

**Parliamentary Joint Committee on the
Australian Crime Commission**

**Inquiry into trafficking in women for
sexual servitude**

Submission No:10

Received 15 September 2003

Ms Helen Cooke

53 Nodding Avenue

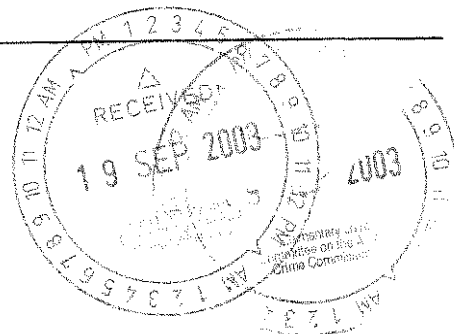
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E-mail:

Hellen Cooke

From: Hellen Cooke <hellenc@bigpond.com>
Sent: Monday, 14 January 1980 3:41 PM
Subject: Fw: inquiry:trafficking of women.



The Secretary

Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission

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Parliament House

Canberra

ACT 2600

Apologies for the previous mixed up email,

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Submission to: Trafficking in Women - Sexual Servitude.

Since the colonisation of Australia, women have been trafficked for sexual servitude. The emerging trend is not the trafficking or sexual servitude, but recognition of these activities in the context of human rights.

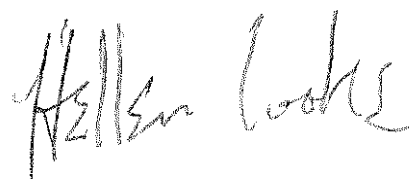
The Crime Commission's work needs the information and assistance of women particularly, whether caught up in the trafficking or, in associated activities. If human rights guide the Commission's procedures, then these whistleblowers, concerned observers and victims will have their human rights respected - possibly for the first time. But, in well publicised cases, in recent times, human rights for the victims, and for informants, have not been respected. Government agencies and agents have been responsible for additional human rights abuse by omission or commission.

Trafficked women, some still children, are victims of crime carried out in Australia and reparation should be made in Australia. Appropriate support can be given by State and Federal Government agencies working with and supporting concerned Non-Government Organisations, who can supply the human face of care and hope for a way out of abuse. Women should not be incarcerated in Immigration Detention Centres or prisons, or anywhere where they are likely to be put in further sexual servitude or find themselves incurring forced accommodation debts they have no way of repaying.

A visa for women assisting police is needed by trafficked women, of a sufficient length of time beyond the court proceedings, to restore a degree of health and self sufficiency.

The trafficked should not be confused with the traffickers even though trafficked women may be involved with crime. There must be a careful disaggregation of the issues in the law addressing trafficking and slavery.

If Australia can evolve law to defend the human rights of the trafficked it will be something in which we can take great pride at home and abroad.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Cook". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.