

# 30 Years of Defending Women's Right to be Free from All Forms of Sexual Exploitation

## The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) Highlights Its History

1988 – 1997

1988 – CATW International (CATW) is founded in New York City at an international conference on sex trafficking and prostitution. Participants come from most continents.

Kathleen Barry and Dorchen Leidholdt are appointed respectively as CATW's founding Executive and Associate Directors.

1989 – CATW is awarded Category II Consultative Status with ECOSOC, the UN Economic and Social Council.

1991 – CATW convenes an international meeting of Experts on sexual exploitation, violence and prostitution. With UNESCO, CATW publishes the proceedings of this meeting called *The Penn State Report*.

Attends the Council of Europe meeting in Strasbourg called "Trafficking in Women and Forced Prostitution," held in association with the Dutch government to promote its neo-regulatory policy affirming prostitution as sex work. With other NGOs, CATW opposes this policy and demands recommendations reflect the majority abolitionist opinion.

1992 – CATW drafts a proposed UN Convention Against All Forms of Sexual Exploitation.

1993 – CATW Asia-Pacific (CATW-AP) is established at an organizing conference in Manila, the Philippines. Representatives come from 17 countries, including Hong Kong, Japan, India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia, as well as various NGOs in the Philippines. Cecilia Hoffman becomes Director.

CATW Europe holds its organizing meeting and appoints Marie-Therese Destercke as director.

CATW Europe holds the first European Conference to discuss a new UN Convention Against Sexual Exploitation.

1994 - Janice Raymond and Dorchen Leidholdt are elected as Co-Executive Directors of CATW International after Kathleen Barry resigns.

Launches a petition drive for its proposed draft UN Convention Against All Forms of Sexual Exploitation.

CATW Latin America and the Caribbean (CATW- LAC) is founded at an organizing conference in Caracas Venezuela. Organizations join CATW-LAC, including NGOs from Puerto Rico, Brazil, Peru, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Argentina and Spain. Zorida Ramirez Rodriquez becomes its first director.

Representatives from CATW-AP, CATW LAC, CATW Europe and CATW International speak at the UN Human Rights Conference in Vienna and define prostitution per se as a human rights violation. Our challenge is to reject the framing of prostitution as “sex work” and policies that promote its legalization and decriminalization of the sex industry.

1995 - CATW speaks at the Fourth World UN Conference in Women in Beijing, China attended by over 30,000 women’s rights activists; and chairs the Violence Against Women Caucus, promoting its vision of a world in which no one is sexually exploited.

Forms a network of organizations to promote a new UN Convention Against Sexual Exploitation.

In anticipation of the Beijing Conference on women CATW and CATW Europe, at an international meeting of experts in Korea, draft the *Seoul Declaration for a World Without Sexual Exploitation*. It affirms prostitution is a fundamental violation of human rights and calls for UN action, including a convention against sexual exploitation.

Queen Fabiola of Belgium invites CATW Asia-Pacific to discuss the situation of sex trafficking from the Philippines to Europe. The Belgian government supports a pilot project to investigate the magnitude of the trafficking of Filipinas to Europe and develop intervention programs and policies that will serve as a basis for bilateral activities.

Engages in a fact-finding trip to Bangkok and Phuket, centers of Thailand’s burgeoning sex industry. Illegal “open brothels,” massage parlors, hostess bars, go-go bars and massage parlors are tolerated. In both cities, sexual exploitation of minors and adult women is treated as a vast entertainment industry.

In Istanbul, Turkey, investigates the legalized brothels that flourish in a country that is veering increasingly toward political Islamism. Hundreds of men wait their turn in the alleys and courtyards of Zurafa Sokak for their 3-5 minutes sexual fix.

Issues a critical response to the report of the first UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, clarifying false and misleading distinctions made between prostitution and trafficking, forced vs. “free” prostitution, and prostitution as work vs. prostitution as violence against women.

1996 - CATW Co-Director joins with the first sex industry survivor to address a special session of the UN General Assembly in New York. They testify to the harms of prostitution and urge member states to reject false distinctions between sex trafficking and other practices of sexual exploitation.

Helps spearhead a major international conference resolution in Brighton UK attended by 2,500 women's rights advocates, a major milestone in recognizing prostitution as violence against women and repudiating the sex industry lobby.

Queen Sylvia of Sweden, an outspoken opponent of child sexual exploitation, sponsors the World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm. CATW emphasizes that children exploited in the sex industry become the same adults the sex industry later abuses.

With CATW-LAC, CATW visits the "favellas" in Sao Paulo, Brazil and the shelters there for prostituted women and street children established by CATW affiliates.

Speaks at a UNESCO-sponsored meeting on violence against women in Paris, France. Focuses on attempts by the pro-prostitution lobby to exempt prostitution from the category of violence against women.

CATW-AP and HURIDOCS organize a 10-day training course for 18 women from 13 Asian countries on human rights information management. HURIDOCS helps NGOs to systematically document cases of violence against women, giving hands-on training in actual documentation procedures and systems.

CATW-LAC helps organize a major conference/seminar in Brasilia against the sexual exploitation of children. The conference resolution affirms the connections between the sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and that of women.

1997 - CATW launches its initial website -- an online documentation and resource center consisting of country-specific information on sex trafficking and prostitution, reports, articles, publications, links, survivor services, and campaigns and policy statements on prostitution, sex trafficking and the global sex industry.

Develops an extensive electronic listserv that serves as an online discussion forum, an action alert, and an organizing tool. 3,000 messages, alerts, letters of protest and campaigns are posted in the first year.

Organizes the first international conference bringing together survivors of prostitution and trafficking with direct service organizations and women's rights advocates. Partnerships are forged with groups from 13 different countries committed to feminist abolitionist goals and survivor leadership.

Speaks at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting of the Women's Front in Norway, an active and vibrant network, which becomes CATW's representative in Norway led by Agnete Strom and Anne Soyland.

Fatoumata Sire Diakite becomes Director of CATW Africa at a regional meeting in Mali. Representatives from Ghana, Togo, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso,

Senegal and Mali present country reports and agree to form a regional coalition that challenges African-specific forms of sexual exploitation including “sugar-daddyism.”

CATW-AP publishes its first oral history of 8 Filipina survivors of trafficking to Nigeria, Ghana, Cyprus, Korea and other parts of the Philippines. The booklet is entitled *Halfway Through the Circle: the Lives of Eight Filipino Women Survivors of Prostitution and Trafficking*.

