



Medellín, Colombia

ESPACIOS DE MUJER

Betty Pedraza, 20 November 2003

Espacios de Mujer is based in Medellín, one of the principal axes of trafficking in women to and from Colombia. The main attention of the organisation goes to the practical needs of women working in prostitution. While they intend to offer actual alternatives for women who want to leave sex work, their mission is based on the respect for the choice of those women who choose prostitution as an option, offering them services to improve their quality of life. Along with direct service provision to women, Espacios Mujeres advocates for public policies that reduce discrimination and inequality affecting the lives of women in prostitution and tackles the root causes of the violations of their rights, the lack of social-economic options, the degrading situation created by “macho” culture, and the increase of vulnerability because of the military conflict in Colombia. A large number of these women decide to leave Colombia to work in prostitution abroad, hoping to improve their situation. They often become victims of trafficking. Espacios of Mujer offer their assistance to these women too. The town of Medellín in 2001 established a working group on trafficking in persons, composed of NGOs, municipal and government authorities, and Espacios of Mujer is its focal point. The working group aims to raise awareness on trafficking, to develop prevention strategies, to exchange expertise and know-how amongst organisations involved, and to reflect on and develop public policies and strategies for integral attention to the needs of trafficked women and women working in prostitution. GAATW discussed by e-mail the work of Espacios de Mujer with Betty Pedraza.

GAATW: Who are the women asking for your services?

Betty: Espacios de Mujer assists the needs of women working in prostitution, trafficked women or women in situations of vulnerability. About 98% of them are sex workers living in poor neighbourhoods, they are between 18 and 35 years old, with a low educational background. The remaining 2% are women referred to us by sex workers, living in the same areas and with very low economic conditions.

GAATW: What are the services offered to them by Espacios de Mujer?

Betty: Our work covers several areas. We provide women working in prostitution with psychological and social support, through counseling, accompanying and offering them orientation in difficult personal processes, from the reception to the elaboration of the harm suffered. We want also to reduce the harm they might face in their work: information and educational activities, especially on reproductive health and STDs, are developed in their own working places by our specialised staff, psychologists, social workers and lawyers. Thus they can develop self-attention and prevention skills. Another service is training them with specific skills they might need if willing to leave sex work; counseling and professional advice for the constitution of small and family enterprises, to start an income-generating activity that would offer work with their family members. Once they have gone through the technical skills acquisition or educational process, women are offered specific job orientation. The opportunity to finish their educational curriculum, in primary, secondary or even academic studies, help them not only in their

own professional and social insertion but also to regain self esteem. Espacios de Mujer also develops regular prevention activities on trafficking in women: we organise workshops and lectures with students and teachers in high schools and for other NGOs who ask to exchange with them our expertise.

All our activities, in one way or another, looks to contribute to the empowerment of women: together with the women we develop workshops on human rights, gender and health issues. We meet with them to help them to self organise and consider themselves as a social group.

GAATW: What are the specific activities developed for the recovery from the traumas suffered in the process of trafficking?

Betty: First of all, when women deported from other countries or trafficked inside Colombia, or even those planning to travel abroad, come to our office, we listen to them. They need to find a space and professional people so that they can express what they want, in the time they want: it's important that they feel listened to and not judged. We start with a process to help them elaborate the traumas experienced during the trafficking process, to understand the harm it caused to their lives. This harm elaboration is developed in either groups or individually. The counseling, accompanying and orientation services offered by our team considers all aspects of their personal, family and social life. Women who have experienced trafficking traumas are later offered the activities and programs developed by Espacios. That means, technical skills capacity building, educational options, individual empowerment, support to small enterprises, and job orientation. Together with them we work to develop an individual "life project": this process often leads to job orientation, the start of a new job

or their small enterprise, and it starts from the analysis of the experience that led them to being trafficked, up to their own present expectations.

GAATW: What are their most usual requests by the women?

Betty: The key request is to be assisted in building up their own "life project". They also ask to be involved in training sessions and educational programs. Many of them are also interested in learning more about trafficking in women. Their interest in knowing more on the phenomenon of work as a multiplier in the prevention of trafficking. They become active in prevention by warning and providing information to women they know who are going to travel abroad, by taking other women to our office, and for all those with whom they share their experience.

GAATW: What is the term you use to define your service provision work?

Betty: We call it "integral attention" to women victims of trafficking and/or vulnerable women.

GAATW: What do you see as the major achievements of your work?

Betty: First of all the establishment of a town working group on trafficking in persons with the participation of police, magistrates, universities, high school educators, NGOs and also concerned women. Also the increase in the level of social awareness achieved through the preventive work in high schools, other NGOs, government agencies and targeting the general public too. The awareness and the information on trafficking available for women

working in prostitution has increased.

At the same time we have learned much from their experiences, told to us by the women themselves: this allows us to understand better the reality they have lived through. From this work we also learn more on internal trafficking in Colombia and its dynamics, especially in the areas involved in conflict and controlled by 'guerrilla' and 'paramilitary' groups.

GAATW: What are the major difficulties you have met?

Betty: In our work it is very important to offer follow-up to the services offered, through technical skills acquisition, educational opportunities and support of professional initiatives, as well as to offer them the medical coverage not provided by the national health system. We sometimes lack the financial resources to better offer these services.

GAATW: How do you see your future work?

Betty: We are an international cooperation programme supported financially by an Italian NGO and our activities are funded till the end of 2003. Together with IOM Colombia, we will offer assistance to trafficked women and develop prevention actions with women in prostitution (as here they are the most vulnerable group to trafficking) until February 2004. As you can see, our future is uncertain.

This represents a serious threat for the women we assist: we are the only program assisting victims of trafficking in Medellin. At the moment we provide services to 850 women working in prostitution and 80 out of them have been victims of trafficking.

Anyway we are going to try to continue our work. We can not let down our major achievement: to get women to see themselves as human beings with human rights, entitled to claim such rights.

(This page translated from Spanish to English from Monika Peruffo)





SEPOM: Women Rebuilding their Lives

The first time we heard about SEPOM was when someone from Chiang Rai called us in October 2002 to say that she was from a self-organized women's group and that they would like to participate in the upcoming Partners in Change conference. A group of women came with a translator, participated in the meeting and that was how we learnt about this amazing initiative going on in northern Thailand. During the intervening year we have kept in touch and are currently doing some work together.

The following piece is based on information provided by SEPOM, our interactions with SEPOM women, and two recent articles written by Sanitsuda Ekachai for the Bangkok Post, an English language daily.¹

Driven by poverty and the desire to improve their families' lives, women from the Mae Sai border district, in the Chiang Rai province, migrate to Japan to engage in sex work. Many of them incur large debts to traffickers and are only able to save and remit money home once this debt is repaid. Clouded with the constant fear of deportation, the situation of Thai sex workers is even more precarious because of their illegal status. Marriage to a Japanese man provides the opportunity to start life anew - a life free from guilt and shame, a life that means financial security and a legal status.



A SEPOM member and her daughter²

This newfound stability, however, can often leave women devastated (emotionally and financially) if their Japanese partners abandon them. Some women remarry and some have no choice but to migrate for work again, leaving their children in the care of relatives. As well as having to readjust to life back home, women and children who stay, face considerable discrimination and shame within the community. Many women who return suffer from depression, low self-esteem and alcoholism. These issues are further compounded by their inability to express their experiences and problems for fear of stigmatisation.

In response to the marginalisation of women who had returned home to Chiang Rai from Japan, Mari Nyoto, a Japanese social worker, helped set up the Self-Empowerment Program for Migrant Women (SEPOM). This program aims to empower women and make them financially self-sufficient by providing financial assistance for medical care

¹ See Sanitsuda Ekachai, 'Coming Home to Disappointment', in Bangkok Post ('Outlook' section), Thursday August 21, 2003 and 'Rebuilding Young Lives', also in Bangkok Post ('Outlook section'), Tuesday, December 2, 2003.

² Picture from the Bangkok Post, 21 August 2003

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including assistance to women and their children living with HIV/AIDs; temporary financial assistance for those with financial difficulties; discussions of work alternatives; information about migrants' and women's rights; and when required, consultation with a mental health professional.

One of the most successful activities of SEPOM is the self-help empowerment group for returned women. These groups are important for women to share their stories with other women in a non-judgemental environment. Through these groups, women who once suffered from psychological distress have now rebuilt a sense of self-confidence and self-worth and beginning to realise their goals. Women are also given the opportunity to share their experience through research, at seminars and local community events. SEPOM aims to include women in research projects so that a clearer understanding of their needs is established.

One of the most urgent needs of the women is assistance for their half-Japanese children. These children encounter a number of difficulties including adjustment issues, identity conflicts, health and emotional problems, while some are not even recognised as Thai nationals. Without citizenship, they are not able to access education or legal work. The most common health problems are asthma and allergies. Eating problems are also reported as children are not accustomed to spicy Thai cuisine. Emotionally, children can suffer depression, developing an inferiority complex. They are often deemed "different" because of their Japanese heritage, the absence of their father, and because their mother is a former sex worker. These children's emotional insecurity can manifest as hyperactivity, making them difficult to handle in classrooms and in the wider community. Poverty only exacerbates these conditions.

To help Thai-Japanese children and their mothers, SEPOM makes home and school visits, gives financial assistance for medical expenses, grants scholarships, holds Japanese language classes and provides legal assistance. In addition to these services, SEPOM also organises activities that allow the children to have fun, acknowledging the role of play in a child's growth and development and creating an environment where children can develop their self-confidence and self-worth. These activities include art classes and recreational activities such as picnics and camps.

Recently, SEPOM organised a three-day camp in Doi Luang National Park, 60 km from Chiang Rai, attended by returnee women, children, community volunteers and staff. Delia from SEPOM writes about the camp:

Staff, volunteers and returnee women were divided into three teams - Red, Green and Blue for the purpose of activities and cooking meals. On arrival the kids played a game to divide themselves into these teams. Everyone was involved in the preparations ranging from deciding on day and night time activities to meals.

The afternoon was spent doing arts and crafts activities. The Blue team did bamboo craftwork, the Green team did batik artwork and Red team played "Batsu" (if you make a mistake you have to blow up a balloon filled with powder and red paint



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until it bursts). The children rotated between the three activities, but it was generally agreed that the “Batsu” game was the best.

The following day the park rangers took us on a nature hike telling the children about the different plants and their medicinal uses along the way. Most of the children climbed to the top of the waterfall where there were lots of small caves for them to explore. They played happily in the waterfall until it was time to trek back to the camp.

The camp rangers prepared a bonfire each night for the festivities. The National Park staff organised games and the children performed skits about their daily lives or their interests. There was also a karaoke session! Most of the children know songs in Japanese and they performed these.

