

CEDAW Committee Rightly Pressures Nations on Trafficking and Forced Prostitution, But Favors Voluntary Prostitution

Prepared by Thomas W. Jacobson (7 June 2010)

The United Nations committee of experts charged with protecting women tragically does not believe that prostitution is morally or criminally wrong for a woman who voluntarily chooses to be a “sex worker” as a means of employment. The *CEDAW Committee* – which monitors compliance with the CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN – consistently and rightly *opposes* forced prostitution, trafficking in women and girls, and “exploitation of prostitution”; *supports* prosecution of traffickers, pimps and men who solicit sexual services; *properly recognizes* that girls and women who have been trafficked or otherwise forced into prostitution are victims and should be treated as such; and *encourages* governments to help girls and women who want to leave prostitution (see examples on pages 8-10). Yet the Committee only opposes the “forced” or “exploited” aspects of prostitution. Surely they must know that a person choosing prostitution apart from emotional, physical, sexual or economic coercion is rare to the point on being virtually non-existent.

The CEDAW Committee (as in several of the country examples to follow) regularly calls upon nations to criminalize profiting “from the sexual exploitation of women,” but also tells them to decriminalize prostitution for “women who engage in prostitution.” Confusing! All prostitution is exploitation, and it should remain illegal. Traffickers, pimps and clients should be prosecuted and punished; but women, girls and boys involved in prostitution should be given an opportunity to choose: (1) a program that could restore them and provide alternative means of provision, or (2) prosecution under the law. Such a dual public policy recognizes the evil nature of prostitution, enables civil government to fulfill its duty in resisting and punishing evil, and yet provides a compassionate response to those who are prostituted and want to be free from that bondage.

If the CEDAW Committee truly desires to encourage nations to protect girls and women, they should *strongly oppose* every aspect of prostitution, while *supporting* laws and policies that criminalize all those who profit from, solicit or participate in prostitution, and *support* compassionate programs that help prostitutes to leave and recover from prostitution.

Nations Pressured to Decriminalize Prostitution for Women

In 2002, the CEDAW Committee pressured four nations to decriminalize prostitution for women, then became less direct, but in 2007 resumed advocating for legalized prostitution. Some examples from 2002, and 2007 through 2010 are contained below.

FIJI [2002]: “64. The Committee is concerned that there is a growing problem of prostitution due to economic hardship, and that a colonial law from 1944 which penalizes the conduct of only women who engage in prostitution continues to be enforced.”

Mr. Jacobson originally wrote this paper when he was serving as Representative to the United Nations for Focus on the Family (U.S.A.), from 2001 to 2010.

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“65. The Committee recommends an holistic and integrated programme of law reform, and policies and programmes to facilitate reintegration, and the criminalization of the actions of only those who profit from the sexual exploitation of women.”

[Review on 17 & 22 January 2002, CEDAW Committee 26th session, UN document A/57/38]

[Analyst comment: The CEDAW Committee wisely recommends implementing policies to reintegrate women into productive roles in society and in instituting criminal penalties for pimps and traffickers, but is misguided in suggesting that relaxing laws criminalizing those involved in prostitution will somehow help and support women. While most women are coerced into prostitution, there should remain no incentives to stay in these abusive situations should they contemplate leaving.]

FRANCE [2008]: “30. Concerning prostitution, the Committee reiterates its concern about the prohibition of passive soliciting.”

“31. The Committee ... calls upon the State party to undertake a comprehensive study on the impact of the Act of 18 March 2003 on internal security, including the prohibition of passive soliciting, on the area of prostitution and to review the definition on sexual harassment.”

[1 February 2008; UN doc. CEDAW/C/FRA/CO/6]

GERMANY [2009]: “**Exploitation of prostitution:** 49. The Committee takes note of the results of the evaluation on the effects of the 2002 Prostitution Act and expresses concern that the Act has only succeeded in realizing the intended goals to a very limited extent. In particular, the Committee regrets that the Act has not been able to improve the social security of prostitutes nor the working conditions in terms of health and hygiene, nor to reduce prostitution-related crime.