CATW Europe holds a press conference in Europe to reject a Dutch-initiated draft of EU-legislation against sex trafficking. The Dutch government becomes the champion of prostitution policies within EU and UN circles.

1998-2007

1998 - Aurora Javate de Dios from the Philippines becomes President of the international CATW Board of Directors.

Malka Marcovich and MAPP (Movement for the Abolition of Prostitution and Pornography) becomes the new representative of CATW Europe. CATW Europe holds an organizing meeting to constitute its network of NGOs in Paris, France and focuses on strategies to fight the growth of the sex industry in Europe.

Issues critical response to the UN International Labor Organization’s (ILO) report, which advocates that prostitution in 4 Asian countries be recognized as a full-fledged economic sector that is taxed and regulated.

CATW Africa elects its Board of Directors and puts in place a regional council composed of 8 members from 7 countries in Africa. It establishes a regional office in Bamako, Mali. CATW Africa campaigns actively against female genital mutilation in the region.

CATW AP monitors the current SOFA (Status of Forces) agreement with the US allowing resumption of joint military exercises and port calls for US ships in 22 towns of the Philippines. SOFA circumvents the constitutional ban on foreign military presence, which causes more Filipinas to be sacrificed for sexual exploitation by the US military.

CATW Bangladesh holds its first regional meeting, “Organizing Against Sexual Exploitation,” in Dhaka. After the conference, CATW delegates are attacked in the Kandupatty brothel area, having accompanied 2 Bangladeshi women in prostitution who were protesting their eviction onto the streets by the local political strongman.

Accompanies the Bangladeshi Women Lawyers Association and a journalist to the Tanbazar brothel, filled with over 500 women and girls, some as young as 9, living in inhuman conditions. Dhaka newspapers highlight the lack of police enforcement of laws against child prostitution, trafficking and brothel-keeping.

CATW-LAC works with the Ministry of Labor in Venezuela to reject the demand of pro-sex industry groups to register a union of “sex workers,” emphasizing that a labor union should promote the collective development of its members. Instead, the decision states that the unionizing of “sex workers” would undermine that goal by promoting not the “workers,” but rather the expansion of the sex industry.

1999 - CATW debates pro-prostitution NGOs before the UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at the UN headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Survivors from the NGO, WHISPER, in the United States and from Lawig Bubai in the Philippines testify, together with representatives from CATW partner organizations.

Produces its first film, *So Great a Violence: Prostitution, Trafficking and the Global Sex Industry*. The video calls for programs and policies aimed at men who create the demand for prostitution, challenges the myths about prostitution as “sex work,” and demonstrates the harm of prostitution to women and girls.

Speaks in Copenhagen at the landmark 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference of the International Abolitionist Federation (IAF) founded by Josephine Butler. Exactly 50 years ago, the IAF-inspired 1949 UN *Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others* was signed.

The UN Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention Against Transnational Crime begins its 2-year drafting process of a supplementary anti-trafficking protocol. CATW attends the Committee’s quarterly sessions and organizes the International Human Rights Network of 140 NGOs to advocate for a definition of trafficking that protects all victims.

Publishes its groundbreaking report, *Pimps and Predators on the Internet*, documenting how predators have moved from the streets to Internet sites such as *The World Sex Guide* to advertise prostituted women. Prostitution users can also engage in “amateur pimping” by advising other buyers how and where to prey on women in countries across the globe.

Publishes its first collection of articles entitled, *Making the Harm Visible: Global Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls: Speaking Out and Providing Services*.

Helps form a coalition of US women’s organizations working to develop US anti-trafficking legislation that protects all victims of trafficking.

Sweden passes landmark legislation, the first law to prohibit the purchase of “sexual services” based on the premise that prostitution is a form of women’s inequality. The law decriminalizes prostituted women and allocates a budget for exit programs. CATW partners in Sweden, such as ROKS, spent years advocating for this legislation.

CATW-AP produces its first video entitled *First Time*, a 30 second made-for-TV public service film. Its goal is the education of young men, challenging boys and men to reject

“becoming men” through prostitution. The film has been shown on all major television stations in the Philippines.

CATW-LAC establishes the first educational program on prostitution prevention in Caracas, Venezuela, schools aimed at male students and promoting a different standard of masculinity. Youth from 19 high schools are trained to monitor recruitment of girls and boys for prostitution, especially in or near schoolyards.

2000 - CATW and the International Human Rights Network win a major victory at the UN in Vienna, inspiring a strong and inclusive definition of trafficking that becomes part of the new UN Protocol on Trafficking. This victory comes after 2 years of negotiations during which many delegates and NGOs opposed a broad international definition of trafficking that protects *all* victims of trafficking.

Holds celebration at the French Senate to honor French senators and governmental delegates who had been instrumental in the Vienna deliberations that concluded with a new UN Protocol on Trafficking.

Attends the high-level signing conference in Palermo, Italy, at which 80 countries signed into force the UN Protocol Against Trafficking on Persons, Especially Women and Children attached to the new UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime, now known as the Palermo Protocol.

Publishes its *Guide to the New UN Trafficking Protocol* in English, French and Spanish.

At the 2000 UN CSW meeting in NY, CATW chairs the key Violence Against Women Caucus and hosts a multi-media event of its work through film, theater and panel discussions. CATW and the International Organization of Migration (IOM) co-sponsor a performance by Teatrong Walang Bakod (Theatre Without Borders) based on the actual experiences of 3 Filipina trafficking victims.

Selected as one of the 3 NGOs to be part of the US delegation to the Asian Regional Initiative Against Trafficking in Women and Children (ARIAT). Organized by the governments of the US and the Philippines, the conference develops a regional action plan against trafficking.

Busloads of Russian women are transported for prostitution across the border into Finnmark, Norway. Speaking at the first conference on trafficking and prostitution in Murmansk, Russia, CATW joins organizers from the Congress of Women from the Kola Peninsula and the Network North, and representatives from Russia, the US, Norway, Sweden, Finland, the indigenous Sami lands, the Swedish government and the European Parliament (EP).