During the feedback session held on the final day the children all agreed that swimming in the waterfall and playing games with the camp staff at night was the most enjoyable. They also enjoyed cooking meals together on the campfire.

The activities focused on giving the children an opportunity to build stronger ties between them, and in turn creating a sense of belonging missing in other aspects of their lives.





Responses to Trafficking within the National Border; Case Studies from India

With international focus on “sex” trafficking to distant countries, the plight of men, women and children who are trafficked within their own country can often be obscured. In South Asia, regional and national responses to trafficking have been limited, with little attention given to trafficking to forms of labour other than prostitution and trafficking within the national border. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Trafficking, put in place in 2002, has come under strong criticism for confining its scope to trafficking only for the purposes of prostitution. This has important implications for national policies. Most organizations in South Asia focus on women and children trafficked into the sex industry. Internal trafficking in the region, however, occurs into a number of sites including domestic service, manual labour, begging, and other forms of bonded labour.

In this special report we have put together three cases studies of internal trafficking sent to us from members in India.

The first case study on brick kiln workers in Hyderabad illustrates that internal trafficking for labour is not restricted to women and children, but whole families can also be trafficked.

The second case study is that of a young woman who was trafficked into prostitution from the eastern state of West Bengal to Bombay, the metropolitan city on the West coast of the country. The story

illustrates how traumatic the experience of returning home can be. Both these cases have been sent by individual members of GAATW who work with Actionaid, India. Actionaid is one of the few NGOs in the country which has been addressing trafficking for purposes other than prostitution and trying to work both at the point of destination and origin.

The third case study comes from one of the founding members of Jajnyaseni, a network of 25 organisations to address trafficking in Orissa. Jajnyaseni, a member network of GAATW primarily works at the points of origin in Orissa and tries to raise awareness in the community. The other most widely prevalent form of trafficking in Orissa, aside for labour, takes place in the pretext of marriage. Young girls are given in marriage by their families to complete strangers in other states. Often the family does not hear anything about their daughters after the wedding ceremony. Some women, return with horrendous experiences but keep the horror to themselves for fear of shame in the community. Gender inequality, poverty and the irrational premium placed on marriage by people are the primary causes of this situation. The case study presented here is an exception, where the woman has overcome some of her trauma.

One major factor fueling internal migration in India is the devastation experienced after natural disasters. The phenomenon of “distress” migration is particularly acute in the state of Orissa. Situated on the eastern coast of India, Orissa is continually subjected to drought, heat waves, cyclones and floods. The state has been affected by disaster for 90 out of the last 100 years: with floods occurring in 49 years; droughts in 30 years; and cyclones for 11 years. In the last 40 years, environmental catastrophes have become more frequent and are now affecting new areas¹.

¹ Information provided by the organisation Jajnyaseni in email correspondence with GAATW.

Orissa's propensity for natural disasters is especially disabling for the poor, who have no other recourse but to migrate to neighbouring states such as Hyderabad to seek employment. Distress migration of such groups, as the following case illustrates, often renders them vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation.

Case Study I: Of Human Bondage - Brick kiln Workers from Orissa

Hard-pressed by persistent drought, the villagers of Nagphena in Juba Panchayat of Belpada, Orissa were forced to migrate for survival. In November 2001, Pabitra Majhi and his family together with nine other families left to work at brick kilns in Secunderabad through the infamous middleman Bablu Khan.

After working hard for half a year, their employer failed to pay them. While some families were able to return home, some, including Pabitra and his family, had no other option but to continue work as labourers. It was then that another migrant, Kunja Bahal, informed them about the brick kiln owner Feroz Khan of Bharat Nagar who had employment available until next season. Upon arrival in Bharat Nagar, each family received Rs 3000 advance and were taken by truck to the Saleguda brick kiln. Every week each family made 7000 bricks but were being paid only Rs 100-150, which was hardly enough to make ends meet. They were forced to survive on very poor quality food. The poor food and hard work made them ill for most of the time and they had to walk to the hospital which was far away. After making 131,000 bricks, when Pabitra asked for his payment, he was told that he had none. Mr Khan gave him and three others Rs 500 for their train fare and told them he would take them to the train station. Mr Khan stopped midway to the train station, however, and

abused and beat them mercilessly before dragging them back to the brick kiln.

Towards the end of September, 2002, eight families were "transferred" to another of Mr Khan's brick kilns in Jagendungari. Here they received no extra money and were forced to work even when they were ill. If they resisted, they were physically and mentally tortured. The new supervisor would also cut their wages if they made fewer than 7,000 bricks. At this time, Pabitra's wife was 7 months pregnant and she became very ill. When Pabitra requested to leave to take his wife back to Balangir, Mr Khan agreed but forcefully detained their adolescent daughter with him on the condition that she should be "released" when Pabitra returned to the kiln from Balangir. Mr Kahn paid Pabitra Rs 500 for the train fare and warned him against complaining to any authorities.

Pabitra and his family are not isolated cases of torture and exploitation. Two other families have had to leave their daughters with Mr Khan and his brother Ayub Khan under similar conditions.

On 25 August 2002, after hearing of Pabitra and his family's story of human bondage, two members of CADMB, the network of organisations working on distress migration, with the support of Actionaid, went to Secunderabad to try and free the labourers and their daughters. The next couple of days were spent planning and organising a rescue with Actionaid Hyderabad and local police. On the 27 August along with a jeep load of police personnel we went ahead to the kiln. The police cordoned off place and took over. Mr Kahn and his brother were arrested and taken back to the police station. The labourers upon realising that we had in fact come for their rescue, opened up and told police about the atrocities they experienced. The three minor girls also told police that the owner, his brother and a labour contractor had been sexually exploiting them for two to three years now. The labourers were asked what they would like to do

and each one said that they wished to return home. After filing police reports and undergoing medical examinations, everyone was given Rs 1000 with a further 19,000 to be given when they returned to Orissa. Rs 20,000 is compensated by the government after release from bonded labour. All the labourers (totalling 82) were able to return home on the 29 August after a long and inhuman bondage. They were all very happy to be back home.

*(A summary of the case study sent by
Dr. Bratindi Jena, Actionaid, Orissa)*

Case Study II: Razia's story; the Tortuous Journey to Mumbai

Razia, a 13-year old girl from a struggling family, left school early to help with the household chores and look after her many siblings. Her father, a lowly paid worker had to support two wives and eight children. He was also an alcoholic and during family quarrels, he would beat his wives and children. The village where they lived, Gobindapur, West Bengal was renowned for bidi (Indian cigarette) binding. Most of the village women were involved in the work, including Razia's mother Salema and Salema's friend Salma. Razia, too, joined in bidi binding work. One day, Salma's husband, Jiad offered to take Razia to Mumbai to get a job that would give her more money than she was earning here.

Plagued by the misery of her family, Razia began her journey to Mumbai on 27 July, 2002 with Jiad. Along her journey, Jiad introduced Razia to three acquaintances, Majid, Latif and Jahangir who were also going to Mumbai for work and would help her find employment. Latif took Razia to his relatives' house where he and Majid forced her into prostitution. From then on Razia was moved from place to place, servicing many men and frequently suffering from sickness and abuse. When Latif

and Majid were unable to sell Razia because of her age, they decided to send her back to the village. Razia was not fed during the last three to four days before she was returned to Gobindapur. When she arrived, she could hardly walk and had a high fever.

Meanwhile, Razia's father filed a missing persons report for his daughter and lodged an official complaint against Latif, even though he could scarcely afford it. When Latif found out about the complaints, he visited Razia's father's house and beat him severely. Razia's father immediately went to the police again and lodged another complaint. The police did not pursue the case and suggested that since his daughter had returned, he should not bother either.

The first two to three days of her return, Razia was very ill. She had a high fever, pain in her lower abdomen, and vaginal infection. But Razia was too shy to share her symptoms other than the fever to the doctor, so she only received temporary relief for the fever. At first Razia was too ashamed to tell her family what happened to her in Mumbai.

Razia is 14 years old now and while she is happy to be back living with her family, she still looks unhealthy, pale and sickly. Her parents now know about her story but have kept it a secret because it will affect Razia's chances of marriage. Razia is opposed to marriage, knowing that she will have no choice who the groom will be. Instead, Razia wants to work to help support her and her family. She does not want to go back to school because she feels that after such a long discontinuation she could not adopt the academic way of learning. Rather, Razia would like to join a skills-training program.

Actionaid's anti-trafficking team works in Govindapur village with a local community-based organisation (CBO), the Govindapur Simanta Bangla Youth Club. Actionaid got in touch with Razia and together with the Youth club they began to support Razia with

medical care. After a visit to the clinic, it was identified that she had deep vaginal infection, which can lead to syphilis.

After speaking with Razia, the Actionaid team found that she did not want to go back to bidi binding as she feared re-trafficking from there. She knew that traffickers had a link with Salma. Actionaid identified Razia's aspirations: she wants to be trained in stitching and sewing so that she can eventually start a business; she is interested in enrolling into a life skills literacy program instead of going to school; and she wants to organise an adolescent girls group to disseminate information about trafficking. There are limited options for Razia as there are no special funds allocated for women and development schemes for the reintegration of trafficked persons. Village-based skill training is not available, as most government schemes and NGO initiatives are located in urban centres. The only scheme available for these women is a micro-credit program, which Razia is too young to qualify for.

The Youth club has initiated a prevention campaign as well as local based advocacy on social integration, repatriation and rehabilitation issues. They are attempting to address the whole reintegration issue from the perspective of the trafficked woman or child's aspiration and self-determination point-of-view.

*(A summary of the case study sent
by Ms Sangahmitra Chanda)*

Case Study III - Rebuilding Lives

Uma did not seem different to other women her age. Although only 25 years old, she had already lived a life that a person of 50 years would not have lived. Within this time she was married and

forced into prostitution by her new family. Somehow she managed to escape after a year. Now after three years she is a very composed woman, though she still gets emotional when she talks about her past. Today, Uma is the secretary of a self-help group. Other women have respect for her because she is the only literate girl in her village and thanks to VPDO she has gained confidence and leadership skills. Uma is now thinking of bringing together all the returnees to do something about their situation.

Jajnyaseni believes that reintegration programs need both psychological as well as social and economic interventions. It has worked with returned women in the coastal district of Kendrapa, Orissa. Here, with the help of a local NGO - the Village People's Development Organisation (VPDO), Jajnyaseni has identified some 20 girls who have been trafficked. They somehow managed to escape their situations and returned to their families. As well as assisting them to integrate into the mainstream development process, Jajnyaseni and VPDO organise counseling sessions. Most of the girls are now members of various self-help groups and efforts are on to provide all the returnees with some land on a lease basis from the government. This will help them get a place they can call their own as well as provide opportunities to earn an income.

