

Dear friend of Project Respect,

Welcome to the second 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 community garden

The community vegetable garden for women from the sex industry, funded by the Victorian Multicultural Commission, is bursting with delicious organic vegetables! Women are enjoying eating our produce at our community lunches on Fridays and taking home extra vegetables. Our garden coordinator is a wonderful source of information on how to grow organic vegies at home and is inspiring us all to grow our own food.

If you have experience of the sex industry and would like to join us in growing and eating organic vegetables, please [contact us](#). We're also looking for donations, particularly for good quality outdoor furniture. If you can help us, please contact us via the above link.

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**.

Volunteer assistance needed!

Project Respect needs a volunteer in September with marketing / research skills to help us design and test a survey measuring community attitudes. If you have these skills, some spare time, and want to be involved with important social justice work, please [email](#) Nina.

News

Government announces major improvements for survivors of trafficking

Years of advocacy by survivors of trafficking, Project Respect and other anti-trafficking organisations and individuals have borne fruit: on the 17th June, the Australian Government announced reforms which will provide a more humanitarian support and visa regime for survivors of this egregious human rights violation. Support will now be available to all victims of trafficking for at least 45 days, regardless of their willingness or ability to participate in investigations or prosecutions of their traffickers. Permanent residency will be available to all victims of trafficking who make a contribution to an investigation and will be at risk if returned home. Previously they were required to make a significant contribution to an investigation. These reforms will make a real difference to survivors of trafficking, should enable more victims to escape exploitation, and make Australia now a world leader in support for victims of trafficking! [Read more](#).

Sex slavery signs in Melbourne brothels

Local councils in Melbourne are taking their obligations to protect and assist victims of trafficking seriously. Moreland, Melbourne and Yarra have all commenced procedures to pass local laws which would require licensed brothels to display signs stating that sex slavery is a serious crime in Australia and that state where to go for information and help. Project Respect encourages all local councils and the State Government to follow this bold step which will ensure that trafficked women know that they really can get help to escape their exploitation. Read the Yarra draft law [here](#).

Audit of Australian Government response to trafficking in persons

The Australian National Audit Office tabled its audit of the management of the Australian Government's Action Plan to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons. The report looks at the Department of Immigration, the Australian Federal Police, management of the victim support program by the Office for Women, and coordination of the Australian Government response by the Attorney-General's Department. The report can be viewed online [here](#).

Trafficking for marriage?

A Tasmanian man was required to give his wife one-third of his assets in a ruling by the Family Court. The man went to Thailand to find his sixth wife and forced her to into domestic servitude during their ten-year marriage. The woman was 25 years his junior and spoke no English upon arrival in Australia. For more information, see "[Fat 'bully' loses to Thai bride used as servant](#)". This case is likely only one of many marriage trafficking cases in Australia.

Resources

- [2009 Annual Trafficking in Persons Report](#), published by the US Department of State, 16 June 2009
- [Book Review - Trafficked, by Kathleen Maltzahn](#), published in the ACSSA newsletter, No. 21, 2009
- [Labour Trafficking - Prosecutions and Other Proceedings](#), by Fiona David, published by the Australian Institute of Criminology, June 2009
- [Fact Sheet: Australian Government Anti-People Trafficking Strategy](#), information on the Australian Government reforms, issued June 17 2009

For more information, visit Project Respect's 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](#).

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