

# COALITION REPORT

— 2004 —

THE COALITION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN



## CATW IN ACTION

POLICY, LEGISLATION AND PRACTICE – CAMPAIGNS

### CATW TESTIFIES AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HEARING ON THE SEX INDUSTRY

On January 19, 2004, Swedish Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Marianne Eriksson of the Women's Rights and Equal Opportunities Committee, held a press conference and public hearing on "The Consequences of the Sex Industry in the European Union." These events followed a report on the same topic. Drawing one of the largest attendances at a European Parliament hearing, the event was attended by 200 members of the public, including a good number of MEPs.

CATW Co-Director, Janice Raymond, was invited to present testimony at the hearing, along with Marjan Wijers, well-known pro-prostitution advocate formerly with the Dutch Foundation Against Trafficking (STV) and now Chair of the European Commission's Expert Group on Trafficking in Human Beings; and Veronica Munk, Coordinator of the TAMPEP project in Germany and Chair of Amnesty for Women in Hamburg.

MEP Marianne Eriksson wrote the report and organized the hearing to focus on the impact that the sex industry has on European lives. Stating that the sex industry exploits the human bodies of women and children by flooding the internet and e-mail with enormous amounts of unsolicited legal and illegal material, especially sexually objectifying advertisements and pornography, the report calls for EU legislation to curb this material. The report also opposes the promotion of pornography and prostitution in hotels and in the tourist industry and states unequivocally that "prostitution can never be reduced to a choice of profession."

In its recommendations, the report calls for a prohibition on listing sex businesses on the stock exchanges of European markets. Noting that most men who purchase women for prostitution activities are anonymous, the report urges that the role of men be illuminated.

The report faults EU Member States for having capitulated to the sex industry. Instead of fighting sexual exploitation, some EU Member States have "accepted the prevailing situation and, through legalization and regulation of prostitution, have helped make what was previously a criminal activity part of the legal economic sector. The Member State then becomes part of the sex industry, yet another profiteer on the market."

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The report also voices strong concern that the EU is “allocating funds to NGOs whose policies and sources of revenue are not clear and transparent. Specifically, the report commented that in an investigation into HIV/AIDS programs funded by the European Union, organizations receiving such funds “often used the funds actively to campaign for the legalization and regulation of prostitution in and outside the Member States.” The report found it “astounding” that no checks are carried out in the EC of the organizations funded or when it appoints experts.

Janice Raymond pointed out in her testimony that “The normalization of sexual exploitation has been greatly enhanced by the legalization/decriminalization of the sex industry” in countries where prostitution has become a public good and governments derive enormous revenues from its legal legitimization. Raymond also faulted EU countries for early on separating trafficking from prostitution by repressing any mention of prostitution in EU forums on trafficking.

In conclusion, Janice Raymond called on the European Parliament to restore the connections between prostitution and trafficking, combat the trend to legalize, decriminalize and regulate prostitution as work, focus on the demand by emulating the Swedish legal model that penalizes the buyers, and treat trafficked women as victims of violence against women, not as migration criminals.



### **European Parliament (EP) Hearing on the Consequences of the Sex Industry**

*Left to Right: EP Secretariat; Anna Karamanou, Greek Minister of Parliament and Chairwoman of the EP Women’s Rights and Equal Opportunities Committee, Marianne Eriksson, Swedish Minister of Parliament; Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director, CATW; Marjan Wijers, pro-prostitution advocate and Chair of the European Commission’s Expert Group on Trafficking*

## **DECRIMINALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION MEASURE REJECTED IN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA**

A local initiative to promote decriminalization of prostitution was soundly defeated by 64% of Berkeley, California voters in November 2004. With topless dancers in parking lots helping to collect the required 3000 signatures, Measure Q would have made the enforcement of prostitution laws the lowest priority for the Berkeley Police Department and forced the Berkeley City Council to lobby for the repeal of these laws at the state level. The US group COYOTE and the Australian Sex Workers’ Organizing Project promoted Measure Q. It was placed on the ballot by a woman who had earlier been convicted of interstate promotion of prostitution between California and Nevada.

The fight against Measure Q went public in the summer of 2004 with a conference to educate the community about what decriminalization of prostitution really means (“Decriminalization of Prostitution is Paid Sexual Exploitation for Poor Women”). The conference was sponsored by many anti-sex industry groups and local service providers, including the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW). The Swedish government

contributed literature, which addressed alternative legislation to decriminalization. Participating speakers came from the Center to End Adolescent Sexual Exploitation (Atlanta, Georgia), Narika (Berkeley), Bilateral Safety Corridor Coalition (San Diego), Breaking Free (Minneapolis, Minnesota), Equality Now (New York), Options Recovery Services (Berkeley), SAGE (San Francisco), and A New Direction (Auckland, New Zealand).

The conference was covered widely in the US media. Opponents of Measure Q spoke in a number of public forums, attended neighborhood meetings, and were interviewed on radio and television. Wherever sex industry advocates spoke, Measure Q opponents also appeared. In liberal Berkeley, one of the most progressive cities in the United States, voters were able to grasp not only the brutal sexism of prostitution but the ways in which women are additionally harmed because of race/ethnicity, immigrant status and poverty. They also understood that Measure Q offered women no way out of prostitution.

A critical element in the defeat of Measure Q was the intense involvement of several Berkeley City Council members who guided political opposition to the measure. The mayor, the superintendent of schools, and 6 of 8 Berkeley City Council members publicly opposed Measure Q. Several newspapers eventually came out against the measure. Local and national organizations, including the Democratic Campaign Headquarters, the National Women's Political Caucus, the University of California Advocates for the Homeless, the Republican Patriot, the Citizens' Action Committee, as well as Gabriela, CATW, Breaking Free, Captive Daughters, and Prostitution Research & Education, all opposed Measure Q.

Opponents of Measure Q produced campaign signs reading "No on Q: Protect Women, Protect our Community." "No on Q" advocates also focused on the harm of prostitution to the women and children in it. They pointed out that decriminalization of prostitution de-penalized pimps and buyers, not just the women. "No on Q" advertisements emphasized that decriminalization of prostitution would increase both legal and illegal prostitution, trafficking and child prostitution.

This past November, Berkeley voters did the right thing by defeating this attempt to decriminalize prostitution. This is a victory for all who work against any attempt to mainstream the prostitution of both local and immigrant women. Special congratulations go to Melissa Farley who was one of the lead organizers in the "No to Q" campaign and who worked tirelessly on behalf of women in prostitution to defeat the sex industry and its advocates.

## **FORUM SAYS NO TO LEGALIZATION IN ITALY**

The International Conference on Prostitution and Trafficking was held in Alba, Italy from January 22-24, 2004. The conference was the result of the dedicated efforts of Esohe Aghatise, director of the IROKO Association in Turin and one of CATW's European representatives. She miraculously brought together mayors and representatives of Piedmont municipalities, provincial presidents, the labor unions, representatives of the Catholic Church, NGOs who work with trafficked and prostituted women in the region, members of the Italian Parliament, and representatives of various governmental Ministries to create a conference program that addressed the urgent issue of legalization of prostitution in Italy.

