

Message from the Editor :

Recently one sex worker was brutally hurt by the customer. She was severely hurt. When she was receiving medical check in the hospital, she decided to report the case. She provided the statement and finished it the next day in the morning. As she did not sleep and was just hurt, she thought she could have some rest at home after providing the statement. However, she called our colleague later that since she case was passed to another team, she had to return to the police station to give the statement again. She wanted to pick another day after considering her health conditions. Nevertheless, one of the team members told her that they only had time that day. They were not sure when they could take the statement again if she changed the date. He also reminded her that she might forget the details if she insisted to provide the statement several days afterwards.....

To us, the police officers in charge of this case never thought of the sex worker's situation. Neither did they care about the health of the woman. After providing the statement for her first time, the woman was exhausted. She was also physically and psychologically abused. Yet, the police officers were not caring enough. They only thought of their schedule and made the woman follow their timetable to give the statement. They also partially threatened her to listen to them. It is definitely important to solve the case, but if they neglect the health conditions of the victim, force her to do something out of her wish, in terms of creating pressure on the sex worker, it actually makes no difference between the police and the violence perpetrator.



(The picture comes from 123RF.com)

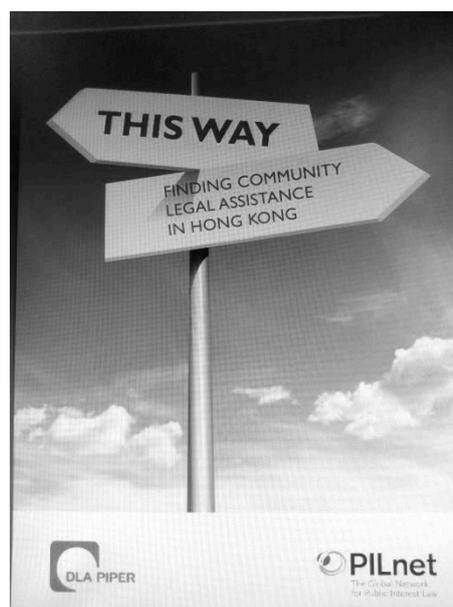
Our work and movement:

Hong Kong

“THIS WAY – Finding Community Legal Assistance in Hong Kong”

We took part in one research launched by the PILnet and DLA Piper some time ago, and the findings were released recently. The research pointed out the failure of Hong Kong in providing adequate legal support for the poorest members in the society. According to this research, “the current system of community legal services in Hong Kong is ill-equipped to handle urgent cases, provide continuity in legal support, or offer specialist legal advice most relevant to community needs”. It was not easy for people who do not receive high education to access to free legal advice and services in Hong Kong, who may easily be troubled by “numerous problems which compound each other”.

The research also made different recommendations to improve the access to legal services in Hong Kong, for example, setting up community-based legal centers to provide various legal supports, review the current policies and law so that lawyers can engage more in community legal work or work with NGOs.



(Please visit http://www.pilnet.org/images/FINAL_REPORT_31_May_2017.pdf for the full text of the report)

To a certain extent, it is very true to say that the poor and the uneducated groups in Hong Kong are not well protected by the legal system, as many of them have no idea where to seek legal support and advices. For example, many street-based sex workers and massage workers are not educated and earn little each month. They do not understand their basic legal rights, the law, and the legal procedures. They will easily make mistakes and waste time in the course of seeking legal advices. As they cannot hire their own lawyer, they usually have to turn to the duty lawyers, with most of them just persuade the sex workers to admit guilty. Even the sex workers are not satisfied with the duty lawyers, they will quickly find that they do not have money to hire someone else.

Everyone is equal before the law. However, if a person fails to seek legal advice even at the preliminary stage, how can s/he protect her/himself with the law?

Is Candid Camera so much fun?

One day, 'A' received the message from one of her customers, telling her that he found her video on one website. 'A' immediately checked the website and found herself and her workplace being videotaped. She was scared and locked herself in the room of the workplace. She kept telling her peers outside the room she could not live, she would kill herself. She was very emotionally unstable.....

'B' one day met one customer. When she came out of the toilet, she found that the customer was taking video. She quickly asked him to delete the video. The customer deleted 4 photos before her. The next day, 'B' received a message telling her that her photos and voice could be found on the social media. 'B' at the first place did not believe, but she later received another message directing her to listen to her voice files. 'B' was very afraid. She never thought that the customer not only videotaped her but also recorded her voice. She was worried that her family accessed to those photos and voice files, but she was hesitant to report to the police. She was worried that there would be more troubles if the police investigated into the case. After one week, 'B' met another customer. When she was providing sexual service, she suddenly realized that the camera mode of the customer's smartphone was on. She stopped to check the customer's smartphone. 'B' understood that the customer was videotaping the transaction, she thus asked him to delete the video and drove him away. 'B' was frightened for being videotaped repeatedly. She also concerned if the video was completely removed. As long as she told us her experience in the morning, she had decided to go back to her hometown in the afternoon to keep away from candid camera.

Most sex workers will not tell the family about their work. They strive to conceal the working situation. They also do not want to be pictured by the mass media or customers. This is not because



they look down on themselves or their work. They make such decision because they understand very clearly that the public does not understand and has bias against sex work. If they admit they work in the sex industry, their family will be verbally harassed or attacked. In order to protect their family, they prefer hiding the facts. Nevertheless, unscrupulous customers are everywhere. They never consider the situation of being a sex worker. Neither do they respect sex workers' privacy. In the past 4 months, we again received several tens of complaints about candid camera from the sex workers. (see the table below).