CATW affiliate Yayori Matsui and the Violence Against Women in War-Network-Japan organize the first *Women's International War Crimes Tribunal* in Tokyo. The tribunal

hears testimony from former “comfort women” conscripted into prostitution by Japan during WWar II. CATW President, Aurora Javate de Dios, serves as judge at the hearing.

CATW-AP continues its trainings on the use of HURIDOCS to record crimes against women, including prostitution, trafficking, pornography, rape, domestic violence, and crimes against lesbians. The program is also used to provide profiles of perpetrators.

CATW-LAC continues its workshops on preventing child and adolescent prostitution, especially working with hearing, speaking and seeing-impaired children in the schools of Caracas. Pimps are actively seeking out a high number of 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls and promising cell phones in exchange for dancing in the strip clubs.

2001 - CATW publishes *Sex Trafficking of Women in the United States: International and Domestic Trends*, the first systematic report based on interviews with 40 women who were trafficked and prostituted in the US. The report follows women through their experiences in the sex industry and utilizes information from men writing about prostituted women on Internet sex sites.

Joins Apne Aap in launching an India-wide campaign in Delhi to combat legalization of prostitution initiatives in India. Other Indian organizations participating in the network were Sanlaap, Prerana, NACSET, Nishant, the Joint Women’s Programme-National, MARG, Guria and Samridi.

Meets with Swedish parliamentarians to discuss the UN Protocol on Trafficking and the need to export Sweden’s recent legislation prohibiting the buying of “sexual services.”

Publishes its *Guide to the UN Convention of 1949 for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others*.

During the CSW meetings, CATW joined the Swedish Minister of Gender Equality and other key Swedish officials in a roundtable discussion on trafficking and prostitution.

Sends a large delegation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, S. Africa. CATW organized 2 workshops on the conference themes stressing the relationships between racism, xenophobia, trafficking and prostitution.

CATW Africa holds a regional meeting to discuss the state of trafficking and prostitution in the region. Fifty participants, mostly from French-speaking countries, attend from Mali, Burkina Faso, the Ivory Coast, Benin, Cameroon, Gabon, Nigeria and Togo.

CATW-AP launches a weekly call-in nationwide radio program. Topics covered included domestic violence, sexual harassment in the workplace, the vulnerability of women to HIV/AIDS, the prostitution recruitment industry and other critical issues related to violence against women.

CATW-LAC distributes the brochure, “Be Smart, Be Safe. Do not be a Victim of the trade in persons,” a valuable resource in its campaign to prevent prostitution in the elementary and secondary schools of Caracas.

2002 - The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) passes the new *SAARC Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution* and includes a CATW- inspired definition of trafficking

Attends the UN Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in Geneva. The Working Group issues recommendations that include a strong and unequivocal statement against the legitimizing of prostitution as work and a ringing endorsement of the Swedish government’s prohibition of the purchase of sexual services.

Publishes *A Comparative Study of Women Trafficked in the Migration Process: Patterns, Profiles and Health Consequences of Sexual Exploitation in Five Countries (Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Venezuela and the United States)*.

Conducts seminars and exchanges information with visitors from the International Visitors Program hosted by the US State Department. The program includes NGO leaders and government officials from many different countries.

Travels to Tblisi in the Republic of Georgia to help plan a documentation and service project for victims of sex trafficking. CATW’s partner is the Center for Foreign Citizens and Migration Rights and Security (FCRS).

Association IROKO represents CATW in Italy and Nigeria, with Esohe Aghatise as its director. CATW helps support IROKO’s services to Nigerian trafficked women who began to arrive in Italy in the mid-1980s, and helps to provide emergency housing, legal aid, cultural mediation, translation and job training to victims/survivors.

CATW Africa holds 3 national workshops on trafficking and sexual exploitation in Mali, Benin and Senegal. The workshops help consolidate national CATWs and their official recognition as NGOs in the fight against trafficking of women and children. Various governmental ministries, security and border police, take part in the workshops.

As US troops re-enter the Philippines for military exercises and to train Filipino servicemen in the US war on terrorism. CATW-AP continues to document instances of women trafficked and sexually exploited at military sites in Olongapo, Angeles, Cebu and Davao cities.

CATW mourns the loss of Zoraida Ramirez Rodriguez, leader of CATW-LAC, who dies of cancer in Caracas, Venezuela. Zoraida brought to the fight against trafficking and sexual exploitation a fierce intellect, untiring commitment, idealism and vision, and profound compassion for oppressed women.

2003 - Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz of Mexico becomes the Director of CATW-LAC after the death of Zoraida Ramirez Rodriquez.

Filipina survivors of prostitution issue a Manifesto and say no to legalization or decriminalization of prostitution, i.e., the pimping, buying and brothel keeping of women. The Manifesto states that prostitution has to be eliminated and that victims should not be criminalized.

CATW Co-Director invited to testify at US congressional hearings on “The Ongoing Tragedy of International Slavery and Human Trafficking,” CATW emphasizes that countries that have legalized or decriminalized prostitution should be removed from Tier 1, the topmost category, in the annual US Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report.

CATW member, a survivor of the Internet marriage marketing industry and of domestic violence, was one of 3 experts on the 2003 CSW plenary panel. 350 NGO representatives heard her story of being trafficked into the US and married to a man that abused her and sent sexually objectifying photographs of her over the Internet.

CATW-AP begins its anti-demand project implementing camp sessions for young men in 12 regions of the Philippines. The project aims to prevent prostitution and sex trafficking by changing boys’ views of masculinity, as well as male sexual attitudes and practices that result in the sexual exploitation of women.

After 8 years of advocacy, CATW-AP with 30 other Filipino NGOs succeeds in passing a progressive anti-trafficking law in the Philippines. The bill states that victims shall not be penalized in any way, provides comprehensive support for victims, and makes the victim’s consent irrelevant.

CATW-LAC, with the cooperation of 3 different government ministries, begins a 3-year project to prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in 3 delegations in Mexico City. The project gives tools to teachers to help students in defending themselves and in taking the offensive against recruiters and other exploiters.

The Center for Foreign Citizens and Migrant Rights and Security (FCRS) joins CATW in the Republic of Georgia. CATW supports the FCRS project to inform potential migrants of what can happen when their fates are placed in the hands of smugglers and traffickers who can take advantage of their migration hopes.

2004 - CATW Co-director is invited to testify at a key European Parliament (EP) hearing. Organized by MEP Marianne Eriksson from Sweden on “The Consequences of the Sex Industry in the European Union,” it was followed by a press conference and an EP report on the same subject.

