

PRESS STATEMENT : INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING

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I am standing for the rights of migrant women from the third world living and working in western countries.

Alongside our sisters present here today we reiterate the rights of all women to determine where and how they wish to work, whether or not they wish to work in the sex-industry.

We migrant women have left our countries and our families for various reasons: some because we married foreign men, some to look for work to keep ourselves and our families.

Leaving our countries in itself has been difficult, and in general we feel strange and lonely in a foreign country and isolated because we do not speak the language.

Our situation is complicated by the fact that as migrant women we are dependent on either "spouses" or other friends or agencies to help us organise the necessary immigration papers. In almost every western country third world women are denied independent working and resident permits. We are subject to control in very discriminating manners at borders. This is especially severe for workers in the sex-industry.

Because of this many of us have been cheated and deceived by internationally organised traffickers who either promise us jobs or marriage and then coerce us into work which we do not choose to do or do not pay us justly for our work.

We are here today especially to bring to the attention of this Conference the fact that many migrant women are being coerced, under conditions of severity and violence to work in different branches of the sex-industry. Migrant women working voluntarily in prostitution are often under great control and suffer violence and are not free to determine how and where and when to work. Most of the money we earn is also taken away from us.

We ask the solidarity of everyone here in our fight for :

- 1 The right to migrate freely and independently without being dependent on others.
- 2 The right to choose or refuse any kind of work including the right to choose NOT to work in the sex-industry.
- 3 The right to protection, refuge and support when we have no possibilities to return to our own countries.
- 4 The right to just and nondiscriminatory treatment in the country of migration.

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