

# COALITION REPORT

— 2006 —

THE COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN



## CATW IN ACTION POLICY AND PRACTICE – CAMPAIGNS

### “BUYING SEX IS NOT A SPORT”

### CATW LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AGAINST PROMOTION OF PROSTITUTION DURING THE WORLD CUP GAMES IN GERMANY

In January, 2006, CATW launched an extraordinarily successful international campaign called “Buying Sex is Not a Sport” to protest Germany’s promotion and public display of prostitution during the World Cup Games in June/ July, 2006. Malka Marcovich, CATW’s European Director, coordinated the campaign. An online petition, available in 5 languages, was signed by more than 150,000 individuals and organizations from 125 countries and delivered to German Embassies in all the major world regions at the onset of the Games.

The CATW petition called upon the 32 countries participating in the World Cup Games to oppose Germany’s promotion of prostitution and publicly dissociate their teams from the prostitution industry. It urged the FIFA Committee and its President to oppose the link between football and the sex trade and called upon the German government and its chancellor, Angela Merkel, to stop this traffic in women for prostitution and discourage the male demand that fosters prostitution.

Reports estimated that 3 million football fans – mostly men – would attend events in the 12 cities hosting the World Cup Games, and that 40,000 women would be “imported” into Germany from Central and Eastern Europe to “sexually service” the men. Germany legalized pimping and the sex industry in 2002, but the industry predicted that the legal red light districts would be too small for the thousands of sport/sex tourists in attendance. Thus, the German sex industry erected a massive prostitution complex for the “booming business” expected during the games with a 3,000 meter mega brothel built next to the main World Cup venue in Berlin to accommodate 650 male clients. Wooden “sex huts” called “performance boxes” were also fabricated in fenced-in areas the size of a football field, with condoms, showers and parking for the buyers and a special focus on protecting their “anonymity.”

Some groups – among them the German “Red Card” campaign —protested only the “forced” or “illegal” prostitution and trafficking in women expected as a result of the Games. CATW’s campaign focused on the German contradiction in claiming to fight against trafficking while at the same time ignoring and/or endorsing the legalized prostitution economy that encourages the physical and psychological exploitation of women and the marketing of women’s bodies as commodities to be bought and sold.

The CATW campaign also addressed the violation of international standards of gender equality, the fundamental right of women to be free from sexual exploitation and the undermining of the democratic process – all facilitated by the erection of express brothels to facilitate prostitution in the heart of Europe. By promoting prostitution at the World Cup Games, Germany

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signalled that women are not viewed as equal citizens but rather as sexual servants of men in the construction of a new Europe.

The campaign received wide media coverage in Europe and in other countries. Although the German government and an International Organization of Migration report (IOM) was fixated on the numbers game, minimizing the number of trafficked women brought into Germany, and also alleging that Germany's legalized prostitution system in no way promotes prostitution and trafficking, CATW refuted these claims in a post-World Cup statement. In fact, criminal networks of traffickers have targeted Germany as their destination of choice because of its legalized system, which has opened the doors wide to traffickers. This statement has been posted on the CATW website at [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org).



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*Malka Marcovich, CATW's campaign director, speaks to the media in front of the German Embassy in Paris, protesting the promotion of prostitution at the World Cup Games.*

## CANADA - CATW TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

On November 21, 2006, CATW was invited to testify before the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on the Status of Women regarding its Study on Human Trafficking. Barbara Kryszko testified on behalf of CATW and emphasized the importance of combating trafficking by addressing the role of demand in causing women and children to be trafficked, using and implementing the full definition of trafficking found in the Palermo Protocol, and rejecting any government policies promoting prostitution, including legalization or decriminalization of the sex industry.

## CATW AND APNE AAP PARTNER IN INDIA TO COUNTER DEMAND FOR PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING

During 2005-06, CATW and Apne Aap have partnered to address the demand for sexual exploitation that encourages trafficking. The project developed 3 trainings for law enforcement, legislators, judiciary, business persons, and NGO leaders in different cities of India. Melissa Farley and Jean Enriquez helped conduct the 1st training in Mumbai, Barbara Kryszko and Jean Enriquez represented CATW at the 2<sup>nd</sup> training in Mumbai, and Janice Raymond spoke at the 3<sup>rd</sup> training/conference in Kolkata.

Apne Aap has organized impressive support centers for victims of prostitution and their children. Janice Raymond visited the centers in Kidderpore and Munshigan/Watgunge in Kolkata where she met many of the women and the children. She also went through the infamous Sonagachi red light area, the largest prostitution area in Kolkata spanning 1 km x km, which has been touted as a showcase of "sex work." Nowhere was reform in evidence, as the area was teeming with pimps, buyers, and hundreds of young girls who lined the streets looking for "clients."

Yet the Durbar Mahila Samanwaya Committee (DMSC), the pro-prostitution organization that acts like a controlling pimp in Sonagachi with the help of massive funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, claims to serve the interests of millions of "workers and customers of our sex sector, and that of the sexual health of our people." The DMSC uses the HIV/AIDS issue to promote legalization of prostitution. In a pamphlet entitled "Why the Sex Workers of India Marched to Parliament Demanding Repeal of the IT(P)A, the DMSC repeatedly emphasizes that any attempt to criminalize clients "would be detrimental for sex workers" and that "sex work is as much of an art as dance is."

Instead, it is the Apne Aap centers that are providing prostituted women with real support to give them a different future and to enable their children to stay out of prostitution. The cooperative Apne Aap-CATW project was organized to help educate various authorities, especially the police and the judiciary, in addressing trafficking by focusing on the demand for sexual exploitation and appropriate protection and assistance for victims. The goal has also been to develop tools – such as

good practices against the demand — that can be used by all groups involved in the trainings; and to help sensitize the police to the realities that women experience when they are exploited.

The project discussed ways that current Indian laws and practices, such as illegal confinement of victims – are detrimental to victims; also, the law governing trafficking and prostitution in India — the so-called “Immoral Traffic Act or ITPA” — does not address demand. The ITPA is currently being considered for amendment by the Indian Parliament, the Lok Sabha, and various groups have proposed both good and bad amendments to it. For example, advocates of normalizing prostitution as “sex work” in India, such as the DMSC, have lobbied strongly against laws that would penalize the buyers. Apne Aap project coordinators also discussed ways that rape laws could be used to assist victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation and how the enforcement of current legal instruments, such as the anti-solicitation laws, used mostly against the women, can be used to penalize the buyers.

The Apne Aap-CATW partnership has produced a Handbook entitled *Curbing Sex Trafficking: Containing the Demand*. This Handbook, intended to serve as a resource for projects training various sectors of society on trafficking and sexual exploitation, is a manual that will be particularly useful in the context of India, but also relevant to international organizations. It will be launched at a 4<sup>th</sup> training/conference, attended by survivors of prostitution who will speak in Mumbai, in January, 2007.



