

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)

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CATW

Annual Report 2014

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women



CATW's Mission

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) is a non-governmental organization that works to end human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls worldwide. CATW is one of the world's oldest organizations to fight human trafficking internationally and is a global leader in the abolitionist movement. CATW and its partners engage in advocacy, education, direct service, and prevention programs for victims of trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and North America, including the United States.

Since 1988, CATW has provided widely recognized leadership by promoting policy and educational measures to raise awareness about the root causes of human trafficking at the local, regional, national and international levels. CATW holds Special Consultative 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 this meeting was the Palermo Protocol, the world's most recognized legal instrument on human trafficking. Internationally, we serve as expert witnesses in court and conduct seminars and briefings with parliamentarians and lawmakers to advance gender-based equality and abolitionist analysis.

CATW's efforts are geared toward affecting fundamental social change to create a world where human trafficking, commercial sexual exploitation and violence against women and girls no longer exist.

From the Executive Director

Taina Bien-Aimé

In the late 19th century, the visionary abolitionist Josephine Butler led a sixteen-year campaign to repeal Britain's Contagious Diseases Acts. These laws stripped disenfranchised women of their rights and mandated that sex-trafficked and prostituted women register with the state and undergo mandatory health checks to protect the health of male buyers of sexual acts. A century and a half later, the movement to end trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls worldwide has never been stronger.

When the Board of Directors invited me to join CATW in January 2014, I was honored to stand on Butler's shoulders and follow other extraordinary leaders whose passion has inspired decades of successful, groundbreaking campaigns. This year, from the typhoon-devastated Philippines to the streets of Madrid, from Mexico City to Cape Town, CATW and its partners have identified women and girls vulnerable to human trafficking; served victims and their families; and advocated for stronger laws and policies at the United Nations and in the halls of governments all around the world.

While the battles fiercely continue, we know that change is afoot. A growing number of survivor leaders are speaking truth to power about what it really means to be bought and sold in the brutal sex trade. We are forging ahead with allies around the globe to ensure that governments implement strong international, national and state laws that recognize human trafficking as a violent crime and a human rights violation. Our goal is to extend a hand to vulnerable people before exploiters push them toward a life of shattered dreams and pain. We must also change hearts and minds and render violence against women and girls, including those in the sex trade, unacceptable in every corner of the world.

Together, our success will have no boundaries.



At A Glance 2014

(Canada) Through CATW's advocacy, Bill C-36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, came into force in December 2014. The law explicitly criminalizes buyers of sex and provides services to individuals who seek to leave prostitution in Canada. (see page 9)

(New York) CATW continued its efforts with the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition to advocate for the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (TVPJA)

(Albania) CATW supported Albania's Women's Media Group's 2014 campaign: "Yes to Cultural Tourism and No to Sex Tourism."

(Germany) The September/October issue of Germany's leading feminist magazine, EMMA, published a petition launched by prominent psychologists and trauma experts. With CATW's support, the "Stop Sexkauf" campaign called on the German government to adopt the Nordic Model as a means to prevent harm perpetrated by buyers of sex.

(Spain) In 2014, our partners in Spain assisted 206 women seeking exit strategies from trafficking and prostitution in Madrid and Seville through the Street Outreach program.

(Italy/Nigeria) CATW provided a grant to Iroko Onlus that provided direct assistance to Nigerian trafficking victims in Italy.

(Mexico) The Red Alert System (RAS) located 84 trafficking victims, of which 69 were alive and successfully reunited with their families. Five victims were relocated to CATW-LAC's transitional home and provided with vocational training. Two victims enrolled in university courses. The RAS secured 4 convictions and delivered legal assistance and representation to victims and their families in 121 cases.

(Gambia) Safe Hands for Girls, in partnership with Think Young Women, led a three week-long booth campaign in the greater Banjul Area and West Coast Region to inform the public on the harms of gender-based violence with a focus on female genital mutilation.

(Philippines) Understanding the links between gender-based violence, trafficking and natural disasters, CATW-AP continues its commitment to the implementation of preventive measures and strategies to protect women's and girls' rights during times of crisis and beyond.

(India) Apne Aap held two regional-level survivor conferences in Bihar in 2014, one of which culminated in a protest march of over 1000 women, including survivors of sex trafficking and the sex trade.

