



# Impact Report

## 2021-2022

Coalition

AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

# From the Executive Director

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Human trafficking remains the fastest growing and second largest criminal enterprise in the world, a scourge that disproportionately affects women and girls. Yet, in its 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime found that the detections of trafficking cases and the number of convictions of traffickers have significantly fallen since the Covid-19 pandemic. The sexual exploitation of women and girls, including those initially trafficked for forced labor, is both rampant and remains under the radar of accountability.

Coupled with these past years' global crises related to war, conflict, climate-induced poverty, and natural disasters, all acutely increasing the vulnerabilities of women and girls in particular, we ask ourselves what *impact* means in our daily work. With that in mind, we present our 2021-2022 Impact Report to you, offering a snapshot of our efforts and accomplishments in moving the needle toward justice and equality for women and girls, including those purchased in the global sex trade.

Impact to CATW means advocating for strong laws, both locally and nationally, to prevent sex trafficking and to call for trauma-informed services to help victims and survivors rebuild their lives, one brick at a time. Impact means changing hearts and minds by educating the public that prostitution is a harmful cultural practice that destroys lives and communities. Impact means walking alongside survivor leaders who tirelessly fight for systemic change and for an end to the impunity we offer sex buyers as they enrich traffickers and sustain the sex trade.

We are grateful to our supporters and allies, from frontline partners to high-level officials around the world, who collaborate with us and sustain CATW, year in and year out, in creating a world where no woman or girl will ever be bought and sold again.

In solidarity and hope,



Taina Bien-Aimé  
Executive Director





A photograph of two women embracing outdoors. The woman on the right is visible, with her eyes closed and a tearful expression, suggesting a moment of emotional connection or relief. She has long dark hair and is wearing a light-colored t-shirt. The woman on the left is seen from the back, with her arms wrapped around the first woman. The background is a sunlit outdoor area with several tall palm trees and a blue canopy tent in the distance. The lighting is warm, indicating it might be late afternoon or early morning.

**Our mission:**  
To create a world  
where no woman or  
girl is bought or sold.



# Who we are

## *THE HISTORY OF CATW*

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) is one of the oldest international organizations working to end the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls. Through an approach rooted in women's rights and human rights principles, we advocate for strong laws and policies, raise public awareness and support survivor leadership.



# What we do

01

## Advocating for Strong Laws and Policies at Local, National and International Levels

- to prevent women and girls from becoming victims of human trafficking.
- to ensure governments provide services and exit strategies for victims of sexual exploitation.
- to hold accountable those who harm and exploit in the sex trade.



02

## Raising Public Awareness

- to engage in high-level campaigns to educate policymakers, legislators, and the United Nations to ensure that laws protect the rights, safety, and lives of women and girls.
- to partner with survivor leaders to increase the public's understanding of human trafficking and sexual exploitation.



03

## Supporting Survivor Leadership Globally

- to support the leadership of survivors of the sex trade in every aspect of campaigns, outreach, and participation as policy experts on panel discussions, official visits with legislators and policymakers, including at the United Nations, and with media.





# Equality Model Legislation

We emphatically believe that every woman and girl has a fundamental right to live a life free from discrimination, sexual exploitation, and violence. We call on governments to enact legislation that protects and enshrines the principles of equality and women's rights.

*The Equality Model* is a legal framework that recognizes the system of prostitution as a form of gender-based violence and discrimination. A tool to prevent sex trafficking, the Equality Model (also known as the Swedish, Nordic, or Abolitionist Model) was first enacted in Sweden in 1999, and does the following:

- Decriminalizes only individuals who are bought and sold for sexual acts
- Holds sex buyers, pimps, brothel owners, and other exploiters accountable for the harms they cause and the crimes they perpetrate
- Provides prostituted persons, who are overwhelmingly women, with comprehensive services, and offers exit strategies
- Commits to educating the public about the harms of prostitution and how the sex trade is a barrier to equality

To date, seven countries have followed Sweden in enacting the Equality Model: Iceland (2008), Norway (2009), Canada (2014), Northern Ireland (2014), France (2016), Republic of Ireland (2017) and Israel (2018).



