Message from the Editor:

Some times ago, the French Government was planning to criminalize the buying of sexual service. First-time offenders will be fined with 1500 euros. Afterwards, the maximum penalty may be a 6-month imprisonment. The provider will receive rehabilitation to change the job. Many French people support the law. They believe that the new law helps to combat human trafficking, and to protect sex workers from the client abuses. On the other hand, an international organization expressed earlier their opposition to the UN statement, which supported the decriminalization of sex work. They opposed the statement because they found that sex work was closely connected to human trafficking in a research about the legalization of prostitution. In addition, the police in Hong Kong just raided a syndicate, which coerced sex workers to put ads on its website …..

Sex workers are often bullied or exploited. Those hurting sex workers definitely deserve punishment. It is good for the government and the concerned authorities to take action against the villains. However, they have not tried to think more deeply and understand why sex workers are always targeted by the villains. The biggest reason behind is that the authorities have limited much the freedom of the sex workers and denied sex work as work. As a result, those who are no longer able to earn their
living in the home country have to take the risk and follow whatever the agents say. They wrongly think they can work in other countries in another way, and the truth is that they have fallen prey to the human traffickers. As another consequence, as long as the sex workers find it effective to put their ads on the website, they all agree to pay the syndicate for the website to secure their business.

What the government and concerned authorities decide and do is always influential. Those formulating the policy have to think from various perspectives about the different impacts on the society. Otherwise, just like the case of sex workers, who will seldom be benefited by the new legislations. Sometimes, they may even be exposed to a more terrible working environment created by the new laws. Under the new French law, the sex workers in France will further lose their bargaining power with the clients. For the sex workers in Hong Kong, what comes first may be the decrease of income as they suddenly lose the website to put their ads. What may come next will probably be the re-emergence of the syndicate’s website, or a new website hosted by another group of people. Then, sex workers will continue to pay these websites for the sake of their incomes, even though they may have to pay much to the websites. The vicious cycle will just go on and on.
Our work and movement:

Hong Kong
Impact from police violence and abuse

One massage worker we know has just passed away for lymphoma cancer. She used to be hardworking and serious. She would return to work whenever she felt better. She also concerned much her kids. Fortunately, her eldest daughter had a good boyfriend. The boy was rich and cared about his girlfriend’s mother. He paid his girlfriend’s family trip and found a good doctor for his girlfriend’s mother. Before the massage worker died, she was in very terrible condition. She felt much pain, which could hardly be relieved by taking the medicine. Her personality also changed. She lost her surviving motive and strength. She showed in her eyes she wanted to leave the world quickly. Another heartbreaking fact was that she was qualified to get the permanent identity card on the day she died. She had been longing for the permanent identity card. The reason was that she believed she could get rid of discrimination when she obtained the permanent identity card.

Why did she have the above belief? 10 years ago, she was not yet the Hong Kong resident. She went to find a friend at a foot massage parlour. Some police went there to check the license. She said she was there to visit her friend and the police officers just left her alone. Yet, another woman working there was slapped by one police officer when she confidently asked the police officers several questions. Her face was immediately hurt with fingerprints on her face. This greatly created a bad image of the police for the massage worker. She thought that people working in the sex and massage industry would be discriminated. It would be the same if one was not a legitimate Hong Kong resident. Also, she thought that the Hong Kong Police was very bad and badly treated the massage workers. However, she believed she could overcome all difficulties for the sake of her kids. She therefore insisted to tolerate the pressure.

We put her story here is to try to tell the police in the month of the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers that sex workers and massage workers are entitled to the basic human rights and respect. It makes no difference even s/he does not possess the Hong Kong identity card. If the police intend to use violence on sex workers to safeguard their prestige, this will ironically ruin their reputation of ‘civil servant’. The battered not only are hurt physically but also experience serious psychological trauma. It is definitely meaningless to cut off one’s nose to spite one’s face. If the police reputation willed be ruined and the police violence will bring hurt to others, maybe it is not a bad idea to change the police attitudes towards sex workers and respect sex workers.
Zi Teng Statement on the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

Sex Workers are not humans?