(Brazil) The "Say No to Sex Tourism" campaign reached over 1.6 million individuals, raising awareness on sex tourism and commercial sexual exploitation during the 2014 FIFA World Cup.

(South Africa) The second annual Dignity Walk was held on December 10, 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. Over 200 people attended to raise awareness about the harms of prostitution.

CATW in Action

June 2014

CATW wrote to Amnesty International's Secretariat and Amnesty International USA, expressing concern over a proposed policy position that would support the full decriminalization of the sex trade worldwide. CATW urged Amnesty to (1) deepen its research in the principles of international law, (2) consult grassroots women's groups who serve and advocate on behalf of prostituted women, and (3) meet with survivor leaders in order to develop a policy that protects prostituted individuals and holds their exploiters, including buyers of sex, accountable.

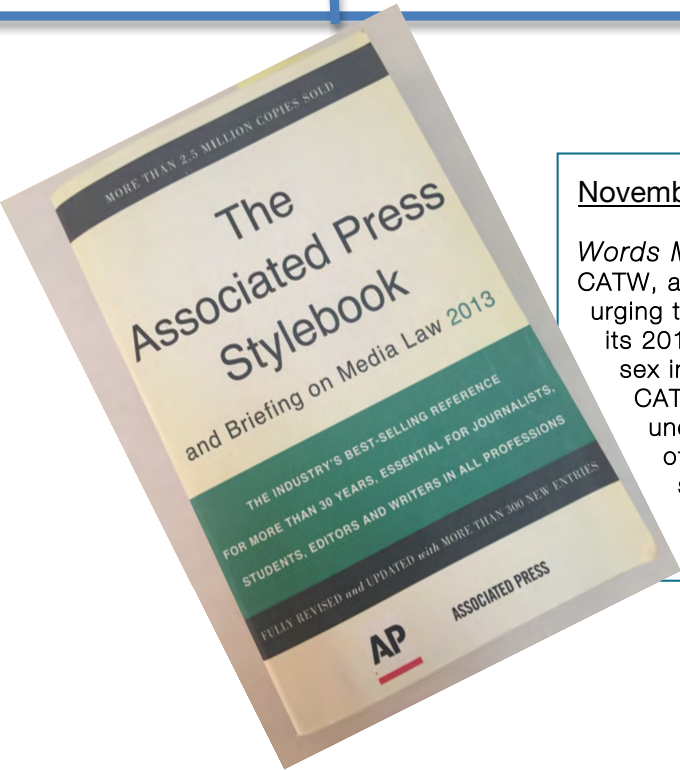


(Above, from left to right) Apne Aap's Ruchira Gupta, Kvinnefronte's Torill Nustad and CATW Executive Director, Taina Blen-Aimé attending the Women's World Conference in August 2014 in Hyderabad, India. (Right) Pictured: Apne Aap Team, Taina Blen-Aimé, and Torill Nustad



August 2014

CATW expressed its concern in a letter to UN Women regarding its unofficial "Note on Sex Work, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking," which endorses decriminalization of pimping and purchasing of sex. This letter was just one of many efforts undertaken with our partners, including Equality Now, demanding that UN Women take steps towards rectifying the situation. UN Women must officially retract the note or formally issue a statement mandating that governments take legislative measures to combat sex trafficking and prostitution.



November 6, 2014

Words Matter: CATW and Global Partners Write to the Associated Press
CATW, along with 300 signatories, sent a letter to the Associated Press (AP) urging the news organization not to adopt the terms 'sex work' and 'sex worker' in its 2015 Stylebook. The letter explained that these terms were invented by the sex industry to normalize the exploitation and harm inherent to the sex trade. CATW will continue to raise awareness and reach out to the media to underline the consequences of the use of language that negates the harms of commercial sexual exploitation and prostitution on women. The AP subsequently stated in an email to CATW that the terms "sex work" or "sex worker" would not be included in its Stylebook.

Legislative Advocacy

A Worldwide Shift Toward the Nordic Model



New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition's Lobby Day in Albany to advocate for the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (TVPJA) and the Women's Equality Act.

"I thank you for having believed in the bill and not to believe in inevitability. I thank you for looking at prostitution for what it is and not how we imagine it to be...Thank you for giving us the tools to effectively combat organized crime and to extend a hand to the victims of trafficking and exploitation."

