

The recommendations are contained in two United Nations Reports released in 2012 (*HIV and the Law: Risks, Rights and Health* published by UNDP; *Sex Work and the Law in Asia and the Pacific*: an UNDP, UNFPA and UNAIDS backed report) and in a clarification note issued by UN Women in 2013 entitled *Note on Sex Work, Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking* on these issues.

The two reports are recommending the decriminalization of pimping and brothel-keeping as a means of reducing the HIV/AIDS of people in prostitution. "Laws that criminalize activities associated with sex work, living on the earnings of sex work; procuring; pimping; the management and operation of brothels; and promoting or advertising services, should be reviewed", says the UNDP, UNFPA and UNAIDS backed report and reiterated in the UN Women Note. [1] By doing so these agencies have effectively stood by the sex-industry rather than the victims and survivors of prostitution and have actually advocated impunity for rapists, traffickers and exploiters of women and children.

These reports and the note are asking for prostituted women and children to be called "sex-workers" advocating the acceptance of

their exploitation as “work” and their survival strategies as “choice” thus effectively removing any responsibility of international agencies like UN Women, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR and individual governments from investing in or protect their marginalized citizens. This will narrow the definition of sex trafficking that is already laid out in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children. A narrowing of the definition would prevent many victims of trafficking from being recognized as such and jeopardize their ability to access support and justice. It would reduce accountability of traffickers.

[1] Laws that criminalize sex work ...should be reviewed... Decriminalization of sex work requires the repeal of:

- a. laws explicitly criminalizing sex work or clients of sex workers;
 - b. laws that criminalize activities associated with sex work, including removal of offences relating to soliciting; living on the earnings of sex work; procuring; pimping; the management and operation of brothels; and promoting or advertising services;
- ”Sex Work and the Law in Asia and Pacific: a UNDP, UNFPA and UNAIDS backed report. October, 2012, Page-7.