# Why Our Work Matters

The Covid-19 pandemic, war, conflict, and climate change all negatively impact the global efforts in detecting and combating trafficking in persons. Consistently, we are seeing fewer convictions of traffickers and less identification of victims. The data collection and analysis conducted by each of the United Nations and national governments strengthens our understanding of the urgency of our collective efforts to end human trafficking.

## UNODC's 2022 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

For the first time since UNODC has been collecting data, the number of detected trafficking victims globally fell by **11%** in 2020 from the previous year.

## U.S. State Department's 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report

The UN Environment Programme indicates that human trafficking has the potential to increase by **20-30%** during humanitarian disasters.

Globally, the number of convictions for trafficking offenses also fell by **27%**.

Women and girls account for **60%** of the total number of detected victims in 2020.

New Zealand has **not identified** any victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, **prosecuted** or **convicted** any traffickers, since it decriminalized its sex trade.

Since 2015, the number of global prosecutions of traffickers have **decreased by nearly half** from 19,127 to 10,572.



# New Yorkers for the Equality Model Takes Off

Launched in 2019 by CATW, Covenant House, Sanctuary for Families, World Without Exploitation and other New York-based partners, the New Yorkers for the Equality Model (NYFEM), a survivor-led alliance of advocates, frontline service providers, sex trade and sex trafficking survivors, continues to grow in its outreach and impact in educating legislators, policymakers, and the public about the importance of enacting the Equality Model in New York State.

## January 2021

The Sex Trade Survivors Justice and Equality Act (a bill based on the Equality Model framework) is introduced in the New York State legislature by Senator Liz Krueger and Assembly Member Pamela Hunter.

## February 2022

NYFEM published “Is Decriminalizing the Sex Trade the Answer? Debunking the ACLU’s Report” in response to the ACLU’s endorsement of decriminalizing the sex trade.

## May 2022

NYFEM members traveled to Albany to meet with New York State legislators and hold a press conference to increase awareness and support for the Sex Trade Survivors Justice and Equality Act (STSJEA).

## October 2022

NYFEM hosted two roundtable events to spotlight New York’s Equality Model bill with the sponsors of the STSJEA, OSCE's Special Representative and Coordinator for Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings Valiant Richey, and philanthropist Chelsea Clinton.





# Adapting to the Challenges of Covid-19

## Continuing our *At the Edge of the Margins* series

At the height of the Covid-19 pandemic in April 2020, we launched a virtual roundtable series to stay connected with our supporters and to examine the impact of the global health crisis on women and girls in the sex trade. Topics included:

- *New York legalizes commercial surrogacy — Now what?*
- *COVID-19’s impact on migrant and sex trafficked women and girls*
- *Is academia pushing the sex trade’s agenda?*

## CATW 2021 Virtual Gala

In October 2021, we hosted a virtual gala: "From the Margins to the Center: Celebrating Resilience and Courage," emceed by survivor leaders and featuring performances from Grammy-nominated and award-winning artists BETTY, Sarah Jarosz, Valerie June, Allison Russell,



BETTY



Sarah Jarosz



Valerie June



Allison Russell



Elsa Lopez Ebrole



Alika Kinan



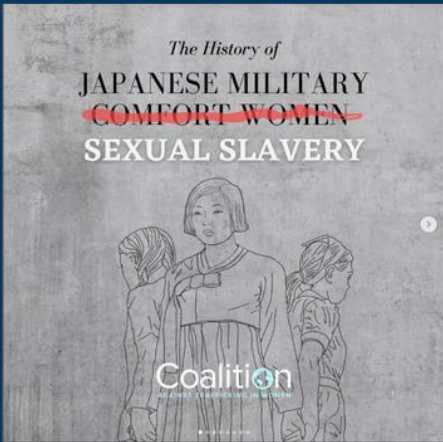
Mickey Meji



Melanie Thompson

## Growing our social media channels

We created social campaigns designed to engage and educate young women’s rights advocates including *Sex Tourism in Asia*, *The History of ‘Comfort Women,’* *The Trafficking of Nigerian Women and Girls*, *#WatchYourWords*, and *A Guide for Young Abolitionists*.