The conference addressed international, national and regional situations of sexual exploitation, models of assistance and victim protection policies, and legislative comparisons. The purposes of the conference were several: to influence the political approach of the Italian government as it considers proposals to reform the prostitution laws; to understand the violence and trauma to women who are subjected to sexual exploitation; to encourage governments and individuals to provide more resources to groups that aid victims of trafficking and prostitution; and to address the demand, rejecting the diffusion of myths about male sexuality and men's supposed need for commercial sexual exploitation.

Over 50 speakers contributed to the conference. There were many Italian speakers such as Don Oreste Benzi, the well-known priest who has fought legalization proposals in Italy, and is President of the Pope John XXIII

Association, which provides services to prostituted women and children; former Senator and Member of the European Parliament, Maria Paola Colombo Svevo, President of the IRENE Association and Coordinator of the abolitionist European Network Against Trafficking in Women; journalists, among them Mirta da Pra Pochiessa of Gruppo Abele; Sen. Patrizia Toia; Italian public prosecutors; and speakers from the Italian trade unions.

International speakers included Eki Igbiniedion, founder and president of Idia Renaissance Foundation for Nigerian victims of trafficking and wife of the governor of the Edo State in Nigeria from which most Nigerian women and girls are trafficked; Lise Bergh, State Secretary from Sweden; Efe Ikponmwonba, Solicitor-General in the Federal Ministry of Justice from Nigeria; Herbert Dubois, producer of the documentary on “The Dutch Showcase,” a documentary on the sex industry in Holland; and Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of CATW. Raymond gave several presentations on the consequences of legalization in countries where the sex industry has been decriminalized, myths about why men buy women for the sex of prostitution, and Italian Law Proposal 3826, which is a complex legalization proposal submitted by the Italian Minister of Equal Opportunities and supported by many members of the Italian government.

Esohe Aghatise did a herculean task of bringing these groups together to address very complex and contentious issues of legalization in Italy and other themes of the Italian Social Protection Program for victims of trafficking. One important result of the conference was that representatives of the trade unions stated publicly that they will not support any proposals that legalize prostitution in Italy.

## **FROM BUDAPEST TO PRAGUE**

As part of the Coalition’s international law reform campaign, Janice Raymond had the opportunity to travel to Budapest, Hungary and to Prague in the Czech Republic from May 25 - June 2. Both countries organized conferences on impending moves to legalize prostitution. The trip also involved meetings with parliamentarians and government ministers in both countries to speak about the consequences of the sex industry in Europe and to discuss how legalized prostitution would affect the women in prostitution, the society-at-large, and the situation of trafficking in these respective countries.

Speaking at the Budapest conference on May 28 were Krisztina Morvai, member of the UN CEDAW committee; Peter Szil, spokesperson for the Movement for a Prostitution-Free Hungary; Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women; Gunilla Ekberg, Special Advisor on Trafficking and Prostitution in the Swedish government’s Division for Gender Equality; and Colette de Troy, European Women’s Lobby. Janice Raymond also participated in consultations with the Minister of Gender Equality and her staff, officials from the Ministry of Social Welfare, and several parliamentarians.

Both Hungary and the Czech Republic have similar but different problems. Both face legalization initiatives and strong pressures to legalize prostitution. Both countries have different groups who are leading the opposition to legalized prostitution. In Hungary, the conference and meetings were organized by the Movement for a Prostitution-Free Hungary. The group is led by women and men who are pro-feminist, former political dissidents, governmental workers and Hungary’s representative to the UN CEDAW committee. In the Czech Republic, the conference was organized by conservative male politicians who were political dissidents during the communist period and are now Christian Democratic parliamentarians.

In Hungary, prostitution tolerance zones went into effect during a conservative political government in 1999, and conservatives have been as much in favor of legalization as the liberal and social democratic parties. Partial legalization of prostitution in so-called tolerance zones is legally mandated in cities and towns where there is prostitution “on a large scale” – more specifically, cities where there are large sex industries. Women in prostitution in the zones must possess a medical certificate, and sex venues cannot be established near schools, churches or public buildings. Only women are arrested for solicitation, and there are no laws that forbid men from buying children between the ages of 14-18.

Responsibility for zone designation in Hungary has been a contentious issue since the tolerance zone ruling went into effect 5 years ago. Because many local authorities have resisted these zones for fear of alienating residents, the Ministry of the Interior says that prostitution will be permitted everywhere until cities designate tolerance zones. This policy puts enormous pressure on cities to set up tolerance areas.

With the help of the liberal Helsinki Committee, Agnes Foldi, a massage parlor owner claiming to represent women in prostitution, originally threatened to sue any district and city that does not implement the law and mark out the limits of the tolerance zones. Now, she and the pro-prostitution contingent are pushing for full legalization of prostitution in Hungary on the grounds that women would be free of risk, harassment, and danger if allowed to operate in brothels and sex clubs.

A high ranking police official from the Hungarian Interior Ministry regularly appears on television with Agnes Foldi and argues that he fights for the rights of “sex workers” to practice freely. The pro-prostitution forces regularly receive free airtime, as the media is enchanted with the message of freedom for “sex workers” and their right to practice their “profession.” Although no parliamentary vote has been set for further legalization proposals, many Hungarians fear that these actions are preparing the groundwork for full legalization of prostitution. The Hungarian Minister of the Interior has introduced policy proposing full legalization.

The Hungarian opposition to legalized prostitution fears especially the pressure to “harmonize” legislation coming from the legalizing countries on its borders, such as Germany, Austria, and the Czech Republic. The Czech cabinet, led by the Minister of the Interior, has approved the legalization of prostitution, and the Parliament may vote on it in the beginning of 2005. Since the Czech Republic in 1993 signed the 1949 Convention, which prohibits legalization of prostitution, the social democratic government may send a preliminary bill to Parliament that would allow the country to opt out of the convention. Effectively, this would free ratifying countries from their 1949 treaty obligations which forbid registration of women in prostitution, brothels, and pimping, giving the go-ahead for legalization legislation to follow.

Opting out of the 1949 Convention has been discussed in Hungary also and is clearly a strategy being used internationally by pro-prostitution advocates in countries that have ratified the 1949 convention yet are considering legalizing legislation. In 2003, the entire liberal-led local governments in Budapest voted to leave the 1949 agreement. Such a move, of course, needs the approval of Parliament.

The conference on “Prostitution and the Effects of Regulation” was held in Prague on May 31, 2004. It was opened by Czech Christian Democrat MPs Jiriho Karase and Jana Kasala. Speakers included Dr. Zdlilava Majerakova from the EMPS Work Group, Dr. Roman Joch from the Citizens Institute, Dr. Janice Raymond from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Gunilla Ekberg from the Division of Gender Equality in Sweden, and Dr. Donna Hughes from the University of Rhode Island. Janice Raymond also participated in consultations with members of the lower house and the Senate. This conference may be a prelude to a later and larger conference to be held in the Czech Republic.

