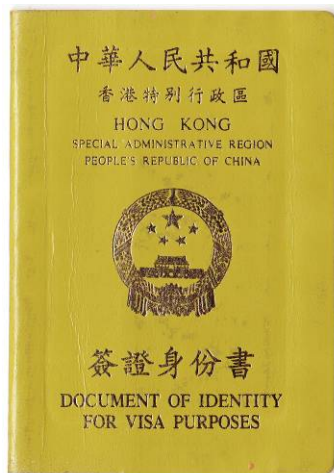


## **1 SEX INDUSTRY BIZ NEWS**

### **1.1 Is there a need for people with one-way permit to carry other traveling documents with them when they were out?**

According to the Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 115, Laws of Hong Kong, which serves to explain to the public the legal requirement of carrying proof of identity, in relation to any person includes his or her valid identity card. Any person who fails to produce proof of his/her identity for inspection as required commits an offence.

As said by the website of the Immigration Department, HKSAR Document of Identity for Visa Purposes (see picture below) is valid for 7 years and issued to those who are not eligible for a passport in Hong Kong or a travel document elsewhere (including people who stay in Hong Kong with one-way permit) to serve as a travel document and to ensure that all HK residents can travel abroad. Therefore, it is only required when you pass the exit and entry control.



As a result, a valid Hong Kong Identity card is sufficient for the proof of your rights to abode in Hong Kong, it is not necessary to show other traveling documents.

## **2 WORK REPORT**

### **2.1 Asia Regional Consultation (GAATW)**

On behalf of AFRO, Kendy attended the Asia Regional Consultation of Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 31 Aug to 4 Sep.

GAATW is a global network that was created in 1994 and now includes around 100 member organizations across all continents. All members work solely or partly on trafficking of women and the promotion of better rights protection for working class migrant women.

GAATW applies a Human Rights Based Approach to address trafficking issues. It opposes trafficking in women that involves coercion, deception, fraud, abduction etc. At the same time, it is also concerned that some so-called anti-trafficking measures/policies have violated human rights. E.g. forbidding women from working overseas, using violence and/or abusing power during anti-vice raids etc. This meeting has provided an opportunity for member organizations in Asia to gain better understanding and have discussion on the following issues:

- 1) Differences and linkages between "Trafficking", "Migration" and "Labor" in the current international context
- 2) Rights of migrant workers
- 3) Impact of anti-trafficking legislation on the rights of sex workers

Three workshops have also been conducted, aiming to facilitate knowledge and capacity building of participants in special areas such as theory/analysis, advocacy and psycho-social care.

## **2.2 Meeting with Crime Prevention Bureau of the Police**

Date: 17 Sep 2009

Present: AFRO, Midnight Blue, Zi Teng

This is the second meeting of the year. Issues discussed include:

### IPCC's follow-up actions

The police claimed that since the Independent Police Complaints Council Bill was passed, the follow-up actions of Independent Police Complaints Council (IPCC) have been taken within a more systematic framework.

### Rights that a person has upon questioning

AFRO was informed by some sex workers that they were treated impolitely by police officers upon questioning in police stations, e.g. using foul language, physical assaults etc. Some police officers even said to the sex workers that they would only be fined as long as they signed the cautioned statement, and that no imprisonment would be involved.

Representatives from the Crime Prevention Bureau indicated that a police officer luring a sex worker to sign a cautioned statement by making a statement like "plead guilty and you will only get fined" could be considered "perverting the course of justice". A sex worker should make a complaint. Throughout the questioning, a person has the right to remain silent and refuse to sign the cautioned statement that he/she does not agree.

### Complaint against police

The Crime Prevention Bureau reminded us of the importance of evidence collection. Audio recording (by mobile phone), noting down the name and warrant number of the police officer, a third-party who might have witnessed incident etc. might serve as useful evidences.

### Compensated dating

According to Zi Teng, women who are involved in compensated dating have been targeted by the police recently. Among those with whom Zi Teng has contact, all are over 18 and are self-employed. These women made contact and negotiated with undercover police officers through internet (in private) but were arrested for "soliciting for an immoral purpose" when meeting face-to-face. Zi Teng indicated that the cautioned statements taken for various women were somehow standardized and one was even put on a wrong name. It happened that when a sex worker refused to sign the cautioned statement, she was threatened that her family members would then be contacted.

The Crime Prevention Bureau responded that the police would not be able to judge whether the woman involved in compensated dating was an adult or underage, was self-employed or controlled. However, it is illegal if a police officer lures or threatens a person to plead guilty.

### Persons claiming to be police officers

Sex workers from Yuen Long, To Kwai Wan and Sham Shui Po reported that thefts were committed by persons claiming to be police officers. The Crime Prevention Bureau agreed to produce a poster about how to identify the warrant card of a police officer so as to arouse sex workers' attention. A person shall call 999 if in doubt of the identity of another person who claims to be a police officer.

## **3 FUTURE WORK**

### **3.1 WALK FOR LIFE – AFRO's Annual Walkathon (8 Nov 2009)**

AFRO's annual walkathon will be held on Sunday, 8 Nov 2009. Our 3-year integrated services project supported by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust would be extended by 3

months and officially end at the end of Nov 2009. AFRO will once again be facing financial challenges. Your support is essential in helping us to sustain our daily operations.

For event details, registration/donation form, please check:  
<http://www.afro.org.hk/pdf/form/20090929-walkforlife2009.pdf>

#### **4 AFRO's NEWS READING**

##### **Sex workers oppose tradition of collecting earth from brothel**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/city/kolkata-/Sex-workers-oppose-tradition-of-collecting-earth-from-brothel-/articleshow/5061645.cms>

27.9.09

KOLKATA: The tradition of collecting earth from brothel areas by sculptors to be mixed in the clay used for making images of Goddess Durga has been opposed by sex workers here.

"Sex workers who are our members as well as others have turned against this practice, which makes them feel stigmatised. It was a spontaneous decision," said Dr Smarajit Jana, chief adviser of Durbar Mahila Samanya Committee (DBMS), the apex NGO of sex workers.

"The women had resented this practice for the past few years, but they have put their foot down firmly this time. They feel demeaned," Jana said.

As per the belief, the client of a sex worker leaves behind all virtues and takes only sins inside when he enters a brothel. So the soil outside is full of virtue and fit for use in making images of Durga.

Ratna Barik, a sex worker and an executive member of Durbar, which has over 60,000 members in Kolkata's largest redlight district of Sonagachi, recollected "this has been taking place for years. But enough is enough. We have opposed it this year."

Speaking out against the tradition, former secretary of Durbar and a sex worker, Swapna Gayen said, "This practice will not help in changing the attitude of society towards us. So why should we allow this?"

##### **Comment:**

We know it is important to keep the tradition, yet this does not mean we can exploit any human kind with stigmatization and humiliation.

It's encouraging to see them finally stand up firmly and oppose to this barbarian acts. Hopefully the Government will listen to their voices and stop these brutal and humiliating acts.

*AFRO's website: [www.afro.org.hk](http://www.afro.org.hk)  
Email: [afro@afro.org.hk](mailto:afro@afro.org.hk)  
Tel: (852) 27701065  
Fax: (852) 27701201*