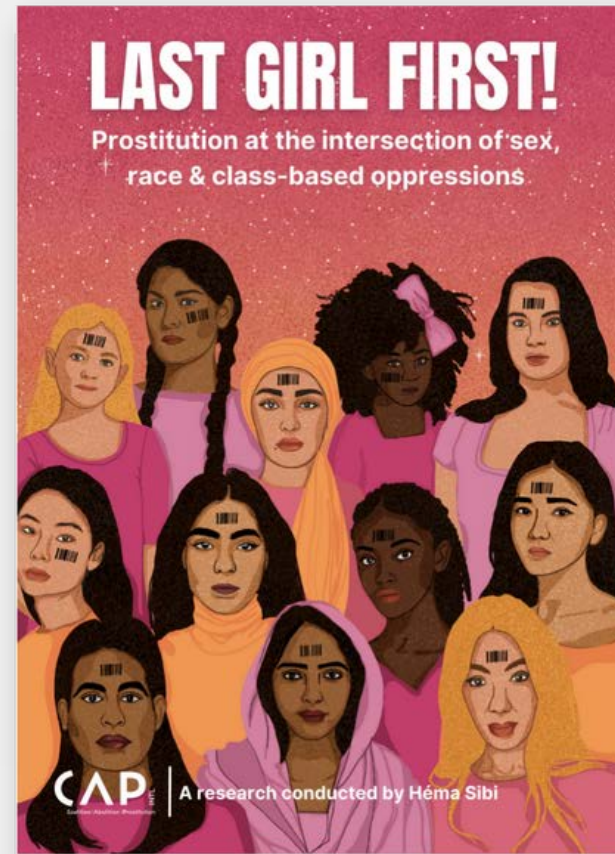
# Collaborating with our International Partners and Survivor Leaders

LICENTIA 8.50

15 JANUARY 2023



***We, the undersigned, are survivors of sex trafficking, prostitution, and pornography; we are women's and human rights advocates, and frontline service providers, from around the world. We are expressing our collective horror that the Government of Victoria is proposing a law that would decriminalize the sex trade as a solution to the reported disastrous failures of your legalized system of prostitution.***



***Survivors of the prostitution system demand that Latin American and Caribbean states eradicate prostitution, because it is a violation of all human rights. If states fight against trafficking, they must eradicate prostitution, which is the destination of sex trafficking. Where prostitution and trafficking exist, there is no equality, let alone freedom.***

**-Survivors of prostitution and trafficking in Latin America and the Caribbean**

## AUGUST 2021

We circulated a global petition to Premier Daniel Andrews, condemning proposed legislation to decriminalize the sex trade in Victoria, Australia.

## MARCH 2022

With the Consulate Generals of Sweden and France in New York, we cohost the launched event for our partner CAP International's report *Last Girl First!: Prostitution at the Intersection of Sex, Race & Class-based Oppressions* at the Roosevelt House at Hunter College.

## NOVEMBER 2022

CATW Latin America and Caribbean's Regional Network of Survivors and other abolitionist organizations from Latin America participated in the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Feminist Civil Society Forum held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



# Collaborating with our International Partners and Survivor Leaders

15 JANUARY 2023



The CATW team participated in a two-day convening in Washington D.C. hosted by World Without Exploitation and Rights4Girls, with survivor leaders and allies from 27 states sharing their work through inspiring discussions, panels, and workshops.

