

Message from the Editor :

During October and December, we kept on receiving the complaints from the massage workers and the migrant sex workers. Among the 67 complaints, 50 of them were about police abuse, whereas 8 were about client violence. For the remaining cases, they were related to the bosses. While 2 cases were about the bosses assaulting the massage workers, 4 cases were about owned wages and 3 were about the boss intimidating the massage workers.

<u>Police violence/abuse</u>		<u>Client/criminal violence</u>	
Free massage service before arrest	4 cases	Theft	1 case
On prolonged bail	14 cases	Harassment	1 case
Violate privacy by taking photos in public	2 cases	Police impostor	2 cases
Indecent Assault	4 cases	Denial of payment	3 cases
Coax into signing the statement	2 cases	Take pictures	1 case
Excessive 'license check'	7 cases	<u>Boss exploitation</u>	
Strip search	2 cases	Physical Assault	2 cases
Verbal Threat and insult	8 cases	Owned wages	4 cases
Arbitrary arrest	4 cases	Intimidation	3 case

Sex workers are definitely vulnerable to violence perpetuated by the police, clients and criminals, but to sex workers like the massage workers and migrant sex workers, boss or owner can also harm their interests and safety. The police always tell the media they are not arresting sex workers but the bosses or owners behind. If so, when the massage workers are owned wages, threatened, or assaulted, the police should seriously listen to their cases. However, the reality is that the police often turn a blind eye to cases reported by the massage workers, even though the massage workers are exploited or abused by the bosses. Some police officers may even 'threaten' the massage workers to make them withdraw the case. They will tell the massage workers that if they insist to report the case, this means that they have admitted they have broken the law and the police will directly take them to the police station.

On one hand, the police repeatedly state that they are targeting at the bosses who exploit sex workers, but on the other hand, they are simply encouraging the exploited ones to let their bosses go. We are therefore very skeptical to the police, are they really fighting crimes?

Our work and movement:

Hong Kong

Injustice in Courts

As usual, we joined the Human Rights Day Carnival this year. We aimed to let the public understand the situation of sex workers, particularly the situation of the massage workers and the migrant sex workers. A bit different to the past several years was that we not only described the

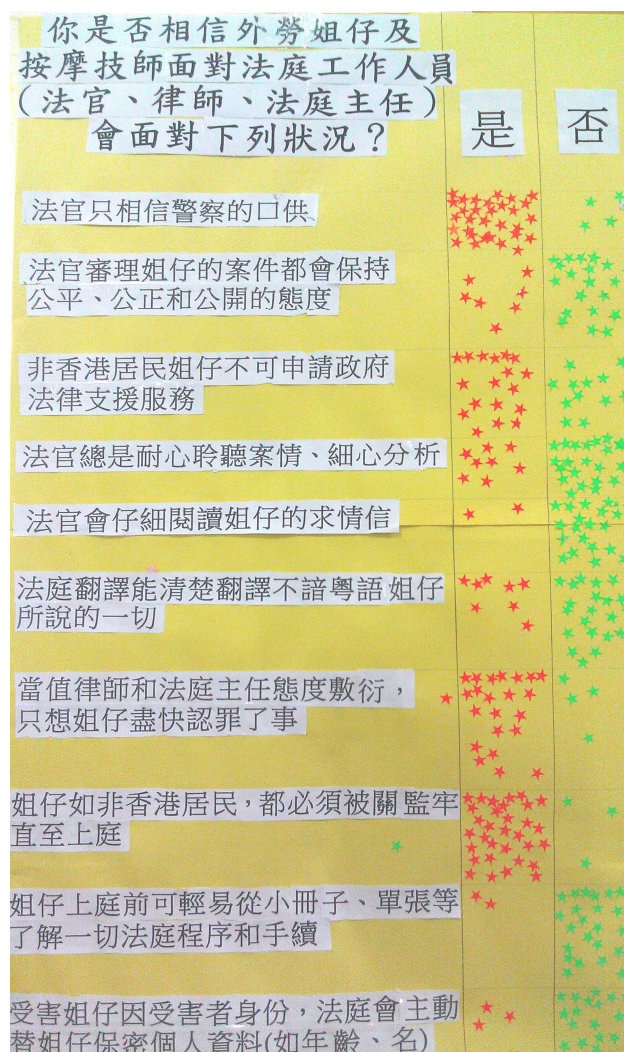


and abuse of power. However, it is also true that the judicial system and the legal procedures are often unfavorable to sex workers. For example, migrant sex workers, even they are found innocent, have to wait in jail until the court is opened, the court does not necessarily protect the privacy and identity of sex workers, even they are the victims. Besides, the people related to the judiciary system often have a bias against sex workers. For example, the interpreters often fail to fully translate every word of the sex workers, most duty lawyers are impatient to listen to the defense of the sex workers, just urge them to admit guilty.