The conference was attended by many NGOs, members of the police, governmental ministry staff members and several parliamentarians. There was a lively discussion that took place in the question period. The conference put forth a position opposing legalization that had not been represented in the government or the Czech media, and many people were particularly interested in the Swedish model as an alternative to legalization.

CATW recommended that the Czech opposition to legalization monitor the bill that will be submitted to parliament proposing that the Czech Republic opt out of the 1949 Convention. Initially, it is necessary to oppose this bill, and this should be the first line of action in parliament.

## LETTER TO CATW FROM A HUNGARIAN ACTIVIST

**“In Hungary only 51 percent of the employable people have employment. After legalization many sectors will provide the extra bodies for prostitution for the increased demand. It is also sure that we will turn from a mainly transit and source country to a target country for the traffickers. Due to our weaker economy, legalization will turn our country into a sex tourist paradise. So we are afraid that what happened in Thailand will happen here: entire economic sectors caved in and disappeared under the pressure and demands of the sex industry so that today the centerpiece of the economy is the sex industry and everything has been changed to satisfy its needs.**

**A hotline worker told us at our last meeting that there are more and more calls from girls whose fathers and brothers want to force them into prostitution. They don't know what to do about it, how to defend themselves. Can you imagine how many more women will call after the legalization! But since it will be legalized 'work,' a profession by choice, we won't even be able to provide them with help from our criminal justice system.”**

## KOREA'S NEW LAW AGAINST THE SEX INDUSTRY

(Originally written for the *Korea Times*, this is the final of 4 articles authored by Hilary Sunghee Seo, CATW's Korea expert - *Watch Out and Be Wary— Sex Trade Proponents Are Fighting Back*)

The Protection Act designed to protect and help victims of prostitution and the Punishment Act that increases penalties against brothel owners and procurers are a direct threat to an industry estimated by the Korea Institute of Criminology to be larger than Korea's agricultural sector. The sex industry and related sectors in Korea comprise over 4 percent of its gross national product (GDP). Given the enormity of the financial base being tackled, it would be surprising if there were *not* fierce opposition to the new law, as there has been from certain expected quarters.

The media has focused almost exclusively on the impact of the new law on the prostituted women. Since these are the women the new law seeks to protect, the importance of listening to their voices, and responding to them with concrete assistance programs cannot be overstated. However, the sex trade, like any industry has two sides, the supply side (the mostly women and girls who sell sex) and the demand side (the mostly men who buy women's and girl's bodies). But it is unpopular to talk about the demand. It is also bad for business. Therefore, brothel owners, procurers and other proponents of the sex trade like to use certain time-tested tactics to deflect attention from the reality of the sex trade when they feel their business interests are under attack.

One such tactic is to pressure the women in abusive and exploitative conditions to protest against the laws and policies designed to protect them. Such demonstrations confuse the public because people begin to wonder, if the very women whom the new law seeks to protect are against the law, what good is that law? Han Tuh, the group representing the interests of brothel owners and pimps, has been very successful in organizing large demonstrations and having them portrayed as “protests by sex workers demanding their rights.” However, Korean NGOs have been able to document, largely through first hand testimonials of women who eventually were able to break away from the control of their pimps and brothel owners, that such demonstrations were primarily orchestrated by the men taking a hit on their business.

Korean women's groups like the Korean Women's Associations United (KWAU) should be applauded for actively engaging in dialogue with women in the sex trade, including the hunger strikers, and working towards mobilizing more financial assistance and social services to help them. One outcome of these joint efforts has been the two pilot programs in Incheon and Pusan providing startup capital, job training and other social services to prostituted women. It is remarkable that these programs are the result of dialogue and collaboration between women's NGOs, the government, and women who initially began dialogue with KWAU as members of “sex worker delegations” sent by Han Tuh to protest the Protection Act and the Punishment Act. These collaborations demonstrate the maliciousness and emptiness of rumors that Korean women's NGOs have been unwilling to even talk to women in the sex trade because they are criminals.

Another favorite tactic is to make the debate all about the prostituted women – whether they are in the sex trade by choice, whether they are benefiting financially and whether they like it – while obscuring the violent reality of prostitution. As has been discussed in previous columns (*Korea Times*, 11/7/04 and 11/17/04), numerous studies from around the world have documented the destructive effects of prostitution on the prostituted women’s physical and emotional well being, as well as the corrosive effects on society as a whole when prostitution is condoned through legalization or decriminalization.

Moreover, examples from other abusive and exploitative situations show the danger of drawing conclusions about their harsh reality based on the supposed “consent” of a victim with no viable choices. For instance, many domestic violence victims return to the abusive home after fleeing to temporary shelter. People used to ask, if things were really so bad at home, why did she return? By returning, hasn’t she “chosen” that living situation for herself? Now we know that many domestic violence victims return to the abusive home because, practically, they see no other way to survive. Especially if she has devoted her adult life to raising children, it may seem next to impossible for a domestic violence victim to find new and safe permanent housing, relocate her children, get them into new schools, overcome family pressures to reunite with her abuser, get a job and become financially independent. Yet these are all things she would have to do if she were to leave the abusive home and build a safe life on her own.

Although the Protection Act and the Punishment Act are new laws setting the country in the right direction, there is no doubt that there will be many challenges ahead in the actual implementation of these laws. Law enforcement must keep up the pressure and ensure that those acts criminalized under the new law do not go unpunished. Also crucial will be the provision of more assistance programs for prostituted women that take into account the complex and often long-term needs of women trying to leave the sex trade. This will require significant budgetary commitments, some of which could be paid for through money confiscated from the ill-gotten profits of brothel owners and traffickers. Finally, there needs to be more public education, so that the average citizen will become more informed about the manipulative tactics of the proponents of the sex trade, as well as the individual and societal harms of prostitution.



## KEY EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

### 10<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY – HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

The 10<sup>th</sup> National Asian Pacific American Conference sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard Law School was devoted to “Border Crossings: Globalizing the APA Movement for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.” The conference, held on March 12-13 2004, discussed past and present events that reinforce the stereotype of Asian Pacific Americans as perpetual foreigners, the invisible crisis among refugee and immigrant youth, the rapid changes in immigration policies since 9/11, and the transnational trafficking of Asian Pacific women.

Janice Raymond from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women spoke on a panel entitled “Trafficking of Asian Pacific Populations to the United States.” Joining Raymond on the panel were Charles Song of the Coalition to Abolish Slavery & Trafficking (CAST), Maria Jose Fletcher of the Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center, and Dorotea Agustin Mendoza of Gabriela Network.



