

## 1 SEX INDUSTRY BIZ NEWS

Lately, some girls who work at massage parlours complained that the 'undercover' police arrested them only after receiving their massage services, or even molesting them. They suspected that such behaviours have already breached the police force ordinance.

The police have set down guidelines on undercover operation and allow body contact only when there is a need. However, the necessities or the extents of body contact are yet ill defined. Therefore, during the collection of evidence, to some extent body contact may occur.

Unquestionably, AFRO is strongly against the police taking advantage, using free massage services, not to mention making body contact/molesting. In fact, accordingly to the law, the manifestation of a vice establishment does not rely on the fact that the actual sexual service is delivered. Instead, verbal mutual commitment is already sufficient for purpose of evidence collection.

If you come across the above-mentioned circumstances, or in any case of doubt, try to remember the appearance or the clothing of the 'undercover' police, note it down, and file a complaint with the Duty Officer at the police station or with the Complaints Against Police Office. Feel free to contact AFRO and let us accompany you to go through the procedure.

## 2 WORK REPORT

Our Summer Fund Raising Bazaar was held on 1 Aug 2010 in the Pedestrian's Zone, Charter Road, Central. Our heartfelt thanks go to all our fantastic volunteer teams and donors of goods. \$5,100 was raised from this event and it will be used to cover our daily operating costs. Our next fund raising bazaar will take place in Tsim Sha Tsui around Christmas time. Details to be announced soon.

## 3 FUTURE WORK

### 3.1 AFRO's Annual Walkathon (7 Nov 2010)

AFRO's Annual Walkathon will be held at the Peak on 7 Nov 2010 (Sun).

Since the three-year integrated programme funded by the Jockey Club Charities Trust ended in Nov last year, AFRO has been financially pressured and we have organised various fund raising activities. We just have our fund raising bazaar held in August and in December we will have another event of the same kind.

We sincerely hope that you can join us for our Annual Walkathon in November. Your Support is invaluable to us. Money raised from the walk will be used to cover administration costs of our drop-in centre and office.

Details:

Date: 7 Nov 2010 (Sun)

Registration time: 9:30 am

Registration place: Beside the Peak Lookout ( 121 Peak Road )

Starting time: 10 am

Starting point: Lugard Road

Finishing point: Harlech Road

Route: Morning Trail's Lugard Road on the Peak (About one hour to complete)

Please feel free to contact us if you are interested to support/join us.

Tel: 2770106; Email: [contact@afro.org.hk](mailto:contact@afro.org.hk)

### 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.

For details, please check <http://www.afro.org.hk/news.php?date=2010-08> (in Chinese).

#### 4 AFRO'S NEWS READING

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/aug/03/china-prostitution-sex-workers-protest>

### **Chinese sex workers protest against crackdown**

#### **Demonstrators in central Hubei province call for legalisation of prostitution and better treatment of women suspects**

3 August 2010

A crackdown on China's fast-growing sex industry has prompted a backlash, with sex workers demonstrating for the legalisation of prostitution and an outcry about the treatment of women suspects.

The protest in Wuhan, central Hubei province, is thought to have been the first of its kind in the country. The small group of women asked onlookers to sign a petition calling for an end to discrimination against sex workers and the scrapping of anti-prostitution laws.

"Our society has many problems that are neglected by the public and prostitution is one of them," Ye Haiyan, the activist and sex worker at the forefront of last week's demonstration, said today.

"Since the crackdown has drawn a lot of media attention, I thought it was a good opportunity for a demonstration to gain public attention so people can know more about the lives of prostitutes."

She said police had detained her for a few days for her part in the protest. Prostitution is widespread and blatant in China, despite frequent crackdowns. Many hotels, hairdressers, massage parlours and karaoke bars make little effort to disguise illicit activity. The World Health Organisation has estimated the country has 4 million sex workers, but academics have suggested the figure is higher.

In May, state media said police had arrested 1,100 suspects from "high-end" establishments in Beijing alone. But pink-lit hairdressers and massage facilities appear to be operating unhindered in the capital and elsewhere.

Ye, who tweets and blogs under the name Hooligan Sparrow, said the police campaign was harming the health of workers. She launched the Chinese Women's Rights Workshop, distributing condoms and Aids-prevention pamphlets to brothels in Wuhan . But she said that sex workers were now reluctant to use condoms for fear they would be used as evidence of prostitution.

On her website she said she also decided to speak out after seeing women publicly humiliated following police raids.

She told the Guardian that legalisation would not only help protect the health of sex workers and stem trafficking, but would also help tackle corruption.

"Brothels are not cheap places. Most consumers are quite rich and spend a lot usually. So where is the money coming from? If prostitution was legalised, such income could be more transparent," she said.

Zheng Huang, of Shanghai Leyi 乐怡 an NGO supporting male sex workers 乐怡 said the crackdown was the most significant for at least a decade. He believed prostitutes have become more vulnerable because they are moving around to avoid police.

He said: "Sex workers just need to regain the rights they are supposed to have rather than asking for more rights. For example, many prostitutes do not dare to call the police when they get robbed, because they are afraid of being arrested for their job."

Lawyers and academics suggest that, as in many countries, sex workers 乐怡 rather than those who run the brothels 乐怡 bear the brunt of anti-prostitution drives.

"Policemen usually impose a fine on the place then leave them in peace. It is like a protection fee," said Li Yinhe, a well-known academic who has campaigned for sexual reforms. This year's campaign has gone further than usual. Chinese police closed the Hilton hotel in Chongqing for several days in June after raiding a basement bar. Hilton Worldwide said the club was independently owned and operated.

There was anger last month when pictures of a raid on a brothel in Guangdong province emerged. The images of women barefoot on the street, handcuffed and tied to a rope, enraged internet users.

Last week the ministry of public security ordered police to stop such practices.

Li said her research showed the public were no longer so judgmental about prostitutes.

Zhu Xiaoding, a lawyer who has been following the anti-prostitution campaign, added: "Now people know prostitutes are mainly from poor areas in the countryside, with no skills and no other choice for making a living."

Comment:

We should respect people, who work so hard for a living, instead of suppressing their voice and the right to work, or even violating their human rights and dignity.

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