It is the 11th International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers today. During 2013, the police never stopped raiding sex workers and massage workers. For example, we received the complaints from the massage workers almost every week, telling us that the police checked the license 4-5 times a week; one police constable went to tease the street-based sex workers whenever he saw them, and he would not stop teasing them even he was off duty; respective constable touched the private part of the sex workers…

All these strongly tell us that some police constables do not treat sex workers as humans. They only want to show their power and authority by degrading sex workers, as well as the power to manipulate sex workers in different ways.

Examples how sex workers are not treated as humans:

Sex workers are emails/facebook, need to be checked each hour
- One street-based sex worker works every day, and one police constables check her identity card every day. Yet, the police constable suddenly changed and checked her identity card every hour without any reason and explanation. The woman asked the police constables, “you just checked my identity card, but why you did come to check it again in 1 minute? You have been checking the identity card 7-8 times every day. You should understand that we are not the illegal immigrant, but why do you still insist to check our identity card several times a day?” One police constable quickly responded in threatening tone, “you are very immodest. I know your name. I will ask someone to trap you. You’ll see.” 3 days later, the street-based sex worker was arrested in one undercover operation.

Sex workers are blankets, need to be put under the sun
- One sex worker was stopped by the police to check her identity card. The woman suggested to stay away from the hawkers as she did not want to cause inconveniences for the hawkers and to block the way. The police constable immediately shouted at the woman, “Stand in the place where I tell you. Shut up,” The police constable followed, “If you like standing in the streets, then stand there in the middle of the road and do not move. Let everyone take a look at you.” It was very sunny that day at noon. The woman cried much. Some hawkers spoke for the woman but the police constable questioned if the hawkers were the woman’s boss and agent. He said he would take them to the police station. The sex worker was made standing for more than 20 minutes. Her face was red and her eyes swelled. Eventually, the police constable did not take further action but spoke in great satisfaction to the sex worker, “That’s it for today. Don’t speak too much afterwards. Do whatever we ask you to do.”
Sex workers are rats, cursed and unwelcomed
- One sex worker was stopped by some police constables. One police constable was very rude. The sex worker felt uneasy as she did follow the police and did not break the law. Similar to the police, she was also working for the sake of her family. She asked the police constables why she was treated rudely. The police constable only said, “If you are unpleasant you can go to another area, then I won’t treat you in this way.” At night, the same police constable met the sex worker again with another two colleagues. He ran to scold the sex worker and told his colleagues, “This is the bitch I mentioned. She was very arrogant.” Afterwards, he pointed to the woman and threatened, “Don’t let me see you again. Or I will take you to the police station.” On the following day, the police constable was off duty and in plain cloth. When he met the sex worker, he still ran to her and shouted at her.

Sex workers are fish, collect them at a point to catch them more easily
- In one joint operation with the Immigration Department, the police went to one building where they believed to be the hiding place of some illegal labourers and migrant sex workers. During the operation, some police constables suddenly pulled the electric cables on the ground floor. The building was immediately out of electricity. Many sex workers were shocked and came out of the flat. At this moment, the police quickly ran to the sex workers. All those who failed to show the police the Hong Kong identity card were then pushed into the police cars.

Sex workers are ping-pong, game starts easily
- One sex worker was arrested. She executed her right to remain silent at the police station. When the sergeant found that she did not say a word, he used his warrant card to hit the woman’s mouth. While he hit the woman, he kept on threatening the woman to open her mouth. The woman was able to remain silent, but her mouth turned red and swelled.

Sex workers were silicone dolls, for sexual satisfaction
- One undercover officer saw a sex worker in the street. He approached her and asked her the service charge. Then they took a taxi to the hotel. The undercover officer touched the sex worker’s breast and genital area. He wanted to kiss the woman too. The woman tried to stop him and said his hands were dirty, but the officer did not listen and kept touching the woman. He grabbed the woman’s hand to touch his private part. He also asked the woman if she found his penis erected, saying, “Later I will put this erected object into your vagina.”

