

Sexworker Gewerkschaft /. Missionierende Prostitutionsgegner

Razzien, paternalistische Opfer-Rettungsaktionen und Prostitutionsbekämpfung vs. Empowerment für Sexworker, Menschenrechteansatz und Sexworkakzeptanz.

Fallstudie: US-Hilfsorganisation mischt indische Rotlichtviertel auf
Artikelsammlung von beiden Parteien:

1. Sexworker Organisation
2. Christliche Mission

Zusammengestellt von Marc of Frankfurt, Mai 2010

1. Die Perspektive der Sexworker-Interessen-Selbstvertretung



VAMP (Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad, SANGRAM's Sex Worker Collective seit 1996) konnte sich erfolgreich einsetzen für ein Ende von Polizeischikanen und Bordellrazzien.

Sexworker und Supporter demonstrieren gegen Greg Malsted und seine christliche Mission und angeblich(?) registrierte NGO „Restore International“. Diese hatte nach einer eigenwilligen Untersuchung in Bordellen im Rotlichtviertel GokulNagar in Sangli, Westindien am 20.5.2005 eine Großrazzia ausgelöst mit 200 Polizisten, 13 festgenommenen Betreibern und angeblich 17 minderjährigen Sexarbeitern und zahlreichen eingetretenen Türen, traumatisierenden Erlebnissen und stigmatisierenden Langzeitfolgen.

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Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM)

www.sangram.org

Sangli

½ Mio Einwohner

alte westindische Fürstenprovinzhauptstadt im Deccan

<http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sangli>

<http://maps.google.de/maps?ll=16.85367,74.571161&spn=0.053229,0.109863>

Research for Sex Work: Sex Workers' Rights! (Issue #10) Edited by Melissa Ditmore www.researchforsexwork.org

Review by Lawrence James Hammar, Ph.D.

Okt. 2008

<http://feministreview.blogspot.com/2008/10/research-for-sex-work-sex-workers.html>

Issues of Research for Sex Work consist typically of brief reports, newsworthy items, program notes, abstracted theses and personal essays. From the 1998 publication of its inaugural collection on Peer Education, each thematic issue has been smartly edited, conceptually well integrated, and attractively presented. Like this 10th anniversary issue, most issues are readable in a single setting. Authors are as likely to be sex worker activists as academic researchers, community organizers as recent graduates. To their collective credit, contributors strive to demonstrate the agency of their subjects and collaborators without failing to situate that agency within structures of oppression. To their individual credit, they seldom avoid presenting the contradictions of and sometimes frank abuses in commercial sexual networking. The focus is always squarely on what's good and bad for sex workers, and for good reason.

Ditmore concludes her editorial to this issue by noting that Research for Sex Work "continues to publicise the fact that sex workers are part of the solution to the HIV pandemic and to abuses within sex venues." Each of these essays are one to three pages in length and published in English and Spanish. It's free, so this issue could be used in undergraduate classrooms if not also in upper-division high school courses in global studies.

The VAMP Collective and SANGRAM contributed "Resisting Raids and Rescue." Set in Maharashtra, India, it shows the fuzzy distinction between police forces and Christian reformers whose pockets are full of U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) funding. Both are supposed to help people in distress, but as often as not, they make things worse. I wanted the authors to explain who Freedom Firm founder Greg Malstead is. Seeming to personify the crusading heads of reform-rescue outfits, I wanted more insight into his personality and institutional base, the **FBO [faith based organisations]** called Valley of Praise Charitable Society (see the fascinating story that appears on the SANGRAM website. Also, having just watched Born into Brothels (the gripping Academy Award winning documentary by Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman), I wanted the authors to show evidence to support their several claims of the efficacy of their attempts to keep minors (children, in both age and relationship) from engaging in sex work.

The page-long piece by Diedre Stewart, "Sex Worker Activists: embodying aberrance," half of which is quoted material, is abstracted from her Honors thesis. Unlike the other, longer essay by Katherine Elder, which was abstracted from her Masters thesis, this one opens awkwardly and isn't situated. Stewart didn't need to cite only the uber-intellect Judith Butler on gender identity and performativity to explain social norms and sexual deviance. I look forward to reading her longer, more fully developed work. Elder's case-study essay, "The PEPFAR 'Anti-Prostitution Pledge'," traces the negative consequences of U.S. Christian reformer premises that are applied to Nigeria in ways that harm people and confuse the roles of community, nation, and bilateral organizations. PEPFAR language and policies hamper condom promotion and discourage civil society attempts to collaborate with sex workers and apply for PEPFAR funding.

Vicki Bright and Kate Shannon contributed "A Participatory-Action and Interventional Research Approach to HIV Prevention and Treatment among Women in Survival Sex Work." They unpack the growth and development of a two-phase, community-based research project that used qualitative methods and participatory stances with over 200 women to enable the piloting, conduct and evaluation of peer-driven HIV prevention efforts.

