

Will the Gates Foundation please stop funding the kidnapping and illegal detention of sex workers

September 2006

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded a grant of \$5.1 million (US) to International Justice Mission (IJM) for a pilot project to "rescue" sex workers in Asia. The project coordinates with local police during brothel raids where sex workers are forcibly removed and detained illegally.



The Network of Sex Work Projects condemns these violations of sex workers' rights, and has demanded that the Gates Foundation immediately cease funding these human rights abuses by the International Justice Mission. Letters from the NSWP to the Gates Foundation regarding this issue still remain unanswered. "STOP THE RAIDS" graphics shown here were created by the Asia-Pacific Network of Sex Workers.

- [Health and human rights advocates denounce Gates Foundation's support of raids on sex workers: Advocates gather in Toronto to promote rights and safety of groups vulnerable to HIV/AIDS.](#) — XVI International HIV/AIDS Conference, Toronto, August 14, 2006
- **Letter to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation regarding the foundation's financial support of "rescue" missions by the International Justice**

Mission (PDF: [GATES-060910.PDF](#)) — From Melissa Ditmore and Khartini Slamah, NSWP, September 10, 2006



Sangli anti-rescue protests: Indian sex workers demand an end to forced rescues by "Restore International" an offshoot of IJM. (PHOTO: Meena)



Hazeera from Durjoy Bangladesh holding our "Raids and rescues don't prevent HIV — Stop kidnapping sex workers" banner.



Indian sex workers demand an end to forced rescues. (PHOTO: Meena)



International Justice Mission raid on brothel workers in Cambodia.