Najat Vallaud-Belkacem, French Minister of Women's Affairs and Government Spokesperson, addressing France's Assembly when it passed the bill to penalize buyers of sex and decriminalize prostituted individuals (December 2013)

Canada: Bill C-36, the Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act, came into force in December 2014. The law explicitly criminalizes pimps and buyers of commercial sex, and provides services to individuals who seek to leave prostitution. However, the law still criminalizes prostituted individuals in certain circumstances, which our Canadian partners are working diligently to amend into full decriminalization of prostituted individuals in all cases.

Following the House of Commons' decision to pass the bill in October 2014, Member of Parliament for Kildonan-St. Paul, Joy Smith, stated: "We heard from a lot of people, including front-line support workers, police services, chiefs, and experts from the legal profession [...], I am especially impressed by all of the victims [...] and the survivors who came to testify at both committees, because that is what this is all about — survivors finally talking about what happened to them.

Law enforcement agencies and survivors expressed their overall support for the bill and applauded the strong message it sends that pimps and johns will be targeted for exploiting women and youth."

France: While the French Senate did not pass a bill that would impose stiff fines on sex buyers and offer prostituted people exit strategies and assistance, the deliberations to pass a demand-focused law continue. The concurrent trial of former International Monetary Fund director Dominique Strauss-Kahn on pimping charges led victims to share their testimonies in the media, creating a reported shift in the French public's views about the harms of the sex trade.

Lithuania: In December 2014, the Parliament (Seimas) of the Republic of Lithuania adopted a resolution calling "for [...] criminal liability for sexual services." The decision was reached

by a majority vote among the session participants. This resolution defined new policy guidelines to curb prostitution and trafficking, which was acknowledged as violence against women that leaves long-term social and psychological consequences.

Northern Ireland: In December 2014, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed the groundbreaking Human Trafficking and Exploitation Bill. The landmark legislation not only provides support services for victims of trafficking, but also aspires to curb sex trafficking by penalizing the purchase of sex and decriminalizing prostituted individuals. These legal provisions will also strengthen Northern Ireland's legislation that bans kerb-crawling, brothel-keeping and pimping.

Engaging the Global Community

ON THE AGENDA: FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

As part of its work to end violence against women and girls, CATW is investing its efforts in eradicating female genital mutilation (FGM). FGM is a 5,000-year-old harmful practice that occurs in twenty-eight countries across Africa as well as in some countries in the Middle East and Asia. It also occurs in every country where immigrants from FGM-practicing communities reside. FGM is a debilitating procedure designed to control women’s sexuality and rob them of bodily autonomy. CATW is the fiscal sponsor for Safe Hands for Girls, a survivor-led organization based in Atlanta, Georgia, founded by Jaha Dukureh. Jaha advocates nationally and internationally to raise awareness about the harms of FGM and works with communities to end it. Her initiatives have included a successful petition to the White House asking that the U.S. government update its 1997 report on the risk and prevalence of FGM in the United States.

Jaha was also a key player in the successful passage of the federal Girls Protection Act that prohibits the removal of a child from the U.S. for purposes of FGM. In the Gambia, Safe Hands for Girls is working with youth, religious leaders and the government to increase awareness about FGM and develop collaborative strategies to end it.



FGM Survivor, Jaha Dukureh, speaks at the UN

RESPONDING TO A COMPLEX PROBLEM

Human trafficking continues to plague the United States on a national and state level. New York State’s proposed Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (TVPJA) increases penalties against traffickers and expands support for victims. CATW Executive Director Taina Bien-Aimé joined other expert panelists at the Practicing Law Institute’s panel, “Exposing and Responding to Human Trafficking in 2014 in New York City,” to discuss how New York State courts can improve their response to human trafficking, the need for comprehensive definitions of human trafficking; and further developing legal frameworks that better protect victims and hold their perpetrators accountable.

CATW at the UN

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW) 2014

In March 2014, the United Nations hosted its 58th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York City. The Priority Theme was “The Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls.” CATW organized two panel discussions and participated as moderators or panelists in other key CSW events.

The first panel titled “Survivors Speak, Prostitution or Sex Work? When Terminology and Legalization Collide with Human Rights” featured Rachel Moran of SPACE International (Ireland), Natasha Falle of Sex Trade 101 (Canada), Autumn Burris of Survivors for Solutions (USA) and Beatriz Elena Rodriguez Rengifo of ASOMUPCAR (Colombia). This panel was co-sponsored by Equality Now and moderated by Vednita Carter of Breaking Free (USA).

