

AFRO e-Newsletter (January 2009)

1) SEX INDUSTRY BIZ NEWS

2 more sex workers were murdered!!

2 sex workers were found dead, in the early morning and the evening of 10 Jan 2009, respectively in a one-woman-apartment in Kwun Tong and at the public corridor of an old building in Tsuen Wan. After forensic examinations, the doctor believed that the two victims died of suffocation. The two cases were defined as murders and the police would study if similarities could be found between the two cases.

http://www.rthk.org.hk/rthk/news/englishnews/20090111/news_20090111_56_5\51522.htm

As a result, AFRO has conducted extra outreach and distributed a special issue of our newsletter. We recommend sex workers who work in “one-woman-apartments” to keep an eye on each other and to install closed-circuit TVs (with recording function) and “safety-alarms” to protect themselves. We urge those who have unfortunately been robbed or might have seen the suspect to immediately contact the police or support groups so that the murderer(s) can be brought to justice and no other sex workers will become victims.

2) WORK REPORT

The 6th International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

17 Dec 2008 was the 6th International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. On that day we, together with 9 sex workers, joined the rally organized by Zi Teng. Due to a series of murders of sex workers, we urged the police to fairly and seriously handle the cases and the issue of violence against sex workers, and provide them with more effective protection. We also urged the Security Panel of the Legislative Council to initiate reviews of the existing law, and to study and prepare for legal reform that allows two sex workers to work in one apartment so that they can work in a safer environment. The action was also aimed to arouse understanding and concern of the public on the occupational safety of sex workers.

The statement by AFRO on the 6th International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. (17 Dec 2008) (in Chinese)

<http://www.afro.org.hk/pdf/newsletter/20081217.pdf>

Fund-raising Sale and International Human Rights Day (2008)

Our fund-raising sale, held on 7 Dec 2008 at Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier, was well received. HK\$20,946.70 was raised from the event and we are very grateful for the support and help from all donors and volunteers.

On the same day, we also joined the International Human Rights Day Carnival which was held at Pedestrian Zone, Sai Yeung Choi Street, Mong Kok to draw the public's attention to the crisis sex workers are in. Once again, our very sincere thanks are extended to all volunteers involved.

3) HONG KONG PRIDE PARADE 2008

On 13 Dec 2008, we participated in the Hong Kong Pride Parade to support friends who face discrimination due to their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. We also contributed an article in Chinese which can be found by clicking the following link: <http://www.inmediahk.net/node/1001753>

4) AFRO's NEWS READING

Hong Kong prostitute murdered in seventh killing of past 12 months

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/249916,hong-kong-prostitute-murdered-in-seventh-killing-of-past-12-months.html>

5) FUTURE WORK

Day time Volunteer Training (Outreach)

AFRO will organize a volunteer training in March 2009. Details as follows:

Date: 9/3 (Wed), 16/3 (Wed), 23/3 (Wed), 1/4 (Mon) (4 sessions)

Time: 3 pm – 5 pm

Venue: AFRO's Centre (Yau Ma Tei)

Content:

- 1) Introduction to Sex Work in Hong Kong and Action for REACH OUT
- 2) Sex work related laws; criminal investigation and prosecution procedures; case studies
- 3) Sexual health
- 4) Outreach skills

Quota: 15-20 persons

Requirement: Chinese speaking; open-minded; with respect for sex workers

Contact persons: Connie Chan / Cherry Chui

Contact number: 27701065

Email: afro@afro.org.hk

Fee: HK\$100

Application form is downloadable from AFRO's website
<http://www.afro.org.hk/form/20090123form.pdf>.

Application will be closed on 20/2/2009.

Notes:

- 1) Applicants will be invited for a 15 to 30 minute pre-interview at AFRO's Centre.
- 2) Qualified applicants are expected to finish all 4 training sessions. AFRO staff will, on the basis of their observations and interactions with the participants, decide whether to invite them to the second stage of trainings on outreach sessions (at least 2 sessions in April 2009; accompanied by AFRO staff).
- 3) AFRO staff will then decide if they are qualified to be regular outreach volunteers for AFRO based on their performance in the sessions.