glamorize the issue. She also spoke about the need to train journalists, both for the promotion of Albanian culture and to fight sex tourism.

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Copenhagen International Conference on Prostitution and Trafficking

An International Conference on Prostitution and Trafficking was held in Copenhagen Denmark, May 7-8, 2011. Organized by the March 8th Initiative under the able leadership of Hanne Helth, a coalition of feminists, NGOs, and political parties from the left wing to right wing, the conference was held to advance legislation against the male demand for prostitution.

The conference title was entitled *Grosse Freiheit*? Or "Big Freedom?" It comes from the name of a street in Hamburg Germany, which is located in the prostitution district and has become very well-known in Europe.

Denmark remains the outlier to other Nordic countries that have laws penalizing the demand. In Denmark, it is legal for a man to purchase women for sex even if he knows she has been trafficked or forced. The conference was organized to promote the Nordic Model in Denmark – after the Netherlands, Germany and Austria – the most resistant country in Europe to criminalize the demand for prostitution.

Support for the Nordic Model in Denmark is gaining favor among a large cross-party group of parliamentarians, some who were at the conference. A 2011 CNN report comparing "Sweden vs. Denmark" labeled Denmark "the brothel of Scandinavia," raised consciousness about the prevalence of prostituted/trafficked women and girls for sale on the streets of Copenhagen, and publicized the successful

results of the Swedish law in reducing prostitution and trafficking. There is also fierce Danish opposition to the Nordic Model coming from a coalition of transgender and sex industry advocates, precisely because feminists are making headway with the public and with the parliamentary parties.

Held on the beautiful island of Brygge Island in Copenhagen, conference speakers came from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Britain, New Zealand and the United States. The mayor of Copenhagen, Mikkel Warming, opened the conference telling participants, "We in Denmark should not end up as the brothel of Scandinavia." He spoke about the resources that the city was devoting to exit programs for women in prostitution.

Julie Bindel, journalist and researcher from London, summarized the results of a study published by the NGOs Eaves in London, and Prostitution Research and Education in San Francisco, called "'Paying for It:' What Men Who Pay for Sex Tell Us about Prostitution and Trafficking."

Debbie Baker, manager of *Streetreach*, an organization that does outreach to women in prostitution on the streets of Auckland, gave a devastating critique of New Zealand legislation that decriminalizes the prostitution industry. The New Zealand legislation has been the favored country example of the pro-prostitution lobby

because it decriminalizes rather than legalizes prostitution, which proponents distinguish from the negative effects of legalization. However, Baker told how her organization is seeing so many more men soliciting women on the streets and increased harassment of women in prostitution. Contrary to official positive reports stating that criminal gangs are no longer involved in prostitution in the New Zealand sex industry, there are more threats from pimps to members of her organization.

Baker told how police have no power to search brothels and thus little access to arresting perpetrators. More drug deals are in plain view, and more women in prostitution are using drugs to cope. Women are required to service more buyers per night. Prices are decreasing so women resort to taking buyers who demand unsafe sex. It's the brothel owners, not the women, who are opening up SUBs or small brothels because they are cheaper and less regulated. More children, some as young as 10, are in prostitution, and her organization sees 4-5 underage females per night on the streets.

Anna Skarhed, Chancellor of Justice in Sweden, outlined the main elements of the 10-year Swedish evaluation of the law criminalizing the buyers of "sexual services." She stated that the penalty of 6 months in jail would be increased to one year in July 2011. Since legislation against demand has the support of all the political parties in the government and the support



of over 60 percent of Swedes, the official attitude in Sweden is affirmation of the zero tolerance policy.

Harald Bøhler, Detective Superintendent of the Oslo Police Stop Traffic Unit, reported before the law penalizing the buyers in Oslo came into force, there were flats and visible brothels where prostitution was carried out. All known flats and brothels have now closed in the city, and there is a 50 percent decrease in the onstreet demand for prostitution. Because police treat Internet ads for prostitution as physical material, not as free speech, they can confiscate these ads.

Janice Raymond spoke not only about the globalization of the sex industry but also the globalization of sex industry advocacy. She rebutted many of the myths about prostitution

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and spoke about the dismal results of legalization and decriminalization of the sex industry in the Netherlands, Germany, Australia and 10 counties in Nevada. She sounded several warnings about how *not* to address demand, citing the "Nordic model-lite" in which only those prostitution-users who buy trafficked, forced or unlicensed persons are made actionable. For example in 2006, Finland passed this lackluster version of the Nordic Model.

Conference organizers had been pressured to disinvite Julie Bindel and Janice Raymond because of claims from sex industry advocates that they are "transphobic and discriminate against 'sex workers'." The transphobic accusation is increasingly used to discredit Raymond's views about prostitution.

When Julie Bindel and Janice Raymond entered the Copenhagen meeting on the opening day, they went through a gauntlet of protestors. During the final afternoon of the conference, protesters banged on the windows (the conference venue was on the first floor of a building with a panoramic view of Copenhagen's harbor) and taunted the participants with a chorus of messages and signs saying. The police were called and pushed protestors back from the windows.



Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet

CATW in partnership with *Prostitution Research* and Education (PRE) held a very successful protest in front of the Village Voice building, the NYC office of Backpage.com on November 16. The protest brought attention to Backpage's facilitation of and profiting from sex trafficking internationally. This protest was ultimately cosponsored by over 120 leading national and international anti-trafficking organizations and prominent individuals including Equality Now, Soroptimist International of the Americas, Apne Aap, Alicia Keys, Gloria Steinem, Aboriginal Women's Action Network, Breaking Free, Buglisi Dance Theatre, Ambassador Mark Lagon, Frederick Douglass Family Foundation, Temple Committee Against Human Trafficking, and A Call to Men, among others.

Continuing CATW's history of combining art and activism, the protest included creative elements beginning with circle drumming from three drummers. Two singers, *Aliza Hava* and *Abby Dobson* performed at the protest. The protestors fell silent as 24 dancers from the *Buglisi Dance Theatre*, the official dance company of CATW, approached the protest site in unison. The dancers formed two lines dressed in white, each holding a candle and brought moments of silence in recognition of victims of sex trafficking.



Mid-protest, we featured speeches by a number of leading anti-trafficking activists beginning with Cherie Jimenez from Kim's Project, a survivor's shelter. Cherie spoke very personally about prostitution and sex trafficking, and thanked the protestors for their support in generating pressure on Backpage to stop online trafficking. Other speakers included, CATW Board Member Dorchen Leidholdt, Sonia Ossorio of NOW- NYC, author and activist Aaron Cohen. Jonathan Walton of InterVarsity's New York City Urban Project performed his original poem "I'm Sorry Anna Nicole".

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At the request of CATW, our partners held concurrent actions. *The Frederick Douglass Family Foundation* held a concurrent action in Pheonix (Backpage's corporate headquarters), and *Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter* held an action in Vancouver in solidarity on the same day.

Internationally recognized *Alicia Keys* tweeted to her over 5 million Twitter followers about CATW's protest. This generated online press coverage about our action and raised the profile of our *Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet*. The Village Voice simultaneously blogged about the protest. The Village Voice was clearly made uncomfortable by our presence. Pressure is unmistakably building against the company's current business plan, which increasingly includes sex industry-based activities.

Since the action, CATW and our partners continue to press Backpage to remove the prostitution ads hosted on their website.



Somebody's Daughter

On June 16, CATW hosted a memorable book event in celebration of the release of *Somebody's Daughter*, by Julian Sher. This is the first book that definitively describes the commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States.

Held in the beautiful townhouse of a CATW donor, the evening was truly magical. Original artwork covered the walls and a violist filled the evening with live music. The program opened with a spellbinding performance by the *Buglisi Dance Company*. Norma Ramos provided the welcoming remarks and introduced Julian to the audience consisting of 60 activists, journalists, supporters, officials and law enforcement figures.

Julian spoke eloquently about his work, the normalization of violence against women in mainstream culture, and the significance of language. He particularly referenced the importance using language that does not stigmatize victims, such as the term "prostituted woman or person," and how he learned that from CATW.

Julian provided a dramatic reading from his work. Dan Garrabrant, the FBI agent featured in the book, gave an inspiring account of his personal and professional transformation as a result of working with sex trafficking victims in the US.

CATW Board Member, Dorchen Leidholdt concluded the program by recounting the history of the founding of CATW and of the progress that has been made in our lifetime toward ending human trafficking.





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The Resolution Reaffirming the Abolitionist Position of France

On December 6, 2011 a major milestone was reached in the abolitionist movement in Europe. A resolution was adopted by consensus and supported by all political parties, reaffirming the abolitionist position of France on prostitution. This resolution was adopted in the context of the follow up on the report of the Commission on prostitution that proposed numerous recommendations including the adoption of a law to hold the buyers of commercial sex accountable. Buyers face penalties of six months in prison and/or a fine of 3000 Euros.

Among those present were many feminist organizations including *Femmes Solidaires*, and the *Collectif National Droits des Femmes*. Danielle Bousquet of the Socialist Party, President of the *Commission on Prostitution* at the Parliament, presented the report and its methodology.

Rapporteur Guy Geoffroy of the Presidential Right Wing Party, pointed out the different systems and the need for France to send a strong abolitionist message inscribed in its Republic's secular identity. He also spoke about the need to criminalize the buyers of commercial sex as a next step if France wants to be coherent with its democratic principles.

The Communist Party spoke about capitalism, the economic crisis, and also about the responsibilities of the buyers. Each speaker, in one way or another, addressed the demand for commercial sex, if not criminalization, at least holding the buyers accountable.

Roselyne Bachelot Minister of Social Welfare and long-standing Right Wing feminist, said that the government was reaffirming the abolitionist position of France. She spoke about how prostitution and human trafficking should never be separated, and that France was absolutely opposed to the creation of "sexual assistants", (social workers who would facilitate disabled men's ability to have sex with women in prostitution) another way to rename prostitution.

All political groups of the National Assembly signed the proposed resolution reaffirming France's abolitionist position and the need for it to be promoted at European and international levels. CATW was among the first to congratulate the work of the Commission.

This law proposal is an important tool in the context of re-structuring Europe, especially in the midst of this economic crisis.

While this strong commitment is a significant victory, we will continue to work towards passing legislation that penalizes the buyers.

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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

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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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The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)

www.catwinternational.org



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