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“My One-Way Ticket to Kamathipura”: rights of sex workers compromised,” written by Sharvari Karandikar and Moisés Próspero, examines what bleak futures many Indian girls face. This essay, too, recalls Born into Brothels, and neatly captures the interconnections of but semantic distinctions between “trafficking” and “sex work.”

Matthew Greenall and Balou Chabat Rasoanaivo’s “Sex Worker Organising in Madagascar” traces the development of and challenges faced by Malagasy sex workers in terms of biological and social vulnerability. Their many significant insights include that “funders often have a very simplistic view of what constitutes a good sex worker HIV/AIDS project, and they are often more interested in giving out condoms and getting sex workers to STI clinics than in community development approaches that aim to tackle the broader causes of vulnerability.”

In “Unfriendly Encounters,” Kristen Freeland presents the sociodemographics of street-level sex workers in Manhattan and the considerable verbal, physical, and legal abuse they suffer, especially those who are transgender and non-white. Jill McCracken’s thoughtful content analysis of newspaper articles from an American Southwest city, “Street Sex Work and Sex Worker Rights?: blinding connections,” reveals the shallow rhetorical strategies of news reporters. Whether or not they mean well, many mistake the social structure of prostitution and poverty for individual pathology (and rarely, triumph). McCracken deftly prangs the double standards involved, since few “john” stories are told in newspapers and since the demand side of the ledger is seldom analyzed in the same individualizing way.

A project situated in the Kings Cross neighborhood of Sydney, New South Wales, written about by Elena Jeffreys, Rewa Tapuhi, Abigail and Kha Hien Huynh in “Tribes Bangin in Da City,” aimed to facilitate peer education among and between sex workers and their clients. I wanted them to explain the project’s “short hiatus” that they mention at length so as to connect together better the other contributions that hint at the foibles of short-term, temporarily funded projects that are plagued by insecure funding and considerable personnel turnover. This is a positive essay, and their work in the field displays methodological ingenuity and personal goodwill that researchers would do well to emulate.

The issue closes with a respectful obituary for the medical anthropologist, Carol Jenkins. I was surprised it didn’t mention her considerable work around issues of sexual health and behavior in Papua New Guinea, where she lived for many years and raised her children.

This latest issue of Research for Sex Work coincides with the 10th anniversary of the juggernaut of UNAIDS. The personal stories it tells and the personal dedication that shines through most pages serve perhaps as a counterpoint to it. Despite the well-deserved bashing UNAIDS has received lately, one can only assume that it will be around ten years from now. Let’s hope that Research for Sex Work will at that time be celebrating their twentieth anniversary, too.



Meena Saraswathi Seshu,

Founder and general secretary of SANGRAM
in Westindien Maharashtra, Bombai/Mumbai u Puna/Pune

Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha (SANGRAM)
www.sangram.org

Resisting Raids and Rescue VAMP Collective and SANGRAM

July 2008
www.researchforSexwork.org/downloads/r4sw10.pdf

Sex workers in Maharastra, India, face raids by two groups, the police and Christian reformers with US funding. The police use anti-trafficking laws to raid red light areas.

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Prostitution is not a crime, but prostitution by minors is illegal and this is used by the police and organisations to justify raids. Our children live with us in our homes, and our children who board at school return to visit us. VAMP is against child labour of any kind, especially sex work, but our own children, who are not sex workers, are used to justify raids against us. The results are the same – detention, even extralegal detention of women and children, and our children's schooling is disrupted.

Sex work itself is not illegal in India, but most police and sex workers are unaware of the law. With regard to sex work, police enforce public morals more than the law or take advantage of their position to demand money and sex from sex workers, so educating the police and sex workers about the law was a first step. One of the major achievements of VAMP and SANGRAM is a change in the relationship between sex workers and police in Sangli. Now, in the red light areas of Sangli, sex workers call on the police for assistance when they need help, while the police used to be unresponsive to their complaints. Police raids in the red light areas have stopped.

However, there is a second type of raid that happens in Sangli in the red light areas. These are 'anti-trafficking' raids, typically sponsored by foreign faith-based organizations (FBOs) with funding from the US. These raids are also motivated by morality, but the root is different. The organizations conducting and arranging such raids may have a vision of rescuing young girls from prostitution, and seem to **view all prostitution as violence against women**. They are not influenced by sex workers and do not consult local sex workers in the places where they operate.

Sex workers have protested raids and worked hard to prevent them in their communities because raids are detrimental to their lives and offer no benefits to the people picked up in raids. Restore International, a US-based FBO, claims to removing minors from the sex industry, but the effects of their efforts are to destabilise effective programs run by sex workers addressing this very issue. VAMP and SANGRAM are against minors doing sex work, and have developed programmes to address this issue. Furthermore, the raids are detrimental for the lives of women and families that are broken up because of the raids. The raids also disrupt HIV-prevention programming and distribution of condoms, condoms that are essential for sex workers' HIV prevention.

Girls who are not in business have been arrested in raids.