## KEY EVENTS, PROJECTS AND CONFERENCES

Since January, 2005, the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) in partnership with the European Women’s Lobby (EWL) has jointly coordinated an anti-trafficking project entitled *Promoting Preventative Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation*. This has been a unique project, funded by the governments of Sweden and the United States, the purpose of which has been to address gaps in current anti-trafficking programs and policies by focusing on gender equality, the demand, and the links between prostitution and trafficking.

In 2006, the joint project continued in 13 countries in the Baltics, Balkans and eastern Europe: Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, Moldova, Russia and Serbia. CATW coordinated country projects in Albania, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova and Russia.

### JOURNALISTS’ CONFERENCE IN ALBANIA

CATW’s partner in Albania, the Women’s Media Group, organized a conference on “The Role of the Media in the Prevention of the Traffic in Human Beings and the Promotion of Cultural Tourism.” Albania is making strong efforts to shed its negative image of corruption, money laundering and violent trafficking in women and children and to promote cultural tourism before sexual tourism takes hold in this country.

The Albanian Women’s Media Group has played a large role in combating not only trafficking but the legalization of prostitution as the alleged solution to trafficking in Albania. The Women’s Media Group, in its various writings, has publicized that legalization and decriminalization of the sex industry is a misguided solution to the problem of Albanian sex trafficking; and has advocated this position with Members of Parliament.

During the first day of the conference, the Women’s Media Group brought together over 50 journalists mainly from the Balkan States, to discuss problems of trafficking and sexual exploitation and the role that the media can play in influencing public opinion. Speakers included international CATW experts, Janice Raymond and Malka Marcovich, well-known journalist, Julie Bindel, from the *Guardian* newspaper in the UK, and Albanians Marjeta Zace, Assistant Minister of Labor, Iva Zajmi, Assistant Minister of the Interior, Rajna Kovaci, Director of the Committee for Equal Opportunities, and Bujar Leskaj, Minister of Culture and Tourism. Malka Marcovich presented a certificate of commendation to Mr. Leskaj who has initiated policies to oppose the rise of sexual tourism and to promote cultural tourism in Albania.

Participants met with Jozefina Topalli, the Leader of the Parliament, who has been very receptive to the initiatives of the Women’s Media Group and CATW. Janice Raymond presented Ms. Topalli with a certificate of commendation congratulating her on her leadership in opposing legalization of prostitution and on her efforts to promote Albanian legislation against the demand for prostitution.

The second day of the conference took the participants to Vlora, a city that has experienced high rates of trafficking to Italy, since its strategic location allows for a short boat ride from the Albanian to the Italian coast. The Albanian government has outlawed the speed boats that formerly brought thousands of trafficked women to Italy from Vlora. And due to the efforts of the Women’s Media Group, the local authorities in many coastal cities of Albania, who are experiencing a building

boom in casinos and hotels, have taken firm measures that say “No to Sexual Tourism: Yes to Cultural Tourism.” Minister of Tourism, Bujar Leskaj, gave conference participants a reception in Vlora, and the mayor of the city hosted a dinner for all participants at a seaside restaurant, where we were accompanied by traditional Albanian music and musicians.

CATW experts and Julie Bindel from the *Guardian* also spoke to over 100 students at the University of Tirana about the role of the media in the campaign against sexual exploitation and trafficking. All addressed the media romanticization of prostitution, and its promotion of the legalization of prostitution that often gets expressed in articles and other presentations. Also, CATW experts and Julie Bindel did several media interviews and appeared on television shows aired in Albania and in the Balkans. The conference received wide print media attention.

## **BALKANS CONFERENCE ON TRAFFICKING IN CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS**

An international conference, “Preventing Trafficking in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations: Who is Responsible?” took place in Zagreb, Croatia, from June 2-4, 2006. Sponsored by the Joint CATW-EWL project, in conjunction with the Centre for Women War Victims – ROSA, the Women’s Room – Centre for Sexual Rights, and the Centre for Women’s Studies in Zagreb, the conference drew 52 participants from 15 countries (Albania, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Turkey and the USA).

The conference was officially opened by Rada Boric from the Centre for Women’s Studies and Luka Madjeric, the Croatian National Coordinator for the Committee Against Trafficking in Human Beings. Ms. Boric underscored that many participants came from regions devastated by totalitarian regimes, war (s) or post-war economic transition in which women’s bodies became objects to be sold on the market. Janice Raymond and Kirsti Kolthoff spoke at the opening of the conference as representatives of CATW and EWL, respectively. Also, at the opening session, Jana Kohut shared her story about being a victim of trafficking and the importance of making young people aware of the crime of sexual exploitation.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the conference was devoted to 4 themes: the relationship between trafficking, prostitution, the sex industry and organized crime; the ways in which UN, NATO and other troops, police and foreign presence promote prostitution, trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation and build the infrastructure for future sex tourism in the Balkans; post-conflict consequences for women – political and economic destabilization and insecurity as it affects women in the Balkans; and the role of female politicians in helping to resolve post-conflict trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The conference ended with a discussion of resolutions to be sent to governments, international agencies, NGOs and members of civil society throughout the region. One of the key resolutions addressed the implementation of the UN zero-tolerance policy on prostitution and sexual exploitation for its peacekeeping, police and humanitarian staff. The conference resolution underscored that “Governments that contribute to peacekeeping operations should publicize the UN policy of zero tolerance for the use of prostituted women by UN peacekeepers and personnel, train their peacekeeping forces, implement the policy, and take responsibility for punishing abusers.” The final text of the resolutions is available on CATW’s website at [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

## **ESTONIA - CONFERENCE ON THE DEMAND FOR PROSTITUTION**

In conjunction with the Nordic Network of Women’s Organizations (NOKS), the Estonian Women’s Resource Center (ENUT), CATW’s partner organization in Estonia, held a one-day conference on April 28, 2006, on “The Demand for Prostitution.” The conference was sponsored by the CATW project in the Baltics, as well as the Finnish and Swedish embassies. The Finnish Ambassador and a representative from the Swedish Embassy gave the introductory remarks at the conference.

Ilvi-Joe Cannon, Director of ENUT, introduced the theme of the conference and the speakers. Janice Raymond, CATW’s Co-Executive Director, gave the opening talk on the subject of “Why Address the Demand for Prostitution?” Equally important, Raymond emphasized, is *how* to address demand. She cautioned that some governments and NGOs, in the wake of denying that demand is an important issue in the fight against trafficking, have now changed course claiming to address demand in ways that valorize prostitute-users. In the Netherlands, for example, “ethical johns” campaigns are being organized in cooperation with associations of prostitution buyers who consult and collaborate with the government to further their interests. In Germany, several federal ministries have launched a campaign entitled “Men Show the Way,” which emphasizes “cooperating with buyers” and “non-discriminatory approaches to clients in prostitution” that give men “a sense of being ‘allowed’ to be a client.”