CATW’s second panel, “Strategizing to Prevent AIDS and Gender Violence: Setting Goals to Advance Millennium Development,” included Rachel Moran, Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz of CATW-Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico), Pierrette Pape of the European Women’s Lobby (Belgium), Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge of Embrace Dignity (South Africa), and Aurora Javate-de Dios of CATW Asia Pacific (the Philippines). The panel was moderated by CATW’s Taina Bien-Aimé.

“Prostitution happens for the same reason that sex trafficking happens. They both are responding to the male demand for paid sex. They are responding to sexual selfishness... We have sexual selfishness on this Earth that is causing a huge degree of human misery and that misery is almost exclusively on women and girls.” – Rachel Moran



CATW Program Coordinator, Ekaterina Grebenshchikova, delivers a statement at the UN

CATW Partners

CATW – ASIA PACIFIC

Education

CATW-AP's educational work has primarily focused on Negros Occidental, a province in the Philippines that consistently ranks high in cases of violence against women and has the highest poverty rate in the country. As part of an ongoing youth-oriented project to address the root causes of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation, two youth camps were held in 2014. The camps addressed the social constructs of men and women's sexuality.

There were 15 participants at the first camp, held from June 21-22, in cooperation with Youth and Students Advancing Gender Equality (YSAGE) – and the Gender and Development Office of the Central Philippines State University (CPSU-GAD). The second camp was held from October 3-5, and provided a space for young women to share their experiences of sexual violence as a means to start their healing journeys.

In addition to its youth-centered educational efforts, CATW-AP conducted capacity-building trainings for social workers, police officers, prosecutors and civil society leaders. The goal of this year's session was to strengthen the Local Councils Against Trafficking and Violence Against Women and Children Coalition (LCATVAWC). A total of 155 LCATVAWC members were trained in 14 municipalities throughout three provinces. The trainings increased knowledge and skills in addressing trafficking and heightening gender sensitivity. Three monitoring sessions in specific municipalities followed to ensure the effectiveness of the trainings.

Action

CATW-AP also holds three-day camps that provide support, education and training to survivors of commercial sexual exploitation in order to prevent re-victimization and facilitate a full recovery. These camps provide a safe space for survivors to share their experiences, reflect and initiate their journeys toward healing. In 2014, two Survivors' Basic Education Camps were conducted with a total of 27 participants. The trainings helped women gain knowledge about local laws, learn how to deal with the police, and discuss how to address domestic violence and abuse by community members. Following completion of the sessions, CATW-AP hosted weekly check-ups to support graduates as they trained other victims of exploitation in the skills they acquired at the Basic Education Camps and help them along their path to exit the sex trade.



Livelihood Training

In cooperation with the Bagong Kamalayan Collective, Inc. (BKCI), CATW-AP equipped women with skills in organizational and financial management, marketing and cooking to help them run a cooperative catering business. The co-op shares earnings, values fair trade and uses raw organic materials bought directly from farmers. Additionally, it serves as a gathering space for survivors of sex trafficking to support one another and organize.

Relief

Disaster response was one of CATW-AP's priorities in 2014. Anti-trafficking and gender-based violence (GBV) watchdog groups were critical to ensuring sustainability in regions after disaster struck. CATW-AP partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to train and mobilize communities to detect possible trafficking cases, intercept trafficking operations, provide support to the victims and file cases against the perpetrators. These groups also help raise awareness on how disasters increase the vulnerability of women and children to trafficking and other forms of GBV. Trainings were held in four municipalities. During the sessions, 20 members and ten facilitators worked with a total of 16,613 women and girls and 5,817 men and boys.



“I am happy because I now have a decent source of income. I am relieved that even if my earnings are not that big, I am able to provide for my daily needs, and I do not need to go back to street prostitution. Now, I can face people because I feel that I am now equal to them.” – Survivor who started her rag business from a cooperative loan.

CATW Partners

CATW – LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (CATW-LAC)

Red Alert System

The number of missing women and girls in Mexico due to organized crime and sex trafficking is rapidly increasing. CATW-LAC's Red Alert System is a critical initiative to locate and rescue victims of trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery in Mexico. In eight years of operation, the Red Alert System has successfully rescued or located 1,037 trafficking victims. In 2014, CATW-LAC worked on 228 open cases.

