
SCOPE

Study Trip Report to the ACT Legislative Assembly regarding travel undertaken 20 April to 4 May 2014 in Sweden and South Korea to study the implementation of different responses to trafficking, prostitution and the lessons learned regarding exit facilities and programs for both victims of trafficking and women wishing to exit prostitution.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

I take very seriously my responsibilities to the Australian Capital Territory and to the investment that has been made in this study trip.

I am not suggesting that any of the concepts, programs or legislative responses I saw while overseas are directly applicable or appropriate for the ACT. There are many differences between our societies, and we are at a different stage in our discussions and understanding of the realities involved in this area.

However, I do think there are concerns about the protection and well being of people whose needs can be taken advantage of in the ACT. They deserve serious discussion to be entered into in a mature and open minded manner. This is in particular important because the group we are referring to are predominantly women and girls.

To find out the facts from the coal face in countries that have used alternative methods to ours was eye opening. It is an important way to bring direct, real world experience to what is a very important discussion.

We all have a responsibility not to ignore issues or pretend they are not there because they are difficult to face. We must have the courage and maturity to discuss and debate, and to grapple with difficult issues that affect some of the most vulnerable in our society.

The following is an account of the meetings we attended and the key messages from each of the organisations and individuals we met with.

SWEDEN

Date: 22 April 2014
Organisation: Swedish Institute
Representative: Ms Annika Rembe – Director General
Ms Ulrika Rosvall – Program Manager
Background: The Swedish Institute was formed in 1945 to establish international relations.

Date: 22 April 2014
Organisation: Ministry of Education and Research
Representative: Mr Magnus Jonsson – Policy Adviser on areas of gender equality and education
Background: Mr Jonsson is part of the social policy unit in the Ministry of Gender Equity and advises on the areas of prostitution and human trafficking. Mr Jonsson provided a briefing on the Swedish Model laws and the outworking of these laws.

Date: 22 April 2014
Organisation: National Police Board
Representative: Ms Kajsa Wahlberg – Detective Superintendent - National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking
Ms Eva Carlensfors – Superintendent, Stockholm Police
Background: The National Police Board work collaboratively to map the state and scale of trafficking in Sweden. The Rapporteur reports to the UN twice yearly. The team develop proposals for victims of prostitution and trafficking and for legislation and policy development.

Date: 23 April 2014
Organisation: Public Prosecution Office
Representative: Ms Marie Lind Tomsen
Mr Lars Agren
Background: The Public Prosecution Office, independent authority, (much like Australian DPP) works collaboratively with the police in the area of prostitution and trafficking. They use proactive measures to find cases of human trafficking. Their approach is multi-disciplinary and intelligence based. An essential element to their methodology is that they embed within a police unit during the investigation phase to ensure correct evidence is collected.

Date: 23 April 2014
Organisation: Australian Ambassador to Sweden
Representative: His Excellency Gerald Thomson
Background: Lunch
Mr Patrick Cederlof
Ms Kajsa Wahlberg
Mr Hans Lundborg
Ms Anna Skarhed

Ms Angela Beausang
Mr Oskar Rohlander

Date: 23 April 2014
Organisation: Chancellor of Justice
Representative: Ms Anna Skarhed - Chancellor
Background: Ms Skarhed is the principal author of a study conducted from 2008 -2010 into the outcomes of the Nordic model of legislation. The outcome showed that there was strong support within the community and also discusses further outcomes.

Date: 23 April 2014
Organisation: KAST Project
Representative: Ms Marie Johansson – Social worker
Background: KAST is local government sponsored social service. Their focus is on providing psychologically based therapy for those who have found life negatively affected by the purchasing of sexual services and/or pornography addiction.

Date: 24 April 2014
Organisation: Committee of Justice – Swedish Parliament
Representative: Ms Cecilia Back – Adviser
Ms Maria Kaiser - Adviser
Background: The Committee of Justice has the responsibility for monitoring laws in this area and any changes.

Date: 24 April 2014
Organisation: Swedish Association of Women’s Shelters and Young Women’s Empowerment Centres (SKR)
Representative: Ms Carin Ohlsson – President
Organisation: National Organisation for Women’s Shelters and Young Women’s Shelters (ROKS)
Representative: Ms Angela Beausang – President
Organisation: Swedish Women’s Lobby (SWL)
Representative: Ms Gertrud Astrom – President
Stephanie Thogersen – Programme Manager
Background: Nordic Model of laws were championed by the Swedish women’s movement.

Date: 24 April 2014
Organisation: Department for Multilateral Development Cooperation – Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Representative: Mr Hans Lundborg – Ambassador-at-Large on Human Trafficking
Background: The Ambassador-at-Large has responsibility to promote multilateral response to human trafficking, working with global efforts, including the UN, to reduce supply and demand for trade in humans.

Date: 25 April 2014
Organisation: Skogsbo Centre
Representative: Ms Eva Goransson – Director
Background: The Skogsbo Centre is a residential exit program run by the Salvation Army. They house can accommodate over 20 women and 10 children and provides wrap around services to victims of trafficking and women wishing to exit prostitution.

- Strong relationship with municipal services
 - Individualised care planning
 - Trauma recovery
 - Medical/psychological care in the community
 - Education in the community
 - On average 2 – 4 years recovery time
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Date: 25 April 2014
Organisation: Petra Ostergren – PhD Candidate Lund University
Representative: Ms Petra Ostergren
Background: Ms Ostergren is currently completing her PhD at Lund University, she is researching 'The state of feminism'. Ms Ostergren has a background in feminist self-defence and an interest in power relationships between women and men. She is not supportive of the Nordic Model as she sees them as against the normal Swedish 'progressive utopia'. Ms Ostergren is concerned that trafficking is not beneficial for women.