Co-sponsors campaign to educate public about Measure Q, a ballot initiative that would decriminalize the sex industry in Berkeley, CA. Led by the organization, Prostitution Research and Education, Measure Q was soundly defeated by 64 percent of the voters.

Edits a special issue of the Journal, *Violence Against Women* that presents “The Case Against Legalizing Prostitution.” CATW affiliates contribute articles.

Begins a new campaign in Estonia with ENUT, the Estonian Women’s Resource Center, to strengthen an existing anti-trafficking network in the Baltics to counter legalization and decriminalization of sex industries and focus on the demand.

Speaks at a conference organized by the U.S. Embassy to the Vatican. Bringing together the Vatican Diplomatic Corps and representatives of religious orders and international anti-trafficking NGOs, the conference focused on how faith-based organizations and concerned NGOs and individuals can unite to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation.

CATW-AP continues its camp sessions educating young men on gender roles, male sexuality, and men’s demand for prostitution. CATW-AP also produces teaching aids for facilitators of future workshops and camps and expands its program to educate young women who are bombarded with commercial messages promoting their sexualization.

CATW Bangladesh leader Sigma Huda is appointed the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking. Sigma has been a longtime advocate against violence against women, defended many victims in court, and is an active member of countless organizations and government commissions dealing with women’s human rights.

Continuing its CATW- sponsored project in the Republic of Georgia, FCRS develops a short course on the realities of trafficking and the migration experience. Facilitated by illegal employment and tourist companies who recruit in cities and rural areas, 10,000 persons leave Georgia each year. Most are women who end up being trafficked.

CATW International speaks at strategic forum opposing legalization of prostitution in Italy. Organized by IROKO, the conference brought together mayors, labor unions, church representatives, NGOs, members of the Italian Parliament and governmental ministries. A key outcome was the labor unions’ announcement not to support any proposal to legalize prostitution.

CATW affiliates in South Korea help pass 2 new laws against the sex industry. The Protection Act is designed to protect and assist victims of prostitution and expand social services. The Punishment Act increases penalties against brothel owners and procurers and penalizes sex buyers, following the Nordic model in challenging the male demand for prostitution.

CATW-LAC develops a video to be shown on buses, airlines and in transportation facilities warning passengers arriving in Mexico City about the risks and penalties of engaging in trafficking and sexual exploitation. The video is shown on 2 TV networks, each reaching a viewership of 100,000.

CATW board member Asuncion Miura, director of the Madrid (Spain) Equal Opportunity Commission and CATW representative in Spain, organizes an international conference on “The Cities and Prostitution” with 40 speakers and 325 participants. The conference forms a “Network of Cities in Solidarity Against Sexual Exploitation.”

2005 - CATW Co-Director testifies before a US House Subcommittee on “The Economics of Sexual Slavery, addressing especially the global and financial implications of sex trafficking. CATW emphasizes how men who buy women for prostitution fuel a gigantic global sex industry.

Testifies before the Canadian Subcommittee in House of Commons, Ottawa and emphasizes that “Canada needs to put forth solutions that do not lock women into prostitution, as in legalized and regulated systems, but that give women a future.”

After CATW and other organizations advocated for it, the US ratifies the Palermo Protocol on Trafficking, one of its few ratifications of UN treaties.

CATW Africa conducts training sessions for journalists from 8 regions of Mali. Also holds literacy trainings for women and girls migrating to the city from rural areas who end up working as domestics for families in Bamako. These workshops put women in touch with CATW Africa’s office for possible future assistance.

CATW- AP with BUKLOD, a survivors’ organization, campaigns to prosecute a US serviceman in Olongapo accused of a raping a 22-year-old Filipina. CATW-AP speaks to trade unions and migrant groups in New York, Hong Kong, Canada and Norway linking prostitution with globalization and militarism and strengthening links with these NGOs.

IROKO acquires an old farmhouse in the Piedmont Italy region. When reconstructed, the farmhouse will include a restaurant and inn and provide hotel and restaurant training for survivors to obtain future employment. IROKO also opens its office in Benin City, Nigeria to assist women and girls who are victims of trafficking.

CATW - LAC publishes a manual for the prevention of commercial sexual exploitation used by many teachers; and a comic book showing the tactics of pimps and recruiters who lured a young Mexican girl lured into prostitution through an internet chat room.

CATW and the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) receive grant to develop a joint 2-year Challenge Campaign targeting prostitution legalization and decriminalization policies in 12 countries in Europe. The campaign will also promote educational and legislative initiatives to discourage the male demand for prostitution that fosters sex trafficking.

#### The CATW-EWL Challenge Project

- *Albania* – Works with the Women’s Media Group and young journalists to begin a campaign called “No to Sexual Tourism; Yes to Cultural Tourism.” Meets with

parliamentary candidates for the next election and supports a conference to inform journalists about the demand for prostitution that promotes sex trafficking.

--*Baltics* - Supports NGOs in the Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

- Estonia – With ENUT, produces a Primer on the Male Demand for Prostitution. Develops a petition signed by prominent men who pledge they will not engage in prostitution and coordinates a poster campaign aimed at discouraging demand for prostitution.
- Latvia – With the NGO Marta, conducts a public awareness campaign in the international airport of Riga handing out cards to women leaving Riga about their rights in foreign countries. Warns men arriving in Latvia about the dangers and penalties related to sex tourism. CATW also speaks in the Latvian Parliament.
- Lithuania – With the Women’s Issues Information Center, raises the public’s awareness about the role of men in perpetuating prostitution and the sex industry. Supports a current law against the demand and monitors police enforcement of it. CATW speaks in the Lithuanian Parliament.

- *Bulgaria* – With the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, supports a campaign to dissuade the Bulgarian government from institutionalizing prostitution. Works with the former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nadezhda Mihaylova, to organize a public conference to debate pro-legalization initiatives in Bulgaria.

- *Croatia* - Addresses members of the Croatian Parliament in Zagreb about legalization of prostitution initiatives. Attended by 30 parliamentarians and 20 NGOs, the roundtable was organized by ROSA, the Centre for Women War Victims; PETRA; a Network of Women’s NGOs; and the Croatian Governmental Office for Human Rights.

