

## 1 SEX INDUSTRY BIZ NEWS

### 1.1 Messages to Girls Involved in Compensated Dating

Compensated dating is usually related to teenagers providing commercial sexual services. To AFRO, the provision of paid sexual service, regardless of its form, is considered sex work. According to the Hong Kong Law, it is not illegal for a Hong Kong resident whose condition of stay is not restricted, aged 16 years old or above, to provide or receive consented commercial sexual services to or from another individual in a private premises.

People who are involved in compensated dating usually make contact with their clients through internet, and go out with their clients only after chatting and negotiating with them online. However, no matter how well you think you know your clients, please always stay alert and take the following for reference:

1. Make your service scope clear and understood when negotiating with your clients. If necessary, keep a record of your online conversation for reference.
2. Meet your clients somewhere public and safe, e.g. MTR station, shopping mall, hotel lobby etc. Don't get on a client's car, or go to his place or a hotel room alone or without notifying a friend.
3. For the sake of safety, inform at least 1-2 friends of your whereabouts. Ask them to keep contact with you before and after your appointment with a client.
4. Before meeting a client, give him a call when you are near where you are going to meet, so that you can observe him from afar and give yourself one last chance to change your mind. But please remember to let your client know no matter what your final decision is.
5. Do not disclose too much about your personal data when chatting with your clients.
6. Do not let any client take pictures of you, and always beware of secret photo taking. You will never know how the photos will be processed/handled.
7. To avoid being charged with Soliciting for an immoral purpose, never take the initiative to negotiate in public for commercial sex.

In case of emergency, call 999 or AFRO's 24-hour hotline (27701002).

## 2 WORK REPORT

### 2.1 A Forum Organised by COSWAS, Taiwan

On behalf of AFRO, Connie went to Taipei to attend a forum organised by Collective Of Sex Workers And Supporters, COSWAS (12-14 Sep 2010), aiming to share with them about the situation of sex workers who work in one-woman apartments in Hong Kong.

#### Regulation of Sex Work in Taiwan

The Constitutional Court of Taiwan ruled on 6 Nov 2009 that a law penalising sex worker and not their clients is unconstitutional because it undermines equality under

the country's constitution. The Social Order and Maintenance Act will have to be amended to meet constitutional fairness requirements, but will remain in effect two years from the date of the decision. Taiwan is currently reevaluating treatment of prostitution under the laws of the island. COSWAS estimates that sex workers may not longer be criminalized. The government may allow sex workers to work in one-woman apartments but restriction on solicitation and measure such as zoning may be introduced. Therefore, COSWAS organised such a conference so that friend in Taiwan could know more about the experience of one-woman apartments in Hong Kong.

Nearly 100 persons attended the forum. Questions raised were mainly about polices undercover action, taxation, personal safety of sex workers, the role of middle person, STDs and public health etc.

Connie also went outreach with staff of COSWAS, in order to gain a better understanding on how sex workers see the possible legal reform.

### 3 FUTURE WORK

#### 3.1 AFROs Annual Walkathon 2010

AFROs 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 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 V 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)

Please check the following link for the registration/donation form:

<http://www.afro.org.hk/form/20101107-form.pdf>

### 4 AFROS NEWS READING

**Bangladesh prostitutes win job title identity ruling By Anbarasan Ethirajan**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-south-asia-11003199>

17 August 2010

*The Election Commission in Bangladesh says prostitution will be recognised as a job title on new voter ID cards.*

*Although prostitution is legal, it has not been given this kind of recognition until now.*

*Campaign groups have welcomed the move, saying it will reduce difficulties faced by sex workers in offices and other public places.*

*As in many others parts of the world, prostitutes in Bangladesh have faced humiliation and isolation for years.*

*Aid groups say the workers have been stigmatised, insulted and beaten by clients and the police.*

*The women work under difficult conditions, they say, and need to have more rights before society can give them due respect.*

*'Social status'*

*"Sex workers can mention prostitution as a profession in the voter identity cards," Election Commissioner Shakhawat Hossain told the BBC.*

*"The commission decided to include it... following recommendations from human rights groups."*

*It has so far recognised only 25 professions but has decided to add more jobs, including journalists, priests and human rights activists.*

*Officials say that the information will not be on the card itself, but stored on a bar code linked to a database which can only be accessed by the election commission.*

*Campaign groups say there are an estimated 200,000 prostitutes in the Muslim-majority country and many brothels.*

*"The latest move by the election commission is a step closer to achieving social status...", Asif Iqbal, an official at the Protirodh Project charity, told the BBC.*

*"Hopefully, it will make it easier to get admission for their children in schools," he said.*

*Mr Iqbal said that sex workers with the new identity cards will now not hesitate to mention their profession in offices and public places.*

**Comment:**

We are glad to see that there's finally some official recognition of sex workers work and social status, especially in a Muslim country like Bangladesh, which we believe will provide them with more protection at work and resources from the society.

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