While the police will harass and abuse the sex workers, neither is the judiciary system fair to the sex workers. No wonder why most sex workers do not believe in the Hong Kong Police Force. They are also reluctant to let their case go to the court.

police misbehavior to the public, we also told the public how sex workers were disrespected and bullied in the courts.

Compared to the judicial system in many different countries, the one we have in Hong Kong is definitely sounder with less corruption



Disappointing Poilce

Based on the cases we have been collecting, we are fully aware that the Police always bring the most and greatest harm to sex workers. Though the Police have apparently reduced creating



disturbance at the sex workers' workplaces under the scrutiny of the activists and media, the truth is the Police have never stopped abusing their powers. Legally questionable arrests targeting masseuses (including those working in foot massage parlours) and migrant sex workers have often been reported. In order to secure convictions, it is not uncommon for police officers to mislead, cheat, or threaten the arrested sex workers. In 2011 Zi Teng received complaints from well over 250 masseuses and migrant sex workers about how they were misled, being falsely accused, or forced to confess to false charges. During licence-checking or undercover

operations, certain frontline officers have also regularly demanded free massage or sex service from sex workers, to the point of sexually violating them without any scruples.

Some Cases of Abuse of Police Power Zi Teng collected in 2011	
<u>Checking of Licence</u>	
<u>Driving away customers</u>	
Several police officers demanded to inspect the licence at a massage parlour. The masseuse replied that she could present the business registration. A policeman then tried to enter the massage room to check the premises, ignoring the masseuse's protest that there was a female customer inside. The naked female client was of course shocked, and it was unlikely that she would revisit the massage parlour again.	3 policemen and 1 policewoman entered a massage parlour when a masseuse was massaging the shoulders of a male customer. The officers angrily asked the masseuse what was going on; the masseuse said that neck-and-shoulders massaging was not illegal. In a hostile tone, the policewoman warned the masseuse to be careful, as she would "turn her life into hell" next time. The masseuse was only a poorly educated new immigrant, who was trying to support her own livelihood through the massage parlour. What good could the police officers do by damaging her business?
<u>Threats</u>	
Half a month ago one uniformed police officer requested a sex worker to stay at a particular location on a certain street. When she demanded to know the reason, she was threatened that she could not work there anymore if she did not follow the order. A few days later the sex worker was arrested in an undercover operation.	Some sex workers dared not to post materials issued by Ziteng in their workplaces, as police officers would harass them if they did so. They were also warned that they could not read anything published by Ziteng, nor could they get in touch with Ziteng.

<u>Undercover operations</u>	
<u>Free massage/sexual service, sexual assault, sexual abuse</u>	
<p>A masseuse was massaging an undercover policeman, and the officer asked whether the masseuse could massage his buttocks. Without consent he then pulled the masseuse's hands onto his buttocks. Another undercover policeman was reported to have inappropriate physical contact with a masseuse – he actively caressed the masseuse's breasts, hips and buttocks.</p>	<p>In his first visit, an undercover policeman went to a massage parlour alone to receive massage service. On the day of the arrest, that officer, together with another officer, visited the parlour. The first officer, after receiving part of the service, identified himself and arrested the masseuse. In his statement the officer claimed that the masseuse would provide masturbation service for \$100, but the fact was the masseuse had not spoken to the officer at all. The other masseuse said that the second officer took off his shorts soon after the massage began, claiming that he did so because he felt uncomfortable with her massage.</p>
<p>One undercover policeman received three to four massage services before arresting the masseuse. The masseuse concerned had given her clients a stamp-collection card, so she could identify the officer as a frequent customer. On the occasion when she was arrested, the policeman asked for a full-body massage. He undressed, showed his sex organ, and he caressed the thighs of the masseuse. Other policemen entered to arrest the masseuse as she was massaging the undercover officer's abdomen.</p>	<p>In one massage parlour there were some masseuses responsible for massaging and some responsible for providing masturbation service. An undercover officer was being massaged when, all of a sudden, he squeezed the masseuse's breasts, then pulled down her underpants and inserted a finger into her vagina. The masseuse was shocked and she freed herself from the policeman. At this moment other policemen were about to take action. The undercover officer went on to hold the masseuse from the back, caressing her buttocks in the process. This policeman disappeared amid the confusion after the other officers entered the premises. The masseuse was told, after she had been taken to a police station, that her client was a policeman.</p>
<u>How officers enticed or falsely accused masseuses to commit offences</u>	
<p>Several masseuses were dining together when an undercover officer in his fifties entered the parlour and asked for the service of a masseuse "with big breasts". The masseuse was massaging his shoulders, when the officer identified himself as a construction worker, and he asked if the masseuse could massage his back as he felt very tired. The masseuse declined, for she could not offer full-body service. The undercover officer begged her, claiming that he really felt very tired. As the masseuse did not wish to offend her client, she complied. Minutes later, a group of officers came to inspect the licence. One of them told the licence holder that, "since you have never been arrested before, this is the time when you get arrested."</p>	<p>One masseuse only provided foot massage service. One day, an undercover came and asked her for hand job service. She told the undercover she did not provide illegal service. The undercover kept on asking, but the masseuse insisted she would not do it. Suddenly the undercover stood up and masturbate. The masseuse quickly left the room. Later, the colleagues of the undercover came. They took the masseuse to the police station and charged her of 'managing a vice establishment' .</p>