**DECEMBER 2022**

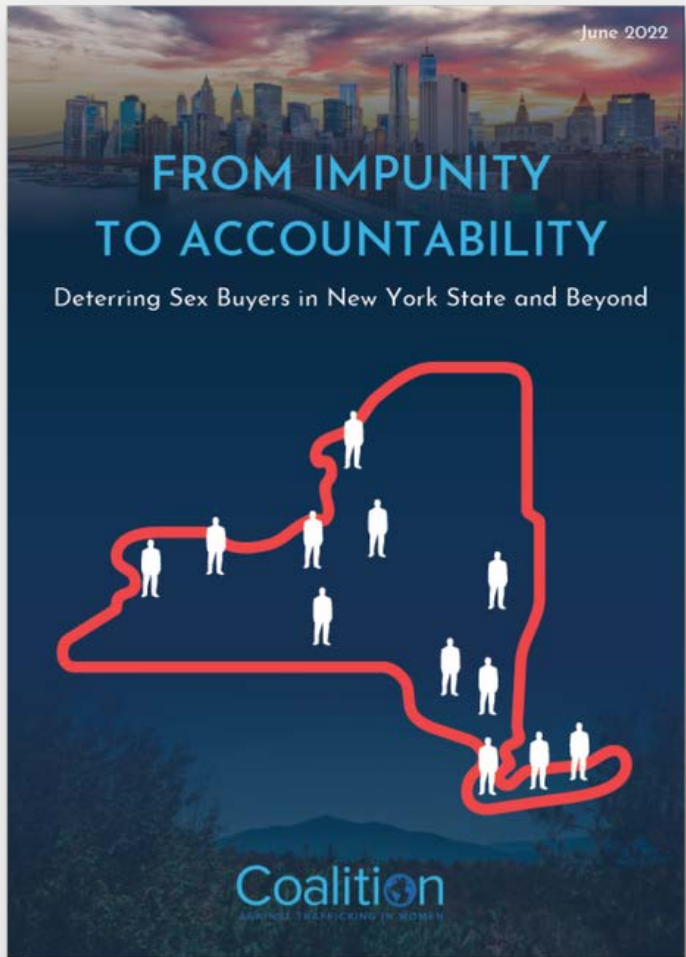
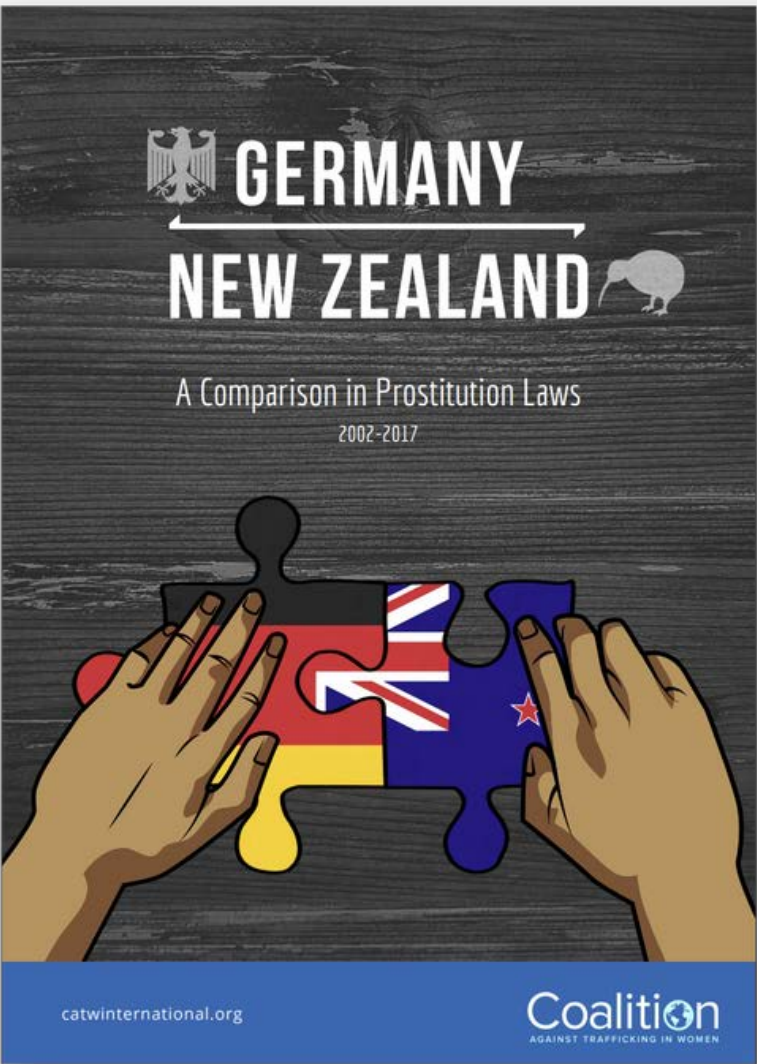
CATW's Outreach and Advocacy Coordinator and survivor leader Melanie Thompson, along with Joyclyn Bell and Castanita Fitzpatrick, shared their new film *Can Oppression Be Liberation?*, a moving journey of three generations of survivors discussing the devastating impact of the system of prostitution on Black women in the U.S.