(content depicted in an infographic)

Of the 84 individuals rescued or located through the Red Alert System:

- 10 received psychological support
- 5 received medical attention
- Housing was provided to 15 victims
- 4 air travel and 10 ground travel trips provided for legal proceedings and family reunifications
- Basic need provision (food, clothes) to 25 victims
- 5 survivors were placed in transitional homes and included in vocational training and productive projects
- 2 survivors enrolled in college
- 69 family reunifications were carried out
- Legal assistance was provided to 121 individuals to help locate missing family members and track down the traffickers, resulting in 4 convictions

Funding from the UN Voluntary Trust Fund and Catapult helped supplement the activities of the Red Alert System in 2014.



“Even in daylight on the beaches, sex tourists come in their cars looking to buy sex.” – Susani, a teenager exploited in the sex trade

Say No to Sex Tourism Campaign

With the 2014 World Cup happening in Brazil and the alarming occurrence of child sex tourism in the country, CATW-LAC launched the “Fair Play! Say No to Sex Tourism” campaign weeks before June’s opening games. The creative awareness-raising campaign was designed in close consultation with Los Cascos Rosas (The Pink Helmets) — CATW-LAC’s youth network. CATW-LAC made an official visit to São Paulo the week before the World Cup and met with Brazilian ministers and officials to promote the campaign.

Campaign materials, available in Spanish, English, French, and Portuguese, were distributed widely through social media. A declaration laying out the problem and the campaign was distributed in all four languages and gained over 2,500 signatures. A ‘Red Card’ was also designed for airlines to distribute to passengers on all flights to Brazil and to hand out to fans at the entrance of the stadiums. Additionally, a radio message addressing child sex tourism was aired in the four languages in the days leading up to the World Cup. Through these communication channels, the campaign reached an estimated 1,600,000 people.



Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff tweeted content from the campaign on several occasions.



Thanks to the ‘Say No to Sex Tourism’ campaign, the Brazilian Tourism Board pressured the sports apparel retailer Adidas into ceasing the sale of a line of U.S.-exclusive World Cup shirts that glamorized prostitution and promoted sex tourism through the depiction of a bikini-clad woman next to the slogan ‘Looking to Score.’

The “Say No to Sex Tourism” Campaign was made possible by a grant from Women’s Front Norway and Catapult.

CATW Partners

EMBRACE DIGNITY

Movement Building

In two major public events, Embrace Dignity worked with a number of partners including: the Western Cape Network on Violence Against Women, Engender, Young Women's Leadership Project, The University of Cape Town's African Gender Institute and The GirlChild Movement. These collaborative efforts helped to strengthen the abolitionist movement in South Africa.



Grizelda Grootboom was 18 years old when a trip to Johannesburg turned into a nightmare. She was trafficked to Yeoville, where she was tied up in a room for two weeks as a sex slave.

"There's this technique I did of holding my breath and just trying to get myself out of consciousness and not breathe...and that would happen... as the choking [happened] and the one guy does what he does... I would just shut off," Grizelda says of her experience.

Grizelda walked into the Embrace Dignity office, looking for a venue to speak about her experiences. Embrace Dignity supported her request to speak out publicly and share her experience. She is now writing a book.

Walk for Dignity

In recognition of the International Day for Abolition of Slavery on December 2nd and International Human Rights Day on December 10th, Embrace Dignity held its second annual Dignity Walk in Cape Town and Khayelitsha. The event had two goals: to raise awareness about the plight of women and children trapped in prostitution and to inspire community members to become active citizens in addressing this issue. With hundreds of marchers, nine organizations attended the walk, including male workshop participants and men's groups.

A grant from CATW on behalf of Women's Front Norway helped fund Embrace Dignity's initiatives in 2014.

CATW Partners

IROKO ONLUS

Education

In 2014, IROKO teamed up with the Edo Women's Development Initiative in Nigeria to hold the first conference on women's issues in the country. Edo State has the most victims of trafficking from Nigeria. The conference *Edo Women: Our Issues, Our Voices* provided a forum for the discussion of the issues affecting women and girls and was a huge success. It attracted high level government officials, including the Edo State Governor and his entire Cabinet, Senators, politicians and members of parliament, as well as owners and employees of local businesses, market women, local traditional leaders, school heads and students.