Post-operations	
<u>Destruction of evidence by police officers</u>	
<p>In this case the masseuse only provided foot massage service at first. The undercover officer then said that his hips hurt, so the masseuse pressed the hips for a while. The officer tried to move the masseuse's hands to his sex organ, but the masseuse declined to offer sex service. After serving the officer for two hours, other policemen came to inspect the licence. Originally there was a notice declaring "no sex service" in the premises, but the policemen tore it down before they took some photographs. They also confiscated the cash, locks, and accounting records. The masseuse was taken to a police station to give a statement. She was not allowed to make phone calls; her mobile phone was taken away. The masseuse was threatened by the officers as she was giving her statement.</p>	<p>One masseuse was simply resting in the massage parlour. There was a recording system in the parlour. A team of police entered for the undercover operation undertaken earlier in this parlour. One police officer walked to the recording system and touched the control panel. The masseuse did not realize what he was doing. She also thought that she would not be taken to the police station as she was not working. Eventually, she was still charged. She would like to make use of the recording system for the defense. However, she found the video clip of that day disappeared. Now she knew that the police officer was deleting the video clip at that moment.</p>
<u>Verbal Insults, Strip Search, and Beatings</u>	
<p>In a massage parlour one masseuse offered massage and masturbation service, but the masseuse in charge of the premises only offered massage service. The masseuse in charge was arrested in an undercover operation; an officer threatened to beat her up and said "fuck your mother" to her. At the police station two policewomen conducted a strip search on her; her bra and underpants were thoroughly examined. She was detained for 24 hours. She was eventually released when she promised to sign the statement.</p>	<p>One sex worker was approached by a westerner, who turned out to be an undercover officer, on the street. They were going to another place to conduct the business after they had agreed on the price, when suddenly several men surrounded them. One of the men grabbed the woman's bag, prompting her to think that they were robbers. They only identified themselves as policemen later on. At the police station the sex worker could not understand the Cantonese-speaking officer, who was asking her to leave her finger-print and to sign her statement. No interpreter was present. As she did not do as requested, the policeman beat her head and her body. Two policewomen then conducted a strip search on her. The attitude of the police officers was very hostile.</p>

Even though the masseuses and migrant sex workers have detailed cases about police-impostors, criminal damage, customers who refused to pay, thefts, robberies, threats, and collection of protection money from triad societies, the Police have made it clear that no matter whether the sex worker is a victim in the reported incident or not, they are going to press charges against the sex worker if she has already violated the law in the first place. This indirectly exposes sex workers to more risk as criminals can exploit them without worrying too much about consequences.

On December 17, the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, we marched to the Police Headquarters with others concerning sex workers issues, protesting against the police violence on sex workers and voice out sex workers' needs and complaints. Moreover, during the regular scheduled meeting with the police management, we provided the details of those suspected

of breaching the police code of conduct to the police management, so that they can better check their frontline officers. We also asked the police management for the number of cases in which the frontline officers seek their senior's permission for hand job and massage during undercover operations. Nevertheless, the police management just answered us in a



bureaucratic tone. They failed to provide us any substantial information. For example, they told us that the requests of permission for hand job and massage was only for internal use and could not be publicized, they said they had to check the duty record of the police officer who was suspected of infringing the code of conduct, but they never told us how long it took for them to 'check' such record.....