## **ASTURIAS, SPAIN – FORUM ON PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN**

The Instituto Asturiano de la Mujer (Asturian Women's Institute) held a forum on "Prostitution and the Trafficking in Women" on March 19-20, 2004. Attended by over 350 participants, the meeting was held in the beautiful oceanfront city of Gijon. The organizers invited both abolitionist and pro-"sex work" speakers from Spain and other countries to debate issues of prostitution and trafficking. Spain has legalized aspects of the sex industry, and some women's groups are calling for a repeal of these laws.

Wassyla Tamzali, former director of UNESCO's Program for the Promotion of Women's Rights in the Mediterranean Region, and Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of CATW, spoke on the opening day of the conference. Wassyla Tamzali addressed the way in which prostitution is and is not included in international and national discussions about women's rights and human rights. Janice Raymond spoke about the inseparability of prostitution and sex trafficking and the ways in which European forums on trafficking, in particular, have censored any mention of prostitution.

Luz Castillo from the Spanish organization LICIT ("Line of Investigation and Cooperation with Migrant and Sexual Workers") talked about prostitution as a normal job for women, and argued that laws in Spain should regularize foreign women's ability to "migrate for sex work." Montserrat Quesada, director of the journalism department at the University Pomeu Fabra in Barcelona, analyzed the classified ads that advertise "sexual services" in the Spanish print media.

The forum closed with a round table on the situation of prostitution and trafficking in Europe. Featured speakers were Elena Valenciano, Spanish Socialist member of the European Parliament, who condemned Spain's reputation as being the easiest country in Europe for traffickers to set up operations because of the lax legalization laws; Ingela Klinteberg, a representative of the Swedish government who spoke about the Swedish model of legislation penalizing the demand; and 2 members of the pro-"sex work" organization, Hetaira from Madrid, who spoke about the necessity to consider the needs and desires of women in prostitution in the debates over legalization.

Many participants came from diverse backgrounds and engaged in a lively discussion with speakers and with each other. Many were concerned about Spain's reputation as an easy country for traffickers.

In the aftermath of the terrible tragedy and loss of lives resulting from the bombings in Madrid on March 11, 2004, Spain has a new Socialist government. It was under the last Socialist government that decriminalization of pimping took place in 1995. Many of the women who organized the conference are also members of the party, but they reject any further efforts to legalize prostitution in Spain.

## **INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS IN MADRID – THE CITIES AND PROSTITUTION**

Forty speakers and 325 participants attended the Congress on "The Cities and Prostitution." The conference was organized by Asuncion Miura, Director of the Equal Opportunity Commission of the Municipality of Madrid, and member of CATW's international Board of Directors. It was opened by Ana Botella, Deputy Mayor of Madrid. Among the speakers were Marianne Eriksson and Gunilla Ekberg from Sweden; Malka Marcovich, Esohe Aghatise, Janice Raymond from CATW; Yolande Grenson, founder of Pandora in Belgium, a survivors organization; Dora Cantos, an Argentinian survivor of trafficking and prostitution; Ana Miguez, President of Alecrin which, bravely exposed the pimps of Viga, Spain; Maria Jose Barahona, Professor at the University of Madrid; and Ann Hamilton, from the Glasgow City Council, who gave a very impressive presentation of Glasgow's efforts and programs to curb the sex industry and its related activities.

*The Congress published a set of conclusions including:*

- A public debate on prostitution and trafficking of persons for purposes of sexual exploitation is necessary in Spain to increase knowledge of its psychological, physical, social and economic effects and to promote social awareness in order to adopt common political, legislative and social measures.



- Regulating prostitution is often viewed as social and moral progress. However, we must remember that past debates over race slavery advocated regulating rather than abolishing slavery. Abolition of slavery triumphed over its regulation. Unfortunately, we are today having the same debate over sexual slavery.
- Prostitution is a violation of human rights.
- Women in prostitution need diverse programs to help them leave prostitution, as well as increased aid and resources.
- There is a need to train concerned professionals, such as social workers, police and judges, to take action against sexual exploitation.
- When prostitution is “State regulated or decriminalized,” the problem is not solved; it grows worse. The State becomes a legal pimp. Regulating prostitution increases trafficking and the sex industry expands. Such measures encourage the normalization and legitimation of male behavior as sexual consumers of women.
- Measures, including legislation that emulates the Swedish model, must be taken to address the demand (the client) for prostitution that promotes trafficking, until now scarcely taken into account.
- Primary importance was given to creating a “Network of Cities in Solidarity Against Sexual Exploitation.” This Network would aim at sharing experiences and preventive actions such as information and social awareness campaigns directed towards potential prostitutes/consumers of commercialized sexual exploitation; and cooperative actions for helping victims as well as networking and cross-border actions. This project was regarded favorably by the Municipality of Madrid, which is disposed to promote this Network and stimulate actions to achieve the proposed objectives.

## ANTI-TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE IN ROME

On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Dorchen A. Leidholdt, Co-Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women participated in a day-long conference held at the Gregorian University in Rome, sponsored by the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See. Entitled “A Call to Action: Joining the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons,” the conference brought together the Vatican Diplomatic Corps, members of the Curia, anti-trafficking activists, representatives of religious orders, and international experts in the field of trafficking to discuss how churches, faith-based organizations, and concerned individuals can unite to “defeat this scourge.”

Other key speakers included Sister Eugenia Bonetti, head of the anti-trafficking initiative of the Italian Union of Major Superiors, a body encompassing all female religious orders in Italy; Michele Gillen, Emmy Award-winning CBS News/Miami correspondent, who has extensively covered trafficking stories; Stefano Volpicelli, anti-trafficking project manager for the International Organization for Migration; Sister Mary Ellen Dougherty, representative of the Department of Migration and Refugee Services at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; and Dr. Donna Hughes, Professor at the University of Rhode Island.

Speaking on “What Generates Trafficking: The Demand Side of the Issue,” Dorchen Leidholdt emphasized, “There is one and only one explanation for the stunning and devastating escalation over the past two decades of sex trafficking: the demand created by men with the means to purchase the body of a woman or child.” She pointed both to the ubiquity of demand—“These men are our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons. They live in our communities. They attend our churches, synagogues, temples, and mosques. Most consider themselves to be good family men.”—and to its devastating consequences: “Few consider themselves serial sexual predators—although that, in fact, is what they are. Even fewer regard what they inflict on the women and children they use as casually as spittoons or urinals, rape—although that is precisely how their victims experience it.”

Ambassador Jim Nicholson, whose passionate opposition to trafficking and all forms of commercial sexual exploitation infused and inspired the conference, welcomed the participants and concluded the landmark event with a call to unity and action.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the day after the event, Dorchen Leidholdt conducted interviews about the Coalition's work against trafficking with Vatican Radio, which is broadcast around the world, and with National Public Television in Italy. Her talk and the conference received wide media coverage.

