

Message from the Editor :

We often hear sex workers complaining about candid camera. They also complain to us how these video clips are put on the Internet. Not only local Hong Kong people make these video clips, many of them are tourists as well.



(Newspaper clipping: Oriental Daily)

Several months ago, sex workers who worked in the same building told us that they were videotaped and the video clips were put on one popular website. They were worried that their family would find out they work in the sex industry. They also feared that their family would

be discriminated or insulted. We tried to contact the person who uploaded the video clips, explained to them how sex workers were affected by the clips. Luckily, the uploaders in overseas showed understanding, and they replied they would remove the clips. A few days later, we could not find their video clips on the website. Sex workers were a bit relieved.

Nevertheless, as technology develops, most people know how to record videos with mobile, and spy tech advances as well, sex workers are more vulnerable to candid camera. From the following complaints we received from sex workers in the past 4 months, we can see that many of them were about candid camera. Facing candid camera, apart from teaching sex workers how to protect them, and increasing their understanding about using mobile, our biggest hope is that the government can pass the voyeurism law as soon as possible. It will then increase the risks of voyeurism. The law enforcement groups can also take the right action to stop the voyeurist, and sex workers work with fewer worries as well.

Below is the number of complaints about violence from sex workers in the past 4 months.

| <u>Police violence/abuse</u> | | <u>Client/criminal violence</u> | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|----------|
| Physical Assault | 1 case | Condom removed | 1 case |
| Free massage service before arrested | 6 cases | Denial of payment | 22 cases |
| Force/coax into signing the statement | 4 cases | Candid camera | 99 cases |
| Verbal threat and insult | 5 cases | Theft | 70 cases |
| Obstructing the course of justice | 3 cases | Robbery | 12 cases |
| Deprived of Basic rights | 1 case | Counterfeit Note | 30 cases |
| Neglect of duty | 4 cases | Police Imposter | 35 cases |
| | | Physical assault | 18 cases |

Our work and movement:

Hong Kong

'Professional' police force

We would like to share with you the case below, which was a complaint we received around one month ago.

Mimi and the customer agreed on the service and charge. When she was having sex with the customer, she found the customer moving strangely. Mimi immediately pushed him away and refused to continue, but the customer told he would finish soon and inserted against Mimi's own will. After the customer had orgasm, Mimi found that the condom was left in her vagina. She quarreled with the customer. Her friend working next door also came for help. Mimi called the police. One police officer asked Mimi if she witnessed the customer removing the condom. Mimi said no. The officer replied they would not deal with her case as 'you did not really witness how the condom was removed, which means that you agree to have the condom removed.' Mimi refuted and said if she agreed to have the condom removed she would not call the police. Her friend also told the police that it was most likely that the customer removed the condom. She said that as the customer's penis was not small, it would not be the problem of wearing the condom improperly, but the police officers told her not to say that for misleading Mimi. The police officers asked the customer to pay the service charge. Mimi rejected and demanded for body check on the customer. She also told the police that she wanted to sue the customer for rape, but the police did not listen to her. They told the customer to give \$500 to her friend, but again rejected by her friend. The police officers then told the customer to go away. Mimi wanted to stop the customer, but one police officer grabbed Mimi's arms from behind whereas other police officers stood in front of Mimi to stop her going downstairs to chase the customer. Mimi asked the police for the information of the customer, but she was just given a reference number. The police told Mimi to go to get the information at one police station. Nevertheless, when Mimi went to the police station for the information and gave the reference number to the duty officer, she was asked to fill in a form. The duty officer told Mimi that they would later inform her in written notice whether they accepted her application for such information.

Mimi was very angry and complained to us. She wanted to sue the customer for raping her but the police ignored her. On that day, she went to the hospital herself, asking the medical officers to perform the medical forensic exam. Yet, according to the medical officers, they could not help her to do the forensic exam as the police did not accept her case. They only took out the condom for her. 2 days later, our colleague accompanied Mimi to the police station again. This time, the police did not ignore Mimi and took the statement for her. A few days later, the police asked Mimi to take the used condom, which will be taken as evidence, to the police responsible for her case. Afterwards, Mimi several times tried to contact the police for the investigation progress, but she failed to get in touch with the police. No one picked up her phone.

According to the law in Hong Kong, ‘a man commits rape if he has unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman who at the time of the intercourse does not consent to it, and at that time he knows that she does not consent to the intercourse or he is reckless as to whether she consents to it’. Mimi stated clearly to the customer that she did not agree to the intercourse, but the customer continued. Can we say it is not a rape? Yet, the police officers at the scene not only disregarded Mimi’s accusation, they also acted like a judge and instructed the customer to return the service charge to Mimi. They then let the customer go and even used force to stop Mimi to chase the customer. Finally, the police took Mimi’s case but she received no replies when she tried to ask the police about the investigation progress, let alone receiving a direct call from the police, informing her about the investigation progress.