If we only get clichés from the police management at the meeting, or the police believe that they can make us happy simply with the regular scheduled meetings but refused to provide us the information we really need, perhaps we can conclude that the scheduled meeting has lost its significance.

Linking with the world

Paris, France

Migrant Chinese sex workers in Paris



Though we know that migrant Chinese sex workers do work in European countries like Italy and Holland, we sometimes find it difficult to understand their latest situation. This may be attributed to the fact that the support groups in most European countries lack Chinese-speaking members or staff. As most of their members and staff cannot speak Chinese, they often cannot understand the situation of the migrant Chinese sex workers.

Recently, a volunteer from the Doctors of the World in Paris visited us and exchanged with

us the experiences of the Doctors of the World on migrant Chinese sex workers. She also told us the situation of the migrant Chinese sex workers in Paris. For instance, she introduced to us five different areas where most Chinese sex workers live and work, the way the migrant women enter and stay in Paris, the service mode and charge, and the general background information of most migrant women the Doctors of the World approached. One very significant point to us is that the migrant sex workers in Paris are generally freed from the police undercover operation. The French police will simply arrest the women for the reason of lacking legal working document. At this point, it seems that the French police is far better than their Hong Kong counterparts, who often conduct the undercover operations, take advantage of the migrant sex workers as well by seeking free massage or sexual service several times before taking the women to the police station.

Sadly, the French Government has just passed the law to penalize the clients of sex workers. Unquestionably, the criminalization of buying sex not only further brings negative impact on the migrant sex workers, the business of those who have legal status will also be seriously affected.

Dominican Republic, Africa

“Zones of Tolerance”

Upon the appeal of the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, we joined the petition concerning the bill to enact "zones of tolerance" for sex workers in the Dominican Republic. According to the bill, all sex workers in the Dominican Republic must carry a card



issued by the Ministry of Public Health which indicates their state of health and requires the mandatory test of sexually-transmitted diseases. Besides, sex workers have to operate in the “zones of tolerance”, and live in the areas away from residential centers, main avenues of the city and areas that have historical, artistic or cultural significance for the country.

The idea to set up a special area for sex workers is itself discriminative. The suggestion to issue the health card may further decrease the sex workers’ bargaining power with clients over the use of condoms. If the workers as some ordinary society, what it should do law to penalize those who workers, or create more workers to improve their not setting up special law sex workers’ work. If the Government really wellbeing of sex workers, provision about and “zone of tolerance”. Most importantly, the government should carefully listen to the sex workers, consult them on the most effective means to protect them from violence, diseases and crimes.



government does see sex marginalized people in the will be better enforce the take advantages of sex opportunities for sex working environment, but and requirements to hamper Dominican Republic concerns the interests and it should repeal the mandatory tests, health card

Different working situation

Singapore

Non-travel visa

According to our partner in Singapore, the situation in the famous Red-Light District, Geyland,



seems to be less tense. There are fewer police raids and sex workers can stop hiding themselves. They also explain more in details about the “non-travel visa”, which we hear several times from the migrant sex workers.

Presently, if any migrant sex worker says s/he gets a “working visa”, it can be a fake one or a temporary one that needs to be confirmed by the

agent with the Labor Ministry when the migrant sex worker arrives Singapore. In the case of the temporary “working visa”, as the migrant sex worker needs to continue paying the agent to confirm the temporary working visa, this means that the agent may still collect money from the migrant sex worker but s/he actually has not confirmed the working visa with the Labor Ministry. When the police check the migrant sex worker’s working visa, s/he will be arrested for the unconfirmed temporary working visa. On the other hand, the company that applies the foreign workers may actually not exist. This means that the application is intrinsically invalid. The “working visa” that the migrant sex worker has will become a counterfeit visa.

Some migrant sex workers may also enter Singapore with a social visit visa. They can renew it online but a Singaporean guarantor is required, and they usually have to pay to get the Singaporean guarantor. As long as they pay to get a guarantor, migrant sex workers may have to pay an unreasonably high cost and push themselves into debt.

Angora, Africa

Abominable working conditions

As long as China has increased its investments in Africa, more job opportunities are created and pull more Chinese to work or reside in Africa. The unscrupulous job agents and even the traffickers may also find the increased job opportunities a good excuse to cheat the job seekers including sex workers.

