

Dear Friend of Project Respect,

Welcome to the first issue of Project Respect's quarterly newsletter for 2009. To keep you updated with current issues and what we're doing, we've included news items, links to resources and details of our projects. If you would like to support Project Respect's work, you can do so [here](#).

## Activities

### Project Respect's new community garden

The new community garden funded by the Victorian Multicultural Commission will be a meeting place and enjoyable activity for women with experience of the sex industry and survivors of trafficking. [Read more.](#)

[Contact us](#) if you would like to be involved in the garden or make in kind donations.

### Peer support group

Project Respect runs a peer support group in its office in Fitzroy for women who are or have been in the sex industry every Friday afternoon. We start with a free lunch and then spend the afternoon talking or working on activities. The afternoons are a great way for women to talk freely and relax with women, without fear of stigma or judgement. If you'd like to come along, please call Nina or Shirley on **9416 3401**.

### Flyers on compensation for trafficked women

In November 2008, with funding from the Victorian Law Foundation, Project Respect held a workshop for trafficked women, to explain the ramifications of the High Court judgement in *the Queen v. Wei Tang*. This workshop also provided the women with information on how to access victims of crime compensation.

[Short information flyers](#) aimed at trafficked women and persons who may be in contact with them

## News

### Project Respect former Coordinator, Valli Mendez, inducted into Victorian Women's Honour Roll

Valli was one of 20 women inducted into the 2009 Victorian Honour Roll of Women, recognised for her compassionate and tireless work to support and empower women in the sex industry. [Read more.](#)

### Sex slavery case hearing in Melbourne

The case R. v. Ho, Ho, Hoo and Rohardjo began on April 20th, 2009 and is expected to last for 3 months. The four accused are charged with various crimes relating to sex slavery. [Read more.](#)

### Hear directly from survivors of trafficking

Survivors share their experiences of being trafficked, in response to High Court judgement on Wei Tang case, in a powerful and moving statement. [Read more.](#)

### Government funding enables Project Respect to continue its vital projects providing outreach to women.

Project Respect has been awarded 250,000 from the Proceeds of Crime Act Fund by the Commonwealth Government, for expenditure by June 2011, to expand its program of outreach to women in the sex industry. [Read media release about Commonwealth funding.](#)

were developed to provide information on how to:

- access support
- get out of a trafficking situation
- access compensation

The flyers are currently available in English, Chinese, Thai, Korean and Russian.

### **Humanitarian Visas for Victims of Trafficking**

Project Respect has [consistently advocated that all victims of trafficking should receive visas and support](#). Currently, the trafficking visa class is open only to victims who participate in the criminal justice system.

Project Respect encourages others to lobby the government for a humanitarian model of visas and support to victims of trafficking. [Download a letter template and read further Project Respect recommendations on visas for victims of trafficking](#).

The City of Yarra and the [City of Monash](#) have renewed their funding for another 3 years, from 2009 to 2011. This enables Project Respect to continue its outreach to women in brothels in those communities, as well as provide a community education program.

### **Melbourne brothels to display signs stating that sex slavery is illegal**

Project Respect is encouraging **all local governments in Australia** to pass laws requiring brothels to display signs stating that sex slavery is a crime.

These signs will be aimed at trafficked women and clients and would also give information on where to get help. So far, the Cities of Monash, Yarra and Moreland are considering implementing such laws. [Read more](#).

## **Resources**

You can [download a victims of crime compensation flyer free from the Project Respect website](#).

Lobby the government for humanitarian visas for victims of trafficking. [Download letter template](#).

Hear directly from victims of trafficking: [Read more](#).

For more information, visit Project Respect's recently re-designed website: [audio and visual material](#), [publications](#), [links to laws and other organisations](#), [outreach materials and research reports](#), [news items](#) and information about [our history and work](#).