

## **1 SEX INDUSTRY BIZ NEWS**

### 1.1 Crime News

We were informed by the Police that a Cantonese speaking man, aged 30-40, 170 -180 cm tall, wearing glasses with dark colored bold frame and short hair with a receding hairline (in an “M” shape), was suspected of being involved in at least 4 robbery cases targeting sex workers working in one-woman-apartments. We would like to remind all sex workers to pay special attention, and call AFRO or the police immediately in case of any contact with the suspect.

If you unfortunately become a victim of an armed robbery, stay calm, alert, and aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to the type and color of clothing, unique characteristics such as scars, tattoos, birthmarks, and mannerisms of the robber. Try to remember as much as you can. The more accurate the description, the more chance the police have to apprehend the criminal. Do not resist or provoke the robber so as to avoid any injury.

## **2 WORK REPORT**

### 2.1 Regular Meeting between the Crime Prevention Bureau and Sex Workers Concern Groups

AFRO and two other sex workers concern groups had a meeting with the Crime Prevention Bureau on 28 Oct 2010. Several issues were raised, including:

#### Crimes against One-woman-apartments (Jan - Sep 2010)

Prior to the meeting, AFRO had sent an enquiry to the police for the relevant figures and trend of crimes against sex workers in one-woman-apartments, the police replied us at the meeting that the reported figures this year were close to the ones last year. There was a slight increase in robbery but also a slight drop in blackmail.

In spite of this news, we should always stay alert and give no chance to any law offenders. Call 999 in case of emergency.

#### Professional Conduct of Translators/Interpreters at the Police Station

We also reflected at the meeting that some sex workers complained that translators/interpreters at the police station were unacceptably unprofessional. They inserted personal viewpoints, or even made negative or directive comments when providing translation service for sex workers who received police's interview. Representative from the Crime Prevention Bureau reiterated that translators/interpreters should act according to their professional conduct and provide translation service without making any judgment. A person can file a complaint at the Complaints Against Police Office, and should not sign a questionable statement.

## 2.2 Seminar: Should sex work be criminalised?

The last session of the seminar was held at the end of Oct.

10 participants took part in 4 lectures, aiming to enhance their understanding on the topic of sex work from historical, theological, feminist, sociological and criminological perspectives. They also joined 2 discussion sessions, exchanged viewpoints and ideas with sex workers and AFRO staff members, on the feasibility of decriminalising sex work in Hong Kong.

Each participant will write a short article to share his/her opinion on the issue. The articles will later be uploaded to AFRO's website.

## 3 FUTURE WORK

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

Once again, we would like to invite you to join AFRO's Annual Walkathon this year. We will get together at the Peak at 930 am that day. Sister Ann Gray, one of the founders of AFRO, will also join us and we will have a reunion after the walkathon.

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' 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>

### 3.2 Volunteer Recruitment for AFRO Bazaar and International Human Rights Day

AFRO Bazaar

Date: 2 Dec 2010 (Sunday)

Time: 10 am - 6 pm

Venue: Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Pier

International Human Rights Day

Date: 12 Dec 2010 (Sunday)

Time: To be confirmed

Venue: To be confirmed

Volunteers are needed!! If you are interested to join, please call 27701065 or email to [contact@afro.org.hk](mailto:contact@afro.org.hk) and let us know. Thank you very much!

### 4 AFRO'S NEWS READING

Small brothels set to get green light

[http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news\\_detail.asp?we\\_cat=3&art\\_id=103847&sid=29936289&con\\_type=1&d\\_str=20101015&fc=7](http://www.thestandard.com.hk/news_detail.asp?we_cat=3&art_id=103847&sid=29936289&con_type=1&d_str=20101015&fc=7)

15 October 2010

Taiwan's government plans to decriminalize the sex trade by allowing prostitutes to open small- scale businesses.

Authorities have been mulling various measures, including creation of special zones to regulate the trade amid criticism of the existing law, which punishes sex workers but lets customers off.

The law is due to expire in late 2011 and the interior ministry has proposed new rules allowing small brothels operated by individuals or groups of three to five sex workers.

But the ministry has ruled out setting up red-light districts or allowing larger companies due to opposition from experts concerned it would turn the sex trade into a regular industry. The ministry said yesterday it will submit the proposal to the Cabinet's human rights committee for approval by the end of this year.

Comment:

Though details are yet to be discussed, we are delighted to see that there is at least a step forward, which provides sex workers in Taiwan more protection and also the freedom and choice of work.

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