(A summary of the case study sent by Bishakha Bhanja)

Uma's inspiring story shows that with a little positive application similar stories of suffering and exploitation can be transformed into stories of hope and empowerment. This has to occur in a wider context of understanding. The service providers must be able to identify and act on women's needs. National, regional and international responses must acknowledge the complexities of trafficking in its myriad forms in order to best protect those vulnerable.



Re/integration?: Canadian Policies and Practices on Trafficking in Persons

Annalee Lepp

During the last six years, the issues of trafficking in women, human smuggling, and transnational migration has received growing attention from government officials, the media, non-governmental organizations, and academic scholars in Canada. This interest has been sparked, in part, by ongoing police raids of massage parlours, apartment-style brothel establishments, and strip clubs and the arrests of migrant sex workers in cities such as Toronto, Vancouver, and Calgary since 1997, the arrival of about 600 Chinese migrants in British Columbia in the summer of 1999, and periodic reports of women, who have migrated to Canada for the purposes of marriage, facing removal orders when sponsorship relationships disintegrate.¹

In responding to the presence of undocumented or irregular migrants - whether classified as trafficked, smuggled, or illegal - the Canadian government's primary focus, as reflected

in both policy and practice, has been on pursuing a law enforcement and border control agenda. Given the absence of any specific provisions for the protection and assistance (including even temporary asylum) of those identified as trafficked persons, it is evident that, from the perspective of Canadian state officials, any needed re/integration work with those affected by trafficking is not the responsibility of a country of destination/transit like Canada, but rather primarily the obligation of governments and NGOs in countries of origin.

Recent Policy Initiatives in Canada

While trafficking in persons has generated a series of policies and campaigns at the international, regional, and national levels designed to combat this phenomenon, the most relevant to the Canadian context are: the UN Trafficking Protocol signed by Canada in December 2000; and the criminal sanctions and other provisions pertaining to smuggling and trafficking in Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, which came into effect in 2002. In the former case, given the relatively weak and discretionary language used in the articles pertaining to the protection, assistance, re/integration, and recovery of trafficked persons in the UN Trafficking Protocol, there is nothing to compel or oblige the Canadian government, as a signatory nation, to adopt such measures.²

¹ See, for example, Toronto Network Against Trafficking in Women, et. al., *Trafficking in Women Including Thai Migrant Sex Workers in Canada* (Status of Women Canada, 2000); Noulmook Sutdhibasilp and Kara Gillies, "Migrant Workers and Human Rights Violations" and Annalee Lepp and Narda Nelson, "Migration and the International Marriage Market," in GAATW Canada, *Transnational Migration, Trafficking in Women, and Human Rights: The Canadian Dimension* (Victoria, 2002); Nandita Sharma, "Travel Agency: A Critique of Anti-Trafficking Campaigns" (July 2003), <http://www.globalhawaii.org/PDF/traffickpapers/Sharma.pdf>.

² See, for example, Ann D. Jordan, *The Annotated Guide to the Complete UN Trafficking Protocol* (Washington: International Human Rights Law Group, 2002).

That the lives, needs, and interests of those who fall under the definition of trafficked persons are secondary to combating organized crime and policing borders is clearly reflected in Canada's Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. While the Canadian government began a review of the country's immigration and refugee policy in the mid-1990s, it exploited the hysteria and racist backlash generated by the arrival of 599 'smuggled' Chinese nationals on the shores of British Columbia in 1999 in an effort to build public support for introducing what the then Minister of Citizenship and Immigration characterized as a "tough bill," designed "to close the back door to those who would abuse the system."³ In effect, the Act not only contains provisions for further restricting permanent immigration, it also introduces harsh penalties for punishing smugglers and traffickers (up to a fine of \$1 million and/or life imprisonment), measures for more vigilant border surveillance, and extended grounds for and enhanced powers of detention and deportation. Thus, in an effort to protect Canada's national security against organized crime and uncontrolled migration, the Act criminalizes all forms of illegal entry into the country.

Canadian state officials maintain, however, that the protection of those classified as trafficked persons and their access to temporary or permanent residency are addressed under other, more general sections of the Act, including those pertaining to Humanitarian and Compassionate Considerations, Convention Refugee Status, Pre-Removal Risk Assessment as well as the Gender Persecution Guidelines produced by the Immigration and Refugee Board in 1996. All of these provisions, however, are highly discretionary and claimants

are required to undergo rigorous immigration proceedings before Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) officials. In the end, then, the Act contains no specific mention of or provisions for extending protection and assistance to those classified as trafficked; rather, it merely addresses the problem by enhancing the power of authorities to punish, detain, and/or deport. Finally, according to members of the Interdepartmental Working Group on Trafficking in Women which was established to coordinate national efforts in dealing with the issue and which since the fall of 2002 has been being chaired by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT)'s International Crime and Terrorism Division, the development of further legislation pertaining to trafficking in persons is not on the immediate agenda.

Treatment of Migrant Sex Workers

Given - or despite - these recent policy developments, Canadian state authorities have not been obliged to change the direction of its past practices. The treatment of migrant sex workers over the past six years is a case in point. Beginning in 1997, as noted above, various enforcement agencies, including the police and immigration, have conducted raids on massage parlours, strip clubs, and apartment-style brothel establishments in Toronto and Vancouver (earlier this month, similar raids occurred in Calgary). Generating considerable media attention, state authorities constructed the operations they were shutting down as examples of the trafficking of Russian, East European, and especially Asian women into Canada. In fact, there has been a strong racialized focus on the

³ "Immigration and Refugee Protection Act Introduced," CIC News Release, 21 February 2001.

involvement of Asian crime gangs in what has been described as 'the international trade in women' by 'sex slavery rings'.⁴ As Noulmook Sutdhibhasilp and Kara Gillies have noted, the "subtext of [such] news articles was that 'sex slavery' was an insidious Third World problem, threatening the perceived law, order and moral conventions of mainstream Canada."⁵

Thanks largely to the rigorous efforts of Canadian law enforcement agencies who reportedly "conducted over 700 arrests for trafficking-related crimes" in Toronto alone in 2000 and despite the absence of specific anti-trafficking legislation at the time, Canada was granted the privileged tier one status in the US State Department's "Trafficking in Persons Report, 2001." What remained unclear in the above statement was who precisely was arrested? Were Toronto police actually able to apprehend 700 'traffickers' within the span of one year? Unless the prosecution of these hundreds of 'traffickers' was conducted without media attention or public knowledge, this appears to be highly unlikely.

What is known is that the actual success of law enforcement in prosecuting the so-called 'ringleaders' has been limited. According to media statistics, between 1997 and 2002, police raids of various establishments in Toronto and Vancouver led to over 1,100 arrests, the vast majority of whom were migrant sex workers, and to 14 convictions. As the Toronto Network Against Trafficking in

Women documented, the Thai women arrested in 1997 and 1998 underwent fairly protracted legal processes after being charged with prostitution- and immigration-related violations. Besides being subjected to degrading treatment as well as intimidation and threats by state authorities during their arrest and incarceration, many of the women were detained for several months until their identities and nationalities could be officially verified and until they could borrow the necessary bail and bond money (bail for the prostitution charges was set at between \$1,000 and \$5,000; cash bonds to satisfy immigration bond conditions were set at an additional \$3,000 to \$5,000). Eventually, most returned, either via removal orders or 'voluntarily', to their home country.⁶

The more recent arrest of 11 Malaysian women in an apartment-style brothel in Vancouver in October 2001 seemed to signal a desire on the part of Canadian state authorities to bypass potentially lengthy and costly criminal proceedings and the potential interference of NGOs, unless the women, whether classified as trafficked or smuggled, directly served state interests. In this case, the women were arrested and deported within 72 hours when the 'ringleaders' disappeared and the women expressed an unwillingness to assist in their capture and prosecution.⁷ Under the discretionary provisions of the UN Trafficking Protocol and the 'tough' measures encoded in Canada's Immigration Act, such procedures - arrest and deportation - have now been given the formal stamp of legitimacy.

⁴ See, for example, Susan McClelland, "Inside the Sex Trade," *Maclean's*, 3 December 2001; Investigative Report on Trafficking aired on CBC's *Disclosure*, 5 March 2002; and most recently, "Police follow trail of sex slave ring," *Calgary Herald*, 7 November 2003.

⁵ Noulmook Sutdhibhasilp and Kara Gillies, "Popular Understandings of 'Trafficking in Women' in GAATW Canada, Transnational Migration, Trafficking in Women, and Human Rights: The Canadian Dimension (Victoria, 2002).

⁶ Toronto Network Against Trafficking in Women et. al., "Trafficking in Women Including Thai Migrant Sex Workers in Canada."

⁷ McClelland, "Inside the Sex Trade," 23.

For example, Canada maintained its tier one status in the US State Department's 2002 trafficking report. It was only in the 2003 ranking that it dropped to tier two, the rationale being that Canadian officials had failed to secure convictions "due in part to deportation of witnesses" and had made "no specific efforts to work with and rehabilitate trafficking victims" as "often they are deported."⁸

In the final analysis, despite their overall lack of success in identifying and prosecuting 'traffickers', Canadian law enforcement and immigration officials continue to maintain that restrictive immigration policies and border controls as well as more extensive police investigations and raids will curb, control, or deter trafficking, by fighting organized crime's involvement in illegal migration. The evidence to the contrary is, of course, substantial - making borders more impermeable and closing safe, accessible, and legitimate forms of migration does not reduce trafficking, smuggling, or migration, but merely drives these processes further underground, forces women to rely on illicit channels and to live illegal lives, intensifies the exploitation and potential abuse to which women are subjected, and increases the profits that can be derived from facilitating cross-border movement and forced labour practices. In other words, while 'sending countries' are often blamed by Canadian government officials for producing smugglers, traffickers, and 'illegal' migrants, there is little recognition that state policies and practices in destination countries like Canada (including the government's immigration policies, its enthusiastic support for globalization and trade liberalization, and the reliance of certain sectors of the Canadian economy on the vulnerable and cheap labour of undocumented and irregular migrants) are deeply

implicated in creating and fuelling dangerous and illicit cross-border movements. There is also little sense of responsibility for addressing the human consequences of such migratory regimes.

In addition to their tough law and order stance, criminal justice and immigration authorities also invoke the language of benevolence and protection when justifying the arrest, detention, and deportation of migrant sex workers. They maintain that even though the 'ringleaders' continue to evade prosecution, they have at the very least 'rescued' the women from their captors - whether or not the women regard returning to their home countries as a desired outcome. What such arguments overlook is that, in most cases, the socio-economic, political, and/or familial conditions that may have precipitated the initial decision to migrate will not necessarily have changed upon the women's return. It also does not take into account the possible repercussions against those women who continue to owe debts. In both cases, the women may find themselves in a position in which they are propelled or forced to reenter the migratory process or in which they must rely on the existent reintegration initiatives in their countries of origin.