## **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CONFERENCE IN TAMPA, FLORIDA**

CATW was invited to the "National Conference on Human Trafficking" sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice, on July 15-17, 2004, in Tampa, Florida. The Conference, which included keynote speeches by President George W. Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft, focused on training local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate and prosecute trafficking cases and rescue and assist trafficking victims. Barbara C. Kryszko participated on behalf of the CATW. Several friends and partners of CATW were also invited to the Conference, including CATW board member, Vednita Carter, who is the Executive Director of Breaking Free in Minnesota.

## **NORWAY SOCIAL FORUM IN OSLO**

As part of the Norway Social Forum, Kvinnefronten and the Network Against Prostitution and Trafficking in Women sponsored a conference event on globalization and its effects on the trafficking in women and prostitution. Organizers were keen to place the sex industry squarely in the context of globalization.

Hubert Dubois, French filmmaker who has produced and directed a film entitled "The Dutch Showcase," was invited to show his film. The film depicts the normalization of the sex industry in the Netherlands by documenting the ways in which the industry has become simply another business, interviewing sex entrepreneurs who proudly display their venues and their plans for expansion, and by juxtaposing this "normal picture" with the reality of the industry's exploitation of women.

Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of CATW reminded participants that "Trafficking depends upon globalization of the sex industry. Globalization of the sex industry means that countries are under an illusion if they think they can address trafficking without addressing prostitution.

Finally, Ragnhild Hennuam, a Norwegian Professor of Law, spoke about the role of law regarding prostitution and trafficking. She emphasized that punishment is intended not only to make citizens law abiding but that it is a pedagogical tool that can be used with the general public to prevent crime. In the context of criminalizing the client, Ragnhild explained that the theory of general prevention is based on the assumption that human behavior is rational and that the so-called client has a choice. Another panel sponsored by Kvinnefronten featured Pauline Muchina, a theologian from Kenya and Agnete Strom of Kvinnefronten who has been a consistent advocate and friend of CATW in Norway.



# **INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND UN MEETINGS**

## **48<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF CSW**

The 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations, held from March 1-12, 2004, reviewed two thematic issues: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality, and women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

CATW members lobbied throughout the session for strong language addressing sex trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Agreed Conclusions for both thematic issues. Clare Nolan of the Sisters of the Congregation of the Good Shepherd, who works closely with CATW at the UN, facilitated the men and boys break out group

specifically on trafficking. Barbara Kryszko was the resource person for the group, and gave a brief presentation of the relevant issues.

During the session, CATW members were active in the ECE regional caucus, the caucus on men and boys, as well as the violence against women caucus, which addressed both thematic issues. All three caucuses produced documents that included strong language on sex trafficking and the demand, and that became part of the Agreed Conclusions.

CATW also attended the US Mission's events at CSW. CATW members participated in both of the briefings led by the US Ambassador to CSW. The US Mission also organized a panel on trafficking, which was moderated by John Miller, Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

CATW also held two panel discussions that focused on one of the Session's two thematic issues: the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality, and women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.

The first panel, "Ending the Demand for Prostitution and Trafficking: The Role of Men and Boys," reached an audience of more than 150 representatives of NGOs from around the world. The panel featured Luis Enrique Costa Ramirez, Co-Founder and Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Venezuela; Aurora Javate de Dios, President, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women; Melissa Farley, Director, Prostitution Research and Education; Ken Franzblau, Equality Now; and Rachel Paul, Center for Gender Equality, Norway. The panel was co-moderated by Anindita Chatterjee Bhaumik, Southasian Expert, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and Clare Nolan, NGO Representative, Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

The panel on "Ending the Demand for Prostitution" was dedicated to the memory of Zoraida Ramirez Rodriguez who served as Regional Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Latin America from 1994 to 2002. A powerful and inspirational leader, Zoraida worked with Luis in the development and implementation of a peer education program to raise the consciousness of youth in public schools and community centers in Caracas, Venezuela about the importance of gender equality and the harm of human trafficking to the safety and status of women and girls. In his presentation, Luis spoke about his work with his mother and the critical importance of men and boys becoming workers and leaders in the campaign to end the sexual exploitation of women and girls.

The second panel, "Building Equality and Peace: Ending Sexual Exploitation and Violence in Conflict Situations" addressed an audience of more than 100 NGO representatives. The panel featured Pamela Shifman, Project Officer, Child Protection, UNICEF; Philippa Robertson; Allia Tamzali, Algerian Expert, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women; and Ruchira Gupta, Founder, Apne Aap, India. It was co-moderated by Fatoumata Sire Diakite, Regional Director, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women Africa and Amairis Pena-Chavez, Co-Director, Community Liaison Project, Sanctuary for Families, Inc.

CATW members Dorchen Leidholdt, Barbara Krysko, Meredith McGowan, and Amanda Noreiko were among the organizers of a parallel event, which took place the first two days of CSW, a conference held at Fordham University School of Law. Entitled "Domestic Violence, Prostitution, and Trafficking: Common Themes and Common Challenges," the conference trained domestic violence legal and social service providers to recognize and assist victims of commercial sexual exploitation. CSW participants joined conference attendees at a showing of Lilja 4-Ever, Swedish Director, Lucas Moodysson's highly acclaimed commercial film based on the story of an abandoned teenager from Lithuania who was prostituted and trafficked.

## **TRIBUTE TO MADAME HALIMA EMBARK WARZAZI AT THE 29<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY**

**Madame Halima Embarek Warzazi, longtime member of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and, for many sessions, its Chair, announced that the Working Group's 29<sup>th</sup> Session would be her last. In recognition of her many and significant contributions to the Working Group and to women's rights internationally—Madame Warzazi has long served as the Special Rapporteur on Traditional Practices, where she raised the issue of female genital mutilation as a violation of women's human rights—Dorchen Leidholdt made the following intervention:**

**Madame Warzazi, on behalf of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and the International Council of Women—I know that I am also speaking for many others in this room—I would like to express our tremendous and heartfelt gratitude for your years of leadership and contributions to this Working Group. Your breadth of knowledge and vast experience on such a wide range of subjects, your patience and candor, your tireless commitment to human rights, especially in the area of slavery and slavery-like practices, including, in particular, the sexual exploitation of women and children, have been priceless gifts. We are indebted to you for presiding over, participating in, and guiding this group for many years, often during times of controversy, always with a shortage of resources—too often an exhausting and thankless job. For those of us who are advocates for the rights and equality of women, you have been an inspiration, a teacher, and a role model. You will be sorely missed. Our consolation is that we know that you will bring your knowledge, experience, and commitment to other groups that will benefit from your gifts as much as we have.**

## **28<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF WORKING GROUP ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY - GENEVA**

Dorchen Leidholdt and Malka Markovich represented the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women at the 29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland from June 28 through July 22, 2004. Established in 1975 by the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council, the Working Group consists of five human rights experts who annually review developments in the areas of slavery, the slave-trade and slavery-like practices, apartheid and colonialism and the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others, and make recommendations to the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

This year's Working Group experts consisted of the Chairperson and Rapporteur, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, Emmaual Decaux, Iulia-Antoanella Motoc, Abdul Sattar, and Halima Embarek Warzazi. The priority issue was forced labor, and because of this the International Labor Organization (ILO) was invited to present at a day-long session midweek. Thirty-seven countries and the Holy See participated in the session as observers. In addition to CATW, participating NGOs included Anti-Slavery International, MAPP, Franciscans International, the Salvation Army, Action for Children's Campaign, the International Alliance of Women, the International Council of Women.

