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**PROJECT
RESPECT**

NEW 10 POINT PLAN TACKLES SEX TRAFFICKING
Leading Australian anti-trafficking organisation, Project Respect launches a proposal for the government to make 10 changes for trafficked women

"At least 1000 trafficked women in Australian brothels are deceived, brutalised & exploited by traffickers. Government must take new approaches to meet trafficked women's needs," says Kathleen Maltzahn, Founding Director, Project Respect.

In a submission to the national Parliamentary Joint Committee examining trafficking in women for sexual servitude, Project Respect has called on the government to address trafficking of women into the Australian sex industry in 10 new ways:

1. Ratify the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
2. Stop detaining trafficked women in immigration detention centres.
3. Introduce a permanent visa for trafficked women.
4. Train police, immigration officers and other service providers to recognise trafficked women and respond appropriately to them.
5. Improve the Commonwealth Criminal Code to UN Trafficking Protocol standards and make current offences fit the crimes; and then enforce it with proper policing.
6. Analyse and address the demand for trafficked women by Australian men.
7. Increase overseas aid to address factors making trafficked women vulnerable, including poverty, violence against women, war, inequality and refugee issues.
8. Support and develop bi-lateral and multi-lateral initiatives that ensure that trafficked women who return to sending countries are linked in with support agencies in those countries to protect women from re-victimisation.
9. Fund recovery services for trafficked women, including accommodation, counselling, legal and migration advice and English classes and provide funding for specialist NGOs such as Project Respect that address trafficking.
10. Develop a whole-of-government approach to trafficking that prioritises trafficked women and children's rights, involves NGOs and all levels of government.

Ms Maltzahn states: *"Australians would be surprised to hear that our government has not ratified the important treaty that addresses trafficked women. Our 10 point plan comes out of our examination of international policies and our long history of work with trafficked women in the sex industry. Nothing less than the 10 elements of our plan will be good enough to fight this insidious crime and protect the vulnerable women involved."*

For expert comment contact Kathleen Maltzahn 0408 142 155

Project Respect's full submission is available on the internet at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/acc_ctte/sexual_servitude/submissions/sub25.doc

Further information is available on Project Respect's website:

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~prespect>