

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

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

Submission No:16

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Parliamentary Inquiry into Trafficking for Sexual Servitude

TERMS OF REFERENCE

New Inquiry Trafficking in Women Sexual Servitude

That, in accordance with paragraph 55(1)(a) and (d) of the *Australian Crime Commission Act 2002*, the Parliamentary Joint Committee on the Australian Crime Commission inquire into and report on the Australian Crime Commission's response to the emerging trend of trafficking in women for sexual servitude with particular reference to:

- (1) the Australian Crime Commission's work in establishing the extent of people trafficking in Australia for the purposes of sexual servitude;
- (2) the Australian Crime Commission's relationship with the relevant State and other Commonwealth agencies; and
- (3) the adequacy of the current legislative framework.

Ruby Gaea Darwin Centre Against Rape is a community based women's collective providing counseling, support, community education and training on the issue of sexual assault.

Trafficking women and children for sexual servitude is a social issue that is well overdue for an enquiry. For as long as this country wallows in social denial the fabric of the county, the foundations of family will continue to deteriorate. It is time a serious address of the issue was undertaken by this government to begin to set an acceptable standard of human rights for women and children. If women were taught by society that they had anything else of value, they would not chose to sell their bodies. This government needs to send a clear message, that it indeed values women and children and have systems in place that reflect that sentiment. We trust you will accept our submission for this enquiry.

It is our belief that:

- The Australian government to ratify the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;
- Legislative changes to better protect trafficked women, including women who have consented to do prostitution but who have been deceived about the conditions of that prostitution
- a whole-of-government approach to trafficking that puts trafficked women and children's protection at the centre of the approach, and involves NGOs and local, state and federal government authorities;

- a trafficking-victims' visa to allow women to stay in Australia if they give information to police or testify in a trafficking case - such visas are available in the United States and other countries;
- a visa that provides a 'reflection delay' of three months that allows suspected trafficked women to recover from the violence they have experienced and consider whether they wish to provide information to the authorities - such visa are available in the Netherlands;
- an alternative detention system so that potential trafficked victims are not detained at Villawood or Maribyrnong Immigration Detention Centres if they are detained by DIMIA;
- a full range of recovery services to be provided to trafficked women, including accommodation, counselling etc.
- the Australian government to address the demand for trafficked women by 'customers';
- more overseas aid to be directed at addressing the factors that make trafficked women vulnerable, including violence against women, war, inequality etc;
- bi-lateral and multi-lateral initiatives that ensure that trafficked women who return to sending countries are linked in with support agencies in those countries;
- government support for specialist NGOs such as Project Respect that address trafficking.

We thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi Brennan
Manager
On Behalf of The Coordinating Collective