



TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Myths and Realities

September 22, 2008, 5:00pm

The University of Queensland, St Lucia campus, Parnell Building, room 234

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, especially women and children, is a global phenomenon. It involves the movement of individuals by means of force, threats, deception, fraud, or the payment of money for the purpose of exploitation.

Recent reports of foreign women trafficked to Sydney, the Gold Coast, and other parts of Australia for sexual servitude, raises the probability of similar occurrences elsewhere and on a wider scale.

Despite greater public awareness and acknowledgement of the problem by government agencies, trafficking in persons and the exploitation of foreign workers in the sex industry remain phenomena not well understood and poorly researched. Strategic policies, concerted government action, along with prosecutions and convictions of traffickers and other offenders are only slowly forthcoming and the support available to victims of trafficking is only marginally developed.

In March 2008, The University of Queensland TC Beirne School of Law in conjunction with The University of British Columbia Faculty of Law commenced a research project which will provide the first comprehensive analysis of the phenomenon of trafficking in persons and their exploitation in the sex industry and other forms of forced labour in Australia and Canada. This project explores the levels and patterns of trafficking in persons in Australia and Canada and analyses reported and suspected cases of human trafficking and sexual exploitation of foreign workers where these countries have been a destination, transit, and/or source country.

On September 22, 2008, The University of Queensland's Human Trafficking Working Group will present its initial findings and discuss its future research agenda in a public forum.

RSVP by September 18, 2008 to

Andreas Schloenhardt
(a.schloenhardt@law.uw.edu.au) or
Angus Graham
(s4075515@student.uq.edu.au).