Date: 25 April 2014
Organisation: County Administrative Board of Stockholm
Representative: Mr Patrik Cederlof - National Coordinator against prostitution and trafficking
Background: Coordinates all various arms and levels of government, social work and policing for the implementation and maintenance of the Nordic Model laws in Sweden.

SOUTH KOREA

Date: 30 April 2014
Organisation: Centre for Women's Rights - Salim
Representative: Ms Kyungsook – Director and Co-Founder
Background: Salim Centre provides a counselling call in centre and appointments. The Government funds four of the Salim Centres.

- 24 hours phone access to appropriately trained counsellors

Date: 30 April 2014
Organisation: More Forest – Skills Training Centre
Representative: Ms Jeonhee – Deputy Director
Background: The More Forest is a shop front established to sell craft work made by women rehabilitating.

Date: 30 April 2014
Organisation: Sallyhom- Residential exit program for minors
Representative: Major Park and Staff
Background: Sallyhom is a residential program for girls who have experienced sex work/internal trafficking.

- Residents are linked and accompanied by staff to psychological and medical services in the community
- Holistic approach to care can take a number of years
- Home-like environment
- Consistent stable support workers

Date: 30 April 2014
Organisation: Salim Womens' Shelter– Residential exit program
Representative: Ms Jeonhee – Deputy Director
Background: The Salim Women's Shelter is a residential home for adult women who have been prostituted or trafficked. The aim of the centre is for rehabilitation and independence.

- Social and economic Independence encouraged
- Medical/ psychological appointments in the community supported by social workers
- Wrap around services key to recovery
- Work experience and work stability assisted

Date: 1 May 2014
Organisation: Ministry for Gender Equality and Family
Representative: Kweonyonung Kim - Director
Background: Government implemented legislation in 2002 after fires in red-light district where 19 women died. The Ministry administers the legislation regarding demand reduction and services provision for victims of trafficking and women wishing to exit prostitution. There is a historical separation within brothels; foreigner brothel districts and those catering to Korean nationals, primarily a legacy of the Korean war. The Women's movement lobbied the Government for change in legislation. There were 2 laws implemented in 2002, anti sex purchase laws (illegal to purchase) and service provision (counselling centre and residential care and exit programs)

Date: 2 May 2014

Organisation: Durabang (My Sisters Place)

Representative: Joyce Kim

Background: Durabang was established in 1986 to assist Korean prostituted women. Durabang provides legal, medical, psychological support and shelter services to prostituted and trafficked women, in particular women who have worked in camp towns surrounded by US Military bases.

- Provide shelter and support services for up to 6 months. Not long enough to achieve recovery and independence in their view.

Date: 2 May 2014

Organisation: National Solidarity against sexual exploitation of women

Representative: Ms Mirye June - Director

Background: National Solidarity against Sexual Exploitation of women was established in 2000 as a result of fires within the brothel district that caused the death of 19 women. This organisation lobbied the Government for legislative change around prostitution and trafficking. They network 28 counselling centres, 45 adult shelters and nine shelters for minors in partnership with the Government.

Summary

The study program was undertaken to investigate the details regarding Sweden and South Korea's national and international work to support choice and freedom for vulnerable women; in particular those engaged voluntarily and involuntarily in the sex industry.

Both countries visited were aiming to significantly reduce or eliminate trafficking of women and girls for the sex trade and to allow local women who are engaged in the sale of sex freedom to choose their work and life outcomes.

There are two essential elements to both countries' systems.

The first being proactive policing to locate trafficking victims, in particular by Sweden, where a whole of government, well funded and concerted approach has seen that country experience a by-pass of the increase in trafficking experienced in many developed nations over the last decade.

South Korea is less intensive about its policing compared to Sweden but they are committed to looking for trafficked women and local women wishing to exit the industry.

The second essential element is the provision of wrap around social services at the point of contact with women in the industry. These services include residential exit programs; where women can access housing, counselling and psychological support, medical and dental services, education and work experience, with the aim of stabilisation of income. Also such services are designed to promote independence and not institutionalisation so that the ultimate outcome is independent living in the broader community.

Two key elements of all exit programs are; a focus on individualised care and an emphasis on independent living.

The Nordic Model Laws which were first introduced in Sweden are now gaining in popularity, already introduced by Norway, Iceland and to some extent South Korea and being either implemented or have been recommended for implementation by France, the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and the European Parliament.

The reason the laws are gaining in popularity is that the landscape of prostitution has changed, there is now an element of prostitution which is supplied internationally by women, many of whom have been trafficked and Sweden has been largely protected from this increase by these laws.

Sweden implemented these laws under pressure from their women's movement, including their strong women's shelters movement and women's electoral lobby.

The Swedish women's movement, after some 30 years of public debate and research and spurred on by the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing Declaration, decided that they would reject prostitution on the grounds that it created a basic inequity between women and men. The vastly female group who were purchased for sex without regard for their person were vulnerable to violence and being degraded. Their laws were a part of a package of laws implemented together to safeguard women's freedom and safety.

Member

Airfares	\$3,812.94
Accommodation, meals, incidentals, transfers, translation	<u>\$7,034.13</u>
Member total	\$10,847.07

Non-Member

Airfares	\$3,812.94
Accommodation, meals, incidentals, transfers	<u>\$3,613.41</u>
Non-member total	\$7,426.35

TOTAL \$18,273.42

Notes

Economy airfares and shared accommodation
Translation from Korean to English



Mrs Giulia Jones MLA