

Proposal to Recognise Prostitution as “Prosperous Activity” Blasted

Reactions have been swift to an International Labor Organization (ILO) call on Asian governments to officially recognise the prosperous sex industry and start collecting taxes.

The Venezuelan chapter of the Coalition Against Trafficking of Women issued a statement condemning ILO official Lin Leam Lim who made the announcement at ILO headquarters in Geneva. Coalition spokeswoman Zoraida Ramirez commented: “The ILO as well as other government, nongovernment and international organizations can’t escape corruption and internal decomposition.”

The ILO’s proposal is based on a study revealing that the sex trade represents between 2 to 14 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Asian countries. Although the organisation clarified that it wasn’t in favor of legalising prostitution, the statement declared that there were advantages in recognising it as an economic sector.

“It’s like saying that Andean Region countries should recognize narco-trafficking as an economic sector for the amount of money being poured into the economy through money-laundering and should start collecting taxes

Sex with full tank of gasoline

SHANGHAI—Enterprising petrol stations in western China have taken service to new heights by offering sex with a tank of fuel.

Some of the more than 1,000 filling stations in the region of Ningxia have been luring motorists with the services of a prostitute along with petrol and diesel, an industry publication said.

“Sometimes there is no clear dividing line whether the customers come for gas or sex, but the sex service is based on the condition that you have to buy petrol first,” said *China OGP*, which is published by the official Xinhua news agency. “The term no money, no honey has changed into no petrol, no honey,” it said.

Source: Reuters, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, 23 September 1998

from narco-traffickers, which is akin to legalising the trade,” commented Angel Gonzalez, deputy president of the International Movement of Apostolate of Children (MIDADEN).

Ramirez criticised ILO’s position that prostitution should only include adults and not boys and girls. “Everyone knows that the Asian sex trade is centered around child prostitution,” she said. “Lin Leam Lim is a lackey of the Asian sex trade like so many others. ...Prostitution is a form of slavery.”

Gonzalez added: “It’s hypocritical. It was the ILO that mounted the failed Global March Against Child Labor and now this! While its intention is to face up to economic facts, ILO seems to forget the humanitarian issues behind prostitution and the damage it inflicts on real persons.”

(A report by correspondent Patrick J. O’Donoghue in *VHeadline/VENews*, Venezuela, on 21 August 1998)

Adolescent Women and Birth Control

A comprehensive global report by the Alan Guttmacher Institute on young women’s sexual and reproductive lives, titled “Into a New World” reveals the increasing use of modern methods of birth control among adolescent women worldwide.

In countries like Bangladesh, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Thailand, the rise in contraceptive prevalence has been attributed to national campaigns to increase access to family planning services. There has been a simultaneous acceptance of the use of contraception as a spacing device by women.

In countries like Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand, rates of contraceptive usage have surged two to three times since the ‘70s, while in Bangladesh the increase has been tenfold. In Colombia, the use of birth control among married adolescent woman has increased 62 percent in the last 20 years, and in the United States, married as well as unmarried adolescents are using contraception at a rate of 10 percent higher in the ‘80s.

Source: Women’s Feature Service, 21 July 1998