“50. The Committee requests the State party to provide information on the measures taken to follow up on the results of the evaluation of the Prostitution Act and to provide data on the exploitation of women and on prostitution, including clandestine prostitution in its next periodic report. The State party is encouraged to continue formulating strategies and programmes to prevent women from entering prostitution and to establish programmes of rehabilitation and support for women and girls who wish to leave prostitution, including information on, and support, in relation to alternative livelihood options.”

[Review on 2 February 2009, CEDAW Committee 43rd session, UN doc. CEDAW/C/DEU/CO/6]

[Analyst comment: Note the heading – “Exploitation of prostitution” – revealing the CEDAW Committee’s view that prostitution is acceptable as long as it is voluntary and somehow not in an exploitative manner. Further, note that the Committee first focused on improving the work benefits of prostitutes, such as social security, health care and hygiene. Compassion calls upon us to care for women involved in prostitution, and treat them with dignity. But structuring government policies to encourage girls and women to choose prostitution as a profession is unwise, and contrary to the objectives of prevention and rehabilitation.]

HUNGARY [2002]: “323. Noting that the State party is considering a new draft law on prostitution, the Committee is still concerned that current regulations establishing so-called “zones of protection” where prostitution is prohibited and “zones of tolerance” where prostitution is permitted may be rendering the exploitation of women in prostitution difficult to punish, thereby worsening their situation.

“324. The Committee requests the State party to include in its next report information on the review of its draft law on prostitution and information on any legislative changes to ensure that the exploitation of women in prostitution is effectively prohibited and that they are provided with access to health and social services and alternative means of support for the protection of their human rights.”

[Review on 20 August 2002, CEDAW Committee Exceptional Session, UN document A/57/38]

[Analyst comment: The CEDAW Committee's language is unclear here: it seems to view "exploitation" apart from the prostitution itself. The Committee needs to be firm and open on whether it views all prostitution as being exploitative or not. Also, the Committee needs to define what it means by "human rights." Protecting women's human rights is a necessary and commendable goal, unless such rights include freely engaging in prostitution.

- Encouraging governments to offer “alternative means of support” is a positive step that could help women escape from a life of prostitution.
- Calling upon governments to provide “access to health and social services” appears to have a good objective, but if the intent and result are that women are enabled to continue in a life of prostitution, such a program would be destructive to them.]

JAPAN [2009]: “39. While welcoming the efforts undertaken by the State party to combat human trafficking, such as its establishment of the Anonymous Reporting Model Project, the Committee remains concerned about the persistence of trafficking in women and girls, the exploitation of prostitution, and the lack of measures aimed at rehabilitating women victims of trafficking. While noting with satisfaction the sharp decrease in the granting of entertainment visas, the Committee is concerned at information suggesting that internship and trainee programmes could be used for the purposes of forced labour and sexual exploitation. The Committee is further concerned that prostitutes are subject to prosecution under the Anti-Prostitution Law, while their clients do not face punishment.”

[7 August 2009; UN doc. CEDAW/C/JPN/CO/6]

KENYA [2007]: “29. While welcoming the measures undertaken to combat trafficking in human beings such as the establishment of an anti-trafficking police unit, the Committee remains concerned about the persistence of trafficking and the exploitation of women and girls in the country. In particular, the Committee expresses concern about the trafficking and sexual exploitation of girls stemming from poverty and from their need to provide support to their families. It is also concerned about the growing phenomenon of sex tourism in the country leading to increased child prostitution, especially of young girls and women from disadvantaged backgrounds. The Committee is also concerned that while prostitution in Kenya is illegal, only prostitutes and not clients are subject to prosecution.

“30. The Committee calls upon the State party to expedite the adoption of the revised draft Trafficking in Persons Bill and urges the State party to ensure that this bill includes prevention measures and provides for the effective prosecution and punishment of traffickers and protection and support for victims. It recommends that the State party address the root causes of trafficking in order to eliminate the vulnerability of girls and women to exploitation and traffickers and to undertake efforts for the rehabilitation and social integration of women and girls who are victims of exploitation and trafficking. The Committee also calls upon the State party to implement measures aimed at combating sex tourism, including in cooperation with tourists’ countries of origin. The Committee calls on the State party to review its laws on

prostitution in order to ensure that women in prostitution are not criminalized and to enhance its efforts to support women who wish to leave prostitution.”