"You cannot know the struggles that people go through in their daily life until you meet them up close. Thank you IROKO for helping bridge that gap for those who would otherwise not know." – IROKO intern

(infographic)

Action

IROKO served a total of 37 women and 23 children in 2014:

- Temporary shelter was provided to 25 women.
- A 12-week vocational training program allowed 6 women to improve their sewing and artisan skills. These women participated in a monthly street market to earn income from their handicrafts.
- 15 women were offered professional training for job placement, provided in collaboration with partners, Amici di Lazzaro and Gruppo Abele. 10 women gained employment upon completion of the training
- 8 women were provided grants to attend a regional council training. 5 women were offered jobs at the end of their training program.
- Medical support was offered to all the women, as needed, including psychological and psychiatric support.

A grant from CATW on behalf of Catapult helped fund IROKO's work in 2014.



CATW Partners

APNE AAP

Innovation

Apne Aap started a sanitary napkin production unit to provide livelihood options for girls and women in Kolkata. At its inception, the program engaged 12 teenaged girls who produced 800 sanitary pads a month to sell in the markets of poor and Red Light areas. The sale of the items was initially a challenge, but one of the young participants in the program recalls encouraging her fellow businesswomen not to lose hope:

“Slowly our production will increase and we will get orders,” she told them.

She was right. Production increased to 2500 per month and the young women set a goal to reach 4000 a month by the end of the year. The pads are sold at Rs. 30 (roughly \$.05) per napkin, which helps create a stipend for the girls that they use to fund their education. The creation and distribution of the items also play the role of providing low-cost pads and spreading awareness about hygiene among girls in poor areas of Kolkata.



Survivor-leadership

Fatima Khatoon was born into Bihar's Nat community, which engages in intergenerational prostitution. She was trafficked at the age of nine. After six children and sustained abuse at the hands of her husband, she fought back to emerge as a role model, helping women stand up for their rights and working to dismantle sex trafficking rings. Fatima has since shared her story and raised awareness about sex trafficking and inter-generational prostitution in her movie "Mardaani".

Legislative Advocacy

On November 20, 2014, the High Court of Bihar handed down a landmark decision on the prosecution of trafficking-related offenses. It also addressed the prevention, raid, rescue, and rehabilitation of victims through an integrated Anti-Human Trafficking Unit.

Filed as a Public Interest Litigation, the case, Apne Aap Women Worldwide Trust vs. The State Of Bihar & Ors (Civil Writ 1882 of 2013), takes the unprecedented step of asking authorities to ensure that victims' holistic support and development take place, and suggests that the Government form a survivor-based and survivor-led policy to address this crime.

Apne Aap received a grant from CATW on behalf of Women's Front Norway to fund its initiatives in 2014.

CATW Partners

COMISIÓN PARA LA INVESTIGACIÓN DE MALOS TRATOS A MUJERES



On-the-go Outreach

With a grant from Catapult, our partners in Spain served 443 women in Seville and Madrid with on-the-go outreach out of a mobile unit. The program included a team of professionals who provide a full range of care to women in need. Made up of social workers, psychologists, educators and lawyers, the mobile outreach teams provide information on legal rights and resources available to the women, including immigration support, vocational training, language classes, alternative livelihood options and referrals for counseling. Of the 443 women served, direct assistance was provided to 206 women in prostitution.

The mobile outreach unit has increased its services to closed-off environments that otherwise may not be reached by service providers offering exit strategies for those who are commercially sexually exploited or victims of human trafficking. In particular, the project has strengthened outreach to the Chinese and Romanian communities in Spain that have high numbers of trafficking victims and commercially sexually exploited women.

CATW Partners

SAFE HANDS FOR GIRLS

Safe Hands for Girls (SHfG) is an organization dedicated to ending female genital mutilation (FGM) and is the only US-based grassroots organization led by survivors. SHfG works with individuals, communities and organizations to address this harmful cultural practice and improve the quality of life of affected girls and women. It also seeks to develop preventative measures for those at risk.

Jaha Dukureh, Founder and Executive Director of SHfG, has been instrumental in awakening public interest in the campaign against FGM in the United States through national and international media outreach. She also campaigned for the passage of the Girls' Protection Act of 2010. SHfG has been prominently featured in the media, including in with the Guardian UK, Huffington Post Live, Russia Today, BBC World, NPR Radio, Cosmopolitan, New York Daily and the Washington Examiner.