Despite Canada's self-proclaimed status as a champion of human rights in the international arena and its position as a privileged First World nation, when it comes to the implementation of basic protection and assistance, including access to asylum and a commitment to working with NGOs to provide re/integration services, there is not a great deal of room for optimism at this particular juncture. Cast simultaneously as 'victims' of organized crime, as criminals in violation of prostitution and immigration laws, and as potential

⁸ See, US Department of State, "Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2002" and "Trafficking in Persons Report, June 2003.

but often uncooperative pawns of the criminal justice system, it is evident that migrant sex workers are one main group that is bearing the brunt of the Canadian government's protectionist, anti-immigration, and law and order agenda. At this point, it does not appear to matter if the women are classified as trafficked, smuggled, or illegal migrants, their fate is largely the same. At the same time, at a recent national meeting on trafficking in women and girls, hosted by the Canadian Council for Refugees, which brought together representatives of various NGOs, human rights activists, refugee lawyers as well as immigration and law enforcement officials from across the country, there was a renewed resolve among non-governmental organizations to develop a comprehensive national action plan that could be used to pressure the Canadian government to address the fundamental limitations of its current policies and practices.

Annalee Lepp is currently with the Department of Women's Studies at the University of British Columbia, Victoria, Canada. she is also a founding member of GAATW Canada





What we still don't know about women who are trafficked into Israel's sex industry

Julie Cwikel

"Most of the girls between the ages of 20-30 have disappeared from Kishinev (the capital of Moldova): they've gone abroad to work in prostitution", Tanya (a pseudonym) wistfully added to the formal interview. This is one of the provocative statements that we heard as we tried to collect some of the first real epidemiological data from women who were working in the Israeli sex industry. While there is no way to substantiate this statement, even if it is only half true, it is a sad and serious allegation. One brothel owner confirmed that he preferred to bring in women from Moldova, since the economic hardship was hardest there, in the republics of the former Soviet Union, and women were willing to enter the trafficking cycle. What is strange is that Moldova used to be considered the "breadbasket" of the former Soviet Union - a country with rich natural resources and excellent agricultural produce. Why is it now so impoverished? What we learned over 3 years of research raises as many questions as it answers. In this article, recent key findings are presented along with areas where further research is urgently needed.

The author, a social epidemiologist who heads Israel's only academic research center on women's health convened a group of researchers to try and gather empirical data on women in the sex industry in Israel in the year 2000. This was to counter-balance the lurid stories that were filling the media and to provide some epidemiological evidence about

the health and psychosocial status of women working in Israel's brothels. What was clear is that the nature of the sex industry in Israel had changed in the past decade or so, from one dominated by local women to a business of much higher volume. This new industry was filling the national and local papers with advertisements of every variety, suggesting the high profits circulating in the industry.

We devised an interview schedule based on an international study of prostitutes conducted by Farley and colleagues, which reflected the unique characteristics of women who have been trafficked (Farley & Barkan, 1998). We were able to obtain a small number of interviews through phone numbers listed in the newspapers, but this was very time consuming and expensive as we paid for the interview time. After extensive field work by our hard-working field coordinator (Ms. Karen Ilan Agmon), we began to interview women working in brothels with the cooperation of the brothel owners. We interviewed them in three cities: Tel Aviv, Beer Sheva and Eilat. While most women volunteered for the interview, there were those who declined the interview (the research was approved by our Human Subjects Committee). After collecting and analyzing these data from 55 brothel workers - see (Chudakov, Ilan, Belmaker, & Cwikel, 2002; Cwikel, Ilan, & Chudakov, 2003), we felt the need to try to collect data that was unbiased by the brokerage of the brothel owners, who may have selected women who would not tell particularly traumatic stories. We therefore arranged to interview women who were waiting to be deported after being arrested not for prostitution (which by itself is not a crime in Israel) but for illegal residence (trafficking and pimping are criminal acts, however). During the years 2002-2003 we collected another sample of 49 interviews from women waiting to be deported in the women's prison. It was clear that meeting with the researchers (including Russian speaking

psychiatrists) provided an opportunity for women in both groups to tell their stories and ease some of their psychological burden, but this was hardly a solution for their pressing problems. Interviews lasted an hour on average and each respondent was given a list of agencies with Russian-speaking staff persons who could be of assistance.

We learned that there were a variety of trafficking routes of which the route overland from Egypt was mentioned the most often. The majority of women knew in advance that they would be working in prostitution, although had little idea about the difficult working conditions they would encounter. Some were pressured into the work. We did hear from a minority that they were told that they would be working in other occupations and only found that they had been duped into working in prostitution when they arrived. One woman told us that she had been told that she was going to work in a hotel in Israel only to find that she was designated for prostitution. She protested, tried to run away and was forcibly brought back to fulfill her contract. However, when we interviewed her she said that she had gotten used to the work and had voluntarily returned for a second contract.

Women reported using condoms consistently with clients, but not for personal contacts. Few women reported using condoms for oral sex, often complaining that the brothel owners would not allow their use. This disturbing practice has grave public health effects for the women themselves, their clients and the partners of their clients.

I recently interviewed Dr. Sepehr Tabrizi, the director of the microbiology laboratories at Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital and a well-known researcher in sexually transmitted infections. He feels that most sexually transmitted diseases are probably also transmissible by oral-genital contact and these include: Gonorrhea, HIV, and



probably Chlamydia and Trichomonis vaginalis. Indeed Dr. Tamy Shohat of the Israeli Ministry of Health has documented an alarming increase in gonorrhea cases in the past 4 years, many of which can be traced back to contacts in brothels. Her department collected STD tests on three hundred Israeli sex workers (many of whom were

trafficked sex workers) were tested in an effort to estimate prevalence; there is no way of knowing if this is a representative sample. Gonorrhea was detected in 9% by throat swab, 5% through urine test, Chlamydia was found positive for 6%, VD among 2.7% and HIV 0.3% (Shohat, 2002). We don't know the real prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases among trafficked sex workers, since there is no way to know the number in the country at any given time and it is very difficult to systematically study a population that lacks access to health services. Recently Israel opened two anonymous STD clinics to offer services to this population and so perhaps in the future we will have better data.

About a third of the women we interviewed had worked in other countries before coming to Israel, most often mentioning Turkey. In Turkey, women receive between 3-5 clients a night, but the use of condoms was far less strict. In our Israeli sample, women saw on average 12 clients a day, and many worked 7 days a week and all throughout the month. The volume of clients was found to be much higher than averages reported in other countries. Most women worked on one year contracts and were forced to pay back their expenses.

Among the women that we interviewed, there was

a clear distinction between the women who were trafficked and those who had a residency or citizenship. Trafficked women were more likely to be working under more difficult conditions and to show symptoms of occupational risk - more reported infections, pain and symptoms than women who had both citizenship and access to health care (Israel has national health insurance). Women often reported that brothel owners had sent them for HIV tests, but there was no relationship between symptoms or self-reported medical conditions and recent medical visits. This suggests that women were not getting medical care for their own health needs (Cwikel et al., 2003).

Along with exposure to threats and violence at work which was reported by a third of the women, women reported positive aspects of their work - conversations and long-term connections with clients. Some felt that the relationship with the brothel owner was a helpful one - that he looked out for them. Most women mentioned a variety of methods that they used to avoid dangerous clients and minimize their risks in the profession. While a majority of women professed wanting to leave prostitution, a small minority felt that sex work suited them and had no plans to change occupation. About one-quarter declared that they would like to acquire training for another profession.

Indeed, a third of the respondents were mothers and sent money home for the care of their families. About one half of the women we interviewed had other occupations such as hairdressers, university students, nurse-midwives and lab technicians. We know that they could earn very little in their profession (\$30-50 a month) in their countries of origin and felt the lure to earn over \$1000 a month abroad.

We asked the women how they saw their future in

the next five years. Surprisingly enough, 80% had positive plans for the future: acquire a business or a home, to marry and have children. Furthermore, 75% mentioned a partner or current boyfriend or hopes for a future relationship. About as many mentioned hopes to live in Israel as intended to return. Most didn't mention where they would be living. Clearly, women hold hopes of a building a better future and this is a valuable coping mechanism.

Here the questions begin. There is an urgent need to develop long-term follow-up through ethnographic methods of these women. We often lost track of women who we wanted to re-contact to complete an interview. Women are often transferred or sold without any warning or are arrested and deported. Only about 30% of the women we interviewed had access to their passports. We don't know how many women choose to continue to work in sex work, or whether they can find any other way to earn money in their home countries. We don't know how they will cope with their traumatic exposures and distress. We found that 17% scored symptomatic for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and 30% for depressive symptoms on validated scales. Some mentioned wanting mental health services in order to help them leave prostitution.

We don't have enough information on how they are accepted by their families, partners and social connections when they return. Are they stigmatized or are they met with understanding in the context of the overall economic deterioration? Knowing that in general the Eastern European mentality is a stoic one where few people admit to psychological distress - with whom will they share their experiences or talk over memories that trouble them? Recent publications e.g Aral et al., 2003 suggest that sex work is growing in Russia which

may lead to it being more tolerated. In the future, will there be class action suits against the Israeli government or their own countries for allowing these women to work without basic civil rights including access to health care? Will women's stories be presented openly or will fear of reprisals and a wish to get on with their lives drive these experiences underground for 40 or 50 years? This is what happened to the Korean, Chinese and Philippine women who were forced to serve as "comfort women" for the Japanese army in World War II and who have only recently begun to bear witness. Many of these women who survived found it difficult to reintegrate into their former lives and suffered from long-term health and psychological impairments. At present, no one knows what kind of future awaits these trafficked women but as researchers concerned with human rights, we need to keep asking questions in order to help devise appropriate legal, social and medical answers for this "invisible population".

Professor Julie Cwikel is the founder and director of Ben Gurion University's Center for Women's Health Studies and she is also a visiting scholar at the Key Centre for Women's Health in Society, University of Melbourne, Australia

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◆ OUR CONTRIBUTORS ◆



Alliance Members; organisations and individuals who have contributed to this issue

This issue of the newsletter would not have been possible without the contributions of our network members and friends. They have taken time out of their busy schedules to provide us with valuable information on their important work in the field. The following pages provide an overview of each contributing organisation and how to contact them for further information.

