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Scarlet Alliance Anti-Trafficking Activities Briefing Paper 2008

Scarlet Alliance, Australian Sex Workers Association

Scarlet Alliance was formed in 1989 as the peak body representing sex worker issues, and has always had a high participation rate of migrant and non-English speaking background sex workers. We have members in every state and territory of Australia, including funded and non-funded sex worker organisations. This is a selected summary of examples of our work in relation to advocacy and service delivery for migrant sex workers.

AFP Training

Scarlet Alliance provides regular training for Australian Federal Police' specialist Trans-National Sexual Exploitation Team, at their College in Canberra. Scarlet Alliance has created a training package designed for the AFP, with the aims of:

- familiarising AFP with migrant sex work in Australia
- Breaking down myths and popular misconceptions in relation to migrant sex workers
- Offering common scenarios in relation to migrant sex work
- pass on our expertise in relation to migrant sex workers

DIAC Training

Scarlet Alliance provides regular training for Department of Immigration and Citizenship's Compliance Officer Training with the aims of challenging the myths and misinformation about migrant sex workers and their issues.

Migration Working Party

This working party meets by teleconference every 6 weeks, and includes the Multicultural and CALD health education staff from Australian sex worker organisations and projects, and policy development staff who advocate on behalf of sex workers and the sex industry in relation to migration issues.

Membership to the working party is limited to only those staff, representatives and policy advocates whose work is directly related to migrant sex workers, on an invitation only basis. The Scarlet Alliance monitors and collates data and anecdotes from the health staff, for the purpose of enriching our policy work. We also brainstorm and debrief from particularly difficult or complex cases that the health workers are working on.

Attorney General's Cultural Sensitivity Translation Work

The AG's communication campaign targeted Migrant Sex Workers, including possible victims of trafficking. Scarlet Alliance was consulted in the development of the resources, and produced advice and provided language translations for appropriate communication resources.

Consultation for the Australian Institute of Criminology

Scarlet Alliance lobbied the Institute of Criminology in relation to upcoming research about trafficking in Australia. Our lobbying efforts resulted in appropriate sex worker representation at their consulting meeting in Canberra 2006. Our relationship with them continues to inform future research in this area.

Presentations to the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations

Scarlet Alliance has provided workshops to AFAO's membership on migrant sex workers, anti-trafficking measures and issues for service provision in HIV/AIDS services.

Membership of the UT\$ Anti-Slavery Project Community Response Network NSW, and provision of training to Anti-Slavery Network

Scarlet Alliance provided training to the Anti Slavery Project Community Response Network, on migrant sex work, and anti-trafficking measures in a health and human rights context. We subsequently joined the AFP and ASP in providing training for community organisations on recognising and responding to trafficking.

Australasian Society for HIV/AIDS Medicine (ASHM) Conference 2006

Presentations from the five members of the Migration Working Party were given by the members of ASHM at their annual conference in 2006.

Scarlet Alliance National Forum Presentations

Members of the Migration Working Party presented at the 2006 Scarlet Alliance National Forum, at Parliament House in Adelaide. These presentations covered the work practices of migrant Korean and Chinese sex workers, and the educational and support programs of multicultural sex worker community health services. The 2007 National Forum included a plenary on migrant sex work and the impact of anti-trafficking measures, including representatives from Empower Foundation in Thailand.

Research on Chinese Migrant Sex Workers in Australia

Scarlet Alliance in partnership with Zi Teng, the sex worker support organization based in Hong Kong, are conducting research into issues for Chinese migrant sex workers in Australia.. Preliminary results will be released on 16th April 2008.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) "HIV Referral Models for People Vulnerable to Human Trafficking in SE Asia, the Pacific and Australia" Presentation

Scarlet Alliance presented on human rights and peer education at this seminar in Brisbane, October 2007.

Migrant Sex Worker Outreach Cross-Cultural Training – Hong Kong

Chinese speaking members of our working party attended this training workshop in April 07. Health educators from south- east Asian countries convened to share skills in an intense 3 day training program, which included interaction with Chinese migrant sex workers in Hong Kong.

Chinese Language Sub-Committee of the Migration Working Party

The Chinese speaking educators of the Migration Working Party meet via teleconference with Zi Teng, the Hong Kong based sex worker organisation, to discuss trends and debrief about recent issues.

Senate Inquiries

Scarlet Alliance has represented the issues of migrant sex workers to the Australian Senate inquiry into trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual servitude in 2003, and at the hearings following the submission process.

Submissions

Scarlet Alliance has given evidence and written detailed submissions in response to trafficking initiatives in Australia. See <http://www.scarletalliance.org.au/laws> and scroll down for a full list of submissions.

SIREN Resources

In 1992, PCV, a Scarlet Alliance member organization, produced "SIREN" the research report and language based resources (booklets and tapes in Thai, Tagalog, Mandarin and English) which address migrant sex worker issues, HIV and other health related issues in a culturally sensitive format. This is out of print, but available online. It has been the most successful resource for non-english speaking background sex workers in Australia ever produced. Scarlet Alliance was endorsed by the Department Of Health and Aging Mid-Term HIV/AIDS Strategy Review in 2007 to produce a new national resource in multiple languages.

Hosting Empower Foundation (Thailand) and Zi Teng (China)

Scarlet Alliance has recently hosted visits from Empower Foundation (2007) and Zi Teng (2008) in Australia. In 2008 the Empower Foundation is hosting Scarlet Alliance Australian Youth Ambassador placements in Thailand for six months. Currently Zi Teng and Scarlet Alliance are concluding a three year research project on Chinese migrant sex workers in Australia, preliminary results being released on 16th April 08.

Participating at the 2020 Summit

Scarlet Alliance President and Chair of the Migration Working Party, Elena Jeffreys will attend the Rudd 2020 Summit in Canberra in April 2008. She will be discussing Australia's anti-trafficking responses, both domestically and in relation to the region.