Kamalabai, a community leader in the red light area of Gokul Nagar in Sangli, said, "The first goal is to get the girls out of custody. In the most recent raid, here in Gokul Nagar, three girls who were over 18 were taken into custody. On Friday, we were organising a community meeting here in Gokul Nagar and everyone was getting ready to attend the meeting, then two vehicles came into Gokul Nagar, and so the VAMP volunteers ran to me. They said that foreigners were here, and as soon as we started discussing with him – Greg Malstead – to ask why he came again. He has raided Gokul Nagar before.

There were many more vehicles that came following his vehicle, so the people included in the raid by the police and Greg Malstead, came into our community without our permission and started pushing girls out of their homes.

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There were so many girls without clothing! They were forcefully pushed out! They pulled the women's hair. They pushed them and put them in the vehicle." Another woman reported that out of fear of raids, many women locked their doors, but the doors were forced open.

Raids have taken place in other communities around Sangli as well. Meenakshi said, "In Miraj, girls who are not in business have been arrested in raids. Malstead's people do this. He took the local police officer and sent a **decoy customer**. [this is the one in which the decoy assaulted the girl] Our main point is that our children should live with us, we don't want to send them to other institutions. We wanted them to grow in front of us and if anyone comes with an agenda to raid our community it is not fair to us. It's wrong. Through the raids, all the photos of the girls were published in local papers, and we feel very bad for her. VAMP has decided that no minors should be in sex work and we are working on this issue. We started gathering collectively to fight for our rights to work on our own issues and solving our problems. Why is this man making our work harder and interrupting our work? We are protecting our rights and due to the ongoing raids we are in trouble because many women ran away from their homes. We don't know where they are, we have problem to reach those women, they may be underground, and our HIV prevention work has been lost. We are supportive of the police – we help them and they help us. When any criminal enters our community and we call the police. Look, about this Malstead – he pressures the police, I don't know how he is coming, whether he is bribing the police, he is pressing them to conduct raids."

Street-based sex workers also face problems brought on by raids. Bismillah said, "Now they come in groups with men and women officers. Because of the raids, we cannot work in our usual lodges. The raids make it so the lodges do not want us to come. Those in private business even, the owners are not renting to the women working. Because of the raids, women are in worse situations for work: they have no place to work, they change their locations out of fear of the raids, and this displacement makes it difficult for them to access health facilities and even get condoms. They get their clients outside the city, maybe on a farm or in bushes. Only the goondah profit from this. We are more vulnerable to violence and extortion." The worst ramifications of raids are deaths and long-term health problems in the community. Deepak said, "Two madams and one girl died. The girl who was arrested was HIV+ and because of this raid she was not allowed to take her medicine – she was receiving anti-retroviral therapy – for a long time. Then she died, and her father killed himself. We tried not to tell him that she died, but when he found out that his daughter was no more, he killed himself." Shanta was arrested in a raid instigated by a FBO, she had kidney problems and had been operated upon ten days before the raid. At that time, Shanta had two problems, the fear of the raid and her own health problem. She did not respond to treatment. Another woman had endured surgery on her cervix right before the raid. They were not able to recover and died.

The advantage of **community-based programming** like ours at VAMP and SANGRAM is that we know who needs help, and no one has ever been assaulted or trafficked by our members, unlike the raids by police and FBOs.

Meenakshi described VAMP's outreach saying, "We are working on this issue of minors in the brothels and we are solving this problem. When minors are found, we take them out. We are putting them in care. We feel strongly that minors should not be in prostitution. I met a girl whose mother was interested to put her in business. We took the girl who was a minor to the police station and they helped send her to an observation home. A second time, a person came with a girl saying to her that he will get her a job. He came to our community and demanded a room for her and when we saw the girl, she was very small, we talked with the girl and she

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told us her story. She told us that this man told her he would find her a job and he took her to Miraj. Then we tried to take both of them to the police station but on the way he ran away. We went to the police station and told the whole story and the girl was taken to the observation home by the police.” The advantage of community-based programming like ours at VAMP and SANGRAM is that we know who needs help, and no one has ever been assaulted or trafficked by our members, unlike the raids by police and FBOs. We are able to send our children to school. Meenakshi said, “The first thing, they should all get education. Whatever they want we will give them. After they grow up they will decide what they should do. Our children are working with us, supporting us in our work. Some take supplementary education in the community, some administer our program, some document our work, some do outreach. Our children are helping us more than outsiders.”.

About the Authors

VAMP is a collective of sex workers in Maharashtra, and is a member of the Indian National network of SexWorkers VAMP is the production partner for this edition of Research for SexWork. SANGRAM works with VAMP.

Their report, “In the Name of Rescue: Report of the Fact-Finding Committee Investigation into the Alleged Molestation/Rape of a Minor Girl by a Decoy Customer”, is available from www.nswp.org/pdf/20070512-MirajFactFindingReport.pdf [link not working now]

Raid and rescue saga ends

Blog einer indischen Sexarbeiterin in England:

http://kamaofkingston.blogspot.com/2005_07_01_archive.html

This is so typical of the moral panic and hysteria that is created around Indian sex workers, and the people and NGOs that feed into it and raise huge amounts of funding from moral tyrants such as the US Government are NEVER held accountable for their actions.