- *Czech Republic* –Working with Czech organizations and parliamentarians, CATW and the EWL succeeds in turning back the tide of pro-sex industry legislation. The Czech Parliament, in 2 separate votes during 2005, rejects the government’s bill to legalize prostitution and rescind its ratification of the 1949 convention.

- *Hungary* - With the NGO, The Way Out With You, produces and distributes video ads and a feature film about the harms and dangers of prostitution addressing the negative consequences in countries that have legalized the sex industry.

- *Kosovo* – With Radio Plus in Pristina, airs 7 radio spots broadcast 5 times daily for one year to clearly represent prostitution as an incitement to trafficking; presents an alternative legal framework that focuses on male demand for prostitution; and distributes all produced materials and radio spots to partner stations in Kosovo.

- *Moldova* – With the Association Women for a Contemporary Society, trains politicians and judges on the provisions of the Palermo Protocol and critiques current trends to

legalize prostitution. Supports the Association in its work of rescuing eastern European victims of trafficking from the jails of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- *Montenegro* – Joins the Women’s Safe House in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and parliamentarians, to prepare a draft law following the Swedish model for penalizing sex buyers.

- *Russia* – With the Angel Coalition, Miramed and Project Keshet, implements The Volga Project to educate the public in 3 Volga cities about prostitution as violence against women and focus on the demand side of sexual exploitation. Distributes leaflets and media material.

- *Brussels* - Organizes a press conference at the European Parliament in Brussels entitled “Who Speaks for Women in Prostitution?” The aim of the press conference is to amplify the voices of survivors of prostitution and de-mythologize the sex industry claim that prostitution is “sex work.”

## 2006

### The CATW-EWL Challenge Project

- *Albania* – supports the Women’s Media Project in organizing a journalists’ conference in Tirana, attended by 50 journalists, on the role of the media in preventing trafficking. CATW presents the leader of Parliament, with a certificate commending her leadership in opposing legalization of prostitution and promoting anti-demand legislation.

- *Croatia* – Holds a Balkans-wide conference in Zagreb on trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations. CATW underscores the ways in which UN and NATO personnel engage in prostitution and build the infrastructure for future sex tourism. Ends with a resolution urging full enforcement of the UN’s zero tolerance policy on prostitution.

- *Estonia* – ENUT in conjunction with CATW and the Nordic Network of Women’s Organizations (NOK) organizes a conference in Tallinn on “The Demand for Prostitution.” CATW’s opening address cautioned that some governments and NGOs are claiming to address demand by valorizing sex buyers in “ethical johns” campaigns.

- *Hungary* – Produces 1400 posters to raise public awareness about prostitution and sex trafficking. The most innovative poster depicts 7 men in male urinals facing a wall of graffiti messages beginning with, “Every Seventh Man Buys Vulnerable Women and Children for Sexual Use – They Generate Prostitution With Their Money.”

- *Lithuania* - Designs and distributes life-size posters of men with pant flies open, with the caption, “It is Shameful to Buy a Woman! Moreover, Sooner or Later Everyone Will Find Out About It!” Posters are hung in all city bus kiosks.

- *Moldova* – Organizes 46 seminars for almost 500 students and faculty in colleges and universities about the hot spots of trafficking in Moldova and publicizes victim referral systems that can be utilized. Opens a public debate about legalization of prostitution that produces a public change in viewpoint from initial acceptance of blaming the victim to making men accountable.

- *Russia* – Targets at-risk youth in 3 Volga cities through an aggressive information campaign—“No to Human Trafficking! No to Violence”-- producing 22 newspaper articles, 4 radio broadcasts, 3 television shows, 4,000 campaign posters, 5,000 stickers and 7,000 brochures highlighting the risks of working overseas and of being trafficked.

- New video filmed by Marie Vermeiren and produced by The Challenge Project called “Not for Sale.” Five survivors of prostitution, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Ministers of the European Parliament, and representatives from CATW and EWL speak about prostitution as violence against women and the male demand for prostitution.

- Publishes *The Links Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: a Briefing Handbook*, written by Grainne Healy and Monica O’Connor. Illustrates the links between prostitution and trafficking and is written as a resource for NGOs and government groups interested in addressing the gaps in current anti-trafficking programs.

- Publishes *Press for Change – A Guide for Journalists Reporting on the Prostitution and Trafficking of Women*. Authored by journalist and CATW affiliate Julie Bindel as a press resource for journalists writing about prostitution and trafficking.

Testifies before the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women. Rejects policies promoting prostitution, including legalization and decriminalization of the sex industry.

CATW and Apne Aap conduct 3 trainings in several cities in India for law enforcement, legislators, businesses, and NGO leaders. Produces a handbook on *Curbing Sex Trafficking: Containing the Demand*. Tours the infamous and immense Sonagachi area in Kolkata teeming with pimps, buyers and hundreds of young girls who line the streets.

South Korea – Speaks at international conference organized by the Center for Women’s Human Rights in Seoul, focusing on human rights and the demand for prostitution. Brings together hundreds of women’s rights leaders, scholars, and politicians to raise awareness about the root causes of trafficking. Press conference follows.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Sigma Huda, publishes her groundbreaking 2006 report, placing the issue of demand at the center of a human rights analysis of trafficking. In Article 42, she also underscores that, “For the most part, prostitution as actually practiced in the world usually does satisfy the elements of trafficking.”

CATW Africa – 11 African countries now constitute CATW Africa. Holds day of reflection on the role and responsibilities of travel agencies, hotels and other businesses

in the fight against trafficking and sexual exploitation. Attended by many governmental ministries in Mali.

CATW-AP – At its regional meeting In Chiang Mai, Thailand, Jean Enriquez becomes the Director of CATW-AP replacing Cecilia Hoffman who retired. Several survivors speak about the need to empower and organize survivors of prostitution and issue a statement saying, “The trauma we have suffered cannot be trivialized by calling prostitution “sex work.”

CATW Europe launches campaign, “Buying Sex Is Not a Sport,” to protest Germany’s promotion of prostitution during the World Cup Games in June/July 2006. An online petition, available in 5 languages, was signed by 150, 000 individuals and organizations from 125 countries and delivered to German embassies at the onset of the games.

FCRS Georgia issues its draft “Report on Conditions of Exploited Migration and Trafficking in Georgia.” It establishes that patterns of migration and trafficking are not random or sporadic but rather a well-organized process facilitated by many players including State authorities and corrupt governmental perpetrators.

