



HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP

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NEWS REPORT

Headline	Woman convicted under anti sex-slave laws wins less jail
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The first person to be found guilty under federal anti-sex slavery laws has won a reduction in her sentence.

Wei Tang was sentenced to 10 years' jail in 2006 for forcing five Thai women at her inner-Melbourne brothel to serve 900 clients to work off debts of \$45,000 each. Her conviction was quashed and a fresh trial ordered in June 2007 by the Court of Appeal, a decision the High Court overturned last August.

On Monday, Tang won a reduction in her sentence of 10 years' jail, with a minimum of six, to nine years, with a non-parole period of five in the Victorian Court of Appeal. Justices Chris Maxwell, Peter Buchanan and Frank Vincent said they granted Tang a sentence discount to account for the toll on her of prolonged court processes.

"Through no fault of her own, the applicant has been subject to criminal trial processes for four years," they said in their judgment. The additional hardship which that has imposed on her must, as a matter of fairness, be taken into account."

The judges also accepted Tang's continuing ill health, including depression and the reproductive disorder endometriosis, was likely to make prison tougher for her than other people who do not suffer from such medical conditions. Tang was the first person to be found guilty by a jury under federal anti-slavery laws introduced in 1999.

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