In AFRICA

Nigeria
Victoria Ijeoma Nwogu
responded from the
International Human Rights Law
Group (IHRLG) - Abuja

IHRLG was established to help build the capacity of civil society groups to affect Nigeria's democratic transition and build toward a legal framework for human rights protection, through sustained legislative advocacy, media outreach and public education. IHRLG also assists local partners in building legislative advocacy coalitions among civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based groups, achieving gender balance within CSOs and fully integrating women's human rights concerns into legislative advocacy initiatives. IHRLG-Nigeria legislative advocacy and public education efforts include the production of legislative advocacy tools to address the general lack of access to reliable

information concerning Nigeria's legislature. These tools include the publication of the bi-monthly magazine *Legislative Mandate*, in partnership with Community Action for Popular Participation, and a *Citizens' National Assembly Handbook*, in partnership with HURILAWS. Their anti-trafficking activities have provided training for non-governmental organizations and conceptual clarity on a human rights approach to victim assistance.

International Human Rights Law Group

IHRLG Nigeria website: www.hrlawgroup.org/country_programs/nigeria/default.asp

For more information contact:

lawgroup@skannet.com

In ASIA

From India three individual members responded. Two were from Actionaid India: Dr Bratindi Jena and Sanghamitra Chanda in Orissa and West Bengal respectively.

Actionaid, established in India from 1972, helps poor and marginalised groups improve their lives. They coordinate with over 300 organisations throughout India to lobby and provide services for children deprived of education, tribal groups, Dalits (member of the "untouchable" caste), women and people with disabilities. Actionaid's main focus is food, education, health and women's rights.

Actionaid seeks to help women with specific difficulties such as sex workers, widows and women suffering domestic violence. They provide micro-credit loans so that women can set up a small business and in collaboration with local

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organisations, Actionaid is also involved in raising awareness of women's rights and property rights.

Actionaid's website: www.actionaid.org/
For more information on Actionaid's work in Asia contact: mail@actionaidasia.org

Bishakha Bhanja from Jajnyaseni, Orissa also contributed a piece.

Jajnyaseni is a newly established network of 25 organisations working at the community level in different parts of Orissa. The network focuses exclusively on trafficking issues. It has recently completed a 16-day information and awareness-raising campaign on trafficking in the state.

In Nepal, there were also two contributing organisations. Unnati Pradhan gave us information from the Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) - Kathmandu, Nepal

The Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), a non-government organisation, focuses particularly on women and children. WOREC empower and mobilise community-based organisations to promote human rights, improve their socio-economic and cultural status so that they can attain social justice and a sustainable livelihood within the community.

In addition to welfare services such as shelter, counseling, vocational training, and non-formal education, WOREC also aims to prevent trafficking and facilitate the recovery of trafficked women and adolescent girls by forming women's empowerment groups.

WOREC is also involved in advocacy and networking. As part of their advocacy and awareness-raising campaign, WOREC publishes the

quarterly newsletter, Cheliko Byatha, available in Nepali and English. Sayapatri another quarterly journal from WOREC, produced for the community provides information and education on health issues.



WOREC's website: www.worecnepal.org
For further information or to subscribe to their newsletters please contact: pub@worecnepal.org

John Frederick director of Ray of Hope - Kathmandu also gave us information from Nepal.

Ray of Hope primarily works with donors and NGOs helping them to learn to provide quality recovery and integration services.

Their current work includes conducting 'conceptual clarity' seminars on the topics and subtopics of recovery and integration, including 'the healing environment', independent living strategies, discipline and behavior in institutions and social work applications to trafficking.

They have also just completed a long retooling activity with the organization Maiti Nepal, using participatory needs assessments to develop a long-term capacity-building strategy for its 15 centers which work with intercepted, at-risk and trafficked girls. The capacity-building will include developing participatory mechanisms, healing environment practices, case management, and social integration activities and much else. The strategy itself is a model, they hope, will be applied to many NGOs in Nepal and elsewhere working with trafficked girls and women.

Ray of Hope website: www.rayhope.org
For further information contact: info@rayhope.org

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Neha Misra responded from the American Center for International Labor Solidarity (ACILS or the Solidarity Center) in Jakarta, Indonesia

The Solidarity Center has been operational in Indonesia for 25 years and offers programs in the following areas: protection of marginalised workers (anti-trafficking programs, protection of migrant workers, the elimination of child workers and empowerment of women workers); political participation education (civic education, lobbying/advocacy, labour law implementation, economic literacy, elections); trade union professionalism (internal union democracy, organizing, collective bargaining, negotiation skills, leadership training, finance and administration); dispute resolution (legal aid, workers' /human rights, complaint-handling); and empowering trade unions.

The Solidarity Center's mission is to promote democracy and human rights, and expand the capacity of trade unions, NGOs and GOs to eliminate labour exploitation, especially among migrant workers, child labourers and women workers with special attention to trafficking of vulnerable groups.

Working in close association with the Solidarity Center in Indonesia is the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC).

In 1999, in response to the plight of the East Timorese people who lost their homes and communities, ICMC began operations in Indonesia. Now, they are active in 18 provinces providing: protection and prevention services for trafficked women and children; trauma recovery services for conflict-affected persons; advocacy and community projects for marginalised and vulnerable families; financial assistance such as micro-credit loans for matrilineal households; peace-building and

community recovery programs for displaced populations; and capacity-building for local organisations.



Solidarity Center website:

www.solidaritycenter.org

For more information on the Solidarity Center's work in Asia contact: webasia@solidarity.org



ICMC website: www.icmc.net

For more information on ICMC in Indonesia contact:

gable@icmc.net

Matthana Chetamee from Foundation For Women (FFW) gave her time and information in an interview at FFW headquarters, Bangkok, Thailand

Foundation for Women began as a Women's Information Centre in 1984 to advise Thai women migrating overseas. In 1986, the Bangkok-based organisation opened a domestic violence refuge. Today, FFW provides services to all women, with specific focus on rural women, women workers, young women, and women and children vulnerable to trafficking and forced prostitution. In direct service provision, FFW provides information to women and supports them through emergency assistance, referrals, and social and legal counseling. FFW also assists women and children trafficked into Thailand. These women are accessed through the Immigration Detention Centre and the Public Welfare Home.

FFW is also involved in advocacy, campaign and networking activities. FFW undertakes their activities respecting the woman's right to self-

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determination. In promoting human rights, FFW encourages the participation of women and communities in the decision-making process, thereby empowering them to take control of their lives.



FFW website: www.womenthai.org

For further information contact:

FFW@mozart.inet.co.th

Orit Nahamias from Isha L'Isha - Haifa Feminist Centre in Haifa, Israel gave us her response and also provided a report on trafficking in Israel.

Isha L'Isha, meaning 'woman to woman', is an organisation run by women for women. Their aims are to broaden feminist understanding in society, build leadership and empower destitute women. Isha L'Isha promotes women's rights, engenders solidarity between women, empowers women and seeks to eliminate all forms of violence against women.

One arm of Isha L'Isha, the Haifa Feminist Centre provides services for women in Haifa and northern Israel. Their activities include: a resource centre on women's issues; a bi-monthly newsletter available in Hebrew and English and mailed to 2,300 readers and organisations in Israel; social and cultural events for women; and monthly activities with the Community of Feminist Lesbians (CLAF). The centre have also initiated several projects such as 'Women in Democratic Society' courses, empowerment groups for young women, health and well-being programs for older women, and coordination efforts with other organisations.

The Centre seeks: to improve the status of women in Israel; to advocate and campaign for women's

rights and equal opportunities; to combat all forms of violence against women; to empower women to control all decisions affecting their bodies; and to facilitate cooperation of women with different backgrounds.

Isha L'Isha, Haifa Feminist Centre

website: [www.haifawomenscoalition.org.il/](http://www.haifawomenscoalition.org.il/isha.htm)

isha.htm

For further information contact:

ishaisha@netvision.net.il



IN EUROPE

Daniela Mannu responded from Comitato per I Diritti Civili delle Prostitute (Committee for the Civil Rights of Prostitutes) - Pordenone, Italy

The Comitato has been working since 1998 in the field of the Italian social inclusion programme for the women victims in trafficking (art. 18). Comitato collaborate with medical doctors, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, trainers, peer educators, translators and cultural mediators in several activities. The Comitato's services include: training courses for sex workers, cultural mediators, and social and health care personnel; outreach programs for male and female prostitutes, providing health, legal and employment information; direct support for sex workers in health and social services; cultural mediation; housing for trafficked women; advocacy at the political level; and consultancy with NGOs and public structures regarding prostitution.



The Comitato web site: [http://](http://www.luccioleonline.org/)

www.luccioleonline.org/

For more information contact:

lucciole@iol.it

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Nivedita Prasad gave us information from Ban Ying - Berlin, Germany

Ban Ying, Thai for 'house of women' assists sex workers from Southeast Asia by providing women with information about STDs and HIV/AIDS, and a shelter to provide housing and assistance to Southeast Asian women in crisis situations such as domestic violence and trafficking. Women can also access counseling and support services while they try and develop a plan with Ban Ying on their future prospects in Germany or in their country of origin.

Ban Ying's a Coordination Centre provides direct services such as information events and weekly counseling sessions for Thai and Philippine women. From October 2001, these services have also been extended to women from Central and Eastern Europe. The Coordination Centre also focuses on outreach and public awareness, documentation, national networking and lobbying.



Ban Ying website: www.ban-ying.de/
For further information contact:
info@Ban-Ying.de

Stana Buchowska provided us with detailed information about the work of La STRADA - Warsaw, Poland

The La Strada Program seeks to make the issue of trafficking in women visible and to influence the authorities and public opinion to address the topic from a human rights perspective; they also seek to refer victims to support networks and to educate women and girls against potential dangers of trafficking. The starting point of all activities are the needs of the women concerned.

The La Strada Poland program functions under an on-going tripartite structure. The Press & Lobby Campaign raises public awareness and presents to national authorities the issue of trafficking as a serious violation of human rights. The Prevention & Education Campaign addresses the potential victims of trafficking through leaflets, lectures, video presentations and school visits in order to educate on the dangers of trafficking. In addition, a telephone hotline offers advice and reliable information to women considering migration to Western Europe. The Social Assistance Campaign targets victims of trafficking, both Polish women caught in trafficking abroad who have returned and migrant women trafficked here in Poland.



LA STRADA web site: free.ngo.pl/lastrada/page1.html

For more information contact:
strada@pol.pl

Fjodor Synitsin contributed from the Center Against Violence and Human Trafficking - Perm, Russia

The mandate of the Center focuses on the protection of human rights in Russia, on the elimination of all forms of violence and human trafficking, on raising public awareness on the problems of violence and human trafficking, on the improvement of the Russian anti-violence and anti-trafficking legislation. They have developed a Public Awareness Campaign on human trafficking in the Perm Region, in the Komi Permian Autonomous District, and in the Republic of Udmurtia. The Center also functions as a Resource and Information Centre on the Problem of Human Trafficking and Violence Against Women for GOs and NGOs. Prevention of trafficking and education on human rights and against violence,

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as well as advocacy and lobbying with Russian MPs for new legislation including the Human Rights Standards, are the current main focus of our work.