Why does one feel interested in recording and sharing on the social media his practice of buying sexual service? Does he want to become famous? Or he wants to earn money? These customers decide to build their happiness on sex workers' pain, but did they ever realize that what they do will seriously affect a sex worker, or even push her/him to commit suicide, creating big trouble to her/his family?



(The picture comes from <http://www.fundchat.org/>)

<u>Police violence/abuse</u>		<u>Client/criminal violence</u>	
Free sexual service	11 cases	Intimidation	1 case
Free massage service before arrest	17 cases	Theft	12 cases
police break into house without warrant	30 cases	Physical assault	2 cases
Arbitrary arrest	47 cases	Denial of payment	7 cases
Verbal threat and insult	5 cases	candid camera	32 cases
Indecent assault	2 cases	Rape	1 case
Obstruct the course of justice	4 cases	Forced Sex	1 case
Forced or coaxed to sign the statement	3 cases	Grievous bodily harm	2 cases
Unnecessary use of authority	3 cases	Indecent assault	1 case
Physical assault	2 cases	Condom removed	2 cases
		Robbery	1 case

Stories/experiences of Migrant Chinese sex workers

Shenzhen

'I need to get off work early. I can't let him know I work in this industry'

Color (pseudonym) is around 40 years old from Hubei. She was pregnant but unmarried with her first boyfriend. The guy also made another woman pregnant. Color therefore underwent abortion. She later married another man whom she did not really love. They have a son. She went back to work when her son was 4-month-old. She has been leaving her hometown for almost 10 years and she went home only for several times. Her son is now in his twenties but she is not very close with her son. Everyone in her hometown thinks that she works as a salesperson in Shenzhen. However, someone introduced a Hong Kong man to her and she has married to him. They live separately and meet once a week. 'If my husband visits me, I need to get off work early. I can't let him know I work in this industry.' Color told her husband she works in a beauty parlour.

'Most Hong Kong man is unfaithful. If you are going to marry with Hong Kong man, you need to learn how to control your temper and jealousy.' If so, why did she still insist to marry with Hong Kong man? Color said, 'He gives me money. Hong Kong man has to pay his wife every month. My husband gives me HKD5-6000 every month. Also, I can get the Hong Kong residency after marrying him for 1 year, then I can work in Hong Kong. Life is better in Hong Kong, and easier to earn money.' Why does she still work in the industry when her husband gives her money? 'Do you think HKD5-6000 is enough? I need money for rent, my parents and daily living. Furthermore, no one will say no to earning more money. I never tell my husband how much I earn. You too. You have to ask your husband for money every month, but remember not to tell him how much you earn. You have to keep money in your own hand. It is the same even you are just dating with someone. Don't sleep with him if you have not yet married with him. Although I work in the sex industry, I



did not have sex with my current husband in the first year we met. We only had sex after we got married.'

(The picture comes from <http://www.scmp.com>)

Linking with the world

USA

An (Other) Land Survey

‘One of the ways I’ve been spending my time in Hong Kong is by teaching English to Mainland Chinese sex workers. It’s only once a week for an hour and a half and generally the lessons are unremarkable. I find the classes a lot less interesting than those I spent with an auditor moving to California who wanted to learn American dating rituals or even my middle schoolers. But this work is critical because of the English transactions my students will have with their clients, American men in Hong Kong for business. Knowing how to communicate prices, times, directions, Yes/ No, these are all important. And sometimes it’s fun, I taught the colors with a rainbow of condoms wrappers.’



The above paragraph describing our English class was from the blog “An(Other) Land Survey, a blog developed and managed by Anna. Anna had been volunteering with us, helping us to teach sex workers daily use English once a week when she was studying the MA degree in Hong Kong. She is also an independent journalist writing on politics and society for supchina.com.

Anna has shared her different insights about modern China and present Hong Kong on her blog. She has more than once told us that she likes China. If you would like to understand China and Hong Kong in another way, you can visit her blog <http://anotherlandsurvey.squarespace.com/>.

Understanding more about migrant sex workers

Thailand

Migrant sex workers in Pattaya

There are about 27,000 woman sex workers in Pattaya in Thailand. Ever since the new Minister of Tourism took office, she had been keen to raid the sex industry. When the entertainment venues were extensively shut down, migrant sex workers came next.

A number of migrant sex workers from countries like Uganda, Madagascar and Malaysia were arrested by the Thai police. Some transgender sex workers were also arrested. The original fine was 1000 Baht, but the police deliberately increased the amount of their fines and put special remarks on their identity documents. They aimed to let the arrested migrant sex workers fail to enter and work in Thailand again.



The police stated that they would put more effort into raiding the sex industry. This means that the sex workers in Pattaya would face more police operations and could hardly earn a living. In order to eradicate sex work to rebuild the image of Pattaya as a tourism city, cases about police abusing sex workers are expected to happen continuously.

(The picture comes from <http://maniac-hongkong.com>)

List of Donors (5/2017 – 8/2017)

May	Anonymities	12,200		July	Anonymities	1,800
	Tam Yeuk Mui	1,000				
June	Anonymities	7,000		August	Anonymities	8,000

We apologize for any omissions!!

Application for Membership

Name: _____ Age: _____

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I am willing to join the following activities:

Publication Data Collection Research Others

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