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Club Meetings

Second Thursday of the
month.

**Apologies by 8pm
Previous Monday**

To: Lori Grech

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INZERT

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or photos for InZert to:

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... New look inZert ...

From May 2004 InZert will be produced monthly



From the President...

"A NEW ZONTA YEAR BEGINS"

It's the time to renew our commitment, pay our subscriptions and refresh our involvement in the Club and in Zonta International.

A huge thankyou to those who have agreed to take leadership roles on the Board and the Committees!

A note of appreciation to those who have paid their subscriptions and an urgent reminder to those who as yet have not!

A dose of encouragement to all Members to get involved with your committee!

At this time of the Zonta year, I am urging each Member to apply fresh thinking to the activities of the Club – especially new projects – and to contribute your ideas!

All is now in place – Office Bearers, Committees, the Club and Board Meeting schedules, the Budget (to be presented for approval at the May 13 Club Meeting) and the Action Plan to address Members' issues – so now it is "on with the show"!

With best wishes for a productive and enjoyable year,

Karen Groves, President



Dr. Sue Boyd Guest Speaker at the March meeting. International Advisor to UNIFEM Australia and with a distinguished diplomatic career in the Australian Foreign Service, Sue gave a very interesting talk on the topic: "Women In Leadership For Peace And Security".

ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH INC. COMMITTEES 2004-2005

BOARD:

PRESIDENT: Karen Groves

1st VICE PRESIDENT/

PRESIDENT ELECT: Lyn Mc Arthur

2nd VICE PRESIDENT: Marlene O'Meara

SECRETARY: Joy Treasure

TREASURER: Barbara-Dene Jones

2nd YEAR DIRECTOR: Lori Grech

2nd YEAR DIRECTOR: Judy Tennant

1st YEAR DIRECTOR: Sciona Browne

1st YEAR DIRECTOR: Maria Franchina

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

MEMBERSHIP AND SUPPORT: Lori Grech

FINANCE AND FUNDRAISING: Tricia Summerfield

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Isobel Wilson

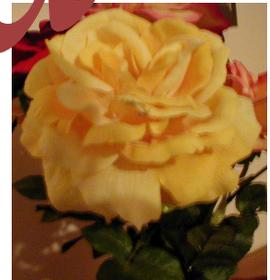
STATUS OF WOMEN SERVICE: Marilyn Piper



In This Issue

Human Trafficking

extra



Human Trafficking Information Forum

29th April 2004

Carole Theobald

This event was arranged by District 23, Area 3 with support from the Office for Women's Policy and the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University. The Elizabeth Jolley Lecture Theatre at Curtin University provided an excellent venue, with plenty of space in the foyer for attendees to meet and have a chat over tea, coffee and juice before and after the presentations. Members from the Bunbury Club came in a minibus for the event.

After a formal welcome by Liz Woodgate, Marilyn Piper introduced the two dynamic speakers at the event: Brian Iselin and Kathleen Maltzahn. They were doing a whistlestop tour of 5 Australian cities between international engagements. After the presentation they were whisked to the airport to catch the 'red-eye' to Brisbane. Brian explained that his mum is a Zontian and had asked him to talk to some Zontians ... "and you know what it is like, one talk led to another and before I knew it I had promised a national tour".

Brian is an ex-federal policeman, who (according to an ABC radio interview I heard the following morning) left the federal police through 'sheer frustration'. He is now an expert consultant and adviser to organisations such as the UN, UNICEF and European Commission in matters relating to human trafficking.

Kathleen Maltzahn is the director of Project Respect an organisation that works with women in the sex industry to challenge violence everywhere. According to its leaflet, Project Respect works for a world where 'prostitution is no longer a right for men or a reality for women'.

Brian's presentation – the big picture

Brian provided the big picture of human trafficking and explained the seven steps of the trafficking process.

Trafficking is defined as a conspiracy to get a person from one country to another for the purposes of exploitation. Don't confuse it with 'people smuggling' which is a single act aimed to defeat immigration laws to get a person illegally over a border.

Exploitation is the key word with human trafficking. Basically people are harvested to fulfil a demand.

Over 90% of trafficked people are women who are exploited to service the sex industry. However, there is a rising trend of men being trafficked. Boys are trafficked to be trained to serve in armed militia and men are trafficked to work on fishing boats. This is a problem in Cambodia. When the fish run out or the victim gets sick, he is shot or thrown overboard or, on a few occasions, returned home.

The most intriguing part of Brian's talk was the explanation of the international legal framework on trafficking.

The UN Crime Commission has a protocol relating to human trafficking which asks countries to make laws against trafficking people and exploiting them. However, Australia has signed the protocol but not ratified it. Being a signatory to a protocol means the country agrees to the spirit of it. Ratifying means the country must actively take measures to meet the protocol requirements. There are 2 articles in the protocol which stop Australia from ratifying:

- a) Article 9(5) recognises that trafficking is caused by demand and requires countries to take measures to reduce the demand for exploitation. Some states in Australia have legalised prostitution which has increased the demand for prostitution.
- b) Article 7(1) relates to right of abode. The protocol requires countries to consider temporary or permanent residency for victims of trafficking.