[Review on 27 July 2007, CEDAW Committee 39th session, UN document CEDAW/C/KEN/CO/6]

[Analyst comments: The CEDAW Committee is right to praise Kenya for its efforts to combat trafficking, encourage the nation to combat “sex tourism,” point out that “clients” should be prosecuted, and call for efforts “to support women who wish to leave prostitution.” However, the Committee is seriously in error to call upon any nation to decriminalize prostitution for women engaged in prostitution. An injustice has been perpetrated wherever prostitutes were arrested and prosecuted, but not their clients. *Both* the buying and the selling of sexual services should be illegal.]

REPUBLIC OF KOREA [2007]: “19. The Committee is concerned about the persistence of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution and by the lack of data about these phenomena. While welcoming that victims of forced prostitution are entitled to rescue, protection and rehabilitation, the Committee is concerned that so-called voluntary prostitutes are subject to prosecution under the law, while first-time clients of prostitutes do not face punishment if they attend the “John School” programme, designed to educate such first-time offenders. The Committee is further concerned about the continued widespread phenomenon of *Wonjokyuje*, in which adolescent girls engage in a sexual relationship with older men for money.

“20. The Committee urges the State party to fully implement article 6 of the Convention, to collect and analyse data from the police and international sources and to prosecute and punish traffickers and those who exploit prostitution. The Committee calls upon the State party to increase its efforts at international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin, transit and destination in order to prevent trafficking. The Committee also encourages the State party to consider ratifying the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementary to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Committee further calls upon the State party to review its law on prostitution in order to ensure that women in prostitution are not criminalized. The Committee recommends the State party take measures to facilitate the reintegration of prostitutes into society and to provide rehabilitation and economic empowerment programmes for women and girls exploited in prostitution. The Committee also recommends the State party provide adolescent girls with educational programmes to stop *Wonjokyuje*.”

[Review on 31 July 2007, CEDAW Committee 39th session, UN document CEDAW/C/KOR/CO/6]

[Analyst comment: South Korea’s “John School” program is a positive program for “first time clients of prostitutes” that should decrease the client demand for sexual services. Instead of criticizing the program, the CEDAW Committee should have praised the government, and recognized this program as an effective counterpart to their own recommendation for a program to reintegrate “prostitutes into society.”

- Again, it is troubling that the Committee views prostitution as a legitimate profession for women for which they should not be prosecuted.
- The Committee was right in conveying its deep concern about a harmful cultural practice that is ruining the lives of countless adolescent girls.]

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA [2009]: *Written questions by the CEDAW Committee:* “**Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution.** 12. Kindly provide statistics, if available, on the number of women and girls engaged in prostitution. Please describe laws and measures adopted to prevent and punish the exploitation of prostitution, in line with article 6 of the

Convention, as well as measures taken to provide rehabilitation and support for the social rehabilitation of women who wish to leave prostitution.”

Written answers from the Libya Government: “The practice of exploiting or trafficking women for prostitution is prohibited by the Islamic faith of Libyan Arab society and rejected by social custom. The Islamic sharia treats women justly and forbids any violation of their modesty or dignity, in order to preserve their humanity, ensure the birth of a generation of healthy children and avoid the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.”

“It should be noted that articles 415, 416, 417 *bis* (a) and 417 *bis* (b) of the Libyan Penal Code criminalize all forms of trafficking in women, the exploitation of women for prostitution and incitement thereto. The Penal Code stipulates severe penalties, and treats some such cases as felonies.” [UN document CEDAW/C/LBY/Q/2/Add.1]

CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations after oral review with Libya delegation: “28. The Committee ... calls upon the State party to take all appropriate measures to suppress the exploitation of prostitution of women, including discouraging male demand by ensuring the effective prosecution and punishment of those who exploit prostitution. The Committee requests the State party to provide, in its next report, comprehensive information and data on exploitation of prostitution and trafficking in women and girls, as well as on the measures taken to prevent and combat such activities.”