IROKO advocates with governmental officials to work on a common agreement outlining main points of action against human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Nigeria. The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP) supports an event with CATW and IROKO to push for changes in the current anti-trafficking law.

CATW-LAC’s program on the prevention of child prostitution and trafficking in the Federal District New is transferred to other Mexican States. Succeeds in getting child prostitution designated as a crime in Mexico City, Quintana Roo and Michoacan. Distributes poster, “Because You Buy, Child Prostitution Exists.”

2007 – Gunilla Ekberg and Norma Ramos are elected Co-Executive Directors of CATW International replacing Janice Raymond and Dorchen Leidholdt who retired from the directorship but remain as board members. Two international secretariats are established in Brussels and New York.

CATW awarded a key grant to continue the Challenge Project in Bulgaria and begin work in Romania. The former Minister of Foreign Affairs organizes a key forum and arranged for CATW representatives to meet the Bulgarian Prime Minister and to present the case against legalization of prostitution.

CATW achieves a major victory when Bulgaria reverses its political course and rejects legalization of the system of prostitution and the sex industry.

In Romania, CATW and Caritas work with a diverse coalition of feminist, human rights and religious organizations. As a result of a media campaign and national conference, CATW and Caritas succeed in urging the Prime Minister to state his opposition to legalization of prostitution.

Both Bulgaria and Romania are part of the current trend in Europe to turn away from legalizing and regulating prostitution. CATW has been a leader in this campaign for many years and is now seeing the international results of its work.

Supports Glasgow's major anti-prostitution campaign, "Stop Demand – End Prostitution Now," in its launching of a legislative amendment to criminalize the buyers. CATW speaks at a Glasgow Inter Agency Working Group conference to advance the Glasgow City Council's policy that views prostitution as violence against women.

After 3 years of advocacy during which CATW took a leadership role, the New York State sex trafficking law passes in 2007. The law contains strong provisions against sex and labor trafficking and sex tourism, and raises the penalties against sex buyers from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class B felony.

Testifies before the US House Judiciary Committee and advocates for strengthening the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) by revising the definition of trafficking to include all victims of trafficking, not only those who can prove force. Legislation passes in House but is rejected by the Senate.

Expands CATW's work to the Middle East by cooperating with Norwegian Church Aid to organize ongoing consultations, primarily with women from Iraq, on all forms of violence against women. First consultation takes place in Kuwait and focuses on finding effective ways to combat violence and sexual exploitation in women's home areas.

The Immigration Council of Ireland (ICI) announces a number of actions to prevent and combat trafficking. CATW speaks at a roundtable of Irish organizations to discuss key elements of a comprehensive anti-trafficking bill including protection measures for victims and provisions to counteract demand for prostitution that promotes trafficking.

CATW Africa met with family members in villages from which women and girls were recruited for domestic labor. The aim of the meetings was to inform parents and relatives about how to assist their daughters if they become victims of violence and sexual abuse while working as domestics.

CATW-AP files Bill in the Senate to combat prostitution. It also wins a major victory in passing an ordinance in Olongapo City to fight prostitution on the local level. CATW-AP continues to hold its summer camp sessions educating young men and boys to a different standard of masculinity and to become partners in the CATW campaign against sexual exploitation.

CATW Australia (CATW-A) – In several states of Australia, prostitution is legalized. CATW Australia liaises with groups who campaign against the expansion of legalization

into these and other states of the country and coordinates information and actions in both Australia and New Zealand.

Supports affiliate in Ghana, the Enslavement Prevention Alliance West Africa (EPAWA). EPAWA obtains a public commitment form the Ghana Tourism Board to pressure the Ghanaian tourism industry to adopt a Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism.

FCRS continues to provide services for socially unprotected women, refugees, single mothers and internally displaced women. FCRS also continues to participate in legislative and political reform efforts, working to ensure that lawmakers hear the voices of victims of trafficking.

IROKO and CATW with the Nigerian National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAFTA) organize the 1<sup>st</sup> international conference on human trafficking and prostitution in Nigeria in Benin City, Edo State. 80 % of trafficked victims to Europe, the Middle East and North America originate from the Edo State.

CATW-LAC succeeds in helping to change the Mexico City criminal code to make all forms of child commercial sexual exploitation, child pornography and child sex tourism felonies with higher penalties and sentences. CATW-LAC also intervenes through local protests to turn back legalization initiatives.

2008 - 2017

2008 – 2009 - CATW board members, Janice Raymond and Dorchen Leidholdt, hold a press conference in Dhaka calling for the immediate release from jail of UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Sigma Huda. CATW condemns the 3-year sentence of the military-controlled court in Dhaka that used trumped up charges of corruption and “evidence” obtained from witnesses under duress. Sigma is released several months later.

CATW serves as an expert witness in Toronto in opposing a constitutional challenge that would decriminalize the sex industry and dismantle Canada’s anti-prostitution laws. The courts would later uphold this pro-prostitution challenge. However in 2014, the Canadian Parliament would pass bill C-36 that revokes the Court’s decision by upholding the laws against pimping and brothels and criminalizing the buyers.

CATW and CATW Europe members continue as part of the 3-year consultation process with Iraqi women and Norwegian Church Aid held in Kuwait, Jordan and Turkey. In 2009, the consultation was joined by women from Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates.

CATW partners in Norway (the Women’s Front) and Iceland (Stigamot) follow Sweden in passing groundbreaking legislation against the male demand for prostitution. The law in Norway states: “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...” The Norwegian legislation addresses sex tourism by including the purchase of a sexual act outside Norway. In 2009, Norway arrested, charged and fined 334 buyers.

In Iceland, CATW partner Stigamot is instrumental in passage of legislation that provides for anyone caught paying for prostitution to 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.

With CATW Spain, CATW keynotes a semi-plenary at the Women’s Worlds ’08 conference attended by thousands in Madrid and speaks on “Making the Links Between Sex Trafficking and Prostitution in Women’s Worlds.” Highlights the failure of many academic and activist feminists to recognize prostitution as violence against women.

The European Commission (EC) Experts Group sets up a new group on all forms of trafficking, including forced labor. CATW advocates for Kajsa Wahlberg, Sweden’s National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, who is subsequently appointed.