Kathleen's presentation – the human side of trafficking

Kathleen described the very sad death of Puongtong Simplee. On September 23, 2001, Puongtong Simplee was detained by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) and placed in the Villawood Immigration Detention Centre (VIDC). Less than 72 hours later she was dead.

She was 38 kilos when she was detained at VIDC. When she died on September 26, she weighed 31 kilos. She had been vomiting consistently since she was detained. She was not taken to the VIDC clinic, or to a hospital. The subsequent coronial enquiry elicited that she had been sold into prostitution at the age of 12 in Thailand. At 18 she was moved to Malaysia and at 21 was moved to Australia. When she was arrested at a brothel she was a heroin addict and pleaded for care during her withdrawal. The official cause of her death was that she died from pneumonia and heroin withdrawal. However, it has been suggested that she may have died from an intramuscular injection of largactil (given at VIDC) to calm her down. The immigration officers did not listen to her story.

Kathleen explained that many women find out they have to pay back a contract, typically between \$35,000 and \$55,000 when they get to Australia. There is no written document and the amount changes frequently. They pay this back at a rate of \$50 per job, but they are not allowed to refuse clients, acts or refuse to wear a condom. Escape measures are limited – they are hunted down if they run away and may be tortured or not given food or water on their re-capture. Photos of tortured people are shown to other victims to stop them running away. The only way out of the contract is to pay it off as quickly as possible. On completion of the contract many women are picked up by immigra-

tion authorities and deported to their home country. On return, as they are shamed in their villages, many opt to stay in the sex industry in the cities as they cannot obtain other work or else they are captured by traffickers and sent to another country.

During a spirited question time, Brian and Kathleen answered many questions. The general theme was that women are penalised through being victims of human trafficking and it is the women involved in the lower levels of the process that are imprisoned. The men control most things but existing interventions do not apprehend them. A new package against trafficking was recently released by the Federal Government but this only provides help to victims who agree to serve as a witness in a prosecution. The opposition to this is that the government is using the same tactics as the traffickers – do this or something nasty will happen to you... There is no way a victim can get on with her life without being controlled by someone else.

The decriminalisation of prostitution in some states was discussed. Brian regarded it as an experiment of the 80s that did not have the expected outcome. Decriminalisation was soon taken to mean legalisation and demand increased. Decriminalisation was supposed to give more control to women in the brothels by improving their occupational safety and health, but most prostitutes are now subcontractors with all the responsibilities of a worker but very few of the benefits.

It was agreed that in an ideal world law enforcement would be more than merely cleaning up the street face of prostitution. Future strategies need to follow the money trail and not be so "gendered". The problem needs the best investigators, people who are trained in breaking human trafficking rings, not aimed at quick results. For more information visit the Project Respect website – it contains some fascinating reports.

Footnote from Project Respect website:

www.projectrespect.org.au:

The number of trafficked people is difficult to estimate. It is believed that 700,000 to two million women and children are trafficked across international borders every year, and the UN estimates that **4 million people in total are trafficked** both across borders and within states. The UN also estimates that trafficking is a US\$5-7 billion operation annually.

Project Respect estimates that there are
1000 – 1500 trafficked women in Australia.



INZERT EXTRA

Send in articles or photos
for Inzert to:

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119b Roberts Rd
Rivervale 6103
Tel: 9355 2969

DIARY DATES AT A GLANCE

ZONTA WINE EXPO:

FRIDAY, 21 MAY 2004

Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club,
Keane's Point, Peppermint Grove.
\$25.00 - ticket all inclusive

Taste over 60 different wines from 16 different labels. Order wines at 10-15% off retail prices.

Mundella cheeses. Free wine-tasting glass.

Contact Barbara-Dene 0412 664 665

AREA 3 FOUNDERS' DAY DINNER:

SATURDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2004

HOSTED BY THE ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH
Convenor, Barbara-Dene Jones, has this event well under control.

Details will be released after confirmation by Area Director Nan Martella.

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION:

NEW YORK CITY: JULY 3-8, 2004.

(SEE "ZONTIAN" MAGAZINE FOR DETAILS)

DISTRICT 23 CONFERENCE:



Convention 2004
57th Zonta International Convention

July 3rd - 8th 2004

Marriott Marquis Hotel - Times Square

New York City



ZONTA CLUB OF PERTH INC.

MEETING SCHEDULE 2004-2005

CLUB

(2ND THURSDAY) 6.30PM

15/4/04 AGM

13/5/04

10/6/04

8/7/04

12/8/04

9/9/04

14/10/04

11/11/04

9/12/04 Christmas Function

-

10/2/05

10/3/05

14/4/05 AGM

BOARD

(4TH WEDNESDAY) 6.00PM

28/4/04

26/5/04 at Karen Groves' home

23/6/04 now 30/6/04 - NW Trip

21/7/04

25/8/04

22/9/04

27/10/04

24/11/04

No Meeting

26/1/05

23/2/05

23/3/05

27/4/05



Deborah Hegarty introduced Education Award winner, Tracy Hanratty (centre). Tracy is doing a degree in Education to work in special needs education. Karen Groves presented her with a cheque for \$2,000.00.