

1 SEX INDUSTRY BIZ NEWS

- 1.1 Could the client leave his HK identity card as a pledge with a sex worker when he doesn't have enough cash in hand?

Have you ever come across this situation? How would you deal with it?

This happened to Siu Lai earlier. She asked for the agreed amount of \$450 after the service, yet the client claimed that he just paid the electricity bill and forgot that he did not have sufficient cash in hand. Client requested to get money from ATM nearby. Siu Lai was worried that he might never return and was about to report it to the police. As the client didn't want to get into big trouble, he left with his HK identity card with Siu Lai as a pledge.

It looks as if it is alright. However, according to The Registration of Persons Ordinance section 7A subsection 1(A), *any person who without lawful authority or reasonable excuse uses or has in his custody or possession an identity card or other document issued under the Persons Ordinance which relates to another person, he or she commits an offence.* Even if the client voluntarily gave his identity card as pledge, Siu Lai has committed an offence. Further the client may claim that his HK identity card was stolen. Without any witnesses, Siu Lai might be falsely accused.

If you come across this situation, for whatever reason, they have committed an offence on breach of agreement. You should call the police for help.

2 WORK REPORT

- 2.1 The 8th meeting of Working Group Concern over Vice Problem at Yau Tsim Mong District (1 June 2010)

In early May, Eight people, including two staff from AFRO and representative from other sex worker concern groups attended the meeting of Working Group concern over Vice Problem at Yau Tsim Mong District. The main discussion areas were sex workers from Mainland China, the control of the triads, their safety and the order on street etc.

In the meeting, the district councilors stated that the sex workers affected the public health of the district. Some comments were discriminatory, such as sex workers, who wander on the street, attracted the attention from a large number of middle-age men. Some commented that one woman apartments affected the price of their properties. Africans were carriers of sexually transmitted disease. Condoms were found in the garbage of sex workers, which affected the amenities of the district etc.

We were very disappointed to their comments. District councilors are the bridge between the neighbourhood and the government. His subjective comments, did not help facilitate the relationship between sex workers and the neighbourhood. Once again, we must reiterate that sex work should be regarded as work, one woman apartment is not illegal. Only by communication and mutual respect will bring a harmony to a society.

2.2 Monthly gathering in June (23 June)

Sex workers always grumble the imbalance between their work and family, feel uneasy to take care of their children, and hard to communicate with them. Therefore, AFRO has invited a registered social worker as the guest speaker on the monthly gathering, to share the tips on the construction of a harmonious family life, and the techniques on communication with children. Sex workers shared their thoughts and experiences too. Under the guidance of the social worker, they learned the basic principles, the importance to be patient and listen to the children's needs, share their feelings with children, and with more encouragement and appreciation.

3 FUTURE WORK

3.1 AFRO Summer Fund Raising Bazaar (1 Aug 2010)

MARK YOUR DIARIES! AFRO will hold a fundraising bazaar in the summer. We look forward to your support!

We are now collecting items for the bazaar. If you know any sources of free merchandise supply, please contact us. We will also need help for the event. If you can squeeze the time and help as a volunteer on that day, please call 27701065 and let Connie know.

Date: 1 Aug 2010 (Sunday)
Time: 1000-1800
Venue: Pedestrian's Zone, Charter Road, Central

3.2 Seminar: Should sex work be criminalised?

Let us have more in depth understanding on the topic of sex work from cultural, historical, theological, feminist and legal perspective, to clarify different viewpoints. There will be open forums with sex worker and activist of sex worker movement, to chat about the criminalisation of sex work. Through this seminar, it allows the public to gain a clearer picture and discuss the issues related to sex work, in order to explore the possibility of decriminalisation of sex work.

Aims: Sex work has been in existence in Hong Kong for a long time, how the legal framework balances in between the social needs and morale?

Target participants: People aged above 18

The content of the seminar:

- 1) (Talk) The historical background and development of Sex Industry
- 2) (Talk) The discussion and stigmatisation of Sex Work in Hong Kong
- 3) (Talk) The stoning of women: Christian's perspective on Sex Work
- 4) (Talk) Sex work within the legal framework
- 5) (Forum) A chat with Sex Worker: Should Sex work be penalised?
- 6) (Forum) A chat with AFRO: How should the movement of sex work campaign?

Estimated date: Saturday afternoon, 2-4pm in September and October

Venue: Kowloon (TBC)

Number of participants: 40

For reservation or enquiries, please email to contact@afro.org.hk

Stay tuned for further announcement on dates and venue.

4 AFRO'S NEWS READING

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/england/bradford_and_west_yorkshire/10295310.stm
11 June 2010

Vigil for Bradford deaths women

The three women all worked as prostitutes in Bradford

A candlelit vigil has taken place in Bradford to remember three women believed to have been murdered in the city.

Suzanne Blamires, Shelley Armitage and Susan Rushworth worked as prostitutes. Mature student Stephen Griffiths, 40, has been charged with their murders.

The event in Centenary Square was also held to remember other sex workers who have been abused.

Organisers said they wanted the women to be given "some dignity".

Former prostitute Fiona, who helped organise the vigil, said: "There's many, many, many women, whether they've been directly involved in prostitution or not, that feel very strongly that we need to recognise these women.

"We need to celebrate their lives and think about other women that are still entrenched in that world.

"We do separate different parts of our society, our community, into deserving and non-deserving for various reasons.

"We have to recognise these women are somebody's daughter, somebody's mum, somebody's sister, they are **part of our community**."

Jane Gregory of Bradford Rape Crisis said: "A lot of women got in touch and wanted to express their deepest respect and sorrow for the women.

"We have gathered today as women from lots of different communities in Bradford to show that we care."

Comment:

Sex workers are no different from others. It is important for the sex workers to be recognised, included and respected.

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