Other speakers at the Demand Conference were Leena Ruusuvoori, Secretary General for the National Council of Women in Finland and Jussi Aaltonen, a representative from the Council of Equality, which is part of the Finnish Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. Lise Tamm, Senior Public Prosecutor in Stockholm, Sweden, and Gunilla Ekberg, Special Advisor on

Trafficking in the Ministry of Industry, Employment and Communications in Sweden, addressed the Swedish Model of penalizing buyers and responded to several misrepresentations of the law. At the final session, Estonian speakers, Kristiina Aavik, an advisor at the Ministry of Justice, Ago Leis, Chief Inspector at the Central Criminal Police and Kristiina Luht, Chief Specialist on Trafficking and Prostitution at the Ministry of Social Affairs, all addressed the topic of “Is Estonia Ready to Prohibit the Buying of Sex?”

## HUNGARY – “THE WAY OUT WITH YOU” CAMPAIGN

The Way Out With You Association, CATW’s partner in Budapest, has established a drop-in center for women in prostitution that provides an alternative to one that promotes legalization of prostitution. The drop-in center offers a hotline, sanitary facilities, food, support groups for women in prostitution, counseling, employment advice and assistance, a program for endangered youth on the street, schoolwork assistance to children of women in prostitution, a handicraft workshop, and multiple media and educational outreach programs on the activities of the drop-in center and the links between prostitution and trafficking.

The media and educational programs have been enormously important, because they feature the experiences of women in prostitution and combine program and policy discussion to challenge legalization and regulation of prostitution initiatives being proposed in Hungary. Also, twice a week, drop-in center representatives go out on the roads in district 8, where the prostituted women walk, to inform them about the center and to give them an informational leaflet about how and where to seek help, healthcare and free services.

Another part of the Hungarian project has been the production and distribution of 1,400 copies of several posters to raise public awareness about prostitution and trafficking. The most creative and hard-hitting poster, placed in men’s toilets and other public spaces in Budapest, addresses the male demand for prostitution. The poster spotlights a wall of graffiti with 12 messages, beginning with “Every Seventh Man Buys Vulnerable Women and Children for Sexual Use – They Generate Prostitution with Their Money.” In front of the wall of graffiti in the poster is a photograph of 7 men urinating. The Hungarian project has also printed postcards of the posters.

Finally, The Way Out With You Campaign created an hour-long DVD on prostitution that has several messages: the story of Sylviane, a survivor of prostitution; the showcasing of the street posters, with interviews about people’s reactions to the posters; a roundtable conversation about prostitution with 5 women in a car service location; and interviews with 4 publicly-known Hungarian men – a writer, a movie director, a civil rights activist and a philosopher – who talk about the necessity to sanction the men who buy women for the sex of prostitution, in order to curb prostitution and prevent violation of and violence to women. A version of the DVD is to be shown on public television in Hungary in February, 2006.



## KOSOVO CAMPAIGN – RADIO PLUS

Radio Plus in Pristina has created a public awareness campaign about prostitution and trafficking in Kosovo, using several media: radio programming; a web-based campaign that published the radio messages; an outdoor campaign in which brochures were produced and distributed; and several public forums in which human rights experts, international police officers, NGOs and students were invited to discuss the links between prostitution and trafficking.

The radio campaign featured a series of programs using 5 radio spots of 30-40 seconds each, and broadcast 4 times daily for a period of 4 consecutive months, to raise awareness and understanding of human trafficking in Kosovo. Another set of programs featured informal messages about prostitution and trafficking in Kosovo that were integrated into other major Radio Plus programs that reach bigger audiences. CDs of the main programs were sent to partner stations around Kosovo to multiply the audiences reached. The radio campaign reached a large audience of young people, particularly important in a country that is the youngest country in Europe.

## MOLDOVAN CAMPAIGN AND CONFERENCE

CATW's partner project in Moldova was implemented by the Association for Women in Contemporary Society. The Association has long worked in rescuing Moldovan and other victims of trafficking from the jails of the United Arab Emirates.

The Association produced public information material warning about the consequences of trafficking, the links between prostitution and trafficking, and the negative aspects of legalizing prostitution in selected countries of Europe and upon society in general. Four radio programs were organized in Chisinau, Balti and Cahul to discuss these issues. Leaflets also contained information, including the contact addresses and numbers of Moldovan embassies and consulates, and their role in assisting and supporting victims trafficked abroad.

The joint CATW-Association for Women in Contemporary Society project sponsored 14 seminars that educated 490 students and faculty in colleges and universities about the hot-spots of trafficking in Moldova, national referral systems that assist in reintegrating victims, national and international legislation on trafficking and prostitution, the debate about legalization of prostitution, penalizing the demand for sexual exploitation and strategies for helping victims. Volunteers, trained during these seminars, subsequently organized 32 other seminars in educational institutions in their regions to help youth better understand the problem of trafficking. At the outset of the seminars, most participants expressed the view that "victims are responsible for their problems and prostitution should be legalized." After discussions, and also after viewing the social theatre that was an integral aspect of the seminars, most participants changed their minds.

In May, 2005, Veronica Lupu, the President of the Association for Women in Contemporary Society and her staff, organized a conference for police, judges, prosecutors and NGO representatives on "The Importance of Applying UN and European legislation against Trafficking in Human Beings in Moldova." The Association had translated and published CATW's *Guide to the New UN Trafficking Protocol* and launched it at the conference. Janice Raymond and Malka Marcovich, of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, spoke at the sessions. Very important discussions took place about proposals to legalize prostitution in Moldova.



*Janice Raymond, CATW's Co-Executive Director and Veronica Lupu, President of the Association for Women in Contemporary Society, before a meeting with Moldovan parliamentarians in front of the Moldovan Parliament.*

## THE VOLGA CAMPAIGN IN RUSSIA

CATW partnered with MiraMed Institute and the Angel Coalition in Moscow to raise awareness about human trafficking, enlist longterm support and commitment from local governmental and public institutions to sustain a prevention of trafficking program in the area, promote a different view of women in society, and publicly link prostitution and trafficking to demand in 3 cities of the Volga region – in Kineshma, Kostroma and Tver. In May, 2006, Janice Raymond went to Moscow to discuss the campaign with partners and representatives from these 3 cities, to conduct a training session in Moscow on the demand aspect of trafficking and sexual exploitation, and visit the project in Tver — where she met with project partners from the Gortensia Crisis Center, the Gender Research Center, the Jewish Community Center and the Directorate of the Association of Women Journalists.

The project targeted at-risk groups, especially youth, in these 3 Volga cities, through workshops and seminars for students and parents; launched an aggressive informational and mass media campaign in the region, which was covered in 22 newspaper articles, 4 radio broadcasts and 3 television shows; distributed 4,000 campaign posters, 5,000 stickers and 7,000 brochures in many public places and educational institutions; and conducted pre and post-campaign public opinion surveys relating to populations seeking work abroad. The campaign brochure highlighted the risks and opportunities of working overseas and gave the phone numbers of 20 foreign embassies in Moscow. One of the high points of the campaign was a rock concert promoting the message: "No to Human Trafficking! No to Violence!" The organizers estimate that the campaign has reached thousands of persons in the region and have resolved to continue the work.

