

## *Message from the Editor :*

Recently we received the complaint from a sex worker in one particular area, telling us that her face and working place was disclosed on a website. We contacted the website administrator and told them about it. We got their reply in 30 minutes saying they had removed the photo and forbidden the person who uploaded the photo to use their service.

Later, we received the call from a man. He is the guy who recorded the working noise of sex workers. He told us he found what he did and his picture posted outside many sex workers' working place in different areas. When we told him that it was because he infringed sex workers' privacy and sex workers protected themselves by exchanging and posting his information outside the working place, he said he intended no harm but simply thought it was fun to record the noise. Afterwards he understood more information from our website and had deleted all the files. He also reiterated he would not do it again. He would like us to forward his messages to the sex workers, so that the latter could remove the notices about him from the working places.

We are glad to see how the website administrator addressed to our complaint, which can avoid further infringement of the privacy of the sex worker. Besides, if the guy really feels sorry to what he did and keeps his promise to respect sex workers' privacy, we are definitely pleased to help spreading his words to the sex workers. However, it is sad to see that not many people or companies are willing to respect sex workers, or understand why sex workers want to hide their identity.

Have you ever tried to see something from the viewpoint of a sex worker ?

(The picture comes from <http://pictogram2.com/>)



## Our work and movement:

### Hong Kong

#### International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers

We always think that police are responsible for maintaining social order and combating crime. They will arrest those who break the law. However, the following police officers that sex workers met in different situation, they not only fail to perform their duty, we almost thought that they were on the side of the bad guys.

Sasa (pseudonym) was intimidated and blackmailed by one of her client with nude photos. After she reported to the police, her case was passed to one female officer. This officer wrote down the statement. When she was alone with Sasa, she often teased Sasa or insulted her with dirty language. If her colleagues were with her, she showed much concern on Sasa. One day, this female officer suddenly apologized to Sasa, because she leaked Sasa's address to the suspect. Sasa was very angry. She also worried that the suspect would go to her place for revenge. Fortunately, the suspect was eventually sentenced to jail. Sasa did not have to worry about the retaliation of the suspect.

Robot (pseudonym) provided sexual service for one client, but the client refused to give her the agreed service fee. Robot called the police. When the police officers arrived, the client was about to pay the service fee. However, he was stopped by the police. Robot was puzzled. She asked the police officers why they did not let the client pay her. The police officers told Robot that if she wanted to get back the service fee, she had to sue the client. They also reminded Robot that the judge might simply make the client pay her several ten dollars. The police officers then told the client to leave. Robot wanted to stop the client leaving, but the three police officers blocked her. They warned that if Robot went near them, they would charge her for assaulting police officer. Robot felt wronged and cried heavily before the police officers left.

When the police execute their duty, they not only fail to protect the victims, they even abuse the power to 'extinguish' people's calls for help. How can the public expect for protection from this kind of police officers? As a consequence, on the International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers, apart from releasing this year's total number of sex workers complaints about violence, we also call on the police to seriously deal with sex workers' calls for help, improve the perfunctory police service, and punish those abusing the power or neglect their duty without bias, so as to regain the public confidence in the police.



(The picture comes from

<http://www.hapiba.com/present-goroku-tshirts>)

## Mobile Application and Safety Consciousness

Since sex workers usually work alone, they have to face different violence on their own, like refusal of payment, theft and seizure of belongings (please find below the number of cases in the past 4 months). In order to reduce sex workers' vulnerability to violence, we worked with a volunteer and



(The picture comes from <https://ios.gadgethacks.com/>)

made a free Android application for sex workers to download. We hope that sex workers can get closer to each other and increase their capacity to prevent dangers.

Yet, to better address to the actual needs of sex workers, we still have to keep improving the application. We also have to increase sex workers' knowledge on the risks of mobile applications and the consciousness of privacy protection. If sex workers lack understanding in mobile applications, they may expose the personal information when downloading the applications, give chance to the bad guys to hurt them.

<u>Police violence/abuse</u>		<u>Client/criminal violence</u>	
Free sexual service	4 cases	Intimidation	3 cases
Free massage service before arrest	6 cases	Theft	5 cases
Obstructing the course of justice	10 cases	Physical assault	1 case
Force/coax into signing the statement	6 cases	Denial of payment	13 cases
Verbal threat and insult	2 cases	candid camera	4 cases
Being deprived of basic rights	5 cases	Rape	1 case
Indecent assault	4 cases	Grievous bodily harm	1 case
Neglect of duty	9 cases	Indecent assault	1 case
police break into house without warrant	21 cases	Harassment	2 cases
Arbitrary arrest	45 cases	Condom removed	1 case
Unnecessary use of authority	1 case	Forced labor	1 case

## Stories/experiences of Migrant Chinese sex workers

### Shenzhen

#### Overseas Working Environment

Just like many migrant Chinese sex workers, ‘Fatty’ (pseudonym) is experienced in working overseas. She always tries to understand the working environment with the conditions of the flats in that place.

“I had been working in different places. I feel I can earn more money outside China. I also gain more experiences. I had been to Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore. After working overseas, I think China is the best place and the people here are the wealthiest. Foreigners are poor. The richest people in these foreign places are often Chinese. This explains why foreigners do not like Chinese, as Chinese earn the most money.

When I was in Hong Kong, I could see the broken small buildings. The buildings were crammed. There was not a window in the room we stayed, but the flats in Hong Kong were sold at very high costs.



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

I later went to Macau. Only the casinos were extravagant, other buildings were small and old. I think I can even find very old buildings in Macau, which no longer exists in my home town. They are extremely old buildings. I stayed in Macau for 4 days and then came back.