Recently, the Chinese Government had conducted joint operation with the Angora Government, helping 19 women from Jilin, Guangxi and Henan to get rid of the terrible working environment. According to the women, they were lured by the job agents in China, who said that they could get a job in the hotel for an annual income of RMB100,000 (10,000 euros). The agents even paid the visa and air ticket for the women. However, when they arrived, their travel documents were confiscated and they realized that they were not working in the hotel but the sex industry. Anyone who wanted to run away would also be beaten up.

The women were eventually brought to a big club where there were private karaoke box, singing club, dormitory and hidden rooms for hiding from the police. Security guards armed with guns were employed to check on the women. The women were accommodated on the second floor of the club. Three of them shared a room, where there were burglar resistant windows and door. In other words, it was almost impossible to leave the room and the club. Fortunately, the police in China and Angora were able to find them, or they would have to lose their freedom for awhile.

19華婦遭誘騙安哥拉賣淫

【本報綜合報導】中國婦女遭誘騙賣淫的現象猖獗，無良人販近年還轉戰到非洲國家。公安部公布與安哥拉警方合作，成功破獲一個賣淫集團，十九名中國婦女遭高薪利誘，到安哥拉後被迫賣淫。受害人近日被解救回國，十一名中國籍疑犯亦被押回。有受害女子稱，被困地點猶如看守所，更有人持衝鋒槍把守。今年四月底，吉林警方接報指當地有女性遭誘騙到安哥拉，其中一人透過互聯網向在華家屬求救，經家人籌錢近三萬元（人民幣，下同）後成功贖身。該名女性受害者返國後憶述，歹徒宣稱聘人到安哥拉當酒店服務員，年薪達十萬元，幾近吉林同類工作的五倍。此外，歹徒會先行墊付簽證、機票等三萬多元費用，等她押到錢後再歸還。王為籌錢為父治病，不虞有詐上當，結果抵安哥拉後即被沒收證件，再被虐打強迫賣淫。

持槍人看守 住所高度戒備

中國警方經調查多月發現受騙婦女遍及吉林、河南、廣西等地。上月二十五日在安國警方配合下，在當地一中國人開辦磚廠附近，破獲該個名為「中安國際娛樂會所」的賣淫場所。進入會所前已有三道鐵門，外圍高牆裝有鐵絲電網，有專人全日持槍把守，內設包房、歌廳、宿舍外，更有密室用以避開檢查。

被迫賣淫婦女，以每三人一房方式，被安排住在院子板房的二樓，房間都設置了防盜門，每個房間的窗戶上焊着鐵欄杆。有受騙女子獲救時幾近崩潰，泣不成聲。

被拍賣淫婦女被困在窗戶
裝有鐵欄的場所。(互聯網)

疑犯早前被押回中國。(互聯網)

安哥拉位於非洲西南部，首都為利安達，經濟以農業和礦產為主，全國人口約一千六百五十萬。

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安哥拉位置

警方資料

被誘騙婦女得救

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Introduction to Sex Work Research/Documents/Events

London, the UK

'Migrant sex workers in the UK sex industry'

A research report done on 100 migrant sex workers in the UK by Dr Nick Mai was recently published. According to the report, the majority of migrant sex workers are not forced or trafficked. The most important factor that makes them vulnerable to different exploitation, abuse and dangers is the immigration status. By working in the sex industry, many of them can avoid the unrewarding and sometimes exploitative conditions in the non-sexual jobs. They can also increase their own living standards in the UK as well as the living standards of their families in the home country. Yet, the stigmatization of sex work will negatively affect their private and professional lives, and make them even more vulnerable to violence and abuse. Rather than criminalizing the buying and selling of sex, sex work should be legalized, and the authorities should make it easier for migrants to work in the UK sex industry. In this case, they can better assert their rights more fully in relation to the clients and employers, they can also enjoy a better living and working environment.

The above research findings may surprise many people, as the mainstream society always tend to believe that migrant sex workers are forced or trafficked. However, what is true is the migrant sex workers lead a hard life in the destination countries does not attribute to the fact they are working in the sex industry, but they are mostly troubled by the external factors such as the discriminative law, improper police actions, unscrupulous employers and agents, hypocritical politicians. This research findings will definitely spur many sex workers and activists, who strive to protect the basic rights and reputation of migrant sex workers.



List of Donors (10/2011 –12/2011)



October	Anonymity	5,600
November	Anonymity	5,609.1
December	Anonymity	2,604

We apologize for any omissions!!

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