US Government policy towards sex workers is an invitation for people to harass and exploit sex workers for their own perverse pleasure, it is as if the US Government is funding an world-wide, institutional S&M programme that allows "Moralists" to subject sex workers to a sadistic bureaucratic and unaccountable mental torture.

Many of these people get sexually excited by these acts of subjugating sex workers to their will and someone should do some research on the sexualised motives of "rescuers".

Comment: Raid and rescue saga ends

By Meena Saraswathi Seshu

Sangli, India

[Mods note: The below document is follow-up news on the recent raid and rescue saga [Gerücht] that took place in India on 20 May 2005. To read the first

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comment made on this news please go to our archives. [s.u.]

Dear all,

The raid and rescue saga ended with all the girls being released yesterday. They were raided and rescued but were not rehabilitated. Six of them after almost two months in custody though 31 of the 35 were adults/not minors.

As you know on 20/May/2005 a raid was conducted in Gokulnagar a red light district in Sangli, western Maharashtra, India. The police on the information given by Mr. Greg Malstead a U.S. national conducted this raid. Mr. Malstead used distribution of chocolates and condoms as his survey method. Mr. Malstead claimed he belonged to an NGO Restore International. We later found that this is not a registered organization but a Christian ministry started recently in South India by Mr. Malstead.

13 brothel owners and 35 girls were picked up in the raid and unfortunately two of the 35 were school girls who had come home for their school holidays. The medical exam found 31 girls above the age of 18. But the embarrassed police asked for a re-exam and they submitted a report that 18 girls were above 20 and the remaining 17 between 16 to 19 years of age. The 18 girls were released to their parents.

The remaining 17 were transferred to the Child Welfare Committee on the instance of a lawyer from Perna an NGO in Mumbai. They were remanded till further orders. Two of the school going girls, were then released to their parents. Unfortunately, one of the school girls is so embarrassed by the incident she has refused to go back to school and threatens suicide if she is sent back. 9 girls produced school leaving and birth certificates as proof of them being above 18 but this was not accepted. This is actually against the law of the land. Anyway they were released to their parents.

Restore International went against this order of the Child Welfare Committee and the case is pending in the session's court in Sangli. 4 of the 6 [8?] remaining girls produced proof of age as above 18 to the sessions court representing themselves, as wrongfully remanded, despite being above 18 and they were also released to their parents.

The 2 girls who were actually minors [however between 16 and 18 (?)] were released on humanitarian grounds as they were found to be pregnant and were ill and pleading for their mothers.

Thus the saga ends.

Meena Saraswathi Seshu

SANGRAM/VAMP

Comment: SANGRAM accused of interfering in the rescue of minor girls

By Meena Saraswathi Seshu

Sangli, India

2005-07-01

<http://eforums.healthdev.org/read/messages?id=6371>

Our background -- Sampada Grameen Mahila Sanstha, [SANGRAM] is a feminist organization that has been working with women in prostitution for the past 12 years. The HIV/AIDS programme, which is a peer-based intervention with women in prostitution, has been accepted as a best practice by NACO, UNAIDS and UNESCO. The intervention led to the formation of a **collective of women in prostitution called Veshya AIDS Muquabla Parishad [VAMP] registered in 1996**. This collective of women has mohalla committees in each red light area, which is made up of key stakeholders in the area. They help the women to make decisions about any injustice in the area and also advise women on issues related to health, education of youth, and laws related to prostitution. The collectives have been able to stem the transmission of HIV and have proved to be the best educators of their male clients. The collective renamed itself Veshya Anyay Mukti Parishad [VAMP] when it realized that collective strength could be used against goondas and other anti-social elements who were exploiting them. Lately, the VAMP mohalla committee also tackled brothel owners who are abusive and who extort money from the girls. This has been a slow process and has taken a long time to implement.

We believe that child prostitution is akin to child sexual abuse, molestation and child labor and that it exists in a society that is fraught with crimes of abduction, kidnap, rape, assault and violence against women.

For the last two weeks now, the 'foreign hand' has been trying its utmost to wreck havoc in the prostitutes' collective in Sangli district. Two foreigners, we later came to know as working for an international NGO called Restore International, have raided Gokul Nagar and sought to 'rescue' the women and children there. In clear violation of the law of this land, they confined boarding school children who had come to visit their homes during the summer vacation, wrongly accusing them of being in prostitution!

This may sound completely far-fetched and unbelievable but Mr. Greg Malstead and his colleague who are US nationals, got Mr. Sham Kamble to file an FIR with local police as they were unable to do so themselves. Today 10 children are at the Children's Home even as the civil hospital has yet to certify 4 of them as minors. Younger sisters, who are minors, were set free whereas their older sisters were confined in the Home!

