

AFRO's Statement on the Court Verdicts in the Cases of Murdered Sex Workers

Regarding the court verdicts in two cases of 4 murdered sex workers delivered on the 27th and 28th of July – both murders were sentenced to life imprisonment, we would like to express our views and concerns as follows:

- 1) **Reasonable Verdicts**: We consider the court verdicts reasonable and sincerely hope that they will console the victims' families.
- 2) **Immediately Resume Discussion about Decriminalisation of Sex Work**: Due to existing laws, sex workers are forced to work in isolation. The Legislative Council should immediately resume discussions about personal safety of sex workers, initiate reviews of existing laws, study and prepare for legal reform that allows at least two sex workers to work in one apartment so that they can work in a safer environment.
- 3) **Improve law enforcement**: The police should continuously monitor the effectiveness of different measures for protection for sex workers, and improve the attitudes of frontline police officers towards sex workers, so that sex workers can build up trust in the police and report cases of crime against them.
- 4) **Handle Cases Fairly**: The police should fairly and seriously handle cases reported by sex workers and deliver a clear message to the public that sex workers are protected by the police and the law, as all citizens are.
- 5) **Two Murder Cases Unsolved**: Two sex worker murder cases, which happened in Tsuen Wan in November 2008 and January 2009 are still unsolved. We call on the police to make all efforts to investigate the cases and bring the murderer or murderers to justice.

Action for REACH OUT (AFRO)

28 July 2009

青鳥是一個成立於 1993 年的非政府組織，致力為女性性服務業從業員提供所需服務及支援。我們認同性工作為工作，並以倡議性工作者權益及性工作非刑事化為目標。

Action for REACH OUT is a non-governmental organisation established in 1993. We offer services and support to women working in the sex industry. We firmly believe that sex work is a legitimate occupation and we advocate the acceptance of sex workers' rights and sex work decriminalisation.

Tel: 27701065

Email: afro@afro.org.hk

Website: www.afro.org.hk