

Tackling Prostitution and Trafficking

A European Perspective

NWCI Panel Meeting

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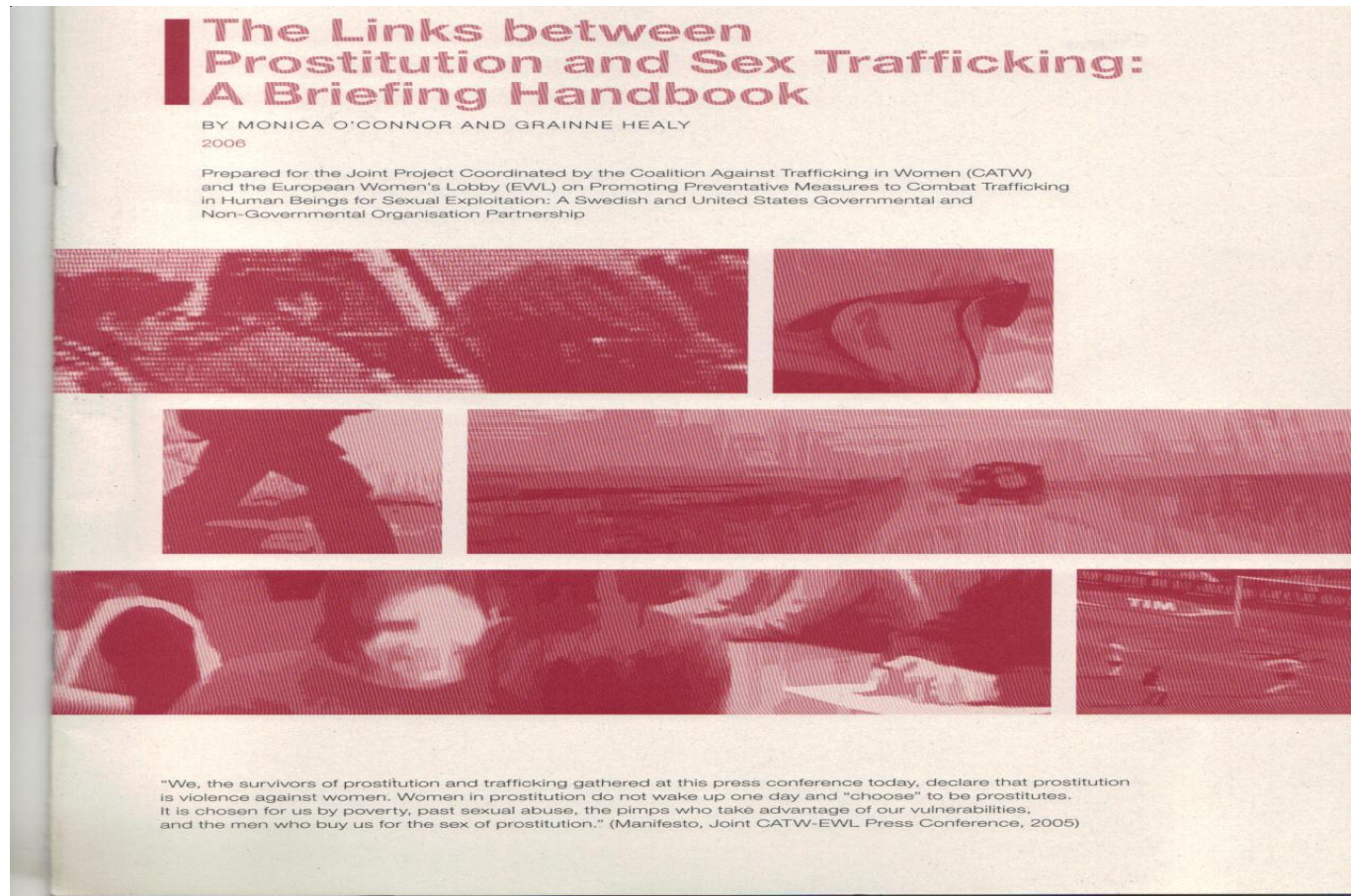
Prostitution: a global view

- Of 100 countries globally
- –in 50% they have legalised prostitution
- - in 40 % it is illegal
- - in 10% there is limited legality of prostitution

- Historically divergent views between feminists on abolition Vs legalise – Beijing pfa ‘forced’ vs ‘freely chosen’ debates – then

Trafficking

- Along came trafficking :



Some figures

- UN – 80% of persons trafficked are trafficked for sexual exploitation, mostly women and children (UN,2003)
- 120,000 women annually trafficked into W.Europe (EU Commission, 2001)
- Globally: 600,000-800,000 people are trafficked within and across borders p.a. Of whom 80% are women and girls and 50% of those are minors (US State Dept. 2005)

What has EU done about this?

- UN Protocol on THB (2000) to which most EU countries signed up to and ratified (gives definition)
- Brussels Declaration (2002) – called for effective co-ordination between origin, transit and destination countries
- CoE Convention against Trafficking in HBs (2005) – contains an int. recog. Definition of trafficking based on UN Protocol and affirms need for actions against demand for sexual exploitation.

What has EU done continued

- Other Directives etc
- Council Directive 2004 on Residence Permits for those who are victims and coop with recognised authorities
- Council Framework (2002), Council decision (2001); Council resolution (2003); Comm. from President of EP on THB (2005); EP report on Strategies (2004) to combat THB (2010) . – most recently 2010 Proposal for a European Strategy and Priority Actions to protect H. Trafficking Victims – actions on demand are listed here and proposed legislation to criminalise purchase of sexual services one of those proposed actions – TORL campaign -

Agreed Definition

- “Trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude.”

Action by EWL?

- Since the emergence of THB in EU in Mid '90's EWL has recognised the links between trafficking and prostitution and sees prostitution as a form of violence against women
- During the late 90's and 00's various EU member states took various strategies to combat trafficking – Sweden criminalised purchase of sexual services and has seen a dramatic fall in numbers of women being trafficked to Sweden for sexual exploitation (Iceland and Norway have copied this approach)

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Action by EWL

- Meanwhile Germany and NL and Austria have legalised prostitution in an effort to combat illegal prostitution and combat trafficking – the results have shown growth in illegal prostitution, few registrations of those in prostitution and trafficking and trafficking still growing.

Implications

- The recent 10 year evaluation of the Swedish criminalisation of purchasers shows that as far as Swedish Govt is concerned their legislation is working for them.
- Arguments that the legislation has driven prostitution underground are not believable – prostitution is always linked with underground and criminal elements – yet it cannot be so hidden that the punters cannot it!

Ireland?

- Ruhama and ICI will fill you in on the TORL campaign and the current situation re Ireland and prostitution/trafficking
- Dignity Project was an inter-agency project of ngos, statutory (djelr, Gardai, Hse, legal aid board etc) who came together with EU partners (Scotland, Lithuania, Spain) to work together to ensure an integrated approach to service deliver for victims of trafficking and also to pilot educational supports as exit routes for women in prostitution. Very successful and seed bed for TORL



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Questions for us?

- Is working in the sex industry a suitable career choice for our daughters?
- Is it suitable for daughters of migrant women? (of 1000 women available daily in Ireland in prostitution escort on line sites, vast majority are migrant women) (Kelleher and O'Connor, 2009)
- Can we change the behaviour and attitudes of those who buy sex (men) so that this human rights abuse no longer happens in Ireland – and then work in solidarity across the EU and globally to combat sex trafficking by cutting the demand for commercial sex.