# Our Publications

## GERMANY AND NEW ZEALAND REPORT

We released *Germany and New Zealand: A Comparison in Prostitution Laws*, concluding that the distinctions between legalization (Germany) and decriminalization (New Zealand) are too minimal to differentiate from one other. Both legal frameworks expand the sex trade, empower men to purchase sexual acts, legitimize pimps and brothel owners, and increase sex trafficking.



## FROM IMPUNITY TO ACCOUNTABILITY

We launched *From Impunity to Accountability: Deterring Sex Buyers in New York State and Beyond*, a report exploring the engine of the sex trade: the sex buyers. The launch included an exclusive briefing for CATW donors and stakeholders, a social media campaign, a press release, and the production of a short film.

## FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Taina Bien-Aimé penned several opinion pieces: *What the Sex Trade Means for Black Women: A Legacy to Confront*; *Women as Weapons of War: A Spectrum of Sexual Violence in Ukraine and Beyond*; and *Students Challenge Academia: “The Sex Trade is Anything but ‘Work’.”*



**We hope to bring empathy to the forefront of the conversation on how to prevent and end commercial sexual exploitation. It is time for policy makers and the public to show empathy – not for sex buyers who appear to have none – but for the vulnerable women and other marginalized populations in prostitution and sex trade survivors, who deserve our attention and comprehensive services to help them heal and rebuild their lives.**

*-From Impunity to Accountability: Deterring Sex Buyers in New York State and Beyond*



# CATW at the United Nations

In March of 2021, we joined Member States, UN entities, and NGOs at the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, meeting on the priority theme of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programs.

Our Executive Director participated in a panel, *Addressing Vulnerabilities of Women and Girls to Trafficking in Persons*, which included members of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODHIR) International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council. The panelists identified gender discrimination, gender-based violence and inequality as the root causes of women's and girls' vulnerability to trafficking and discussed the measures to mitigate these human rights abuses at global and regional levels.

Additionally, CATW's Executive Director moderated a forum of gender violence experts in a CSW66 parallel event hosted by Sanctuary for Families, *Mitigating the Risks of Disaster for Gender Violence Survivors*. Representatives from KasiK Haiti, CATW Asia-Pacific, Sanctuary for Families, and Covenant House discussed the devastating impact of natural disasters, conflicts, and pandemics on already marginalized women and girls. The conversation focused on strategies needed to address these risks and provide survivors with resources for their safety, healing, and empowerment.





# CATW-LAC and CATW-AP

In addition to working for law and policy changes in their cities, states, and regions, CATW Asia-Pacific and CATW Latin American and Caribbean staff provide direct services to victims and survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation, and educate the public, including men and boys, about human trafficking, gender-based violence, and its root causes.



## JULY 2022

CATW-LAC participated in the 7th Latin American and Caribbean Congress in Trafficking in Persons and Migrant Smuggling. “Capitalism and Patriarchy. Institutional and Community Actions for its Eradication” took place in Mexico City. In the course of three days, over 1,000 people participated both in person and virtually in a series of workshops, panels, and conferences discussing legislative and public policies that deter the male demand for prostitution and that prevent sex trafficking.



## SEPTEMBER 2022

Along with Australian Aid and the United Nations Population Fund, CATW-AP offered trainings on gender-based violence to women in provinces from Mabalacat to Talisay. In addition to the in-person watch group trainings, CATW-AP launched #HerVoice, a web chat portal to reach more survivors at the community level. #HerVoice connects victim-survivors to local service providers.



# Thank you to all our supporters

## With special thanks to:

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# Coalition

AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

*STAND UP FOR THE  
RIGHTS OF ALL  
WOMEN AND GIRLS.  
EVERYWHERE.*

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