## US GOVERNMENT CONFERENCES ON TRAFFICKING

CATW was invited to two recent conferences sponsored by the US government. The Department of Health and Human Services' "Conference on Survivors of Sex Trafficking," which was held on September 28, 2006, in Washington, DC, included the participation of several survivors and their advocates, including Vednita Carter, a CATW board member and the Executive Director of Breaking Free in Minnesota. The Department of Justice held the "National Conference on Human Trafficking" on October 3-5, 2006, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Conference focused on training local, state and federal law enforcement as well as victim advocates to identify, investigate and prosecute trafficking cases and provide assistance to victims. Barbara Kryszko, CATW's representative participated in both conferences.

## KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE BREAKS NEW GROUND

On September 6, 2006, the Center for Women's Human Rights, a nongovernmental organization based in Seoul, South Korea, held a groundbreaking conference entitled, "The Links Between Prostitution and Trafficking: Focusing on Women's Human Rights and the Issue of Demand." Bringing together hundreds of women's rights leaders, scholars, politicians, and activists, the conference decidedly achieved the stated goals of its organizers: to raise public awareness about the root causes of prostitution and human trafficking, to share strategies to discourage the demand for sexual exploitation that fosters trafficking, and to encourage international cooperation to combat trafficking and prostitution.

United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, Sigma Huda, gave the key note presentation. In it, she clarified the definition of trafficking in the Palermo Protocol, emphasizing that traffickers not only employ force, fraud, and coercion to ensnare their victims but frequently use more subtle tactics of psychological control that exploit women and children's situations of vulnerability. Because the Protocol's definition is not confined to the use of force or fraud, she emphasized, many more victims will be accorded protection and many more exploiters held accountable for their crimes.

The panelists following Ms. Huda focused on different aspects of the interrelationship of prostitution and trafficking and the role of demand. Dr. Melissa Farley, the founder of Prostitution, Research, and Education, described the social and political conditions, from poverty to gender violence and inequality, that drive women into the sex industry and keep them there. Dorchen Leidholdt, Co-Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, gave a power point presentation in English and Korean that described innovative model projects and best practices developed by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and its partner organizations in Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe to discourage the demand for prostitution and prevent sex trafficking.

Professor Lee Young-ja explained how South Korea's patriarchal social structure and the sexual double standard that pervades Korean society has fostered the subordination of Korean women to men, the objectification of the female body in Korea, and the mass sexual exploitation of women and girls in Korea. She acknowledged that the denigrating term by which South Korea has sometimes been referred—"prostitution nation"—tragically, has a basis in the reality of Korean society. Professor Lee called for the adoption of strategies that would combat the demand for prostitution and protect prostituted and trafficked women from abuse and exploitation.

Much discussion was given to Korea's innovative anti-trafficking and prostitution laws, passed in 2004, which direct strong penalties against traffickers, brothel owners, and other sex industry entrepreneurs (punishments include up to ten years imprisonment), establish a safety net of social, legal, and medical support for victims, and criminalize prostitution buyers. During this time the Korean government has established many shelters for both foreign and domestically-trafficked women and girls, in 2004 alone sheltering 505 victims. Hei-soo Shin, member of the CEDAW Committee, and Commissioner on the National Human Rights Commission, moderated the panel. Ms. Shin explained that while the law had advanced the human rights of women in Korea, much more needed to be done both to implement it and to ensure that victims' human rights are fully protected. She pointed out that prostituted women can still be arrested under Korea's new legislation and expressed concern about the impact of criminalization on already stigmatized victims.

The conference was preceded by a press conference in which more than a dozen reporters directed questions to both international speakers and lead conference organizer, Young-sook Cho. Media coverage of both the press conference and the conference was heavy, ensuring that the messages of the conference reached hundreds of thousands of people throughout South Korea.



# INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND UN MEETINGS

## 125 NGOS SIGN STATEMENT APPLAUDING THE GROUNDBREAKING 2006 REPORT ON DEMAND OF THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING, SIGMA HUDA.

### Excerpts:

The 125 NGOs and groups signing this statement wish to commend the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Aspects of Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Sigma Huda, on her second annual thematic report on the demand (E/CN.4/2006/62). Among the signers of this statement are organizations that provide services to victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, or who are, created by survivors of trafficking and prostitution and who represent women who have been victims/survivors...

1. The report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking has targeted the most invisible aspect of the trafficking chain, which is the demand...In addressing the demand, she has reminded us that the 3 pillars supporting trafficking are the buyers, the bought and the business, and that all three need to be emphasized in considering the human rights aspects of victims of trafficking.

2. The Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights Aspect of Trafficking is the first special rapporteur who has devoted a broad and comprehensive report to trafficking and its link to prostitution and to the demand for sexual exploitation...

3. The Special Rapporteur's report addresses a key human rights aspect of protection for victims of trafficking, which is that the burden of proof should not be on the victim to prove she was forced. The Special Rapporteur's report underscores that the definition of trafficking in the Palermo Protocol helps insure that all victims of trafficking, not only those who can prove force, will be protected...The Special Rapporteur's discussion of the definition of trafficking puts the *entire definition of the Palermo Protocol* back into focus.

4. The Special Rapporteur's report draws attention to the fact that the largest numbers of victims of trafficking are subjected to trafficking for sexual exploitation...Indeed, those who work with women and girls trafficked for domestic labor report that a large number of them have been sexually exploited as well.

5. ...In accord with her title...Sigma Huda has signaled that the connections between the sexual exploitation of women and children are significant, especially because large numbers of women exploited in the sex industry are forced or induced into it as children. On the day they reach legal maturity, the prostitution they have experienced does not become a magical choice.

6. The Special Rapporteur on Trafficking sent out a widely distributed questionnaire on the demand before writing her report. We note that this is an infrequent practice among special rapporteurs that allowed for this report to be done in a very democratic way.

7. The visits to various countries that the Special Rapporteur has made and the conferences she has participated in represent varied geographical locations and diverse philosophical and political perspectives on the subject of trafficking...

... With great clarity, she has addressed the issue of demand and placed it at the centre of a human rights analysis of trafficking. She has elucidated the links between trafficking and prostitution. And she has written her report within the framework of gender equality and with guidance from the three human rights conventions that address trafficking — the 1949 Convention, CEDAW, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child — as well as the Palermo Protocol. All of us are grateful for and enlightened by her contribution.