Speaking on the first day of the Session, Malka Marcovich discussed the draft Council of Europe Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings (CAHTEH). The Convention will address both domestic and transnational trafficking, whether or not linked to organized crime, and proposes to establish a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of and assistance to victims, to promote international cooperation, and to set up an independent monitoring mechanism.

Dorchen Leidholdt made a detailed intervention on the urgent need to develop measures to halt the demand for prostitution, which, she emphasized, plays the "crucial role" of "fueling the human rights catastrophe" of trafficking in women and children. In a second intervention, Dorchen brought to the Working Group's attention the fact that, in a misguided response to the increase of trafficking and prostitution within and across their borders, Hungary and the Czech Republic are considering the legalization of prostitution. She also explained, to the dismay of the Working Group experts, that both countries have ratified the 1949 Convention on the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons

and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and would have to rescind their ratifications, setting a dangerous precedent while “sending the message that the lure of sex industry dollars can purchase a government’s commitment to human rights.”

The Working Group’s recommendations, which subsequently were adopted by the Sub-Commission, were comprehensive and strong. Key recommendations in the area of trafficking in persons and exploitation of the prostitution of others are as follows:

***The Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery:***

*Reaffirms that prostitution is incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and constitutes a source of serious violations of human rights.*

*Recognizes that international sex trafficking, procuring and prostitution within countries are interconnected with the global sex industry and must be addressed together.*

*Regrets that some States have legalized or regulated prostitution, as it believes that such measures aggravate sexual exploitation and increase trafficking in women and children, and that prostitution can never be considered legitimate work, and therefore, urges States to ensure that their policies and laws do not legitimize prostitution as the victims’ choice of work or promote the legalization or regulation of prostitution.*

*Recalls that the demand for prostitution and all other forms of sexual exploitation plays a critical role in the growth and expansion of trafficking in women and children, and calls upon Governments to take effective measures to punish those who purchase the sexual services of others.*

*Notes with satisfaction that the definition of trafficking in persons used in the Palermo Protocol is not restricted to situations where force, fraud, or deception have been used but also covers “the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability,” consistent with the principles of the 1949 Convention.*

*Calls upon United Nations human rights bodies to address as a matter of urgent priority situations of human rights violations relating to prostitution and trafficking in persons, in accordance with the 1949 Convention, which is not superseded by the Palermo Protocol.*

## **CATW INTERVENES AT UN SUB-COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Speaking on behalf of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women and the International Council of Women, Brigitte Polonovski addressed the United Nations Sub-Commission on Human Rights on August 5, 2004 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

In her remarks, Brigitte pointed to the escalation of trafficking into Europe, citing the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control’s estimate that 500,000 people are trafficked into Europe each year, 90 percent for purposes of sexual exploitation. She explained that this explosion in sex trafficking was preceded and is accompanied by an explosion in the availability of pornography. Of the 252 million Euros that European Internet users spent during 2001, she explained, 70% went to pornography sites.



## **SIGMA HUDA – NEW UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN**

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) congratulates Sigma Huda on her recent appointment to the post of UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Women. Sigma has been a longtime advocate against violence against women.

Working with the Bangladeshi Women Lawyers Association, the Institute on Law and Development and the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights, Sigma Huda has fought against trafficking and sexual exploitation, particularly of women and girls, from Bangladesh to India. In recognition of her work against trafficking, she was appointed to the National Council for Women in Development in Bangladesh by the Prime Minister.

Sigma Huda was a Member of the Bangladesh Labour Law Reform Commission from 1991-1995. She is the current Secretary General of the Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights and past President of the Centre for the Training and Rehabilitation of Destitute Women, an organization for the protection of pregnant abandoned women. She is a Founder Trustee of the Acid Survivors Foundation and a Trustee of Bangladesh Legal Services Trust. She was a past Member and Assistant Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association and has been twice elected Member of the Bangladesh Bar Council for the term 1995-1998 and 2001- 2004. She is an active member of the Women's Movement and is one of the 15 members steering committee of the United Women's Movement.

In 1999, Sigma filed a Writ of Mandamus in the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh against the illegal eviction of women in prostitution from their residences situated in the red light areas of Tanbazaar and Nimtoli of Narayanganj, Bangladesh in violation of their fundamental rights and the prevailing law of tenancy. She successfully challenged the Government's contention that they are vagrants as defined in the Vagrancy Act of 1950. The Court ruled in favor of the evicted women in prostitution.

Sigma has been a Board Member of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Asia Pacific. She organized CATW's Regional and Global Conference on Combating Trafficking in Women, Globally and Regionally, which was held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1999. In the past she has also organized an International Workshop on Sexual Exploitation in Brussels, Belgium in 1985 on behalf of International Federation of Women Lawyers FIDA of which she was then the Regional Vice President.

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women's joins many NGOs and governments in celebrating Sigma Huda's appointment as the UN Special Rapporteur Against Trafficking in Women. We know that she will be a strong advocate for victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation.



## **COALITIONS AROUND THE WORLD**

### **AFRICA**

#### **MALI**

CATW Africa has been very successful in obtaining the return of a young girl to Mali who had been trafficked to Saudi Arabia. Upon her return, the parents of the young girl saluted CATW Africa for its role in bringing back their daughter.

The National Director for the Promotion of Children and Family sought CATW Africa's assistance in solving the trafficking cases of 12 Nigerian girls who were brought to Mali by a Nigerian network and put into prostitution in a gold mine called Morila. IOM assisted CATW Africa in repatriating the girls to Nigeria. Unfortunately, CATW Africa received little cooperation from the Nigerian Embassy based in Mali.

October through December is the high season for tourism in Mali. It is also a period during which trafficking and sexual abuse of women and children increases. Thus CATW Africa organized a one day sensitisation activity in which more than 40 tourist guides participated. These guides are often used by tourists to gain access to women and children in different localities.

During 2004, much of the work of CATW Africa has been devoted to preparations for Beijing + 10. CATW Africa was nominated to be a member of the Beijing + 10 African Regional Organizing Committee, in charge of West Africa, for the NGO Forum. In this capacity, CATW Africa, with WILDAF, facilitated the sub-regional workshop of NGOS that took place during September, 2004 in Lomé, Togo.

The regional African NGO Forum for Beijing + 10 met in Addis Ababa from October 6-7, 2004. Representatives from CATW Burkina Faso, Togo, and Mali participated in the Forum and in the Regional Women's Ministerial Conference on Beijing +10, with support from the Agence Intergouvernementale de la Francophonie (AIF). CATW Africa took a leadership role in the Forum and also organised a workshop on "The Trafficking in Women and Children in Africa: a Women's Rights Issue."

