



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate release
Date: 22 October 2010

Enquiries: Debra Hughes
Cell: 083 785 4585

Women's rights groups' slate at decriminalizing prostitution

The Women's rights groups came together to denounce the government's plan to decriminalize prostitution and allow sex workers to set up small businesses, challenging the administration's stance by asking whether it wished to boost the sex trade industry or reduce it.

The MOI announced, its plan to decriminalize the sex trade and allow prostitutes to operate small-scale business brothels in proposed "sex zones."

According to Wang Yue of the Garden of Hope Foundation, the MOI is leaning towards the one-woman brothel model of Hong Kong by trying to integrate sex work with public life, thus condoning the industry of sexual transactions. Wang described the government as ushering in the operations of the underworld, giving more opportunities to crime syndicates in the issue of human trafficking.

At the press conference centered on the theme "Coalition against Sexual Exploitation," members of The Garden of Hope Foundation and the Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation called for Executive Premier Yuan Wu to withdraw plans to completely decriminalize the sex trade.

Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation director Kang Shu-hua described the government's declaration as shirking management responsibilities from the central government to its local counterparts, a sign of the government making the sex trade a legitimate industry, thus jeopardizing the disadvantaged women by exposing them to the control of crime syndicates.

Women's rights groups attended the conference were firmly against the legalization of the sex trade. Describing themselves as strong advocates in reducing the sex industry, their said, they were for the punishment of clients, who on top of being penalized should contribute "social monetary donations" to foundations for disadvantaged and sexually abused women.

Doctors For Life International is an association of more than 1800 specialists and medical doctors. DFL endeavors to promote public health by upholding sound science in the medical profession, as well as the constitutional right to freedom of conscience for all healthcare professionals. For more information, please visit www.dfl.org.za