Perm Center web site: <http://www.cavt.ru>

For more information contact: non-violence@yandex.ru

Elena Tyuriukanova is leading researcher of the Russian Academy of Science in the field of female migration and trafficking and a Program Coordinator at the Moscow Center for Gender Studies.

For more information contact: eturuk@hotmail.ru

Marta Gonzalez and Antonio Rivas from Proyecto Esperanza - Madrid, Spain

Proyecto Esperanza offers direct help to victims of trafficking. The provision of direct assistance is supported by a team of professionals, lawyers, psychologists and educators. Proyecto Esperanza works on trafficking specially with women from Western Europe and Latin America. It operates two shelter houses and provides psychological, medical and social services, as well as legal assistance, to women victims of trafficking. Their main areas of work are direct assistance to women, network building with other national and international NGOs and with Spanish public authorities, training and conceptual clarity on trafficking as a human rights violation and analysis of the mass media presentations of case of trafficking. In terms of service providing, the project established a model for handling cases of trafficked women upon her arrival to the shelter. They have developed a course of action to follow regarding legal proceedings, social work, and health care.

For more information contact:
p.esperanza@terra.es

Doro Winkler responded from FIZ - Switzerland

FIZ - Women's Information Centre is a non-government organisation that focuses on women from Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. FIZ provides consultation, is involved in public relations and political advocacy in issues related to the trafficking of women and female migration. Their consultation centre provides information on trafficking, violence, divorce and separation, immigration rights, and work in cabarets and the sex industry.

FIZ works in origin countries to inform prospective migrants about conditions in Switzerland, not to prevent migration, but so women can make informed decisions about their future.

FIZ website: www.fiz-info.ch
Contact: contact@fiz-info.ch

Kathrine Mason from the Poppy Project, Eaves Housing for Women - London, U.K.

For 26 years, Eaves Housing for Women has provided safe, secure and affordable housing for homeless women. The organisation has now expanded to incorporate all marginalised women including unemployed women, women with low incomes, women engaged in prostitution, women affected by disabilities, victims of abuse, trafficked women, domestic violence victims, and refugees. Eaves has initiated 21 housing programs across London that provide good quality, safe housing with specialised services. Each resident's needs are identified and tailored support plans developed to

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ensure women's empowerment and integration into the community.

In response to the specific needs of trafficked women and women in prostitution, Eaves has developed the Poppy Project, a research and development initiative to improve the lives of women and children. Poppy's activities in service provision include: the Victims of Trafficking Pilot project (see article of 'Ongoing Work' for more information this program); safe, supported housing; living allowance; support worker; advocacy and counseling.

Poppy is also involved in various research projects: a good practices guideline for all agencies handling cases of women in prostitution and trafficking; a survey of organisations in London working in prostitution and trafficking; development of models for outreach programs for trafficked women and women engaged in prostitution; and research mapping the location of trafficked and prostituted women in London. Poppy has also established a resource centre on trafficking and prostitution with specific focus on exiting the sex industry.



Eaves Housing for Women website:

www.eaves.ik.com

Poppy Project website:

www.poppy.ik.com

For inquiries on Poppy contact:

poppy@eaveshousing.co.uk

IN LATIN AMERICA

Betty Pedraza from Espacios de Mujer (Women's Spaces) - Medellin, Colombia gave her views in an on-line interview.

Espacios de Mujer intends to be for all women a space for personal counseling and empowerment, offering strategies for their self-protection, self-attention and awareness about their rights and dignity. They provide women with harm reduction and recovery from physical and emotional violence and abuses; psychological and medical assistance especially focusing on HIV/STDs and unwanted pregnancies; reception, group or personal counseling, promotion of the access to education, health and employment opportunities; assistance in raising alternatives income options, through technical or academic training, or entering micro-enterprises financial schemes; meeting point for women. Espacios de Mujer also promotes advocacy at institutional level: information and awareness-raising for the respect of the rights of women working in prostitution and the development of a support strategy for vulnerable groups for the prevention of trafficking.

For more information contact:

espaciosdemujer@epm.net.co

IN NORTH AMERICA

Juhu Thukral is the director of the Sex Workers Project, the Urban Justice Center - New York, United States

◆ OUR CONTRIBUTORS ◆

The Urban Justice Center was established in 1984 to help poor and homeless people in New York with legal assistance and advocacy. The non-profit organisation has initiated several projects to find solutions for impoverished and vulnerable people.

The Sex Workers Project is the first of its kind in the U.S that provides legal assistance to sex workers and advocates on their behalf. The project aims to promote human rights of all active and former sex workers, including women affected by trafficking. The Sex Workers Project represents trafficked persons in immigration cases and advocates on their behalf with law enforcement agencies; conducts outreach; conducts trainings for community-based organisations; and advocates with law enforcement and government officials on issues related to trafficking.



Urban Justice Center website:
www.urbanjustice.org
For more information on the Sex
Workers Project contact:
swp@urbanjustice.org

Melynda Banhart gave us information about the Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking (ALERT) - Arizona, U.S

The newest counter-trafficking program, the Arizona League to End Regional Trafficking (ALERT) is a pilot project funded by the Department of Justice providing direct social services to trafficked people. ALERT offers a comprehensive range of victim services from emergency shelter, food and clothing, translation services, medical and mental health care to long-term services such as immigration legal representation, housing and employment assistance.

In addition to service provision, ALERT aims to raise awareness in the wider community about trafficking and slavery and also conducts outreach programs.

ALERT's latest activity to support the training course 'Human Trafficking and Slavery: Basic Tools for an Effective Response' is being undertaken by the Freedom Network. The trainers of the course are broadly experienced in service provision for trafficked persons.

Alert

ALERT website: www.traffickingaz.org
Contact: traffickingalert@yahoo.com

Annalee Lepp from GAATW - Canada contributed her piece about integration and reintegration in Canada.

GAATW Canada was launched in 1997 as a sister network to address trafficking issues in North America. Members of GAATW Canada have coordinated research and advocacy projects and been very active in lobbying at the national level. GAATW Canada's publications include Transnational Migration, Trafficking in Women, and Human Rights: The Canadian Dimension. Annalee Lepp is one of the founding members of GAATW Canada.



Activity Update

The National Advocacy Project:

From August 2001 member organizations of GAATW from Indonesia, Nepal, Poland, Russia, Nigeria, Spain and Latin America were engaged in an advocacy project in their own countries. The National Advocacy Project (NAP) was designed in 2000 to facilitate the implementation at the national level the Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (HRS). Consequent to the UN General Assembly's adoption in November 2000 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the NAP incorporated in its framework the translation into national legislations of this new legal instrument. NGOs working on the ground needed to familiarize themselves with the HRS as well with the new protocol and be aware of its strengths and limitations. It was felt that since the crime control focus of the protocol may lead the governments to ignore the human rights obligations, NGOs must not only lobby for the signature and ratification of the protocol, they must also pressurize their governments to build human rights measures in national anti-trafficking legislations. In other words the project aims to facilitate the implementation of the Human Rights Standards for the Treatment of Trafficked Persons (HRS) both in practice and in legislation at the national level. In order to implement these tools, capacity building activities in the areas of advocacy and networking for local NGOs were incorporated into the project.



NAP meeting

It started with a consultative meeting in Bangkok in 2001 to develop concrete plans for national actions. The National Advocacy Project did not require creation of new structures, and involved looking at what already existed, how best to work with it, how to direct existing resources, and how to incorporate the basic objectives into existing activities. Given that there was a high degree of difference between national situations, the project developed differently in different countries and activities undertaken were also varied: training workshops, consultations, production of materials for campaigning, lobbying and training, translation and adaptation of GAATW books and documents. In August 2003 representatives of participating organizations met in Bangkok to share with each other their learning from this project and also to strategize about future advocacy activities. It was wonderful to see how, despite the differences in situation, the guiding principles of protection and respect of human rights gave a common framework for analysis to the participants. It was also great to see how this project has expanded and strengthened our alliance, as many of the organizations have involved many of their own networks in this activity.

NAP as a project has been completed but the work with the broader alliance has just begun.

◆ACTIVITY UPDATE◆

(For an electronic report of the NAP project contact GAATW secretariat. It will also be available on our website in early 2004. A training manual on advocacy is also forthcoming.)

Documenting our lives; sex workers and trafficked women speak out about their lives and struggles

This project was started in 2001 with the participation of 5 member organizations of GAATW- Cambodia Prostitutes Union, EMPOWER, Bangkok, Jwalamukhi, Kerala, Durjoy & Ulka, Bangladesh and Shakti Samuha, Nepal. All the groups are sex workers rights groups with the exception of Shakti Samuha which has been formed primarily by women who were trafficked into prostitution. The project provided training in the use of a video camera to the members which aimed to strengthen their efforts at self-representation and help them in documenting their own situation. In addition to a joint training in Bangkok in may 2001, the women also had on-location training workshops either organized by themselves with voluntary help from local people or coordinated by GAATW secretariat. In November 2002, at the Partners in Change conference the screening of the films was held for an audience of nearly 200 people. Since there was no designated topic each group had decided on its own theme. Interestingly the films complimented the themes of various panels so the screening was organized accordingly. After the conference the film-making groups met for an intensive discussion and to discuss the next phase of the project. It was felt that further training was necessary to bring the trainees to a level where they can handle the camera more efficiently. In terms of theme, groups from Bangladesh, India and Cambodia decided to explore the issue of police brutality against sex workers. The short film from Bangladesh on that theme

had triggered off a lot of discussion on the problem. Members of these groups also requested GAATW secretariat to help them in making some documentation on police brutality. Cambodia Prostitutes Union had already brought out a survey report and others wanted to do the same so that a joint discussion could be organized and if feasible a campaign launched.



Im Phally, CPU member

During 2003, advanced trainings were held for groups in Bangladesh and Cambodia. Nalini Jamila, a sex worker from Jwalamukhi, enrolled in a mainstream video film making course in Kerala to enhance her skills. The Bangladesh group completed their training and a new film called *When We Walk the Streets* (Bangla with English sub-titles, 27 minutes) in record time, organized a press conference and public screening with a question



The film-makers of 'When We Walk the Streets'

◆ACTIVITY UPDATE◆

and answer session. Three hundred men and women watched the film. It was an overwhelming experience. Although a professional may find technical lapses in the film, what was important was the sense of confidence this exercise has given the women. Since they were involved in the entire process, including structuring, directing and editing the film, the sense of ownership was obvious. The group is now planning to set up a documentation centre and would like to get in touch with other GAATW members with a view to form a global media group.

