



Decriminalize Sex Work

For Immediate Release

June 15, 2009

Feminist Group Hosts Public Forum on “Trafficking Facts and Fictions”

VANCOUVER — A feminist group that advocates for sex worker rights and the decriminalization of prostitution is hosting a public forum on sex trafficking, on Tuesday June 16th, at the Vancouver Public Library.

“Evidence suggests that sex trafficking increases very little during major sporting events, such as the 2010 Games,” said Tamara O’Doherty. “There is also evidence that anti-trafficking initiatives locally and globally have endangered the safety of sex workers and violated their human rights. It is crucial that anti-trafficking interventions are based on evidence and collaboration with sex workers’ groups, rather than unsubstantiated fears or assumptions about women in sex work – most of whom are not trafficking victims.”

FIRST opposes trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and all other forms of forced trafficking. We are inviting the public and media to an open forum to learn more about international trafficking in the context of the 2010 Games, as well as the domestic trafficking of Aboriginal women and girls, and perspectives of migrant sex workers.

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Time: Doors open: 6:30 p.m. Forum from: 7 – 9 pm

Location: Vancouver Public Library, 350 W. Georgia, Alma Van Dusen & Peter Kay rooms

Admission by donation

Speakers:

- **Samantha Bazinet**, New Hope Society, Prince George — Aboriginal perspective on domestic trafficking
- **Soni Thindall**, Orchid Project, Vancouver (Outreach and Research in Community Health Initiatives and Development) — Migrant sex workers
- **Dr. Annalee Lepp**, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Women's Studies, University of Victoria — Olympics and sex trafficking

Contact: Tamara O’Doherty: 604-534-4450.

FIRST is a national coalition of feminists who work to support the rights of sex industry workers and advocate for the decriminalization of adult sex work. We are guided by the fundamental principle that sex industry workers should have equal benefit of the human rights protections that are available to all members of Canadian society.

For further information on FIRST, visit our webpage at: <http://www.firstadvocates.org>