

Notes from ATTF meeting 5/7/03

Trafficking is the #1 issue on the UN agenda. The challenge for us is to “see” victims, they are here but being handled or served under different auspices. Need to move beyond detain and deport. They are trafficking victims, not perpetrators.

Importance of disseminating information about the T Visa.

Sentencing for Daewoosa case on June 30? There were 24 applications, 12 were approved, guest workers.

Pacific Gateway Center has a grant to do outreach and training in immigrant community. They have dealt with Filipino picture brides, some of whom never marry and are locked at home under forced work/sex conditions.

Rep. Marilyn Lee: Passed mail order bride bill that requires companies to provide the criminal history of an abusive spouse. There is a company in Hawai'i that is in this business.

Calleen Ching, Na Loio: Has DV clients where after they arrive from their country of origin with their American husband, he changes and becomes abusive. Husband keeps wife under control. Problem is that the women are not safe in their home country either. Sees these DV cases as “single acts of trafficking.” (Much like the idea of “servile marriage” that Norma Timbaug raised re: the Washington task force.)

Charlie Beckwith, FBI: He trains recruits on trafficking issues. All it takes is one victim. The Federal penalty has been increased.

Chief Correa, HPD: Has been involved in the evolution of the DV movement. It took 10 years to evolve. Sees trafficking as both export and import issue: recruitment of young girls in Hawai'i to go to the mainland or elsewhere; the import of porn to Hawai'i, people coming here for sex industry or labor (i.e. from the Philippines).

On the local front, there will be resistance to new protocols. Need to learn how to ID, raise awareness, get the info flowing in, and make a report. The challenge is how to do this. Questions about to what degree Hawai'i has trafficking cases and what we are going to do about it.

How do we ID warning signs when they are often hidden and don't surface. Perhaps INS should be one point of intervention, red flags like marriage visas that are never finished. Maybe HPD could do the follow-up on this particular area since it may be one of the few ways to find victims. No longer just an administrative issue.

Beckwith: Withholding passport is a Federal crime punishable by 5 years. Chief Correa can mention this in his training for homeland security etc..

Language barrier: need interpreters at intervention and prosecution levels. These cases may be hard to prosecute.

How to provide services? Pre-certification for services goes pretty quickly for Federal cases. ID victim, issue letter.

We have lots of experience with DV victims, need to strengthen linkages and overlapping places (i.e.: immigrant victims of DV).

Let's build on the existing DV protocol when possible, and on other "organic" places where change can be effected most easily.

Who else to involve:

Business community

Health care community, Health Department (Marya Grambs can contact)

INS / Customs

Military: now coordinated: Joint Rear Area Command works with civilian authority

Labor: unions will support

Waikiki Assn: Warren Ferraro and all security guards

Sex Abuse Treatment Center

SOS

Churches

Schools and Teachers

(those on the front lines that can help ID, provide services and counseling)

Next step: we need examples and a message: human slavery

Nancie will follow up with DOJ for next meeting.