### Signing Organizations:

Albania Group of Women Journalists, Albania; Albergue para Ninas y Mujeres Sobrevivientes de la Explotacion Sexual Comercial, Chile ; Alliance of Progressive Labor, the Philippines; Angel Coalition, Russia; Apne Aap, India; Asociacion de Mujeres Pilar Miro, Spain; Asociacion de Mujeres Valdes Siglo XXI, Spain; Association Business Professional Women Club Toulon, France; Association for Women in Contemporary Society, Moldova; Association Genre et Culture, France ; Association

Mix-Cite 45, France ; Associazione IROKO, Italy; Bagong Kamalayan, the Philippines; Breaking Free (An Afro-Centric NGO founded by survivors of prostitution to serve women in prostitution), United States; Briet, Iceland; Brigidine Congregation of Religious Sisters, Australia, Ireland and the United Kingdom; BUKLOD (survivors of prostitution and trafficking), the Philippines;

Captive Daughters, United States; Canadian Association of Sexual Assault Centers, Canada; Center for Foreign Citizens and Migrant Rights and Security, Republic of Georgia; Center for Human Rights of Women 'Zelkova,' Korea Center for Women's Human Rights, Korea; Center for Wuncheon Women's Human Rights, Korea; Center 'Salim'(Support Center for Women Trafficked and Prostituted), Korea; Centro Amar, Peru ; Centro de la Mujer Flora Tristan, Peru ; Cheonan Women Actual Counseling Center, Korea; Chung Buk Trafficking Counseling Center 'Nul Bom,' Korea; Churches Alert to Sex Trafficking Across Europe (Chaste), United Kingdom; Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW Africa, Asia-Pacific, Australia, Europe, and Latin America); Collectives des luttes pour l'abolition de la prostitution (CLAP), Canada ; Comision Justicia y Paz, Bolivia ; Comision para la Investigacion de Malos Tratos a Mujeres, Spain ; Concordio Latinoamericano por los Derechos de las Mujeres, Costa Rica ; Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, United States; Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, United States; Coordination Francaise du Lobby Europeen des Femmes, France; Coordination Lesbienne en France, France; Counseling Center for Victims of Prostitution, UNNINE, Korea; Daegu Women's Association, Center for Women's Human Rights, Korea; Dasi Hamge SimTeo, Korea; Defensoras Populares, Mexico; Development Action for Women Network (DAWN), the Philippines; Ebgan, Cordillera, the Philippines; E-loom (The World Free from Prostitution), Korea; Encore Feministes, France (2717 members in 41 countries); Equality Now, United States; European Council of WIZO Federations (E.C.W.F.); EU Federacion de Asociaciones de Mujeres Separadas y Divorciadas, Spain ; FOKUS (Forum for Women and Development), Norway ; Fondation Scelles, France; Forum Femmes Mediterranee de Marseille, France; Fundacion del Buen Pastor, Colombia; Fundacion Quimera, Ecuador; G-Wave (Gender Watch Against Violence and Exploitation), the Philippines; Gil Jab E Ui Jip, Korea ; Good Shepherd Friends, Germany; Good Shepherd Social Justice Network, Australia and New Zealand; Icelandic Feminist Organization, Iceland; IMA Foundation, the Philippines; Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (IAC), Africa and Switzerland;

Jeju Association for Women's Rights, Korea; Kanlungan Center for Migrant Workers, the Philippines; Kvennaathvarfio (the Women's Shelter), Iceland; Kvennaraogjofin (the Women's Counseling Organization), Iceland; Kvenfelagasambandio (Federation of Icelandic Women's Societies), Iceland; Kvinnefronten (the Women's Front), Norway; Lawag Bubai (Survivors of Trafficking and Prostitution), the Philippines; L'Espace Simone de Beauvoir, France ; Lobby de Dones de Catalunya, Spain ; Main House, Korea; Marcha Mundial de Mujeres, Peru Masan YMCA Field Counseling Center, Korea; MASIE, an organization founded by survivors of prostitution, United States; Medicos del Mundo (Doctors of the World), Spain; MiraMed Institute, Russia and the United States; Mix-Cite 45, France ; Mouvement Jeunes Femmes, France ; Mouvement pour l'Abolition de la Prostitution et de la Pornographie (MAPP), France ; Mujeres de Negro Andalucia, Spain; Mujeres Trabajando, Argentina; Municipality of Madrid, Spain; Norwegian Association for Women's Rights, Norway; Paju Center for Women's Human Rights, Korea; Plataforma 8 de marzo de Sevilla, Spain ; Plataforma Andaluza de Apoyo al Lobby Europeo de las Mujeres, Spain ; Plataforma Catalana de Suport al Lobby Europeu de Dones, Spain ; Plataforma Estatal de Organizaciones de Mujeres por la Abolicion de la Prostitucion, Spain ; Prostitution Research and Education, United States; Prostitution Victims' House, Incheon Women's Hotline, Korea;

Red de Jovenes por al Abolicion de la Prostitucion, Mexico ; Red Latinoamericana de Maestras y Maestros contra la Explotacion Sexual Comercial, Latin America and the Caribbean; Red Latinoamericana de Periodistas contra la Trata y la Explotacion Sexual, Latin America and the Caribbean; Red Mexicana contra la Violencia y Discriminacion de Genero, Mexico ; Reden, Denmark; REED (Resist Exploitation, Embrace Dignity), Canada; Regards de Femmes, France ; Rehabilitation Center for Ex-Brothel Victims, Korea ; RIKK Centre for Gender Research at the University of Iceland, Iceland; Salvatorian Anti-Human Trafficking Project, United States; Samaritana, the Philippines; Sanlaap, India; Seong Sim Saeromteo, Korea; Sidlakan (an organization of survivors of Prostitution), the Philippines; Sinang-Kababaihan, the Philippines; Sisters of Ste. Anne, Canada; Schwestern vom Guten Hirten (Sisters of the Good Shepherd), Province of Germany; Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Ethiopia; Sisters of the Good Shepherd, Province of Italy; Sisters of Providence, Canada SOLWODI, Germany (Works with Victims of Trafficking); Somang Shelter, Korea; Sonhaewon, Korea; SOS Sexisme, France; Stigamot Counseling and Information Centre on Sexual Violence, Iceland; Sisyph Feminist Website Organization, Canada; Talikala, the Philippines; Tisaka (an organization of survivors of prostitution), the Philippines; UNANIMA International, United States; Union Contre le Trafic des Etres Humains (UCTEH), France ; Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, Canada; Women and Children First, Russia; Young Girl's Shelter for a New Day, Korea

## CATW PARTICIPATES IN 31<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UN WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY IN GENEVA

Dorchen Leidholdt, Malka Markovich, and Laura Chavez represented the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women at the 31st Session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from August 8 to 11, 2006. At this groundbreaking session, the Working Group focused on the human rights dimensions of prostitution, especially the human rights implications of criminal initiatives against demand versus the legalization/regulation of prostitution.