Cambodia Prostitutes Union has also completed its training and the film is at the editing stage. The Kerala group is also nearing completion of its film. A joint screening of all the three films and a discussion on the theme of police brutality along with a workshop on media ethics and distribution of the films will be organized in early 2004.

While the training workshops were going on secretariat staff helped the sex workers groups to collate some existing data and also carried out interviews for the report. The groups may use it for a national level discussion and campaign.



Discussion with the editor, CPU



Our Research Team

Research on the reproductive health situation of migrant women workers in the informal economy in Thailand

Since January 2003, the research unit at GAATW secretariat has been engaged in carrying out a study with foreign migrant sex workers, domestic workers and factory workers in Thailand. Supported by the European Commission, the study focuses on some sites in East and Central Thailand and the North. While the initial aim was to meet up with women workers along the border regions and at sites of work, increased deportation of foreign workers has meant that we have met many women at the immigration detention centre. Our study looks at women's knowledge regarding their sexual and reproductive health as well as their access to services in the host country. The main focus of the study is to analyze the complex linkages between gender, mobility and sites of work and see how this impacts on their health. The qualitative part of the study has just been completed and we are in the process of starting the quantitative component.

The in-depth interviews showed how little women actually knew regarding their own bodies and how this left them at the mercies of others. They do not

◆ACTIVITY UPDATE◆

know what questions they should be asking and to whom. Their undocumented status keeps them in a state of constant fear and their lack of local language keeps them isolated from many people. In addition the unprotected nature of their work. Health care providers often do not have time to provide basic knowledge to their patients. Dispensing medicines keeps them on their toes. Since abortion is illegal in Thailand, women make use of many unsafe methods. Mental health was found to be a completely neglected area.

The study will be completed in 2004 and results shared with network members.

GAATW Network is Broadening

In early 2002 GAATW secretariat was contacted by Sambandh, an NGO working in Orissa (on the East coast of India) to help initiate an anti-trafficking project in the state. We were told that many women from the state are being trafficked into other parts of the country and no significant intervention by the state or NGOs have been made. In June 2002,



Network members of Jajnyaseni, Orissa, India

GAATW co-organized a state level consultation in Bhubaneswar. Around 30 participants representing NGOs, CBOs, donor agencies, academia and media discussed the issue, shared their research and local level interventions. Between June and December 2002 the secretariat stayed in touch with many organizations in Orissa and information was exchanged and ideas discussed.

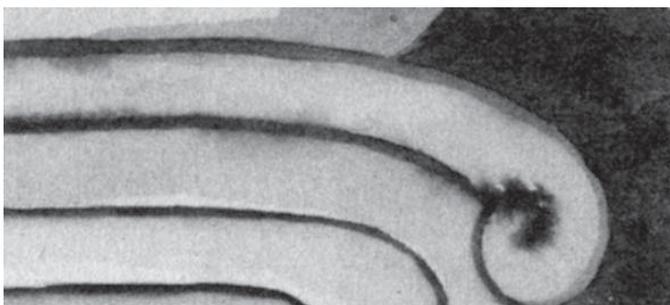
In December 2002, a plan was made in conjunction with two women's networks and Centre for World Solidarity; a donor organization which has been working to promote women's participation in the socio-political sphere in many states of India. In January 2003, 25 women headed groups came together to participate in a workshop on conceptual clarity on trafficking and to make their collaborative action plan. GAATW secretariat and CWS committed themselves to work together with the groups to address the issue of trafficking. Contact with the groups was maintained via email and all planning was done collaboratively. By July 2003, not only had the groups got a distinct identity as a small state level network, they had also become an integral part of GAATW. The workshop in July 2003 on preparation of IEC material/activities was an interesting one. The participants discussed what kind of awareness raising needs to be done, what tools would be used, they wrote and practiced songs, skits and designed posters.

During 2004-5 the network is planning to do its research and documentation work on trafficking and other related issues. The planning workshop is scheduled for late Dec 2003 which will be followed by a series of training workshops all through the year.

Other News from the Secretariat

During 2003 GAATW went through a process of evaluation. An internal evaluation was carried out in June 2003 in which all present staff, board members and several former staff participated. This internal evaluation was complemented by a more structured, external evaluation initiated by NOVIB and HIVOS. The process was concluded on 29 August-4 September when several of our network members came together for a participatory evaluation of our national advocacy project. The board of directors also had their annual meeting at that time. Although quite intense, it was an extremely useful exercise and several key decisions regarding restructuring has been taken in consultation with the members present. During 2004, several consultations with network members will take place in order to arrive at future plans for the alliance. As 2004 also happens to be the 10th anniversary year of GAATW, we are also planning a general assembly. We will start having the preparatory discussions via email with members from January 2004 onwards.

(This is not an update of the activity of all our members, this only focuses on the work that has been coordinated by the secretariat.)





REQUEST FROM NETWORK MEMBERS

Ray of Hope's New Research

RAY OF HOPE will be conducting a qualitative study of Nepali girls trafficked for prostitution on location in the brothels of Mumbai and Calcutta. The study will include in-depth interviews with Nepali sex workers, Indian clients and brothel personnel. The purpose of the study is to investigate sex worker and client attitudes towards the use of children and trafficked persons in the sex industry.

Ray of Hope would like to share ideas with any people or organizations who have conducted or supported research with sex workers, and are particularly interested in studies that have used peer (sex worker) field researchers. They would also like to access research papers on studies that have been done in brothel environments, and studies that have been done on client behaviors and attitudes. Any contacts for experienced researchers in Mumbai and Calcutta would be welcome.

Please write to

John Frederick
Director, Ray of Hope
Kathmandu, Nepal
Email: johnf@rayhope.org

Ban Ying's New Campaign

Ban-Ying, Germany is launching a campaign on the situation of domestic workers, working for diplomats. They are currently working on a brochure, in 3 languages, which intends to inform women about their rights.

They have had cases in the past, where domestic workers were deprived of their very basic human rights, but had no access to justice due to the diplomatic immunity of their employers. Campaigning in Germany was not very successful, so they have collected information for the CEDAW Committee, hoping to open an inquiry procedure according to Article 8 OP/ CEDAW. Information on this campaign would be available on Ban Ying website soon. They would welcome information of cases in other countries.

Please write to

Email: info@ban-ying.de

◆ SOME USEFUL RESOURCES ◆



Some Useful Resources

This section provides information on some relevant topics related to trafficking and migration. Some publications are accessible for free on line while others are available for purchase in print.

On line Resources

European Research on Trafficking in Women

A European research report on trafficking to the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy is available online at www.rodedraad.nl. The report finds that most victims of trafficking are female and one fifth are underage at the time they were first trafficked. For more information contact Ruth Hopkins: ruth.hopkins@wanadoo.nl

UNESCO Database on Human Trafficking Statistics

Discussions on the issue of trafficking in women and girls has often been criticised for being sensationalist, with little basis on reliable data. In response to this, UNESCO have launched a trafficking database to assess the validity of statistics on human trafficking. The Trafficking Statistics Project collects articles, reports and other documents, categorises them and locates their source of data. The project focuses on the Asia Mekong region which includes Southeast Asia and parts of China. For more information please visit the UNESCO trafficking project website: www.unescobkk.org/culture/trafficking

Report on Migrant Workers in Israel

The Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Network and the International Federation of Human Rights have published a report entitled “Migrant Workers in Israel - A Contemporary Form of Slavery” (June 2003). For further information please visit: www.fidh.org/communiq/2003/il2508a.htm

Trafficking in Southeastern Europe - A Report by ICMC

ICMC’s ‘First Annual Report of Victims of Trafficking in Southeastern Europe’ investigates the trafficking of persons on countries like Albania, Bulgaria, Moldova, Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia. It gives reliable data on the scale of human trafficking, analyses existing recovery strategies, provides examples of good practices and makes recommendations for improvement. The report is available as a PDF file at the ICMC website, under the publications: www.icmc.net/decs/en/programs/cotraff

Migration Information on New Website

December 18 has launched a new website on migration issues. It contains a directory of organisations working on migration, a section on documents, archives of the newsletter Migrant News, and a calendar of events. The website is available in English and Spanish. Please visit: www.december18.net

Anti-Slavery’s New Publication on Trafficking and Migration

The publication “The Migration-Trafficking Nexus: Combating Trafficking Through the Protection of

◆ SOME USEFUL RESOURCES ◆

Migrants' Human Rights', produced by Anti-Slavery International, promotes migrants' human rights to counter trafficking and improve development. It is available free as a PDF or can be purchased. For further information please visit:

www.antislavery.org/homepage/resources/publication.htm

"Health Risks and Consequences of Trafficking in Women and Adolescents - Findings from a European study"

Principal Researcher - Catherine Zimmerman

There is little research and knowledge about health and trafficking issues for women trafficked to the EU. The European Commission's Daphne Program have funded this two-year multi-country study. Researchers conducted interviews in Albania, Italy, Thailand, and the U.K. with trafficked women, health care and other service providers, NGOs, policy-makers and law enforcement officials. The study was a collaborative effort by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (U.K), La Strada (Ukraine), University of Padua, Department of Sociology (Italy), GAATW (Thailand), ICMC (Albania), STV Foundation Against Trafficking in Women (the Netherlands) and London Metropolitan University (U.K). The findings of the study were presented and discussed at a presentation at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on the 21st of October, 2003. A draft version of the research is available as a PDF file at:

www.lshtm.ac.uk/hpu/docs/trafficking.pdf

"Demand for 'Trafficked' Persons Labour/Services? A Multi-Country Study"

Principal Researchers--Bridget Anderson and Julia O'Connell Davidson

The demand for cheap labour is only minimally explored compared to the volumes of work discussing the 'causes' and 'supply' of trafficked persons. A multi-country pilot research on the topic has been completed. The pilot study, funded by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SIDA, and Save the Children Sweden, investigates the demand side of trafficking in persons for domestic service and sex work in Italy, Sweden, India, Thailand and Japan. A number of organisations were involved in the research design and data collection of the study including: GAATW, Thailand; Italian League Against AIDs (LILA); Jagori, India; Department of Social Work, Goteborg University, Sweden; Department of Sociology, Vaxjo University; Centre for Department Research, Roskilde University, Denmark; and the Centre of Japanese Studies, University of Hong Kong. The study is now being expanded. An electronic copy of the pilot study is available from the GAATW resource centre.

