

## **1 SEX INDUSTRY BIZ NEWS**

### 1.1 Cooperation is needed for the breakthrough

#### **GOOD NEWS!**

Last year, a sex worker showed great bravery and reported a robbery case to the police. Her cooperation has facilitated the collection of important evidence and brought a breakthrough to the investigation. Recently, the police have arrested a man in accordance, and the case is now being processed.

Without the mutual cooperation between the sex worker and the police, in provision of the important and valuable evidences, the suspect might still be unknown and continue to cause harm to other sex workers. Therefore, we encourage sex workers to stay calm when crime occurs, report it to the police immediately, and be cooperative so as to bring the criminals to justice.

When crime takes place, some sex workers would rather keep silent or settle the incident themselves, instead of turning to the police for help, due to the worry about causing troubles or exposing their identity, or the fear of incurring police, who might then visit their workplaces often and thus affect their business. Their reluctance to report crime is noticed and it in a way encourages crime offender to harm other sex workers.

Yet, some sex workers are willing to come forward and report crime to the police. What they should bear in mind is that the police cannot arrest any people simply based on their own accusation. Evidences are needed for investigation. It is important for sex workers to remain alert and be prepared for carrying out “evidence collection” when receiving clients, as no one can tell the real purpose of a client’s visit.

So, how should we carry out “evidence collection” ?

- 1 Pay attention to the client’s appearance, characteristics, accent, physique, clothing or even smell.
- 2 Mark down the date and time of the visit.
- 3 Recall whether there is any other witness, such as other sex workers or the

neighbours etc.

- 4 Provide evidences, for instance CCTV with recording, the used condom and towel etc. Remember to handle the evidences with care; do not ruin them by cleaning out the scene.

Even with sufficient evidences, we still have to bear in mind the following details.

When you report crimes at the police station or when the police come and note down your statement,

- 1 Remember the name and warrant card number of the police officer for future reference.
- 2 Report the incident clearly, point out the evidence if there is any, and allow the police to take care of it.
- 3 Remember to get a copy of your witness statement and mark down the file number if there is any.
- 4 Ask for the contact number of the responsible police officer, so that you can contact him directly if there is further enquiry or evidence.

If you need someone to accompany you, AFRO will always be there for you.

## **2 WORK REPORT**

### **2.1 AFRO's statement on the Hong Kong Government's report on the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) ( 19 July 2010)**

On 19 July, a representative from AFRO attended the meeting of Hong Kong Government's report on the CEDAW at the Legislative Council, to reveal the situation of discrimination against female sex workers in Hong Kong. Female sex workers are also part of women; they face sex discrimination and gender inequalities like other women do. And at the same time, they suffer stigmatisation of sex work and therefore are heavily discriminated and marginalised in the society. AFRO believes that the Hong Kong Government's report on the CEDAW does not adequately reflect the situation of discrimination against female sex workers and provide solution accordingly.

## **3 FUTURE WORK**

### **3.1 AFRO Summer Fund Raising Bazaar (1 Aug 2010)**

AFRO will hold a fund raising bazaar in the summer. We look forward to your support!

You are more than welcome to come and pick some stuff home! For enquiries, please call 27701065.

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 perspectives, and clarify different viewpoints. There will be talks and open forums with sex workers and activists of sex work movement, which allow the public to gain a clearer picture of the industry and the community and to discuss issues related to sex work, in order to explore the possibility of decriminalisation of sex work.

Aim: Sex work has been in existence in Hong Kong for a long time, how can the legal framework seek a balance between social needs, social morale and social order?

Target participants: People aged above 18

Content of the seminars:

- 1) (Talk) The historical background and development of the sex industry
- 2) (Talk) The discourse and stigmatisation of sex work in Hong Kong
- 3) (Talk) The stoning of women: the Christian perspective on sex work
- 4) (Talk) Sex work within the legal framework
- 5) (Forum) A chat with sex workers: Should sex work be penalised?
- 6) (Forum) A chat with AFRO: How can the sex workers movement go forward?

Participants are required to attend 50% of the talks, in order to continue the forum sessions.

Estimated dates: 8/9, 15/9, 29/9, 6/10, 13/10, 20/10 (Wednesday)

Time: 7:30 – 9:20pm

Venue: The City University of Hong Kong

Number of participants: 40

Fee: \$500, \$400 (Full-time Student)

For reservation or enquiries, please send your name, contact number and email address to [contact@afro.org.hk](mailto:contact@afro.org.hk)

### 3.3 AFRO's annual walkathon (7 Nov 2010)

AFRO's annual walkathon will be held on Sunday, 7 Nov 2010. You are all welcome to participate in the event. Stay tuned for further announcement on details.

## 4 AFRO'S NEWS READING

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE66J1WX20100720>

### **Cambodian police abuse sex workers: rights group**

By Prak Chan Thul

Jul 20, 2010

Cambodian police and social workers have beat, extorted and raped sex workers after taking them into their custody, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday, adding foreign governments could do more to stop such abuse.

"From beginning to end, those people who should really be protecting sex workers from violence and other abuses are in fact the ones who are harming them," Elaine Pearson, acting director of Asia Human Rights Watch, told a news conference.

Quoting victims, the rights group said in a report that police often abused sex workers arrested during regular sweeps of the streets and parks in the capital, Phnom Penh, following the enactment of an anti-human-trafficking law in 2008.

It called on the government to close down certain detention centers where drug users, beggars, street children, homeless people and sex workers had all been illegally detained.

And it urged foreign donors to review funding to the police and Social Affairs Ministry.

"Donors should not spend their money on abusive officials but instead take steps that will promote accountability from the Cambodian government," Pearson said.

Cambodian police spokesman Kirth Chantharith told Reuters he had not read the report and could not comment.

Lim El Djurado, a Social Affairs Ministry spokesman, said the allegations against his ministry were false, adding government centers did not house sex workers and officials did not abuse them.

"There are no sex workers at our centers. The centers are for the homeless," Lim El Djurado said, adding that prostitutes had in fact been sent to non-governmental organizations for vocational training after police round-ups.

Comment:

It is not uncommon for the news of police abuse of sex workers worldwide. But what's more irritating is, even the social workers, who are supposed to offer support, are abusing them as well.

I hope those who use violence on sex workers will reflect on their behavior and not to harm any innocent anymore.

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