- (INFOGRAPHIC)
- In 2014, Safe Hands for Girls:
- Trained 43 survivors to become activist leaders in their own communities, five of the survivors trained have spoken out publicly and conducted press interviews.
 - Hosted a documentary screening featuring survivor stories at two colleges and two high schools in Atlanta, Georgia, educating 460 students on the issue.
 - Provided education and training to frontline professionals, including five pediatricians, on the prevalence of FGM in the community and what they can do to protect girls.

In the Gambia, SHfG carried out a campaign in four regions of the country, successfully reaching a total of 250 students through over 20 school visits and awareness-raising educational booths. As a result of the information gathered in the baseline survey, the majority of outreach was focused in the Upper River Region (URR) where over 95% of the girls are subjected to FGM.

Most of the students with whom the staff was engaged had little knowledge of the health consequences of FGM and believed it was a religious obligation. SHfG staff and volunteers, however, sought to disprove the assumptions and showed videos of influential Imams renouncing the practice of FGM, which made a strong impact on the students.

CATW is a fiscal sponsor to SHfG, and provided grants to support this work on behalf of the Wallace Global Foundation and the Human Dignity Fund.

Awards & Recognition

The Honeyball Report
MEP Mary Honeyball's leadership on examining prostitution as violence against women and the end goal of sex trafficking led to a crucial report that subsequently prompted the European Parliament to pass a resolution. In a historic step for the abolitionist movement, the resolution recognizes that prostitution is an obstacle to gender equality and a violation of human rights, and that demand reduction must be part of an integrated strategy in member states to combat the sex trade.

In the Media
CATW-AP Executive Director Jean Enriquez was featured as one of Rappler's '5 Inspiring People'. The Filipino social news network publishes stories that inspire community engagement and fuel digital actions for social change.

Jean Enriquez received the UNESCO Chair Award in recognition of her "Exemplary Contribution to the Promotion and Expansion of the Frontiers of Human Rights and to Fostering Global Solidarity" at the 15th Annual International Conference on Human Trafficking, Forced Labor and Exploitation at the University of Connecticut on October 21, 2014.

CATW Remembers

Efua Dorkenoo (1949–2014)

We mourned the passing of Efua Dorkenoo on October 18, 2014. The “grandmother” of the global movement to end female genital mutilation, Efua’s life journey offers human rights activists a roadmap of undeterred vision and revolutionary impact.

Efua spearheaded decades-long efforts to eradicate FGM through FORWARD, which she founded in 1983. Trained as a midwife, Efua recounted her horror and helplessness as she watched an infibulated Somali woman suffer in labor, her vaginal passage sewn shut and scarred. A Cesarean saved her and the baby. Efua’s groundbreaking work led to including FGM onto the agenda of the United Nations Human Rights Commission, recognizing the harmful practice as a human rights violation. Under her leadership, one of the first public campaigns about the harms of FGM was developed, leading UNICEF to invest in programs that targeted FGM as a violation against girls. Efua also campaigned for the World Health Organization to issue a statement against the medicalization of FGM. Her book, “Cutting the Rose. Female Genital Mutilation: the Practice and its Prevention” remains a definitive and influential source on tackling FGM.

Efua was publically recognized, most notably receiving the Order of the British Empire for her extraordinary contributions to end FGM in the United Kingdom. But nevertheless remained an unsung hero. Among those who follow her footsteps are young survivors of FGM and child marriage, who are bucking tradition at great personal cost to ensure the knife will spare their daughters. Efua’s brilliant legacy now lives in dauntless leaders like Leyla Hussein in the United Kingdom and Jaha Dukureh in the United States, whom Efua nurtured along with dozens of other young women. The United Nations Population Fund and The Guardian launched the Efua Dorkenoo Pan African Award for Reportage on FGM to recognize outstanding efforts of journalists throughout Africa in increasing media awareness on FGM.

The adoring mother of two sons and a grandson, Efua carried the African girl in her heart. She connected the devastating effects of politicized misogyny in the name of culture or religion that ensures the subordination and obedience of women. She understood that our lack of political will and investment to protect girls from child marriage, sex trafficking, sexual violence, domestic servitude, denial of education or food were sides of the same coin. Efua forced in people’s consciousness that girls are owed a life free of violence and discrimination.