As part of the drafting committee charged with writing the final recommendations that emerged from the NGO Forum on Beijing +10, CATW was successful in giving centrality to the issue of the trafficking in women and placing it on the agenda as an emerging issue for the African region. In Mali and other African countries, child trafficking has been a key issue. Thus these recommendations will encourage governments and donors to give as much importance to the campaign against trafficking in women as they do to child trafficking.

CATW Africa was invited by Plan Mali, an international NGO, to participate in a regional meeting on child trafficking and sexual exploitation held in Dakar from November 29 - December 2, 2004. CATW was represented by its new program officer, who began working at the CATW's regional office several months ago.

Another important event to which CATW Africa was invited was UNICEF Mali's drafting of its National Plan of Action on the trafficking of women and children in Mali. CATW Africa was also part of a UNICEF -Mali study on the same topic. During these events, CATW Africa took the time to engage in an informal exchange with the new national Director of Malian Women and encouraged her to include the issue of the trafficking in women in her department's national Plan of Action for 2005.

## **NIGERIA/ITALY**

Through the IROKO Association in Turin, which is a part of CATW Africa and CATW Europe, CATW continues to help provide housing facilities, temporary economic assistance and psychological and medical support to victims of trafficking, the majority of whom come from Nigeria to Italy. In 2004, 20 victims were assisted financially, one of whom was a 15-year old girl. Twelve victims of trafficking, and 9 of their children, were given housing facilities. All victims of trafficking have benefited from other services of the IROKO program including cultural mediation and accompaniment to services, translation of documents for immigration purposes, legal advocacy and medical assistance.

The big news from IROKO is that the organization has bought a traditional Italian farmhouse in the village of Villamiroglio and is in the process of converting it into an agricultural tourist and training center – named "Casale del Rio." IROKO is applying for future funding to re-construct the building and convert it into a tourist and training center to offer employment training for former victims of trafficking. Initial design and re-construction have already started on the building. An architect has been commissioned, and architectural drawings have been submitted to the municipal, regional (Piedmont) and provincial (Alessandria) councils. Reconstruction work on the roof has begun.

The goal of IROKO's project is to make the agricultural tourist center completely self-supporting after 3 years. Women will be trained in restaurant and hotel management and after working at Casale del Rio for a temporary period may then go out from the program and obtain employment in the tourism, hotel and restaurant sector, with the possibility of future employment training in other sectors as well.

On December 7, 2004, IROKO held an installation celebration for its new offices in Turin. Janice Raymond, Co-Executive Director of CATW, was invited to help inaugurate this important place through which many women will walk into safety, security and a new future. The day was also marked by the opening of IROKO's holiday market in which artisans' products from Nigeria, Kenya and the women's prison in Turin were made available to the general public. All the profits will go to support IROKO's projects.

## ASIA

### THE PHILIPPINES

During Year 2 of its program "Addressing the Demand Side of Trafficking and Prostitution," CATW Philippines continued to develop innovative educational methods to implement the specific objectives of the project:

1. Change the attitudes and behavior of men who are potential buyers of women in commercial sexual exploitation contexts.
2. Address gender roles and the male construction of sexuality that facilitates men's demand for prostitution that promotes trafficking,
3. Educate young women who are also bombarded by media and market messages promoting their sexualization.

During 2004, CATW held 2 camp sessions bringing together over 100 youth and young men to participate in intensive educational activities focused on gender roles, men's sexual practices, and men's demand for prostitution. The first camp was held in Baguio City from May 12-14, 2004, and involved 55 males, aged 16-21, from the National Capital Region and Southern Tagalog. The participants came from 4 strategic universities (Batangas State University, Ateneo De Manila University, San Beda College, PUP), as well as from 2 communities of Luzon. Youth from the community reside primarily in areas where prostitution has increasingly become an intrinsic part of the social fabric, such as in Central Luzon, where former US military bases were located.



The second youth camp was held in Curimaos, Ilocos Norte, and involved 56 boys and young men, aged 16-21, who came from the Cordillera and the National Capital Region. Participants came from 12 high schools, universities and colleges (De La Salle University, City College of Manila, University of the East, University of Caloocan City, Holy Angels College, Central Luzon State University, University of Northern Philippines, Don Mariano Marcos State University, Pangasinan State University, University of the Philippines, Baguio, Benguet High School, Irian High School).

CATW held a facilitators workshop in April, 2004. Facilitators of the camp sessions were trained in sessions during which 8 experts on gender roles presented teaching methods for young men and ways to discuss male sexual stereotypes and practices. Discussion of male sexuality and its impact on relations with women was in-depth and approached from a life-cycle perspective.



After having been vetted with the experts and facilitators, an educational module was finalized during the facilitators' workshops for use during the camp sessions. CATW Philippines also produced teaching aids for the facilitators, including a flipchart on prostitution. The flipcharts proved to be an effective popular education tool, as they contain artwork and core messages for the camp sessions on sexuality and prostitution. Additionally, CATW Philippines finalized a pre- and post testing instrument to assess changes in attitudes and knowledge among youth camp participants who went through the program. After administering the questionnaire, the results showed changes in gender attitudes and increased knowledge about men's roles and responsibility for violence against women.

One particular success of the project has been that youths participating in the camp sessions have themselves become future facilitators of workshops and forums in other areas of the Philippines, thus producing a multiplier effect for the project. Graduates of both camps organized forums in their own universities and local areas. In July, 2004, these graduates educated 30 out-of-school youths from the community of Valenzuela; and in September, 2004, graduates facilitated forums with 150 students from Batangas State University on "Gender Issues and Prostitution." Future forums on the demand are already set at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and the University of the Philippines – Baguio for early next year. Four graduates of the first camp in April were also involved as co-facilitators in the second camp.

Future collaborative efforts are being pursued with Gender Studies Programs within universities and with youth groups, to share costs in continuing the education of the youths, especially boys and young men, on issues of sexuality and trafficking. These groups organize the forums, and CATW Philippines provides facilitators and speakers.

## **LATIN AMERICA**

### **MEXICO**

## **PREVENTION OF CHILD TRAFFICKING AND PROSTITUTION PROJECT**

CATW Latin America and the Caribbean continues its project to prevent trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and teenagers in targeted counties in Mexico City that have the highest incidence of trafficking and sexual exploitation. As part of the project, the Coalition has developed a video to be presented on buses, airlines, and at other transportation facilities, warning those arriving in Mexico City, as well as parents and teenagers, about the risks and penalties of trafficking and sexual exploitation. The video, which focuses on the men who buy children for sexual exploitation, has been shown on 2 TV networks — Televisa Azteca or Channel 22, and the Educational Channel 40 — each reaching a viewing audience of 100,000.

