

HUMAN TRAFFICKING , HIV/AIDS AND THE SEX SECTOR

Presented by
American University Washington College of Law and
The Center for Gender Health and Equity

March 18, 2009

9:00 am – 2:30 pm

American University Washington College of Law
4801 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Room 603, Washington, DC

Human trafficking and forced labor are global human rights abuses. Over the past eight years, the United States has supported some excellent programs but it has also adopted an ideologically-driven approach to the sex sector that harms women and their families, increases the vulnerability of people in the sex sector to violence, trafficking and HIV infection, prevents health care workers from accessing sex workers and does nothing to prevent trafficking. Sex workers who do not want to be 'saved' are being subjected to violent raids and rescues and some of them are being arrested, abused and deprived of their livelihood. Recipients of U.S. funding must sign a pledge that undermines their ability to work non-judgmentally and collaboratively with sex workers to stop trafficking, child prostitution and violence, and fight HIV/AIDS. This symposium brings together international and U.S. experts to share experiences and discuss the ways in which the Obama Administration can create new U.S. policies on human trafficking and HIV/AIDS that are consistent with international human rights standards, best practices in public health, and grounded in reality.

9:00 – 9:15 **Welcome**

Ann Jordan, Director, Program on Human Trafficking and Forced Labor, Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law

Serra Sippel, Executive Director, Center for Gender Health and Equity

9:15 – 10:30 **Anti-Prostitution Policies and Human Rights**

- Human Rights Framework: *Serra Sippel*
 - Legal framework and U.S. policy: *Ann Jordan*
 - Legal challenges to U.S. anti-prostitution policy: *Zoe Hudson*, Open Society Institute
- Moderator: *Martina Vandenberg*, Jenner and Block

10:30 – 10:45 **Coffee break**

- **Video: Cambodia's new anti-trafficking law: Sex Workers speak out**

10:45 – 11:30 **The Impact of Anti-Trafficking and Anti-Prostitution Campaigns on Sex Workers in Cambodia**

- *Sara Bradford*, Asia Pacific Network of Sex Work Projects
- Moderator: *Christina Arnold*, Executive Director, Prevent Human Trafficking

- 11:30 – 12:15 Sanghamitra: A Journey Towards Social and Economic Empowerment
- *Dr. Shilpa Merchant*, Population Services International and the Sanghamitra Project
- Moderator: *Sneha Barot*, Senior Public Policy Associate, Guttmacher Institute
- 12:15 – 1:00 Lunch
- **Video: Taking the Pledge**
 - **Video: Compelled To Act: The Theatre of Sex Workers in Mali**
- 1:00 – 1:45 Danaya So: Bringing Hope to Women and their Families
- *Sylvia Mollet*, DANAYA SO
- Moderator: *Pauline Muchina*, Ph.D., Senior Partnership Advisor, UNAIDS
- 1:45 – 2:30 The Government of Brazil and Sex Workers Collaborate to Address HIV/AIDS
- *Gabriela Leite*, President, Davida
- Moderator: TBA

General Registration – no charge, but required.

To register, please go to www.wcl.american.edu/secle/registration

For further information about registration, please contact:

Office of Special Events & Continuing Legal Education,

American University Washington College of Law

202.274.4075 or secle@wcl.american.edu