CATW is invited to The Hague to meet with senior political advisors to the Dutch Minister of Justice to discuss prostitution prevention measures in connection with the development of a government proposal for a new national strategy on prostitution.

Launches a North American Abolitionist Network to strengthen and expand the work of abolitionist organizations and advocates in North America.

Holds *A Conversation Among Men About Sex Trafficking*, to bring together male leaders to address the *demand* for prostitution that leads to sex trafficking. The panelists speak candidly about pornography’s effect on male sexuality, the lack of political will among men to end commercial sexual exploitation, and their own individual work to eliminate the demand for prostitution.

Co-organizes a campaign in New York State to secure passage of the Safe Harbor for Exploited Youth Act. The Act decriminalizes sexually exploited children and requires local districts to provide crisis intervention services for them. The Safe Harbor Act is the first US law to recognize sexually exploited youth as sex trafficking victims.

Provides financial and political support to help partner organization, Prostitution Research and Education, to defeat Proposition K in San Francisco. “Prop K” sought to direct the San Francisco Police Department and District Attorney to stop enforcing the State of California’s prostitution laws. Non-enforcement of these laws would put out a welcome mat to traffickers and pimps, and put women and girls in San Francisco at greater risk for sexual exploitation.

Meets with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay. Commissioner Pillay expressed her full support and praise for the work of CATW and for an abolitionist position on prostitution and trafficking in human beings.

Contributes to the passage of Rhode Island (RI) legislation that ends the legality of indoor brothels. The RI anti-trafficking law is also strengthened, and young women under 18 can no longer be exploited as strip club dancers. A prostituted woman can now have her conviction record expunged one year after completion of sentence.

Initiates an action against Home Box Office (HBO) in front of HBO's corporate offices in New York to protest the network's "documentary" series, *Cathouse*. Filmed in a Nevada brothel, *Cathouse* normalizes the sexual exploitation of women and girls and contributes to the glamorizing of prostitution and the sex industry.

The Enslavement Prevention Alliance – West Africa (EPA-WA) launches an anti-human trafficking campaign in connection with the African Cup of Nations. *Red Cards Against Trafficking of Women and Children* were distributed at stadiums and other sporting sites.

CATW-AP - For 3 days, close to 100 youth leaders from 14 regions of the country gather in Baguio City to strengthen their resistance to violence against women and the global growth of demand for prostitution.

CATW Australia advises government policymakers in Western Australia not to implement legislation legalizing the prostitution industry. Representatives met twice with members of the Upper House. Due to these interventions the newly created law does not legalize brothels but does allow one or two women together to engage in prostitution.

FCRS continues to assist victims of trafficking by establishing mini-lectures and special educational programs for potential migrants.

CATW-LAC continues to implement a Red Alert System to locate women and girls who have been reported missing and exploited in the sex industry, providing for the rescue of more than 750 women, girls, and boys who are now in safe housing and re-entry programs, or have been reunited with their families. CATW-LAC also organizes a historic meeting bringing together prostitution abolitionists working to end commercial sexual exploitation in 19 Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as in Spain and the United States.

2008 – 2017

2010 - Norma Ramos becomes the director of CATW after Gunilla Ekberg resigns.

CATW launches its *Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet*. Co-sponsored by 85 national and international NGOs, CATW organizes a protest at the corporate

headquarters of Craigslist in San Francisco. Through its “adult service” ads, Craigslist has become one of the largest facilitators of sex trafficking in 257 countries.

CATW and CATW Europe members testify before a French parliamentary committee hearing on the French prostitution law and help spearhead a draft resolution that “Reaffirms the abolitionist position of France, the objective of which is a society without prostitution.”

CATW and Norwegian Church Aid launch a report on *Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Prostitution of Women and Girls in Iraq*. CATW members interview Iraqi and other Middle Eastern women and assist in the writing of this report on the expansion of sex trafficking and prostitution in Iraq and the region.

CATW Africa inaugurates the Embrace Dignity Campaign initiating a public dialogue on prostitution and trafficking to advocate for legislation that protects the rights of women to live in dignity and freedom from harm. The campaign also supports a group for women, called Masiphakameni (Stand Up), who want to exit prostitution and become advocates.

EWAPA launches its project to mobilize youth nationwide in the fight against human trafficking. EWAPA also initiates a national campaign addressing sex tourism in Ghana, partnering with the Ghana Tourist Board and conducts a media educational campaign addressing male demand for prostitution.

CATW-AP holds sessions for survivors of prostitution, focusing on survivors’ needs as articulated by them. CATW-AP leaders also conduct a HURIDOCS training, the documentation system used to record crimes against women, for activists from Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Indonesia, Taiwan and Papua New Guinea.

CATW Australia launches its report, *Not Just Harmless Fun: the Strip Club Industry in Victoria*, and continues its work organizing public events, writing submissions to government, and appearing before parliamentary committees regarding prostitution legislation in Victoria.

CATW Europe co-organizes the Mediterranean Network Against Trafficking in Women. With the Albanian Women’s Media Group, it also launches the campaign, “No to Sex Tourism, Yes to Cultural Tourism,” in several coastal cities and collaborates with local authorities, media, and police to promote tourism that builds on Albania’s natural beauty.

CATW in Spain continues to advance the work to end commercial sexual exploitation as a vocal and reliable presence at key conferences.

CATW’s partner, IROKO, strengthens its educational activities addressing faculty and students in local high schools to discourage the demand for prostitution. It continues its victims’ empowerment program, encouraging victims/survivors of sexual exploitation to be actors in the own process of social integration and inclusion with support from IROKO.

CATW-LAC in Guatemala and El Salvador helped pass laws that criminalize the male demand for prostitution. In collaboration with the Mexican Special Commission Against Trafficking in Persons, CATW-LAC helps draft an abolitionist law that penalizes the male demand for prostitution and the publication of commercial sexual exploitation ads.

CATW International gives financial and political support to CATW-LAC's Haitian members in the aftermath of the tragic earthquake in Haiti.

2011 - CATW's "Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet" advances. After success in removing the "Adult Services" section from Craigslist, ads move to Backpage, which becomes the leading online facilitator of US sex trafficking. With 120 co-sponsors, CATW protests in front of the Village Voice building, the NY office of Backpage.com

All political parties in the French National Assembly reaffirm the abolitionist French position on prostitution by passing a CATW-supported resolution. CATW Europe and CATW International joins French feminist organizations in advancing this resolution.