The Prevention Project aims to train and equip teachers to help students both in defending themselves and in taking the offensive against recruiters and sexual exploiters. During 2004, CATW finalized and printed a third edition of a Manual for the Prevention of the Sexual Commercial Exploitation of Children in Mexico. In 18 workshops conducted in Mexico City, CATW has also educated 300 teachers about child trafficking and sexual exploitation. A comic book entitled "It Will Never Be the Same Again," which raises awareness about internet recruiting methods with children, is in the final stages of completion.

Because the project has become known throughout Mexico, CATW receives many requests to conduct the workshops in different parts of the country. In Chiapas, for example, the Coalition has been asked to train 3,000 education supervisors who in turn would train teachers throughout the State. Currently, CATW in Mexico does not have this kind of capacity but in the future, hopes for the human and financial resources to accept these invitations.



On November 12, 2004 CATW, with the Ministry of Education and the Commission of Equity and Gender of the Mexican Senate, organized an International Seminar on Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Children, attended by the public and 28 parliamentarians from Latin America. The Coalition's campaign to Prevent Commercial Sexual Exploitation was launched during the conference and received wide media attention.

## **REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA**

### **SHORT COURSE ON EXPLOITED MIGRATION AND TRAFFICKING**

CATW continues to support a project in the Republic of Georgia on "Preventing Trafficking and Illegal Migration from the Republic of Georgia: a Short Course on What Potential Migrants Need to Know Before Migrating Abroad." Directed by CATW's partner in Georgia, the Center for Foreign Citizens and Migrants Rights and Security (FCRS), the project addresses trafficking at the prevention level by offering a short course on the realities of the trafficking and migration experience.

Since the program's inception at the end of 2003, 71 persons have participated in 4 training sessions. Fifty-two persons who graduated from the course have gone on to migrate to different countries. Because of the course, migrants keep in frequent contact with the FCRS office using e-mail to obtain further information and ask for feedback and guidance about matters associated with their migration experiences.

During the last 12-13 years, the number of women migrating from Georgia has significantly increased. The flow of female migrants to more developed countries in search of jobs and a decent standard of living has encouraged illegal migration and increased the numbers of trafficking victims. Much of this is due to the lack of prevention programs that create awareness of recruiting tactics and the terrible results of trafficking. Currently, more than 10,000 persons per year leave Georgia illegally, facilitated by illegal employment and tourist companies who recruit in the cities, provinces and rural areas. Most of those recruited are women who are trafficked, sexually exploited, and victims of violence against women.

During 2004, the course focused on "Safe Migration for Women." Its main purpose has been to ensure the safety of female migrants by giving women information about potential problems in migrating and by developing prevention programs against trafficking.

Since the project began, the course has been advertised in 4 provinces of Georgia. FCRS organizers have also met with municipal representatives in different regions of Georgia, as well as university and college administrators, who can play a significant role in providing information to groups of young women at risk of being trafficked. The project has also provided financial aid (including travel, food and lodging costs) to students living in these regions who want to take the course.

The course has provided information to potential migrants about major destination countries for Georgian women — France, Germany, Greece and the United States. FCRS also familiarizes course participants with legislation in respective destination countries that addresses rights and responsibilities of migrants, as well as the

cultures of destination countries. Additionally, FCRS provides computer literacy training and gives students future help in contacting the FCRS Legal Consulting Center from abroad.

FCRS has prepared a brochure entitled “Don’t Become Slaves in the XXI Century.” The brochure includes necessary migration information with the hotline numbers for all worldwide Georgian embassies, and relevant international and national non-governmental organizations.

As the course continues, more and more persons are enrolling. During the last month of 2004, 80 Georgians applied to be part of the program, testifying to the importance and success of the project. Many of the new applicants are persons whose relatives have been trained by FCRS and have thus been able to migrate legitimately and safely to foreign countries for work or study.

## **THE BALTICS – NEW PROJECT**

With the help of a grant from the U.S. Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, the Coalition will initiate a project in the Baltics entitled “Rejoining Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: Countering the Legalization and Decriminalization of Sex Industries and Focusing on the Demand.”

CATW will assist ENUT, the Estonian Women’s Center, in strengthening an existing anti-trafficking network in the Baltics that will address legalization and decriminalization of prostitution issues specifically by working in 3 areas to:

- strengthen information, research and advocacy networks in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania;
- conduct media campaigns and trainings addressing media representation of prostitution and trafficking issues;
- consult with legislators and governmental officials about initiatives that propose normalizing prostitution as work in these countries, and educate these groups about alternative legislation focusing on the demand.

The project began in Tallinn, Estonia in September, 2004 and will continue there also moving into Latvia and Lithuania at the end of 2005. Janice Raymond and Malka Marcovich traveled to Estonia to plan and launch the project with Ilvi-Joe Cannon who will be its regional coordinator. On September 8, Janice Raymond was invited to speak at a conference on “Combating Trafficking in Persons in Estonia: Problems and Solutions,” organized by the Nordic Council of Ministers and the Estonian Women’s Studies and Resource Center (ENUT). Others who addressed the conference were Kalli Klement, Director of the Nordic Council of Ministers in Tallin; Ilvi-Joe Cannon, Director of ENUT; Kristiina Luht from the Ministry of Social Affairs, Katri Eespere, a researcher on trafficking in Estonia; Katre Poljakova, Tallinn City Court; and Marek Ranne, Eastern District Police Department.



## **GRANTS**

In September, 2004, CATW International received a 2 year grant for \$294,000 from the U.S. Trafficking in Persons Office. The grant will address policies and program areas that have received little attention thus far in anti-trafficking endeavors: rejoining prostitution and sex trafficking; countering the legalization and decriminalization of sex industries that contribute to sex trafficking; promoting legislative, criminal justice and educational initiatives to discourage the demand for prostitution that fosters sex trafficking. The grant will also fund CATW projects in Mexico and the Baltics.





## PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS

*Special Issue of the Journal, Violence Against Women* on “The Case Against Legalizing Prostitution,” Volume 10 (2004). Guest Editor, Janice G. Raymond, with articles by Esohe Aghatise, Gunilla Ekberg, Melissa Farley and Janice Raymond. Electronic copies available at the CATW web site at [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org) Hard copies available from SAGE Publications, 2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320. Phone 805-499-0721

In Spanish – *Manual para la Prevención de la Explotación Sexual Comercial de la Niñez en México.* (Manual for the Prevention of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Mexico).

In Spanish – **Short 5 Minute Film** on “Prevención de Trafico y Explotación Sexual Infantil.”

Both the Spanish Manual and Film can be ordered from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Mexico at [catwdirreglat@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:catwdirreglat@prodigy.net.mx)

### CONTACT:

## Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)

P.O. Box 9338

N. Amherst, MA 01059 USA

Fax: 413-367-9262

E-mail: [info@catwinternational.org](mailto:info@catwinternational.org)

Website: [www.catwinternational.org](http://www.catwinternational.org)