Established in 1975 by the UN Economic and Social Council, the Working Group consists of five human rights experts who annually review developments in the areas of slavery, the slave-trade and slavery-like practices, apartheid and colonialism and the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and make recommendations to the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. This year's Working Group experts consisted of the Chairperson and Rapporteur, Abdul Sattar, and experts, Emmanuel Decaux, Iulia-Antoanella Motoc, Ibrahim Salama, and Marilia Sardenberg Zelner. Twenty-seven countries and the Holy See participated in the session as observers. In addition to CATW, participating NGOs included MAPP, Franciscans International, the International Council of Women, and the International Alliance of Women. Halima Embarek Warzazi, longtime member of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and, for many sessions, its Chair, and UN Special Rapporteur on Traditional Cultural Practices, also joined this year's session.

Ibrahim Salama introduced the first topic of the working group, the human rights dimensions of prostitution, explaining that prostitution is one of the most flagrant and fundamental violations of human dignity. Mr. Salama called for an in-depth study of the subject, spearheaded by the Working Group.

Dorchen Leidholdt made a detailed intervention on the role of demand in the growing incidence of sex trafficking, emphasizing that “the demand of prostitution buyers for commercial sex with ‘exotic,’ unconditionally available young women and girls provides the economic incentive for international sex trafficking.” She pointed out that there is growing consensus among governments, NGOs, and anti-trafficking experts that addressing demand is the key to the prevention of trafficking.

Stressing the interconnections between prostitution and sex trafficking, Dorchen cited the findings of UN Special Rapporteur on Human Trafficking, Sigma Huda, that most prostituted women and girls are victims of human trafficking (“For the most part, prostitution . . . usually does satisfy the elements of [the Palermo Protocol’s] definition of trafficking. It is rare that one finds a case in which the path to prostitution . . . [does] not involve, at the very least, an abuse of power and/or an abuse of vulnerability.” She concluded her presentation by describing best practices to curb demand spearheaded by CATW in Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

Addressing how legalized prostitution fosters human trafficking, Malka Marcovich described the example of Germany's response to this year's World Cup. Malka described the campaign she initiated on behalf of CATW, “Buying Sex is Not a Sport” (see p. 1-2).

Working Group participants and experts alike agreed that far from leading to better protection for “sex workers,” legalized prostitution increases child prostitution and the exploitation of illegal and marginalized migrants. The majority of the NGOs spoke out in strong support of the Working Group's refusal to distinguish between “voluntary” and “coerced” prostitution.

As to the issue of which mechanisms are best suited to deliver expert advice on contemporary forms of slavery to the Human Rights Council, the experts and participants agreed that the Working Group had made invaluable contributions in this respect during its more than thirty-year history. The first human rights mechanism to examine the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography, the Working Group since 1998 has prioritized issues of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and related practices of gender-based exploitation and violence. There was emphatic agreement among the vast majority of participants that the Working Group should continue and should be given additional support to carry out its vital mission.

## KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 31<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE UN WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY:

*The Working Group reaffirms that prostitution is incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and constitutes a source of serious violations of human rights and that all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation and exploitation of the prostitution of others are prohibited under international law.*

*The Working Group recommends that the Sub-Commission . . . request that a group of several experts, in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations and States, undertake an in-depth study on the human rights dimensions of prostitution, taking into account its transnational dimensions, particularly trafficking, irregular migration, and financial aspects, including money laundering. The study should pay particular attention to the human rights impact of the criminalization of demand, or of legalization and regulation of prostitution . . .*

*The Working Group recommends that the Sub-Commission emphasize in the paper requested by the Human Rights Council that the sessions of the Working Group provide a unique platform for non-governmental organizations and victims of slavery and slavery-like practices to appear before an international forum, and acknowledge the value of their contributions to international awareness and debate concerning all forms of slavery.*

## 50TH SESSION OF UN COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)

CATW was active at the 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which was held from 27 February to 10 March 2006 at the United Nations in New York. During the session, the CSW conducted a review of the two thematic issues of “Enhanced participation of women in development: an enabling environment for achieving gender equality and the advancement of women” and “Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels.”

In response to these thematic issues, CATW organized and held three panel events during the meetings: “Sexual Exploitation and Women’s Health: Trauma as an Obstacle to Enhanced Participation” featuring Wendy Freed, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Washington and Dorchen Leidholdt, Co-Executive Director, CATW; “Decision Making and Sexuality: Challenging Patriarchal Constructions” featuring Taina Bien-Aime, Executive Director, Equality Now, Wendy Freed, Professor of Psychiatry, University of Washington, Mihye Kim, UN Representative, CATW, Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, Latin American Regional Director, CATW, and Moderator, Adrienne Anifant, CATW; and “Prostitution, Pornography and Women’s Participation in Development” featuring Cecilia Blewer, UN Representative, CATW, Ninotchka Rosca, Founder, Gabriella Network, Teresa Ulloa Ziaurriz, Latin American Regional Director, CATW, and Moderator, Clare Nolan, NGO Representative, Congregation of Sisters of the Good Shepherd. CATW worked closely with the Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd and UNANIMA International to draft and submit two written statements regarding the thematic issues.

CATW also participated in two conferences, which were sponsored by UN affiliated NGOs in New York, on Violence Against Women. On March 4, 2006, CATW members Dorchen Leidholdt and Barbara Kryszko facilitated a breakout group on trafficking. On November 18, 2006, Dorchen Leidholdt moderated the opening session and provided closing remarks at the end of the conference, while Amanda Norejko was a facilitator for the trafficking breakout session.

## CATW’S NEW YORK NETWORK HOSTS INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

In 2006 the New York Network of the Coalition Against Trafficking conducted seminars for and exchanged information and views with a steady stream of international visitors from every world region—most NGO leaders or government officials in their countries—on tours hosted by the United States State Department and non-governmental organizations.

Visitors included representatives from a wide array of countries, as follows: **Greece:** Ms. Irini Chrysogianni, Public Prosecutor, court of First Instance, Kilkis; **India:** Sameda, Programme Coordinator, Madras Christian Council of Social Service; **Italy:** Dr. Oria Gargano, Differenza Donna; **Israel:** Ravit Herman, Prosecutor, Senior Deputy, Tel-Aviv District Attorney’s Office; **Ivory Coast:** Victor Koffi, Specialized Educator, Direction of Social Protection, Ministry of Family and Social Affairs; **Japan:** Kaname Tsutsumi, Professor of Sociology, Kyushu Women’s University; Kimiko Okada, Researcher, Program Section, Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center; **Jordan:** Husein Odat, Deputy Manager, Queen Alia Airport; **Kenya:** Elizabeth Akiny Onyango, Director, Solidarity with Women in Distress (Solwodi); **Laos:** Somsanith Keodouangdy, Deputy Director of Youth Pioneer Department, Lao People’s Revolutionary Youth Union; **Liberia:** Marie