The drama started on 18/5/2005 when Mr. Malstead came to the brothels of Sangli to conduct a survey. He began distributing chocolates and when women from VAMP, the collective of women in prostitution, questioned the foreigner he treated them with disgust and disrespect as child abusers. He also got visibly angry with Bhimawa [Director, VAMP] who asked for his credentials.

He then contacted the District Superintendent of Police Mr. Bharambe and told him he had surveyed the area and that the survey shows that there are minor girls in the brothels. The police conducted a raid in Gokulnagar Sangli in plainclothes bringing around 200 police personnel accompanied by Mr. Malstead. During the course of the raid, the police picked up

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two school going girls who had come home for school holidays. Pleading with the police only resulted in more accusations. Further, when one of SANGRAM's workers, Mr. Sunil Terdale, told the police that his sister is not in prostitution but lives with their grandmother and his sister was finally released as a 'minor' according to the medical examination.

Anyway the raid yielded 13 brothel owners and 35 'minor' girls. The girls were sent to the remand home in Sangli. The first medical report stated that there were only 4 minors out of the 35. The embarrassed police went for a re-exam and the resultant medical report stated that an additional 13 i.e. 17 of them, were minors ranging from 16-19 years of age!! The eighteen minors were released to their parents and the 17 sent to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) at the instance of the lawyer from Prerna an NGO in Mumbai. The CWC then appointed a Probation Officer to investigate and submit a report regarding the parents of the 17 girls.

SANGRAM pleaded on behalf of the two school girls who submitted their school credentials to the CWC. By the time they were released they had been in remand for 15 days. The International NGO did not come to their rescue much less make any effort to counsel them about this gross violation of their rights. Parents of the remaining 15 then appealed to the CWC that they should be given custody of their children and were also willing to give an undertaking that they will ensure that their children will not reach the brothels. They also had school leaving certificates for 12 of the girls stating that they were 18 and above. The CWC has released 9 girls to their parents on the basis of the PO report. The PO report of the remaining 6 girls is yet to be submitted to the CWC. Two of these girls are pregnant and are constantly ill.

Meanwhile, Restore International came back to Sangli with a three-pronged attack:

1. To challenge the decision of the CWC to release the girls to their parents in the session's court.
2. To get Uttamnagar, Miraj [neighboring town to Sangli] raided; it has yielded 4 girls [yet to be medically examined]. Local newspapers reported that Mr. Malstead himself participated in the raid, kicking the doors of the brothels viciously, to get the girls out. A reporter had to intervene and ask him to stop.
3. To counsel the six girls in the remand home to accept rehabilitation and an alternative lifestyle.

SANGRAM has also been asked to counsel the girls and are being accused by Restore International that we are asking them to remain in prostitution!

Our position on young girls in sex work and on the raids, I feel it is necessary to verbalize what we believe and why **we are opposed to raids as a method of stopping young girls from entering the sex industry. Prostitution is a system that exists in a society fraught with inequalities. Gender inequalities, economic inequalities, caste, class and race contribute to a social fabric that is abusive of women's rights and the right of the girl child, and to a culture that does not value the girl child. The girl child is thus sacrificed at the altar of male dominated patriarchal systems that believes they exist to be molded to accept a sexuality that is actually detrimental to their health. Abject poverty, drought, famine, and economic inequalities complete the picture. While these structural issues are not the purview of this plea, they need to be kept in mind while we search for a solution that is best for the 'child in need of care and protection'.**

What is the best solution for a 'girl child in need of care and protection'? A simplistic solution - such as raid and rescue- only offers patchwork relief, and takes away the rights of the girl

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child by inflicting untold violence on her in the process. **The 'raid, rescue and rehabilitation' model blames the community, pushing it to a corner of no return.** Such strategies that have violated the rights of the women in prostitution have not yielded good results for generations.

We need solutions that are long term and those that can be implemented effectively. We need strategies that will strengthen women to resist being pushed into those corners and build the will to reject the unacceptable and illegal violation and sexual abuse of the girl child. The **collectivization of women in prostitution, which is a rights based approach**, is one such strategy. It creates a space for women in prostitution to collectively look for solutions to their problems. It helps them to access information and education about rights and to take informed decisions.

VAMP ideologies:

- a) **The strategy to stop young girls/minors from entering prostitution is to strengthen and educate women in prostitution to stop child sexual abuse.**
- b) **Use of force, only pushes them underground and does not allow social workers to outreach them and educate them about the law.**
- c) **To build collectives that will teach them dignity and strengthen them to stop the menace of child trafficking and child sexual abuse.**
- d) **Communities should be taken into confidence to ensure that minors do not replace the ones rescued by the police.**
- e) **To help collectives appoint mohalla committees to watch over such women who break the law and pressurize them to remain within the law.**
- f) **To work with the police to keep anti-social elements outside the communities.**
- g) **To teach women their rights and empower them so that they can help themselves.**

In the case of when/if the girls are captured during a raid they should:

- a) Be asked what they would like to be done with them
- b) If the girls want to return to their parents, and the court is convinced that the persons present are indeed their parents and not the agents, they should be handed back to their parents.