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We Serve with Pride and Care

(image : <https://kknews.cc>)

The police performance pledge is “We serve with pride and care”. However, based on the performance of these frontline officers, we do not see how they serve with care. They are even not qualified to claim they are professional.

Stories/experiences of Migrant Chinese sex workers

Dongguan

Working environment of street-based sex worker

Hung (pseudonym) worked in Shenzhen before. She later went home and opened a small guesthouse. She bought a flat in the school district for her child. Yet, the business was not good and she closed the guesthouse. Some days ago, she went to work in Dongguan under the introduction of her village peer.

‘My son is now primary 5, and he will soon enter the secondary school. I bought a flat in the school district in my home town for him. Now the flat is on lease and I am working in Dongguan, as a street-based sex worker, working in a deteriorated area. All buildings are subject to demolition, but the business here is ok. We cannot work on our own no matter where we work. We need to work with a boss.



(Image: <https://itw01.com>)

The boss provides us the place. Places for working and living are separate. We only need to think about our work. The rent is reasonable, 150yuan per month. Since the boss collects much money and does not have much expenditure, we have two rooms from the boss. The living standard is not high. Compared to Shenzhen, it is too expensive in Shenzhen, but the living conditions are much less satisfactory here. People coming for the service are working class. The charge is 80yuan. We give the income to the boss every day. If I have a good business, I will give 400yuan to the boss. If I have a poor business, I will give 300yuan. I only aim to earn money. If I can earn money, I don't mind poor working environment.

It is not a big area here, just an area encircled by the villagers. You can find flats outside.

Some villagers built flats like these in the past. They aimed to get the house demolition compensation. Before demolition, they would rent the flats out cheaper to people. Yet, we have quite a lot of women here. More than 20 women are working here. I work with another woman for the boss. The boss does not dare to do the business with too many women. Gossips will be spread if too many women work for one boss.

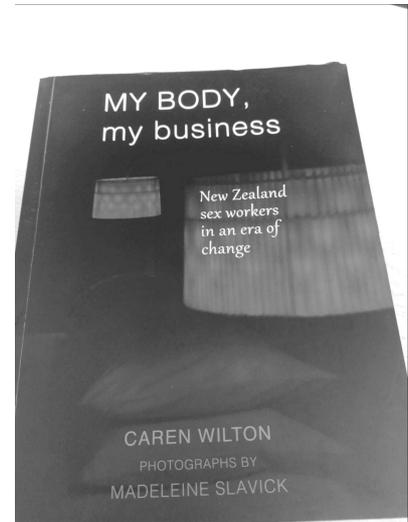
I don't know how the business will go on. If it goes bad I will move again. There are too many crackdowns in Shenzhen. I don't have a place to work. I also don't know if I will go

Linking with the world

New Zealand

MY BODY, my business

One of our friends told us earlier that her foreign friend sent us her new book. When our friend knew that we did not receive the book, she gave us her copy. The book is called 'MY BODY, by business', and our friend's foreign friend is the photographer Madeleine Slavick. In Madeleine's photos, we often see multilayers, multiple perspectives and spatial relationships, which fit in with the complex and multilayered nature of sex industry Caren Wilton, the author, believes. We therefore see them working together on this book.



There are 11 interviewees in the book. They are either formerly or currently working in the sex industry in New Zealand. You can find the stories of female sex workers, male sex workers and transgender sex workers in the book. One of the interviewees is Catherine Healy, the co-founder of New Zealand Prostitutes' Collective.

Through this book, we not only can understand the stories of different sex workers in New Zealand, we can also better understand the history and background of the New Zealand sex industry, particularly the part about transgender sex workers which is seldom published.

What is happening in sex workers community?

South Africa

Decriminalization of Sex Work

When we talk about decriminalization of sex work, we often think of New Zealand and South Wales of Australia. Yet, we probably can cite South Africa as the third example in soon future.

President Ramaphosa of South Africa stated earlier that the South African Government would ‘finalize the outstanding legislation such as the prevention and combating of hate crime, the crime bill and victim support services. We will work with all stakeholders to develop policy around the decriminalization of sex work.’

Currently, it is illegal to sell sex in South Africa. It is against the law for someone engaging in the selling of sex, soliciting or buying sex services. Activities related to selling sex are also not allowed. Sex workers in South Africa have been advocating for the decriminalization of sex work for many years, and they finally pushed the government to change the law. Sex workers’ safety will be secured with the working environment improved. At the same time, the change in South Africa will definitely encourage the groups and individuals supporting the decriminalization of sex work in other areas.



(image: <https://www.newsdeeply.com>)



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