I had the worst experience in Singapore. I think I had the worst luck that time. The living place was prepared before departure. It was really bad. There was just a double-deck bed without a window. The room was very small and several of us had to share the space. What made me feel the worst was that it was humid in this room. I went to Singapore in July. It was terribly hot, but there was not any air-conditioner. Many bugs were therefore found in the room, and I was bitten all over the body.



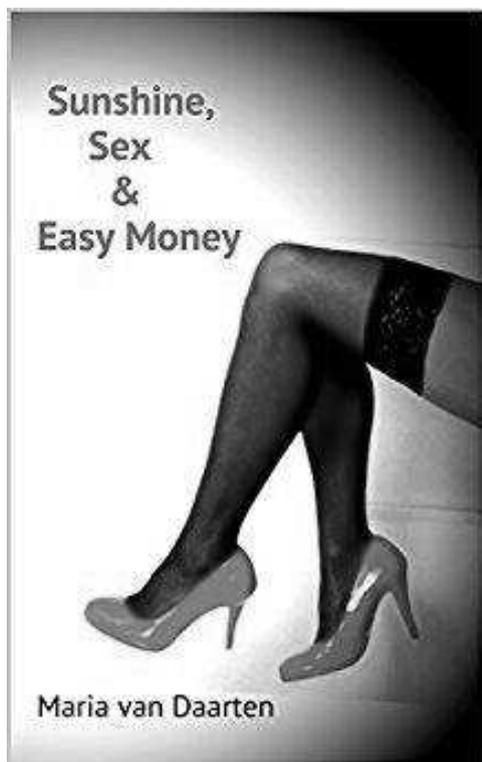
(The picture comes from <https://commons.wikimedia.org>)

## Linking with the world

### Germany

#### Sex worker's new book

We received the email from Maria, who used to work in Germany and Greece, telling us about the publication of her new book 'Sunshine, Sex & Easy Money: Diary of a Call Girl'.



Maria is a German. She has worked in the sex workers about 30 years. At first she worked in Germany and later worked in Greece. She undertook this work always totally voluntarily and did enjoy her work.

4 years ago she started to write a book about her life as a sex worker. The main reason for writing the book was to make, amongst other things, a positive contribution towards the image of prostitution, a job that provided her with enough income to lead a comfortable life.

(The picture comes from <https://www.amazon.com/>)

The book is to a large extent about Maria's actual day to day work experiences written in form of a novel. The story gives a credible and honest insight into the work of ordinary women working in the sex industry, voluntarily and with total self-determination. In addition, the book also gives a good insight, frank and non-judgmental, into the sexual needs that customers bring to sex workers.

If you think that there must be 'unspoken reasons' for women to choose to work in the sex industry, or they work unwillingly, forced by the reality, you will definitely be shocked by this book.

## Understanding more about migrant sex workers

### USA

#### Chinese sex workers' working conditions

Many Chinese sex workers hear that it is easy to earn quick money in the United States (US), and it is far from China where they can hide their identity, they therefore share similar American Dream that they can earn much by working in the US for 3-6 months.

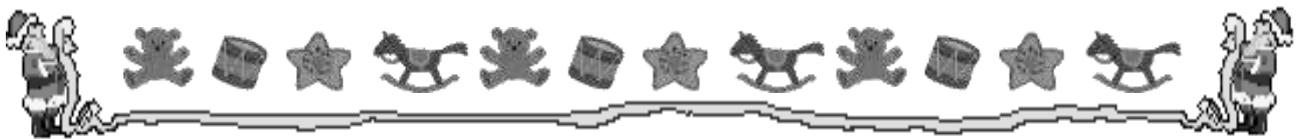


(The picture comes from <http://news.toutiaoabc.com>)

Sex workers in the US have 2 main working modes, that is, customer visiting sex worker's place and sex worker going to customer's place. If it is customer visiting sex worker's place, usually it will be an ordinary flat. Very often the boss or agent will rent a flat and sex worker will work in it. Several days later, another sex worker will work in the same flat. If it is sex worker going to customer's place, it is often a room rented by the customer. He will contact the agent or boss for sex worker's service. Sex worker will then go to the customer's place directly after receiving the call from the agent or boss.

As the operation cost is relatively lower and operation mode is simpler, sex workers often choose going to the customer's place. Chinese bosses and agents will put advertisements on the website to attract customers. They not only put advertisements on Chinese websites but also English websites. Through their friends, sex workers from China usually work in cities where there are more Chinese-speaking residents like New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. They usually meet 7-8 customers every day. Prettier sex workers may have US10,000 each month. Some of them may even get US30,000. On the other hand, many sex workers from China are brought to the customer's place by the boss and agent, but their income will thus be reduced.

While some Mainland sex workers wire the earned income to their home town, some buy luxuries for themselves. They will then send their friends the photos of the luxuries to make their friends think that they have a good living in the US. After some time in the US, some of them may refuse to return to China. They will choose to stay in the US illegally and try to gain the US residency in some other ways.



### *List of Donors (9/2017 – 12/2017)*

September	Anonymities	10,500		October	Anonymities	12,300
November	Anonymities	13,250		December	Anonymities	11,000

We apologize for any omissions!!

## *Application for Membership*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (O): \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**I am willing to join the following activities:**

Publication       Data Collection       Research       Others

**I would like to donate monthly:**

\$100       \$200       \$300       \$500   
\$1,000       or once

**My donation is paid by:**

Cheque: (cheque number) \_\_\_\_\_

Cash deposited into: Hang Seng Bank A/C 232-8-085580 (Account Name: Zi Teng)

Mail: Hong Kong Post Office Headquarters P.O. Box 7450

Fax: 852 - 2390 4628      Tel: 852 - 2332 7182

### **Zi Teng**

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