We believe that family as an institution is the best institution for minors and that no state institution can take the place of the family and its extended support systems from birth to death inequalities.

In solidarity,

Meena Saraswathi Seshu
SANGRAM/VAMP

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The views expressed in this forum do not necessarily reflect those of HDN or DCI.

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Sex-Work eForum 2005: sex-work@eforums.healthdev.org

<http://eforums.healthdev.org/read/messages?id=6371>

2. Seite der christlich-fundamentalistischen Rettungsindustrie



Bob Goff

Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Restore International

www.restoreInternational.org

Gegründet 2004



Greg Malstead

Er war International Justice Mission Director in Mumbai und hat jetzt sein eigenes Projekt: Freedom Firm mit Aktivitäten weiter im Süden von Indien.

www.freedom.firm.in

Freedom Firm

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4243494380>

Freedom Firm was established in 2006 by Greg and Mala Malstead. Greg Malstead is an attorney and is the International Director for Freedom Firm. Mala is a teacher. In 2000, Greg and Mala began rescuing child prostitutes with the International Justice Mission. Greg was the International Justice Mission Director in Mumbai.

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At the time of Greg's departure from IJM, the Mumbai office, in partnership with local authorities, had rescued over 450 victims of these crimes. As a result, prosecutions have been initiated against more than 180 perpetrators. Six cases have resulted in groundbreaking convictions with sentences from five to ten years imprisonment.

After 5 years of rescuing victims of sex trafficking in Mumbai, the sustained efforts of police and NGOs in Mumbai have substantially reduced the number of minor girls in prostitution. With a proven method that produced these substantial results, Greg and Mala decided to take this model and apply it to other high trafficking areas throughout India. In 2005, the Malsteads left Mumbai and the International Justice Mission and moved their base of operations to Tamil Nadu in South India.

Freedom Firm targets smaller cities to combat trafficking, rescue girls as young as 12 years old, and bring justice to these areas where little work is being done. Interventions have a great impact in these and towns and villages where there is scant knowledge of the law, practically no enforcement, and no rescues or prosecutions.

In September 2006, the Freedom Firm Aftercare Home Roja (rose) was opened in the hill station of Ootacamund, Tamil Nadu, in South India. The home focuses on equipping the girls to lead a healthy, self-sufficient life. The aftercare home provides counseling, education, vocational training, therapy and medical care.

Freedom Firm is funded solely on donations by individuals and organisations, and every donation is greatly appreciated. For more information on Freedom Firm and how to donate, visit

Fighting against Forced Child Prostitution in India: How Restore International is Seeking to Defend the Defenseless

By Bob Goff
May 2010

Bob Goff is the founder and president of Restore International. He is also the founding partner of a Washington D.C. law firm, Goff & DeWalt, LLP.

<http://www.lausanneWorldPulse.com/worldreports/162>

India ranks high on the list of countries where commercial sexual exploitation of underage girls occurs. With the extreme poverty, religious traditions and societal prejudice toward women, thousands of girls are bought and sold in every state of India. The lenient law enforcement system has allowed for the flourishing trade. Once the girl is sold to a brothel keeper, she becomes a virtual slave of the industry. She is beaten, threatened, verbally abused and forced to have sex with many men every day. Although there are no accurate statistics of child prostitutes, experts on child trafficking agree the numbers lie between 400,000 and 500,000 children.

Restore International, <http://www.restoreinternational.org/>, follows Christ's mandate to care for the poor and the orphaned and to bring justice for the oppressed (Jeremiah 22:3). It is

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because of this that Restore's team seeks the rescue and restoration of young girls like Darja and Asha* (whose stories are told below) who have been forced into prostitution.

Asha was sold into prostitution by her aunt at the age of twelve. When she refused to comply, she was beaten, whipped and had her arm burned by cigarettes. Asha tried to run away several times (once by jumping out a window in the brothel), but she was immediately re-captured and severely punished. "I tried to kill myself three times, by cutting my wrists and by jumping from the terrace," Asha relates. "I thought, 'It is better to die than live in such a place, where there is no one to help me.'"

Founded in December 2004, Restore International (1) rescues and rehabilitates children who have been forced into prostitution and (2) pursues the prosecution of the perpetrators. The Restore team coordinates investigators, police liaisons, advocates and local legal professionals to locate minor girls and then use the legal system to rescue them. After doing the investigative work, Restore works with local police to plan and initiate raids on a brothel to rescue the minors. The girls are then initially placed in government custody homes and later transferred to aftercare homes. Restore International provides counseling to the girls and assists local advocates who help navigate the criminal case through the courts.