Similar to others, sex workers and massage workers are entitled to human rights. They are not born to help releasing the pressure or anger of the police constables. They should be treated as humans. We are extremely angry with the behaviours of some police constables. We also strongly hope that the police management can pay attention on the misconduct of their subordinate. It is really a pity for the Hong Kong Police Force to lose all the trust of the sex workers for the black sheep.

Zi Teng
December 17, 2013
As what we did in the past few years, though it was raining, we continued to march to the Police Headquarters with the volunteers and sex workers this year, and to express our discontent and wants on December 17. Moreover, there we released the total number of complaints in the past 12 months about police abuse from the sex workers and massage workers. On the other hand, based on the complaints in the past 3 months, we can understand that there is hardly any betterment in the working environment of the sex workers and massage workers. For example, compared with the previous quarter, the number of bad clients denying the service payment has increased by 4 times.

The police still abuse their power whereas the criminals and bad clients keep targeting sex workers. Facing such working conditions, it is not surprising to hear from the sex workers that they do not trust the police anymore. “They have not yet caught the bad guys who hurt us, and what is more, they themselves are also bad.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Police violence/abuse</th>
<th>Client/criminal violence</th>
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<tr>
<td>Free massage service before arrest</td>
<td>Police imposter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Free sexual service</td>
<td>Denial of payment</td>
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<td>Excessive violence</td>
<td>Harassment from mafia</td>
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<td>Force/coax into signing the statement</td>
<td>Theft</td>
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<td>Being deprived of basic rights</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
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<td>Obstruct the course of justice</td>
<td>Insult/verbal threat/blackmail</td>
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<td>Neglect of Duty</td>
<td>Destroying property</td>
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<td>Verbal Threat and insult</td>
<td>Indecent assault/rape</td>
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<td>Strip-search</td>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
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<td>Excessive license check</td>
<td>Forced labor</td>
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<td>Indecent assault</td>
<td>Defraud</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leakage/infringement of privacy</td>
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<td>Search house without a warrant</td>
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### Standard of the legal professionals

This is a recent case.

One woman engaging in compensated dating was trapped in the undercover operation. She was taken to the police station. She told the police she needed the company of a lawyer. The police officers gave her a lawyer list and she picked one. When the lawyer arrived, he did remind the woman her right to remain silent. However, to our surprise, the lawyer did not tell her that she had the right to refuse signing the statement. Eventually, the undercover officer clearly put evidence against her.

Recently, the standard of local legal professionals has aroused much concern. There are also criticisms from the judges, saying that local lawyers are far below standard. Based on the woman’s experience, we have to admit that we are worried about the standard of the local lawyers. They even fail to remind their clients of the basic legal rights. In this case, how can they make use of their legal knowledge to help their clients in the fight for legal rights and justice?
**Linking with the world**

**London, England**

**Chinese sex workers in London**

Recently we were asked by one of our partners in London, the Open Doors, to proofread their Chinese website http://www.opendoors.nhs.uk/zh-hans and leaflet. They also introduced us the work of other centers in London, including CLASH and Praed Street Project, which mainly provide supports for sex workers. Coincidently, these centers do experience some problems in supporting Chinese sex workers.

The Open Doors is a specialist service for sex workers and they have four clinics in East London. It has been providing service for sex workers for more than 10 years. Their staff also visits sex workers in the flats and saunas where they work. However, they can only visit one Chinese flat as it is difficult to make contact with the Chinese sex workers. The Chinese sex workers they meet in the flat are often nervous and usually refuse to let the staff in or keep in contact with them. Since many Chinese sex workers also move around the country to work in Chinese owned or run flats, it makes it more difficult for them to keep in contact with the Open Doors or to ask for help and support.

Though the Open Doors does not have a mandarin speaking staff member, in order to try to solve the language problem with the Chinese sex workers, they are now working with some telephone and face-to-fact interpreters.