Bangura, Loans/Field Officer, Association for Rural Development: A Micro Finance N.G.O.; **Mexico:** Jorge Bedoya Lopez, Executive Director, Bilateral Safety Corridor, Prevention of Trafficking in Persons; **Myanmar:** Ohnmar Ei Ei Chaw(a) Chaw Chaw, Trafficking Programme Coordinator, World Vision; **Nigeria:** Abdulrahim O. Shuaibu, Chief Legal Officer, National Agency for Prohibition of Traffic in Persons; **Philippines:** Nina Patricia D. Sison-Arroyom, Executive Director, Internacional Justice Misión Operacional Field Presence; **Poland:** Zbigniew Lasocik, Assistant Professor of Law, Warsaw University; **Romania:** Albu Alina, Prosecutor, Ministry of Administration and Interior, Anti-Corruption General Directorate; **Sierra Leone:** Gloria O.V. Tarawally, Operacional Support Division, Sierra Leone Police; **Thailand:** Saengewan Maneewan, Manager, YMCA Foundation, Phayao Province Branco; Rosidah Pusu, Secretary, The Friends of Muslim Women Group; **Togo:** Solange H. Akossiwa Fiatty, Secretary General, Amnesty International; **Turkey:** S. E. Tuba Dundar, Program Coordinator, The Human Resource Development Foundation; **United States:** Liudmila K. Mikhailova, Program Officer, Delphi International Program, World Learning for International Development; **Uruguay:** Fernanco Da Rosa, Fedaro; and **Yemen:** Muna Ali Salim, Manager of Child Labor Unit, Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor.



## COALITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

### AFRICA

#### *MALI*

Eleven African countries make up CATW Africa: Benin, Burkina Faso, Congo Brazaville, Ivory Cost, Gabon, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. During 2006, CATW Africa participated in many forums and initiated a new project in Mali.

In July, 2006, CATW Africa held a day of reflection on “The Role and Responsibilities of Travel Agencies, Hotels and other Businesses” in the fight against trafficking and sexual exploitation in Mali. In addition to representatives of hotels and travel agencies, also in attendance were representatives from the Ministry for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family, the Ministry of Arts, Crafts and Tourism, UNICEF and the media. The regional Director of CATW Africa spoke about the situation of the trafficking in women in Africa, especially those coming from Nigeria to Madrid. Recommendations were presented to reduce and eliminate the demand, create a system to promote the ethics of tourism, and distribute information about trafficking in women and children in public spaces (airports, train station, hotels, travel agencies, and tourist spots).

In 2006, CATW Mali began a new project to collect data on trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls in 6 districts of Bamako who migrate to urban centers to earn money in domestic service. They are often victims of sexual abuse, sexual harassment, rape and fraud from their employers or others. These women and girls may also be trafficked for prostitution. The police, as well as NGOs working in defense of women’s and children’s rights have witnessed a number of these situations. No quantitative or qualitative data has been collected, especially from witnesses of this abuse of domestic workers in the city of Bamako. The goals of this study are to obtain data about the scale of sexual and other exploitation of domestic workers, target intervention strategies in order to help the victims, and persuade authorities to get involved in this particular fight against all forms of exploitation of domestic workers.

### NIGERIA/ITALY

#### *IROKO in Nigeria*

In October, 2006, Esohe Aghatise, the director of CATW’s partner NGO in Nigeria and Italy — the IROKO Association – went to Nigeria to organize support for the common goals of CATW and IROKO. Esohe Aghatise met with Mrs. Oti Anukpe Ovwah of the Nigerian National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Justice Mrs. Efe Ikponmwonba, a High Court Judge at the Benin High Court of Justice, Mrs. Bisi Danhjuma, a Senator from the Edo District, Chiko Brian Arinze, an officer at National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons (NAPTIP); the Head of the Criminal Investigations and Prosecution Department, also from NAPTIP; the Secretary to the Inspector General of Police; and the Head of the Trafficking Unit of the Nigerian Police.

Various members of this group began work on a common document outlining the main points of concern and action about human trafficking and sexual exploitation in Nigeria. This document will be presented in several venues: to members of Parliament at a special meeting with the Parliamentary Commission that collects information on trafficking; to the committee charged with implementing the provisions of CEDAW at the national level, especially noting the issues of the demand for paid sex, the consequent prostitution of women to satisfy the demand, the present state of trafficking and

prostitution in Nigeria that necessitates changes in the law and proposals for effecting change; and to the Human Rights Commission, NAPTIP, and UNODC, Nigeria.

A key result of the meetings with various authorities was the expressed need for an international conference on trafficking in Benin City, where most of the trafficked women come from. NAPTIP will technically support the conference and give some financial contribution to its organization. The National Human Rights Commission also agreed to support the conference in any way they can. Both NAPTIP and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) also agreed to sign a Formal Memorandum on the Laws relating to Violence against Women, Prostitution and Trafficking and to present it, in collaboration with the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International and Associazione Iroko Onlus, to the Parliamentary Commission deliberating on the adoption of CEDAW into Nigeria's domestic legal system. The Secretary to the Federal Inspector General of Police stated that the police would be able to participate in the conference and provide security coverage for it.

Another consequence of the meetings was the necessity to push for changes in the Nigerian anti-trafficking law. Key figures, such as the NAPTIP Director and the Head of the National Human Rights Commission, are firmly against the legalization of prostitution in Nigeria. To this end, IROKO is contacting all governmental and non-governmental organizations in Italy for data on the numbers of victims of Nigerian women trafficked into Italy, their age and their place of origin. This would help to show that the Nigerian Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition), Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 is not effective because it narrows the definition of trafficking to a very small percentage of victims.

### ***IROKO in Italy***

The IROKO Association continues to provide assistance to women who have been trafficked and prostituted in Italy by providing transitional housing, counseling, legal advocacy, immigration and economic assistance, vocational training, and employment facilitation. Two new programs have been developed in 2006.

IROKO has initiated a new program on the demand for prostitution in 2 senior high schools in Turin. Beginning with education about gender relations and leading up to prostitution and male demand as a key factor in the promotion of sexual exploitation, the program is educating youth between the ages of 15-19.

The other new program – a baby-park — is being financed by the PAIDEIA Foundation in Turin. IROKO has been able to obtain a large amount of floor space in their building that is now being devoted to the daycare of the young children of women that IROKO serves, who have been victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.

## **ASIA- PACIFIC**

### ***CATW, ASIA-PACIFIC HOLDS REGIONAL MEETING IN CHIANG MAI***

The Coalition, Asia-Pacific, held its regional meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand from August 29-31, 2006. The meeting was hosted by Virada Somswadi and members of Forward, CATW-AP's regional partner in Thailand. Given the presence of pro-“sex work” forces in Thailand and their ability to capture media attention, it was significant that the Coalition's Asia Pacific meeting took place there so that a different message could be sent – one that is not dedicated to keeping women in prostitution and offers real feminist alternatives for women.