[Review on 29 January 2009, CEDAW Comm., 43rd Session, UN doc. CEDAW/C/LBY/CO/5]

[Analyst comment: The CEDAW Committee appears to have ignored Libya’s response. Also, the Committee rightly calls upon the Government to discourage “male demand” by “effective prosecution and punishment of those who exploit prostitution.” Yet is the Committee asserting that male solicitation should be illegal while female solicitation (by prostitutes) should be legal? And that male solicitation constitutes “exploitation” but solicitation by a prostitute does not?]

NETHERLANDS [2007]: “21. The Committee is concerned at the insufficient evaluation of the abolition of the ban on brothels, noting that the study that was conducted was inconclusive. The Committee is especially concerned about the insufficient assessment of the impact of the law on the position of foreign women engaged in prostitution, since the vast majority of prostitutes are migrant women who are excluded from working legally as prostitutes and who may be especially vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

“22. The Committee encourages the State party to appoint a neutral, independent body to conduct an impact assessment of the intended as well as unintended effects of the law abolishing the ban on brothels. Such an assessment should also cover the risks of violence and health risks, in particular for women without residence permits who are engaged in prostitution. It requests the State party to provide the findings of such an assessment in its next report, including information about steps and measures taken in response thereto.”

[Review on 24 January 2007, CEDAW Committee 37th session, UN doc. CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/4]

[Analyst comment: The CEDAW Committee appears to be calling on this European nation to change its law so that foreign women may work legally as prostitutes. But legalizing prostitution does not mean these women will no longer be “vulnerable to exploitation and violence.”]

NETHERLANDS [2010]: “30. The Committee is concerned that the new bill on prostitution in the Netherlands making the registration of prostitutes compulsory may lead the majority of prostitutes to work illegally. Among those prostitutes are migrant women from third countries

who will not have the possibility of registering. The Committee is therefore concerned that the law, rather than improving the situation of prostitutes, might on the contrary undermine efforts to combat the sexual exploitation of women and increase the vulnerability of prostitutes who are not able or not willing to register by worsening their working conditions and exacerbating their social exclusion. The Committee expresses concern that this new legislation may also create serious risks for registered prostitutes' privacy and safety.

"31. The Committee urges the State party to carefully conduct a risk assessment of the new law, including from the perspective of privacy, in consultation with concerned groups and relevant organizations before adopting it. The Committee also calls upon the Netherlands to provide more comprehensive and concrete information in its next periodic report on the measures taken to improve the working conditions of prostitutes and to enhance their autonomy, privacy and safety. The Committee encourages the State party to allocate adequate funding for the empowerment of prostitutes while maintaining funding for exit programmes.

[Review on 27 January 2010, CEDAW Committee 45th session, UN doc. CEDAW/C/NLD/CO/5]

RWANDA [2009]: *Written question from CEDAW Committee:* "Q13. According to the report, poverty and inadequate education are among the main causes for prostitution among women and girls. The report also states that "measures have been taken to educate women and girls who engage in this activity and make them aware that it is immoral and poses them a lethal threat, in particular the risk of HIV/AIDS". Please give detailed information about those measures and indicate if programs for the physical and psychological recovery and social rehabilitation for girls and women victims of sexual exploitation, which is a violation of their human rights, are available as well. Kindly indicate any other measures undertaken to limit the number of girls being driven into prostitution and to reintegrate them into education or employment."

Rwanda written response: "The Government of Rwanda has encouraged all leaders, including Church leaders and Administrative Authorities at all levels, to discuss and talk about the indecent practice of prostitution in public gatherings, meetings, seminars as well as find strategies to combat and discourage the practices especially among the youth.

"A program for parent-child and adolescent communication has been initiated ... This program is centered on youth education in matters related to Sexual and reproductive health. The National Youth Council has also tremendously contributed to the education of youth in Sexual and reproductive health through its centers in all Districts countrywide. ...