CLASH is another center providing support for sex workers. They meet more Chinese women as CLASH is closer to China Town in Central London. Each week they provide two clinics for the sex workers. To provide better service, there is one female Mandarin advocate attending the Friday clinic to provide interpretation for the sex workers. They also have a condom shop to sell condom at low prices. Those who attend the shop will be given written information in Mandarin about the clinics and the outreach services. Because of the above, Chinese sex workers attend the clinics on a regular basis.
Praed Street Project is based in Paddington in West London for female and transgender sex workers. They offer sexual health clinics everyday including STI testing and contraception. Praed Street Project has a Drop-in center for support, free condoms, information and counseling appointments. They also visit working flats with condoms, support and can offer STI testing in flats.

However, Praed Street Project cannot get into the Chinese flats although the Chinese sex workers do attend the clinic. The owners of these flats are mostly female Chinese. A few Chinese sex workers visit their Drop-in center where they get free condoms and find out about clinical services. The Chinese sex workers they meet are generally mid 30-40. There are just a few younger women, and they are mostly from Mainland China. A small number of them are from Hong Kong. They are often entrenched in China Town on arrival, and after settling in the UK they seem to get jobs in other areas of London.
Different working situation

Scarborough, Canada
Recent Working Situation

According to our partner in Toronto, sex workers recently receive CAD25 for a 30-minute service in spas and small apartments in Chinatown. The max charge is CAD$40 per 30 minutes in the area. It is really hard for the workers to make over CAD$40. In Scarborough, the service charge changes from $0 - $60 for SPA and small apartments. Price is basically negotiable. One sex worker who works in the small apartment in Chinatown even said that she has on average 3 clients a week. She would never go to work in Canada again because there are tons of Chinese sex workers.

Sex workers do not necessarily get all the service charge. For example, if the service charge is $40, while the manager gets $30, the worker gets $10 and the tips from the client. Some managers also come up with packages at different pricing with tips included. They do not allow workers to receive extra tips from clients. They confirm with clients every time after the service is over. The workers seldom complain because they receive free accommodation from the manager.

Some managers are really harsh. For example, one woman from Hong Kong used to work at a package place. She worked there for 3 weeks but she eventually quit because her manager imposed a lot of restrictions on the workers including (1) the workers are not allowed to talk to one another (2) the manager is the only one person the workers can share their personal issues with (3) if anyone gets sick, she has to get medication from the manager, such as $30 per tablet, and the medication from China. (4) The workers cannot use condom for oral sex, and only one condom can be used each time.

No matter they are from Hong Kong, Macau or China, sex workers we know often believe that they can earn more and work more comfortably in overseas countries. Nevertheless, based on the above information, it is crystal clear that what they believe is just a myth.
**Introduction to Sex Work Research/Documents/Events**

**London, England**

Transgender sex worker’s photo exhibition

The Hong Kong society is still conservative to transgender people. Many people here fail to understand the situation and the needs of the transgender people, nor is there enough opportunity for them to understand the transgender population. Many transgender people therefore refuse to reveal their identity to evade physical and mental assault. For those working in the sex industry, they even have to face the double discrimination against both sex workers and transgender people.

The above explains why we would like to introduce you to the following event in London. It was a photo exhibition, which showed the photographs Paola Revenioti took from time she worked in the sex industry in Greece in the 1980s and 90s. Paola is a transgender sex worker. She is also a famous figure in the Greek LGBT Rights Movement. Most of the photographs shown in the exhibition were the image of her former lovers and clients. There were also the images from the Kraximo Magazine, the first LGBT magazine she published from 1986-1992.

**List of Donors (10/2013 – 12/2013)**

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<tr>
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<td>December</td>
<td>Anonymities</td>
<td>1,900</td>
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We apologize for any omissions!!
Application for Membership

Name:______________________________ Age:______________________________

Occupation:________________________ Gender:__________________________

Telephone: (H)______________________ (O):______________________________

e-mail:_____________________________

Address:____________________________

I am willing to join the following activities:
Publication [ ] Data Collection [ ] Research [ ] Others [ ]

I would like to donate monthly:
$100 [ ] $200 [ ] $300 [ ] $500 [ ]
$1,000 [ ] or once [ ]

My donation is paid by:
Cheque: (cheque number) ___________________________
Cash deposited into: Hang Seng Bank A/C 232-8-085580 (Account Name: Zi Teng)
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Fax: 852 - 2390 4628 Tel: 852 - 2332 7182

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