CATW members from different parts of the globe speak at the feminist conference, *Women's Worlds 11*, attended by 2,000 persons from 93 countries. The conference favors a strong abolitionist agenda due to the Canadian feminist organizers and abolitionist NGOs.

Keynotes a Copenhagen conference to advance legislation against the male demand for prostitution. The conference promotes a Nordic model anti-prostitution law for Denmark against protests from pro-sex work groups who stage a gauntlet of protestors against key speakers entering and exiting the building.

In their anti-demand campaign, CATW-AP reaches a milestone of educating over 1,000 youth. Young men produce advocacy shirts with slogan such as "real men do not buy women in prostitution." CATW-AP camps for young men are being replicated in the Asia Pacific region in India, Indonesia and Thailand.

CATW Australia makes submissions in support of anti-demand legislation to State and Commonwealth consultations. Responding to the Attorney General's billboard advertising inquiry, CATW-AP recommends that current sex industry advertising constitutes sexual harassment and would be actionable if posted in Australian workplaces.

CATW Europe expands its Mediterranean Network with organizations joining from Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine and Syria.

The Albanian anti-sex tourism campaign grows to become a cross border initiative to address the number of international armed forces located in the border country of Kosovo who engage in prostitution. Designs video and radio spots as part of a public awareness campaign to combat international sex tourism in Kosovo.

CATW Spain stages a demonstration against sex tourism in the border town (with France) of Jonquera, which contains Europe's largest-brothel with 80 rooms and up to 200 prostituted women. CATW Spain also continues to participate in numerous radio and TV programs to advance abolitionist policies and programs in Spain.

IROKO partners with the Milan Chamber of Commerce to implement a program that will engage Italian businesses in African countries to provide employment for women. As a prevention measure against trafficking, IROKO provides education scholarships for Nigerian women otherwise vulnerable to sexual exploitation in Nigeria.

CATW-LAC fights the drug cartels, which are taking over trafficking in Mexico and the LAC region, through its Red Alert System that locates and rescues missing women and children. A major success was the decision of Mexico's well-known newspaper, *El Universal*, to remove its advertisements promoting commercial sexual exploitation.

2012 – 2013 - CATW organizes the first panel of multiple survivors of prostitution who present at the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Calls on NY state senate legislators to support the Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (TVPJA), which would be the strongest state anti-trafficking law in the nation.

Continues its “Global Campaign for a Sex Trafficking Free Internet. Testifies before the NY City Council Committee on Women’s Issues calling for passage of a proposed resolution mandating Village Voice Media to stop accepting ads that facilitate prostitution and sex trafficking on its online site, Backpage.com. In partnership with other NGOs, CATW stages a protest at the Backpage.com NY city office.

US Senate passes Resolution 439 calling for Village Voice Media Holding to “eliminate the adult entertainment” section of Backpage.com. Backpage continues to facilitate sex trafficking online.

Advocates with the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality and Defense of Ireland urging Ireland to adopt a law to criminalize the purchase of sexual activities. The Committee recommends the criminalization of demand to the legislators. The bill finally passes in 2017.

The French National Assembly, building on the 2010 hearings in which CATW testified and followed by the French governmental abolitionist resolution of 2011, approves a bill that would criminalize sex buyers, while exempting the women in prostitution from criminal liability. The bill goes to the Senate to be finally passed in 2016.

CATW-AP – Typhoon Yolanda, one of the most destructive cyclones ever recorded, devastates parts of the Philippines. CATW-AP is among the first responders providing

help to victims in the most damaged areas such as the Visayas, while working to prevent trafficking of women and children made more vulnerable by the typhoon. CATW-AP brings relief goods to the area and through the use of social media, is able to locate missing persons and reunite them with relatives. CATW also carries out an air food drop mission in the Caluya region that lacks access to food and fresh water.

CATW partner, Embrace Dignity in South Africa, launches a pilot program to provide psychosocial support and peer mentoring for survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution through a program called “Sister Circles.” The program will be used as an exit model for survivors.

CATW partner, Apne Aap in India, helps amend the “Immoral Trafficking Act” in India. The Act outlaws brothels and punishes anyone who profits, coerces, pays for, controls, or compels another.

IROKO continues to help hundreds of women trafficked into Italy every year. Over 140 Nigerian women successfully complete IROKO’s support and reintegration program.

CATW-LAC’s Red Alert system locates 84 persons, 65 of whom are rescued from traffickers. CATW-LAC expands and strengthens its national networks in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, Haiti, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Colombia. Mexico passes its anti-trafficking law applicable in all federal states of Mexico.

2014 - CATW-LAC leads the “Di No Al Turismo Sexual” (Say No to Sex Tourism) campaign in Brazil during the 2014 World Cup.

2015 - New York State’s Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act (TVPJA), for which CATW advocated as a member of the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition, is signed into law. It strengthens protection measures for victims and ensured accountability for sex buyers and traffickers.

The Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act becomes law. CATW was an active advocate for this piece of legislation, which is the first comprehensive federal bill to address domestic human trafficking in the U.S.

2016 - CATW co-founds and launches World Without Exploitation (WorldWE), an umbrella organization that seeks to end human trafficking in the U.S. through advocacy at the national level.

The French Act Against Prostitution Passes thanks to the advocacy of organizations in France. The groundbreaking law establishes a comprehensive framework that decriminalizes prostituted people, penalizes third-party exploiters and buyers of sex, and provides resources for those seeking to exit the sex trade. CATW Europe initiated proceedings that led to the passage of this law.

2017 - Organizations in the Republic of Ireland, including CATW partners, successfully advocate for the passage of the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences) Act 2015, which penalizes sex buyers and decriminalizes people in prostitution. With its spread into four new countries outside of the Nordic bloc, the Nordic Model now becomes known as the Equality Model.

2018 - The Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act of 2017 (known as FOSTA-SESTA) is signed into law after a long legislative battle. The law holds accountable websites that have knowingly facilitated the promotion of prostitution of another person (pimping at the federal level) and gives victims the ability to sue entities that helped advertise and sell them online. Read [The Truth About FOSTA-SESTA](#) for more.

2019 - We observe the end of our 30th year with a global conference centering women and girls in ending human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The goal: to build out the architecture of our newly launched flagship program the 5.2 Global Partnership