"An initiative by CNLS and the Rwandan women Associations collective for development (Pro-femmes Twese Hamwe), has put in place strategies to strengthen youth to say no to unwanted sexual relations especially young girls to resist material benefits for sexual relations as a strategy to combat the transmission of HIV and unwanted pregnancies (which result into abandoned children) among the youth.

"The Government of Rwanda through CNLS and its projects has set up a new effective approach to prevent HIV transmission by approaching commercial sex-workers. Organizing and funding their associations to start up different income generating activities to cover several aspects in the fight against HIV/AIDS as the access on ARVs is easy and free of cost. ... Between 2004 and 2008, the Government projects funded a total of 55 subprojects submitted by 35 associations of former commercial sex-workers to the tune of 486,217 US\$. More than 1,100 former commercial sex-workers and their relatives and next kin profited from it."

[UN document CEDAW/C/RWA/Q/6/Add.1]

CEDAW Committee Concluding Observations after oral review with Rwanda delegation: “**Trafficking and exploitation of prostitution.** 27. (T)he Committee ... regrets the lack of information ... on the extent of prostitution. ... (And) is further concerned at the criminalization of women and girls involved in prostitution, while the demand is not being addressed.

“28. The Committee ... recommends that the State party adopt comprehensive measures to address trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution ... It also recommends that the State party address the root causes of trafficking and the exploitation of prostitution of women and girls and take measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of women and girls who have been victims of such activity.”

[Review on 4 February 2009, CEDAW Committee, 43rd Session, UN doc. CEDAW/C/RWA/CO/6]

[Analyst comment: The CEDAW Committee ignored Rwanda’s responses. While Rwanda is making efforts to discourage prostitution, the Committee disregarded these noble efforts. Also, while the Committee rightly calls upon Rwanda to criminalize demand for prostitution, at the same time it calls for the “(de)criminalization of women and girls involved in prostitution.”]

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS [2002]: “111. The Committee is concerned about the lack of information about the phenomenon of prostitution in Saint Kitts and Nevis. The Committee is particularly concerned about the lack of adequate measures to prosecute pimps.

“112. The Committee encourages the State party to study the phenomenon of trafficking in persons, especially in view of the recent increase of tourism in the country. The Committee also urges the State party to formulate a broad strategy against trafficking and prostitution, which should include the prosecution and punishment of traffickers and pimps.”

[Review on 5 & 13 June 2002, CEDAW Committee 27th session, UN document A/57/38]

[Analyst comment: The CEDAW Committee is correct in being alarmed at an increase of trafficking and prostitution, correct in calling upon the nation to “formulate a broad strategy against” this phenomenon, and correct in encouraging the enactment of laws to prosecute and punish “traffickers and pimps.” But the Committee should not neglect strategies to end the trade, including criminal laws prohibiting prostitution.]

UGANDA [2002]: “145. The Committee is concerned that exploitation of women and girls in prostitution is increasing. The Committee is also concerned that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases among prostitutes is increasing.

“146. The Committee recommends the development of programmes of action relating to prostitution and the introduction of legislation to ensure the prosecution of, and stronger penalties for, exploitation of female prostitutes. The Committee invites the State party to expand its programmes for women’s economic empowerment. The Committee urges the State party to pay full attention to the provisions of health services for prostitutes, so as to curb the rise in HIV/AIDS.”

[Review on 9 August 2002, CEDAW Committee Exceptional Session, UN document A/57/38]

[Analyst comment: In this context, does the CEDAW Committee mean by “women’s economic empowerment” that women who want to work as prostitutes should be facilitated in doing so, both by legal protection and through government provision of “health services”? Use of these terms without careful and precise definitions leaves too much room for abuse.]

YEMEN [2008]: “42. The Committee is also concerned that the majority of women in prison have been sentenced for prostitution, adultery, alcoholism, unlawful or indecent behaviour, in a private or public setting.” [18 July 2008; UN doc. CEDAW/C/YEM/CO/6]

Most Nations Encouraged to Criminalize Trafficking and Profiting From Exploitation by Prostitution, & Help Those Trafficked

The following are typical statements made by the CEDAW Committee encouraging nations to criminalize and diligently combat trafficking and the demand-side of prostitution, help victims of trafficking, and help girls and women who want to get out of prostitution, especially forced prostitution.

