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Asian Heritage Month

*Raising Awareness
around Trafficking
and Prostitution*

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Photo: Asian Women Coalition joined at press conference by allied feminist groups, Indigenous Women Against the Sex Industry and the Congress of Black Women.

The Asian Women Coalition Ending Prostitution (AWCEP) challenges the normalization of human trafficking and prostitution of Asian women in Canada and around the world.

Supreme Court of Canada to hear perspective of Asian Women in case about prostitution laws.

Asian Women Coalition Ending Prostitution applied for leave to intervene in the Bedford vs Canada case before the Supreme Court of Canada and we have been granted intervenor status.

The decision of the Bedford court case will have a direct and critical impact on Asian women's ability to self determine, as individuals or as a group. As Asian women know, prostitution promotes very racist ideas and imposes those stereotypes on all of us. Any steps to normalize prostitution, such as making brothel-keeping a regular business activity or confirming the right of men to have sexual access to women on demand, make it much harder for Asian women, women of

colour and aboriginal women to effectively defend ourselves from racism and discrimination and impede our ability to access our Charter rights.

We hope to help the court come to a conclusion that takes the racist and sexist impacts on women into account.

Thank you to the many people who have supported the Asian Women Coalition Ending Prostitution to bring the experiences and concerns of Asian women to this court case. To learn more about the Bedford case, read our factum and the points we are bringing to the court, please visit our website www.awcep.org.

Watch CPAC TV online or cable for video of the Supreme Court Hearing on Thursday, June 13, 2013.

Solidarity messages from allied feminist groups

"Your fight is our fight. Women deserve to live free from all forms of male violence, but especially from the sexual violence that is prostitution." - Indigenous Women Against the Sex Industry.

"We expect that the consideration of race, class and gender, the triple markers of discrimination that Black women, Asian women and First Nations women face everyday will be well represented by the Asian Women's Coalition." - Congress of Black Women



May is Asian Heritage Month

Over Mother's Day weekend AWCEP organized two screenings of the MTV EXIT Campaign documentary "Traffic," which features stories of human-trafficking and prostitution in the Asia Pacific. We organized these events around Mother's Day as a way to honor our mothers, many of whom came to Canada dreaming of better lives for themselves and for us. The film screenings were held at Kiwassa Neighbourhood House and Richmond City Hall. Thank you to the venues and panel presenters from the Indigenous Women Against the Sex Industry, Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter, and West Coast Domestic Workers' Association.

Raising Awareness Around Human Trafficking and Prostitution

Human trafficking: Philippine, Canadian and the Global Context

AWCEP member Suzanne Jay presented at this roundtable discussion held at the UBC Liu Institute in January. The event brought together government representatives, academic and community voices to share and strategize around human trafficking in the Philippines, the US and Canada.

Two Koreas: Borders and Migration

In April, AWCEP was invited by the Centre for Asian-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI) at the University of Victoria to present at the

conference "Two Koreas: Borders and Migration." AWCEP member Alice Lee exchanged information with scholars from around the world specializing in migration to and from the Korean peninsula. Thank you to Jeewon Min and CAPI for organizing.

Sexual Violence, Domestic Violence: Exploring the Continuum of Violence Against Women and Girls

Sarah Mah represented AWCEP on a panel presentation on human trafficking at the invitation of the BC Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons at this National Research Day Conference. The conference was November 7-9, 2012.

ABOUT AWCEP

The Asian Women Coalition Ending Prostitution is working to abolish prostitution, which we see as violence against women. AWCEP is working to build awareness about the harms of prostitution to Asian women.

We challenge the promotion and imposition of prostitution on Asian women at home in Canada and in our countries of origin throughout Asia.

We hold a position that prostitution entrenches racism and multiplies the effect of sexism on all. We therefore believe it is entirely possible to end the practice of prostitution.

We are based in Canada, and are connected to women around the globe.

Help Support Our Work

The Asian Women Coalition Ending Prostitution is a volunteer-run, registered non-profit society. We welcome your donations to help us advance education and awareness about the impacts of prostitution on Asian women.

Donations can be made by 1) Paypal on our website: www.awcep.org or 2) cheques can be mailed to: PO Box 43051, 3790 Canada Way, Burnaby BC V5G 4S2, Canada.



Asian Women Coalition
Ending Prostitution