Since its inception a year ago, the Restore team has investigated and assisted in raiding a number of brothels, which has resulted in the rescue of over seventeen minors and the arrest of their perpetrators. **Restore International has also helped eliminate United States funding of an advocacy organization called SANGRAM, whose related entity, VAMP, is an organization whose members included brothel owners.** These entities opposed Restore's efforts to free children located in the brothels.

Rescuing young minor girls from brothels is not without risk. In October 2005, Restore conducted follow-up investigations to ensure that previously-rescued girls had not been returned to prostitution by brothel owners. During this investigation, however, Restore's team became the victims of an attack by the brothel owners and sex traffickers. Restore's team had arrived at the location only two days before and were looking for a little girl named Darja. In the raid previously conducted in this red light area, thirteen brothel keepers had been arrested for selling little girls to their customers. The arrests enraged the brothel owners and others in the red light area. For the first time in longer than anyone could remember, India's own laws against child trafficking were being enforced in the Sangli red light area.

Darja had been rescued from one of the brothels earlier; however, when the court prematurely released her to her parents, she was sent back into prostitution. This tragedy occurs from time to time and illustrates the need to educate the judiciary regarding the manner in which the victims of sex trafficking must be treated. Accordingly, Restore International's efforts include pursuing judicial relief and accountability through various appeals which Restore has filed, including one presently pending before India's high court in Bombay.

On the same day the team was attacked, Restore president, Bob Goff, and a team of investigators went to the tribal village where another released girl was supposed to be found with the family she was released to. The villagers were not pleased to see Restore's team as they had just sold the young girl to a brothel for US\$40. The eight-foot square thatched hut (which the authorities would have found had they done the mandatory home inspections required before release) was easily located. Had the girl not been released in violation of applicable laws, she would not have been swept back into the sex-trade cycle.

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It is these kinds of tragic events that keep the Restore team focused on their mission. Girls like the one mentioned above need to know the promise of Isaiah 14:13: “And it shall come to pass that in the day that the Lord shall give you rest from your sorrow and your fear and from the hard bondage wherein you were made to serve.”

In another incidence, members of the Restore team decided to attempt to locate a minor girl in the Gokul Nadar red light area and to gather evidence for local police, who would then bring her to safety. The team also sought to provide proof that some of the thirteen brothel owners who had been arrested in earlier raids were back in the red light area in violation of the court's orders. Such evidence would provide a further basis for **Restore's pending request that the entire red light area be shut down**.

Unfortunately, one of Restore's undercover operatives had his cover blown. When he hastily called on his cell phone for help, he indicated that he had been surrounded by a growing mob that had begun to beat him. The brothel owners who had been recently arrested and stripped of the young girls who they peddled were enraged that their trade had been disrupted.

Restore's team rushed in to rescue the operative from danger. Within two minutes, nearly a hundred people had gathered and had him on the ground. By the time Restore's team was able to get him in the car, the crowd had swelled to several hundred people. Although there was momentary safety inside, the mob soon began throwing rocks at the car.

Fortunately, one of Restore's operatives was able to make his way to the police station across town. The authorities soon arrived and the crowd quickly disbursed. The team came through with only a few minor scrapes and bruises.

These kinds of events, however, do not stop those involved with Restore International from fulfilling their mission to rescue these young girls who have been kidnapped and sold into brothels. By enforcing India's existing laws, bringing accountability to the system and bringing justice to the perpetrators, Restore's team believes that change can indeed occur in this system of modern-day slavery.

Standing up for the defenseless will exact a price; however, the rewards will be beyond measure. And these rewards are priceless. These rewards include freedom for young girls such as Darja and Asha.

For three years, Asha lived and worked in a brothel. This is what she says of her rescue:

“A man came to my brothel and was taken to my room. I thought he was a customer. He said, ‘I won't do anything to you, just tell me about yourself.’ A few hours later, the brothel was raided and the same man came again. After I was rescued and came to this Oasis home, I started to change. I saw [the movie] “The Passion of the Christ” and I realized how much God had done for me, and I started to believe in Jesus. I asked God to forgive my sins, and then I began to start forgiving others. I am a person who never said sorry, but now I can say sorry when I hurt someone else. I have forgiven my parents and my aunt.”

In Matthew 18:10-14 Jesus goes out to find the one sheep that is lost. So too Restore International pursues the rescue of children who are being oppressed. Each one of these girls is a precious treasure. We search for the one girl who is being abused in prostitution until we find her, remove her from the brothel and place her in safety. This we will continue to do as

we are commissioned by the Lord in Isaiah 1:17: “Seek justice, encourage the oppressed, defend the cause of the fatherless...”

*Names have been changed to protect identity

Stopping the red lights West Coast ministry seeks to squelch India's child sex trade

By Lori Arnold

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http://www.christianExaminer.com/Articles/Articles%20Feb06/Art_Feb06_03.html

SEATTLE — Bob Goff may be a born-again believer, but he has no qualms about frequenting the red-light districts of Southern India.