AUSTRALIA [2006]: “20. The Committee is concerned about the lack of a comprehensive approach to combat trafficking and exploitation resulting from prostitution. It is particularly concerned about the absence of effective strategies and programmes to prevent women from entering into prostitution, address the demand for prostitution and support women who wish to discontinue their lives in prostitution. It is further concerned about the low rates of prosecutions and convictions of traffickers and the lack of support and protection offered to victims who do not cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.”

“21. The Committee recommends the formulation of a comprehensive strategy to combat the trafficking of women and exploitation resulting from prostitution, which should include the development of strategies to discourage the demand for prostitution, prevent women from entering prostitution and establish programmes of rehabilitation and support for women and girls who wish to discontinue their lives in prostitution. The State party should pursue the effective prosecution and punishment of traffickers and other offenders who exploit women on prostitution. The Committee encourages the State party to examine and adopt international good practices in combating trafficking. The Committee further urges the State party to consider the extension of temporary protection visas and reintegration and support services to all victims of trafficking, including those who are unable or unwilling to cooperate in the investigation and prosecution of traffickers.”

[Review on 30 January 2006, CEDAW Committee 34th session, UN doc. CEDAW/C/AUL/CO/5]

AZERBAIJAN [2007]: “19. While welcoming the efforts undertaken by the State party to combat human trafficking, the Committee remains concerned about the persistence of trafficking in women and girls, and the exploitation of prostitution, and about the lack of measures aimed at rehabilitating women victims of trafficking.”

“20. The Committee requests the State party to effectively implement the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and to ensure that the Law to Fight against Trafficking in Persons is fully enforced, in particular by effectively prosecuting and punishing offenders. It recommends that the State party address the root cause of trafficking by increasing its efforts to improve the economic situation of women, thereby eliminating their vulnerability to exploitation and traffickers, as well as taking measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of women and girls who are victims of exploitation and trafficking. The Committee also calls on the State party to take all appropriate measures to suppress the exploitation of prostitution in the country.”

[Review on 23 January 2007, CEDAW Committee 37th session, UN doc. CEDAW/C/AZE/CO/3]

BELIZE [2007]: “21. While the Committee notes the enactment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act in 2003, the Committee is concerned that Belize is becoming a destination country for trafficked women from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. The Committee is also concerned about the lack of information regarding the extent of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution in the country, and the potential negative impact that increased tourism could have on the incidence of prostitution and trafficking.

“22. The Committee calls upon the State party to ensure that legislation on trafficking is fully enforced. It recommends that the State party address the root cause of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution by increasing its efforts to improve the economic situation of women, thereby eliminating their vulnerability to exploitation and traffickers, and take measures for the rehabilitation and social integration of women and girls who are victims of trafficking and exploitation of prostitution. It recommends that the State party further strengthen bilateral, sub-regional and multilateral cooperation to combat trafficking. The Committee recommends that the State party closely monitor the impact of increased tourism on prostitution and enhance related prevention measures.”

[Review on 24 July 2007, CEDAW Committee 39th session, UN document CEDAW/C/BLZ/CO/4]

CHINA [2006]: “19. While recognizing the efforts made by the State party to address trafficking in women and girls, including cross-border and international cooperation, the Committee is concerned that the definition of trafficking in the Penal Code is limited to the purpose of exploitation of prostitution and is therefore not in line with international standards. The Committee also expresses concern that the continued criminalization of prostitution disproportionately impacts on prostitutes rather than on the prosecution and punishment of pimps and traffickers. It is also concerned that prostitutes may be kept in administrative detention without due process of law. Moreover, the Committee is concerned about the insufficient data and statistical information about the extent of trafficking, in particular internal trafficking.