The regional meeting was attended by over 30 representatives of the Coalition from 9 different countries: Australia, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand and CATW's international co-executive director from the United States. Interventions and discussions were centered on 3 themes: addressing the demand side of trafficking; empowering and organizing survivors; challenging states, social movements and media. It was particularly important that 3 survivors from the Philippines and India gave talks and led discussions in Chiang Mai.

The objectives of the meeting were to review gains and challenges since the last regional meeting in Bangladesh; to lay out common directions and agree on priorities for the coming 3 years in the Coalition's fight against sexual exploitation and trafficking; and to consolidate the regional membership base of CATW-Asia Pacific. A CATW-Asia Pacific Board was elected and met the afternoon of the final day of the conference.



## **THE CATW-AP REGIONAL MEETING ISSUED A CONFERENCE STATEMENT, FROM WHICH THE FOLLOWING HAS BEEN EXCERPTED.**

“CATW-AP affirms that prostitution is violence against women, and that trafficking and prostitution are inextricably linked. In Asia, this takes place in the context of deep-seated patriarchy, impoverishment of the South because of globalization, militarist states and historical colonization. The demand side is created by the patriarchal culture in Asia where traditional practices such as devadasi prostitution and honor killings persist; where men are initiated into “manhood” through the use of prostituted women; where rape including child sexual abuse, domestic violence, sexual harassment, acid throwing by ‘spurned’ lovers occur in high frequency; and where gender division is stark...Women are therefore rendered vulnerable from girlhood...unemployment is widespread with women constituting most of the unemployed...landless, unpaid or suffer from unequal wages...

Survivors of prostitution have been ravaged by the sex industry. The trauma that they have suffered cannot be trivialized by calling prostitution “sex work.”...We assert that punishing the buyers and businesses that profit from it is imperative in addressing the patriarchal institution of prostitution...Australia and New Zealand are proud of their anti-trafficking programs, but their states have either legalized or decriminalized the sex industry, thereby increasing the demand...We challenge social movements to make prostitution a central issue...We challenge anti-globalization and peace activists not only to combat trafficking, but also prostitution and the global sex industry. Survivors and feminists in CATW-AP resolve to continue our work in supporting the empowerment of prostituted women and children...and in advocating for alternatives...We will continue to challenge all attempts by governments to make prostitution a profitable market sector.”

Signed by 20 organizations from 8 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **MEXICO**

CATW-Latin America (LAC) continues its innovative prevention of child prostitution and trafficking programs, originally implemented in the Federal District, and which have become a model for other States in Mexico and other countries in Latin America such as Ecuador. In 2006, CATW – LAC delivered 20 workshops in Mexico City, Ciudad Juarez, Baja California Sur, Michoacan and in Quito, Ecuador, where 500 public school teachers were trained. The Coalition’s model of child prostitution and trafficking prevention has brought increased public awareness and media attention about child sexual abuse and child sex tourism, directly impacted thousands of youth and others, reached young girls who may already be in the sex trade and provided role models for boys and girls drawn from teachers and peer educators in the prevention project.

CATW –Latin America, with the support of the Federal Preventive Police (FPP) continued its public campaign against child sexual abuse in Mexico. Posters, leaflets and postcards addressed the demand for sexual exploitation that promotes trafficking, using the phrase: “Because you buy, child prostitution exists — Their lives and their bodies are not merchandise.” Posters are on display in 11 airports of the country, including the Mexico City airport.

In the midst of an election year, the Coalition in Mexico surpassed its project goals, reprinting its training Manual and its comic for youth, both directed to prevention of child sexual exploitation; and created an “Association Game” on gender equality as part of its learning tool kit. CATW-Latin America has also helped to develop 4 networks of teachers, 1 of parents and 1 of students in various parts of Mexico. These networks are being formed with the aim of creating a national network that will continue to sustain CATW’s prevention of child prostitution model and training in the future federal educational curriculum.

Most importantly, in 2006, CATW-Latin America was able to obtain the inclusion of child prostitution as a crime in the criminal codes of the States of Mexico City, Quintana Roo and Michoacan.

## **EUROPE**

### **REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA**

An initial FCRS *Report on Conditions of Exploited Migration and Trafficking in Georgia* sets the background for trafficking and exploited migration in this country. It provides a general profile of trafficking victims and exploited migrants; reveals that traffickers located in Georgia have contacts with agents and enterprises abroad; establishes that the patterns of migration and trafficking are not random or sporadic, and that trafficking is a well-organized process often facilitated by many players, including State authorities; presents a systematic pattern of governmental corruption; investigates visa and travel documentation processes; and provides a sampling of victim testimony.

In light of these findings, the Center for Foreign Citizens and Migration Rights and Security (FCRS) initiated a short course on the prevention of trafficking in Tbilisi, Georgia, several years ago. In 2006, the project continued to educate socially-unprotected women considering migration abroad about the dangers of human trafficking, promoted awareness of legitimate and illegitimate recruitment agencies in Georgia, and provided women with knowledge about their rights and responsibilities if they decide to migrate abroad. FCRS is also continuing its hotline for victims of exploited migration and trafficking.



## PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS

**New video available in DVD. *Not for Sale.*** Filmed by Marie Vermeiren and produced by the joint CATW-EWL project on prevention of trafficking. 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, about the links between prostitution and trafficking, against State decriminalization and legalization of prostitution and the male demand for prostitution that promotes trafficking. Donation Suggested: \$25.

***The Links Between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: a Briefing Handbook.*** Authors: Grainne Healy and Monica O'Connor. Elucidates the links between prostitution and trafficking, focusing on gender equality and the issue of demand. Initially developed for the 13 countries participating in the joint CATW-EWL on prevention of trafficking. This handbook can be used as a resource for NGOs or governmental groups or authorities interested in addressing the gaps in anti-trafficking programs such as the links between prostitution and trafficking, the importance of programs and policies based on gender equality, the legal status of the sex industry, and the male demand for prostitution that promotes trafficking. Available in hard copy from CATW or at the CATW web site at [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

***“Press for Change” – A Guide for Journalists Reporting on the Prostitution and Trafficking of Women.*** Author: Julie Bindel, journalist for the *Guardian*, UK. Originally developed by the joint CATW-EWL on prevention of trafficking for a conference of journalists from Southeast Europe held in Tirana, Albania in November, 2006, and later as a generic press resource for journalists writing about prostitution and trafficking. Available in hard copy from CATW or at the CATW web site at [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

***What Happens When Prostitution Becomes Work? An Update on Legalisation of Prostitution in Australia.*** Author: Mary Sullivan, CATW, Australia. Despite more evidence that legalisation has not achieved its aims in the State of Victoria, the state government continues to further regulate prostitution as just another industry. This monograph shows the consequences of legalisation in Victoria and how Victoria must not be seen as a model for other states and countries who want to address the escalating trade in women and children for sex. Available in hard copy from CATW or at the CATW web site at [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

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