It's a Christ-like passion that drives the successful San Diego [and Seattle] lawyer to **rub elbows with brothel owners and other seedy characters that scavenge on the souls of innocent young girls thrust into human trafficking and prostitution.**

“We want to raise the stakes,” said Goff, who maintains a law practice in San Diego and Seattle. “We want them to know that if they traffic in children, the law is not far behind.”

Tapping the resources of American and Indian lawyers, Goff's Seattle-based Restore International ministry is boldly challenging the illegal sex trade by convincing local officials in India to enforce its own laws.

“Enforcement is the issue,” he said.

On American soil, there is also support for anti-human trafficking issues. On Jan. 10, President George W. Bush signed into law a renewal of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, which the president said “enhances our ability to combat trafficking in persons by extending and improving prosecutorial and diplomatic tools, and also adds new protections for victims.”

For his part, Goff's ministry tracks young girls who are either sold into prostitution by their families or who seek the work as a means to survive. Once the girls are traced and evidence is collected, they contact local law enforcement officials, who raid the premises.

“We want to attack the problem from several different angles,” Goff, the ministry's founder and president, said, adding that a big portion of what they do is to educate police and judges about the sweeping impact of human trafficking.

“It's not unheard of for the police to be complacent in the red-light areas,” he said. “There is a huge opportunity for lawyers to make a momentous difference in the life of kids that are released (from prostitution).”

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At least one of their cases is pending before India's highest court, said Goff, who teaches a business law course each spring at Point Loma Nazarene University, where his 16-year daughter also takes classes.

Although clearly a faith-based organization, Restore International is registered as an official human rights group, called a Non-Government Organization, allowing it access in India.

"We're not bashful saying where our hope is," Goff said. "We're doing this first and foremost because we are Christians. At the same time, we don't want it to be an impediment to get it done."

Goff said he founded Restore as a way to focus on the often-neglected rural areas of India. Existing ministries, he said, focused on urban rescues.

Industry boon

Poverty and culture, including two practices, the dowry and a custom called devadasis, in which a young girl is dedicated as a temple prostitute, fuel India's child trafficking and prostitution trade. Two years ago, president George W. Bush committed \$50 million to help combat worldwide human trafficking, and although the practice is often associated with Africa, Goff said an exploding sex industry has propelled India past Africa in several categories, including the number of citizens testing HIV-positive.

Despite their dedicated and often dangerous raids, Goff admits that many times they often rescue a child only to have her remanded back to her parents who turn around and sell her back into the adult trade.

Such was the case in late October when Goff and his team were tracking a young girl who had been rescued during a raid earlier in the year. Goff and Co. returned to the tribal village where the girl was supposed to be living, only to find she had just been resold to another brothel for \$40. An angry villager greeted the Americans with a knife.

Arriving too late to stop them, the Restore team left the village to gather proof that some of the 13 arrested brothel owners were already back in business. After getting wind of their plan, the brothel owners decided to fight back, this time turning their rage on a Restore operative whose identity had been uncovered.

Goff and Greg Malstead, the ministry's operations director, raced to the operative, pulling him into the safety of the SUV as the angry crowd swelled to several hundred.

"The first rock bounced off of the windshield," Goff wrote in a letter to supporters. "The second rock broke through the side window. Most of the rest of the windows soon collapsed in a sea of shattered glass as the brothel owners and their supporters continued their assault on our SUV."

After 30 minutes, police arrived and the crowds dispersed.

"We were safe," Goff wrote. "We had scrapes and bruises from broken glass and the occasional rock that landed on target."

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Resolute in spirit

Despite the ongoing threat, Goff said he and his team, including his employees, have an enormous peace about their work, all dedicated to the India cause.

“You do encounter that resistance from time to time,” he said. “You match that resistance with resolve.

“We do whatever it takes. It’s not just wishful thinking. We will get the girl.”

His confidence, Goff cautioned, should not be misconstrued as flippant.

“We are not cavalier about what we are doing, but we sense God’s tremendous protection,” he said.

“You get this overwhelming sense that when you do something and you know there is absolutely nothing in it for you; I was in a place where I was devoid of everything—yet everything was in it for me.

“Still, you have the tremendous sense of being in the right place. Yes, this is the exact place we are supposed to be. The status quo is not acceptable.”

Wide network

In addition to street-level raids, Goff said his organization stays in close contact with U.S. officials, including members of Congress. This fall, Goff said, the USAID, the federal government’s foreign assistance arm, withdrew its financial support of an Indian non-governmental agency after Restore reported the organization supported child prostitution.

“They were saying they were an HIV prevention group,” he said. “They were a group of brothel owners.”

In the long-term, Goff said his ministry is in the process of securing land in Southern India to use to build a rehabilitation center to help wean young girls from the lure and trap of prostitution.

“We pursue some of the same things Jesus did,” he said. “Speaking up for those who don’t have a voice, rescuing, all the things He’s done for us.”

Weitere Fallsammlungen im
Sexworker Forum Razzia-Blog:

<http://www.sexworker.at/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=1062>