“20. The Committee recommends that the State party increase its efforts to combat all forms of trafficking in women and girls. It urges the State party to bring its domestic legislation in line with international standards and to speedily complete, adopt and implement the draft national programme of action against human trafficking. It requests the State party to enhance enforcement of the law against trafficking so as to ensure that those who traffic and sexually exploit women and girls are prosecuted and punished, and to provide all necessary assistance to the victims of trafficking. The Committee also urges the State party to take measures aimed at the rehabilitation and reintegration of women in prostitution into society, to enhance other livelihood opportunities for women to leave prostitution, provide support for them to do so and to prevent any detention of women without due legal process. It calls upon the State party to systematically compile detailed data on cross-border and internal trafficking, reflecting the age and ethnic background of the victims. The Committee requests the State party to provide in its next report comprehensive information and data on the trafficking of women and girls as well as on the impact of measures taken and results achieved in this regard.”

[Review on 10 August 2006, CEDAW Committee 36th session, UN doc. CEDAW/C/CHC/CO/6]

Many More Good Examples

These last four examples are precisely where the CEDAW Committee should be placing its focus, as it did with the additional countries below for the years 2003-2010.

2010: BOTSWANA (par. 27-28); EGYPT (par. 25-26); MALAWI (par. 24-25); NETHERLANDS (par. 28-29); PANAMA (par. 30-31); UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (par. 28-29); UKRAINE (par. 8, 30-31); UZBEKISTAN (par. 5, 6(d), 26-27). (*numbers reference paragraphs in CEDAW country review reports*)

2009: ARMENIA (par. 24-25), BHUTAN (par. 21-22), CAMEROON (par. 30-31), GERMANY (par. 8, 47-48), GUATEMALA (par. 5, 23-24), GUINEA-BISSAU (par. 6, 29-30), HAITI (par. 12-13, 26-27), JAPAN (par. 39-40), LAOS (par. 5, 27-28, 42), LIBERIA (par. 26-27), LIBYA (par. 27-28), RWANDA (par. 27-28), SPAIN (par. 4, 21-22), SWITZERLAND (par. 5-7, 29-30), TIMOR LESTE (par. 31-32), and TUVALU (par. 33-34).

2008: BAHRAIN (par. 26-27), BOLIVIA (par. 5, 27-28), BURUNDI (par. 27-28), CANADA (par. 5, 30), ECUADOR (par. 4, 22-23), EL SALVADOR (par. 4-5, 25-26), FINLAND (par. 5, 17-18), FRANCE (par. 30-31), ICELAND (par. 4, 23-24), KYRGYZSTAN (par. 28-30), LEBANON (par. 28-29), LITHUANIA (par. 8), LUXEMBOURG (par. 31-32), MADAGASCAR (par. 20-21), MONGOLIA (par. 6-c, 27-28), MOROCCO (par. 22-23), MYANMAR (par. 5, 26-27), NIGERIA (par. 25-26), PORTUGAL (par. 6, 9, 26, 34-35), SAUDI ARABIA (par. 23-24), SLOVENIA (par. 5, 19, 25-26), SWEDEN (par. 30-31), TANZANIA (par. 28-29), UNITED KINGDOM AND NORTHERN IRELAND (par. 35-36), URUGUAY (par. 28-29), and YEMEN (par. 20-21).

2007: COLOMBIA, COOK ISLANDS, ESTONIA, HONDURAS, HUNGARY, INDONESIA, KAZAKHSTAN, MALDIVES, NORWAY, SURINAME, SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC, TAJIKISTAN and VIET NAM.

2006: CAPE VERDE, CHILE, CUBA, CYPRUS, CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK, MACEDONIA, MALAWI, MALI, MAURITIUS, MEXICO, THE PHILIPPINES, SAINT LUCIA, TURKMENISTAN and VENEZUELA.

2005: CROATIA, GAMBIA, ISRAEL, LAOS, NORTH KOREA, PARAGUAY and SAMOA.

2004: ANGOLA, BANGLADESH, BELARUS, BHUTAN, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EQUATORIAL GUINEA, GERMANY, KYRGYZSTAN, LATVIA, NEPAL, NIGERIA and SPAIN.

2003: COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, KENYA, NEW ZEALAND and SWITZERLAND.