Print Resources

IOM Publication on Protection of Trafficking Victims

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has published "Protection Schemes for Victims of Trafficking in Selected EU Countries, Candidates, and Third Countries". The 102-page book examines concepts of trafficking, country reports, recovery strategies of victims of trafficking and recommendations. It aims to increase awareness to those involved in combating trafficking, including policy makers and service providers. The cost is US\$25. Please email: Publications@iom.int (ISBN 92-9068-156-X)

◆SOME USEFUL RESOURCES◆

New publication about Trafficking in Indonesia - ICMC and the Solidarity Center



ICMC and the Solidarity Center in Indonesia have a new publication entitled "Trafficking of Women and Children in Indonesia". The purpose of the book is to consolidate information that already exists about trafficking in Indonesia and disseminate

this information widely. It features a review of Indonesian trafficking legislation and National Action Plan, a list of organisations working on trafficking in Indonesia and a list of on-line resources about trafficking. The book is available in English and Indonesian. For more information please contact:

trafficking-indo@icmc.net or scindo@acils.or.id

Guidelines for Interviewing Trafficked Women

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has published guidelines to ensure that trafficked women do not suffer additional trauma in the interview process. "WHO Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Interviewing Trafficked Women" is available for purchase. Please email: bookorders@who.int

CARAM Asia Manual 'Forgotten Spaces' for migrant workers



In response to the growing trend of migration in Southeast Asia, CARAM (Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility) Asia has published a manual which

can be used by migrant workers, advocates for rights of migrant workers and policy-makers to promote and protect the rights of all migrants and their families. The manual consists of seven booklets: 1) *Introduction*, 2) *Predeparture*, 3) *Post Arrival*, 4) *Reintegration*, 5) *Health*, 6) *Gender*, and 7) *Regional Cooperation*. For more information please write to the CARAM Asia Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur: CARAM Asia Bhd., 8th Floor, Wisma MLS, 31 Jalan Tuanka Abdul Rahman, 50100 Kuala Lumpur.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN PRACTICE: A GUIDE TO ASSIST TRAFFICKED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

This manual is a result of a collaborative effort involving a number of activists from South East Asia. It is a useful and practical resource for human rights organisations that are already involved in assisting trafficked women and children or are planning to do so. It aims to strengthen the political and lobbying efforts of NGOs to influence national and international policies to promote human rights of trafficked persons and those vulnerable to trafficking. In order to ensure its accessibility among a wide group of community workers this manual has been translated into Bahasa Indonesian, Burmese, Chinese, Khmer, Lao, Thai and Vietnamese.

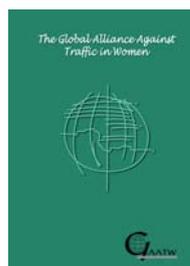


Contents:

1. Concept of trafficking
2. Human rights violation in trafficking
3. Reaching out
4. Investigation and rescue work
5. Laws and legal processes
6. Running a shelter
7. Health issues
8. Repatriation
9. Rebuilding lives
10. Research and documentation
11. Prevention and information campaign
12. Advocacy
13. Working with children
14. Working with sex workers

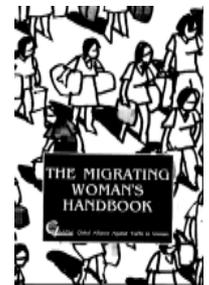
Fact Sheets

GAATW has put together a set of fact sheets on trafficking, which provide basic information about trafficking and address common queries. These sheets cover topics such as: information about GAATW, What is Trafficking?, Protecting the Human Rights of Trafficked Persons, The UN Trafficking Protocol and its Limitations, Trafficking in the Global Context, and Useful Resources.



THE MIGRATING WOMAN'S HANDBOOK

GAATW developed this manual to help people plan a safe journey and ensure that they will not face problems aboard. This manual is aimed at women who have decided to go abroad for jobs or to get married to foreign nationals. The manual provides information on practical tips about arranging your travel documents, immigration and visa requirements, residency and work permits, your rights and wages, as well as how to protect your rights. There are specific chapters for people wanting to work as factory workers, domestic workers, sex workers or people wanting to get married to a foreigner.



It also includes a list of organisations that provide assistance to migrants in various countries of the world. This manual will be available in Thai, in July 2002

Contents:

1. You are going abroad!
2. Travel documents
3. Work permits and residence permits
4. Detention and deportation
5. Checklist before deportation
6. After arriving in the destination country
7. Contracts
8. Know your rights!
9. Are you going abroad to work in a factory or on a construction site?
10. Are you going abroad to work as a domestic worker or housekeeper?
11. Are you going abroad to work in the entertainment industry?
12. Are you going abroad to work as a sex worker?
13. Are you getting married to a foreigner?
14. Methods of redress

MOVING THE WHORE STIGMA

This book is an outcome of the Asia and Pacific Regional Consultation on Prostitution held in Thailand in 1997. The consultation organised by GAATW and the Foundation for Women was to discuss the



debate around the issue of prostitution and search for a common position on prostitution among women in Asia and the Pacific. This book includes the 'Statement on Prostitution', the presentation made at the consultation and articles by authors such as Jyoti Sanghera, Gail Pheterson, Masumi Yoneda, Marjan Wijers and Lin Lap Chew

Contents:

1. Statement on prostitution
2. The consultation
3. The forum
4. In the belly of the beast: sex trade, prostitution and globalization
5. The whore stigma
6. The impact of the international laws on national policies (case of Japan)
7. National laws on trafficking and their impact on women

PARTNERS IN CHANGE - A REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE 6-8 NOVEMBER, 2002

A companion volume to 'Partners in Change - stories of women's collectives', this booklet covers the issues addressed at the Partners in Change conference held in Bangkok. The three-day event organized by GAATW brought together migrant women employed in the informal sector, women who have been trafficked, human rights activists, activists in rural communities, academics, policy-makers and many others in an attempt to reconceptualise and re-strategise some of the issues related to women's mobility. This report provides a summation of the panel presentations and the following discussions while trying to retain the voices of women as they narrate their experience of migration, trafficking and rebuilding their lives.

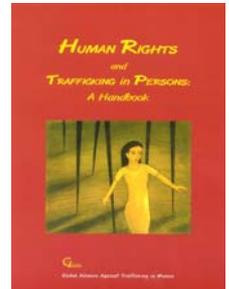


Contents:

- Panel Discussions
 - Migrant for Work - Risks and Rights
 - Rebuilding Lives
 - Knowing Our Power and Sharing Our Power
 - Reclaiming Citizenship Rights - Uniting Against State
- Oppression
 - Community Action for Security and Livelihood
 - Movements for Social Justice and Gender Equality
- Annexes
 - Documenting our Lives
 - Participating Organisations
 - Statement from the Conference

HUMAN RIGHTS AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: A HANDBOOK

This Handbook is for NGOs, activists and persons who come into contact with trafficked persons or who are interested in the issue of trafficking. It is a broad-based manual, containing general strategies that can be easily adapted to local contexts. It clarifies the concepts of human rights and trafficking in persons and provides concrete rights-based strategies that can be carried out at all levels, from local to international, in the context of trafficking. This Handbook was developed out of regional human rights trainings held for Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America. It is also available in Spanish. For information regarding copies of the Spanish version of the Handbook, please contact Fanny Polonia Molina at fannypm@terra.com.co



Contents:

1. Human rights principles, government obligations and trafficking in persons
2. Contributing factors, consequences and recommended government responses
3. Approaches and strategies: principles and guidelines
4. NGO strategies

Publication Exchange Scheme

Would you like to exchange your newsletters with GAATW newsletters?

GAATW would like to thank many of the readers who continue to subscribe to our newsletters. It is our aim to disseminate and circulate the newsletters to as many audiences in the world as possible. We would like many people to know about GAATW activities, we are also eager to learn and find out about the work of other organizations.

If your organization brings out regular publications such as newsletters or bulletins, we would love to receive them. As much as we would like to give out our newsletters at a minimum charge, high postage costs prohibits us from doing so. We have thus come up with an idea of publication exchange. We would like to exchange our newsletters with yours. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the staff at our documentation center for more details.

We look forward to getting to know more groups and organizations!

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

GAATW History & Structure

The Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) was formed at the International Workshop on Migration and Traffic in Women held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in October 1994. Since that time, GAATW has grown into a movement of members consisting of both organisations and individuals worldwide, and has coordinated, organised and facilitated work on issues related to trafficking in persons and women's labour migration in virtually every region of the world. Our aim is to ensure that the human rights of trafficked persons are respected and protected by authorities and agencies.

Our strategy is to promote the involvement of grassroots women in all work against trafficking in persons to ensure that any work done addresses the real problems. We work to empower women rather than treat them as victims.

Mission Statement

GAATW seeks to facilitate on-going development of discourse and action on issues related to what has conventionally been described as trafficking in persons'. Through extensive consultation with GAATW member organisations and allies, it has become apparent that the term trafficking is insufficient to describe the range of human rights violations and abuses inflicted upon migrant women workers. In addition, through these consultations, it has become clear that an anti-trafficking approach to stopping abuses which occur during migration process of women for productive and reproductive service sector often results in repressive laws, policies and international agreements, that

Trafficking: All acts and attempted acts involved in the recruitment, transportation within or across borders, purchase, sale, transfer, receipt or harbouring of a person involving the use of deception, coercion (including the use or threat of force or the abuse of authority) or debt bondage for the purpose of placing or holding such person, whether for pay or not, in involuntary servitude (domestic, sexual or reproductive), in forced or bonded labour, or in slavery-like conditions, in a community other than the one in which such person lived at the time of the original deception, coercion or debt bondage.

criminalise and stigmatise women who migrate to work in other informal sectors such as domestic work, marriage and sex work.

GAATW's mission is to ensure that the human rights of migrant women are respected and protected by authorities and agencies. We seek to promote living and working conditions in countries of origin to provide more viable alternatives and possibilities in their home countries, and to develop and disseminate information to women about migration, working conditions and their rights.

In order to achieve this goal, GAATW endeavours to document, de-mystify and denounce repressive uses of anti-trafficking conventions and legislation by proceeding to reinterpret and redefine anti-trafficking instruments in the interests of migrant women. This includes both moving away from those formulations that

rationalise the social control and criminalisation of migrant women, and fostering the development of a human rights, immigrant worker's and workers' rights approach to combating abusive and exploitative travel, living and working conditions.

Objectives

To work at all levels to promote the application of human rights principles and the use of appropriate instruments and mechanisms in addressing specific issues and providing support to

persons in need in the context of migration, labour and trafficking in persons.

Major Areas of Work

- Advocacy
- Research and Training
- Resource Centre



Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women

P.O.Box 36 Bangkok Noi Post Office
Bangkok 10700
Thailand

Tel: (662) 8641427-8

Fax: (662) 8641637

Email: gaatw@mozart.inet.co.th

Website: <http://www.thai.net/gaatw>