Except from: “Eradicating Female Genital Mutilation in Our Lifetime: The Vision of Efua Dorkenoo (1949-2014),” Taina Bien-Aimé, December 5, 2014.

CATW salutes the human rights activists, advocates, survivor leaders and supporters who work tirelessly to create a world where women and girls live a life of dignity, free of violence and are guaranteed equality.

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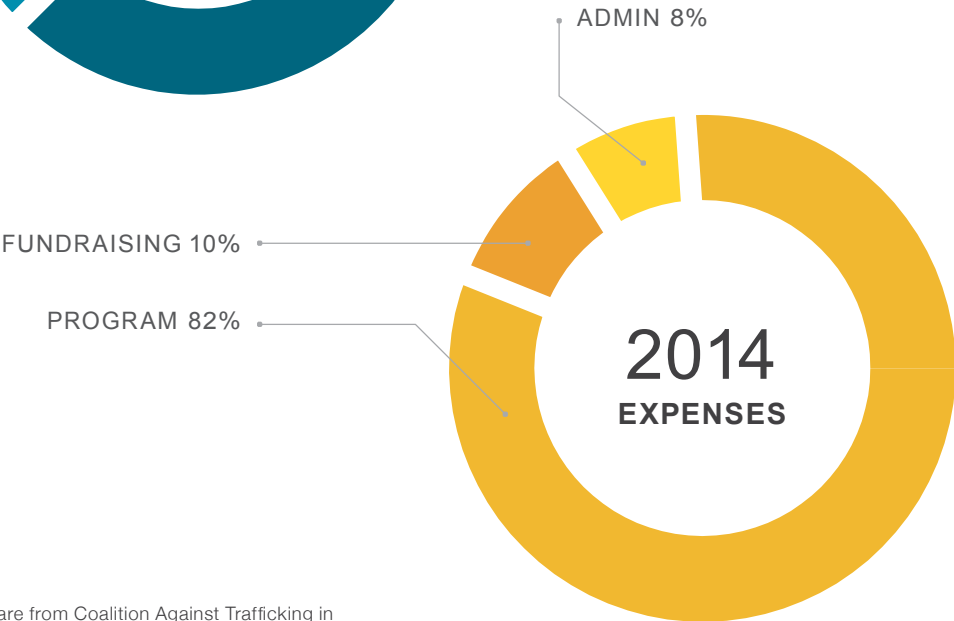
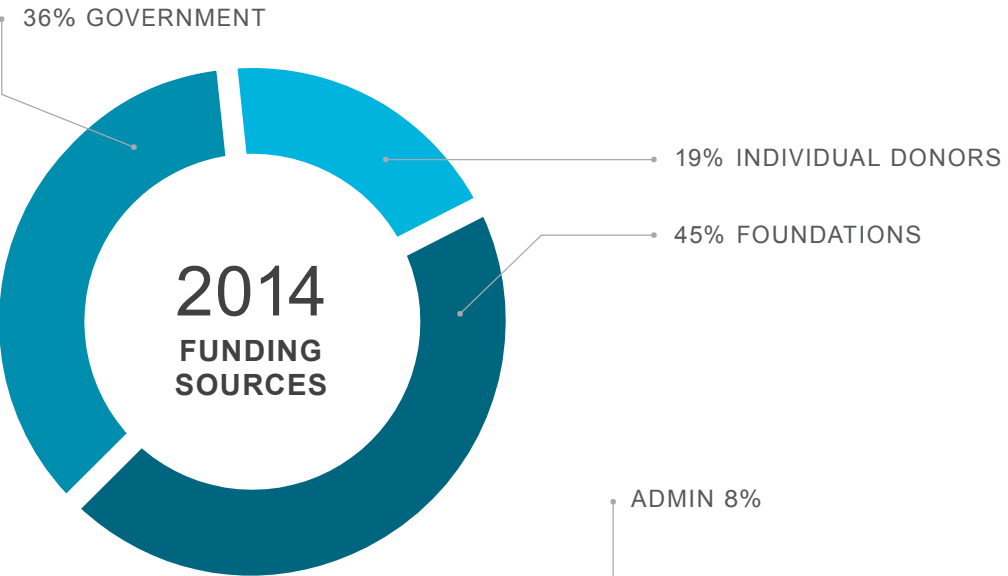
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