

Research

Recent Publications

The Links between Prostitution and Sex Trafficking: A Briefing Handbook

This handbook seeks to explore and elucidate the links between prostitution and trafficking, focusing on gender equality and the issue of demand. It was initially developed for the 13 countries participating in the joint Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) and the European Women's Lobby (EWL) Project on Promoting Preventative Measures to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings for Sexual Exploitation: A Swedish and United States Governmental and Non-Governmental Organisation Partnership.

This handbook may be used as a resource for any NGO or governmental group or authority that is interested in addressing the gaps in anti-trafficking programmes: the links between prostitution and trafficking, the importance of programmes and policies that are based on gender equality, the legal status of the sex industry, and the male demand for prostitution that promotes sex trafficking.

For more information and to download the handbook, please go to <http://www.catwinternational.org/>

Announcement

Campaign: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

November 25 - December 10, 2006

2006 marks the 16th anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign! Since 1991, the 16 Days campaign has worked to increase the visibility of violence against women as a human rights violation. The campaign has been utilized by groups all over the world to demand support services for survivors, enhance prevention efforts, press for legal and judicial reform, and use international human rights instruments to address violence against women as a human rights violation, a public health crisis and a threat to human security and peace worldwide.

This year, the 16 Days campaign celebrates activists who have made the campaign a success and honors women human rights defenders who have suffered intimidation and violence for their activism and/or have given their lives fighting for gender equality. This year commemorates progress on addressing violence against women in our communities, nations, regions and around the world and calls for reflection on how to continue to advance this work.

While there has been progress in the struggle to end violence against women, many challenges persist. This year's campaign seeks to revisit and strengthen the human rights focus of work on gender based violence against women. It also hopes to look at the many obstacles women face in our communities and nations that intersect with violence against women, such as armed conflict, war, poverty, HIV/AIDS, globalization and other challenges to human rights. As the United Nations undergoes internal reform, we seek to ensure that women's human rights concerns, including violence, are fully integrated into all of the UN's agendas. The UN Secretary General released an in-depth study on all forms of violence against women.

The 16 Days campaign provides an opportunity to capitalize on the report and pressure governments and the UN to make greater concrete commitments to eradicating violence against women.

For further details and to join the 16 days electronic discussion, please visit <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/kit06/theme.html>

F i l m s

Trade

Adriana (Paulina Gaitan) is a 13-year-old girl from Mexico City whose kidnapping by sex traffickers sets in motion a desperate mission by her 17-year-old brother, Jorge (Cesar Ramos Ceballos), to save her. Trapped and terrified, Adriana's only friend and protector throughout her ordeal is Veronica (Alicja Bachleda-Curus), a young Polish woman tricked into the trade by the same criminal gang. As Jorge dodges obstacles to track the girls' abductors, he meets Ray (Kevin Kline), a Texas cop whose own family loss leads him to become an ally in the young man's quest.

Maid for Sale

In order to escape from their country's extreme poverty and provide for their families, women from Sri Lanka leave their homes to work as servants in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon. Most of the times these maids find themselves in situations worse than back home, under horrifying and miserable conditions: they're locked up in the house of their employers, being forced to work long hours. For this and other deprivations they get compensated with about 100 dollars a month. To return home is not an option as their passports are taken away from them. Some choose to runaway, others commit suicide. This modern form of slavery is disclosed in *Maid for Sale*. Three women – Sahika, Janika and Anne-Ritta – tell their story.