



under the High Patronage of Claude Bartolone, President of the National Assembly

**« Prostitution and trafficking
in human beings in the world :
an exploitation
of the most vulnerable
groups »**

***International Abolitionist Congress
Wednesday November 12, 2014
Jacques Chaban-Delmas building - Victor Hugo room
101 rue de l'Université
Paris 7e***

**"PROSTITUTION AND TRAFFICKING
OF HUMAN BEINGS IN THE WORLD:
AN EXPLOITATION
OF THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS"**

*"Prostitution is, in the great majority of cases, a form of violence towards the destitute and an exploitation of the weak by their procurers."*¹

In France, more than 80% of the prostitutes are foreigners; most of them come from Bulgaria, Romania, Nigeria, Cameroon and China. These persons often have no identification papers, are isolated, exploited, and deprived of their elementary rights.

This vulnerable condition is a characteristic of exploitation through prostitution. For the most part, the victims affected are migrants, and/or minorities; mostly women, and more increasingly, minors.

In several European countries, the Roma minority is over represented in the sexual exploitation : 50 to 80% in Bulgaria, up to 70% in some parts of the Czech Republic, about 50% in Romania, at least 60% in Slovakia, and nearly 40% in Hungary². In India, 65% of the prostitutes come from poor social classes, and most often from the lowest "castes"³. In New-Zealand, according to the ministry of justice, most minors who are prostitutes are Maori⁴. In Canada, native women (4% of the female population) represent 16% of the female victims of murders, 11% of the missing women, and according to city authorities, 50 to 70% of the street prostitutes⁵.

In exploiting vulnerable women, prostitution perpetuates a level of inequality between men and women, and violence against women in general. Given this context, can prostitution be considered a "free choice"? Can we still ignore this phenomenon? How do we liberate the voices of the most vulnerable? How far are our societies and public authorities willing to go in order to solve this problem?

We can only attempt to answer these questions with the help of international intervention. These victims' voices will be transmitted through organizations that seek to help prostitutes, movements that combat all sexual and sexist forms of violence, associations that represent discriminated groups, survivors of prostitution, engaged actors, representatives of trade unions, and Parliamentary Members from all over the world.

There is an actual mobilization in favor of the most vulnerable groups today. This movement needs to lead to the abolition of prostitution.

1 - Prostitution: an exploitation of the most vulnerable

The NGO representatives will present the views of the most vulnerable women and girls.

The Association of the Native Women of Canada denounces the over-representation of American Indian women in prostitution and fights for the adoption of abolitionist politics, including the penalization of sex buyers.

The association, Apne Aap (India), renders aide to women of the lowest classes and fights for the abolition of prostitution.

The European Network of Migrant Women raises awareness about the perpetuation of racial bias in the system of prostitution, and campaigns for punishments for the clients of prostitution.

2 - Prostitution: a sexual violence. The voices of the survivors must be heard!

Women who have been prostitutes, "survivors of prostitution," present their experiences about the forms of violence (sexual, physical, psychological, social) they have endured as prostitutes. Today, as activists, they fight for the abolition of prostitution.

Laurence Noëlle and Rosen Hicher, co-founders of the Mouvement des survivantes de la prostitution (France), Mia De Faoite (Ireland), Tanja Rahm (Denmark), Vednita Carter (USA)

3 - Prostitution is not sex work: panel with trade unions

The trade unions' representatives, in charge of the worker's defense and protection, will explain why prostitution cannot be considered a "sex work".

4 - Parliamentary developments: presentation by Members of Parliament

France, Canada, the United Kingdom, Israel, etc... are currently discussing bills which aim at better protecting these populations.

Members of Parliament will present their work in the drafting of legislative texts which represent great progress towards the abolition of prostitution.

1. Maud Olivier (MP), Rapport fait au nom de la Commission spéciale chargée d'examiner la proposition de loi (n°1437), renforçant la lutte contre le système prostitutionnel, French National Assembly, n°1558, November 2013. www.assemblee-nationale.fr/14/rapports/r1558.asp

2. European Roma Rights Centre and people in need (ERRC), Breaking the Silence: Trafficking in Romani Communities, mars 2011.

3. Fondation Scelles, Sexual Exploitation - Prostitution and Organized Crime, Paris, 2012, p. 152 www.fondationscelles.org/pdf/rapport_mondial/sexual_exploitation_prostitution_Fondation_Scelles.pdf

4. ECPAT International, Global Monitoring status of action against commercial sexual exploitation of children - New Zealand, 2nd ed., 2012, p.9.







5. Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women: A National Operational Overview, 2014; "Factum - The Women's Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution - Supreme Court of Canada", June 2013, p.3.

PROGRAM






simultaneously presented in French and English

8.45 Accreditation

9.30 to 10.15 Welcome words

-  **Sarah Benson**, Chair of CAP international interim Board and CEO of Ruhama (Ireland)
-  **Philippe Scelles**, Honorary President Fondation Scelles (France), Vice-President of CAP international interim Board
-  **Claire Quidet**, Vice-President of Mouvement du Nid and Board member of CAP international
-  **Danielle Bousquet**, Chair of the Haut Conseil à l'Égalité entre les femmes et les hommes (France)
-  **Catherine Coutelle**, Chair of the Women's rights delegation of the Assemblée Nationale (France)
-  **Pascale Boistard**, Minister of State for Women's rights, attached to the Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights (France)

10.15 to 11.30 Prostitution is an exploitation of the most vulnerable groups (Beijing +





-  **Chair: Ruchira Gupta**, President of Apne Aap (India) and Board member of CAP international
-  **Anna Zobnina**, Chair of the European Network of Migrant Women (Cyprus)
-  **Michèle Taïna Audette**, Chair of the Native's Women Association of Canada (Canada)
-  **Fatima Khatoun**, Survivor leader from the Nat semi-nomadic community- Apne aap (India)
-  **Discussant : Pierrette Pape**, Policy Officer and project coordinator at European Women's Lobby

11.45 to 1pm Prostitution is a sexual violence : survivors of prostitution have the floor !

-  **Chair : Claire Quidet**, Vice-President of Mouvement du Nid and Board member of CAP international
-  **Rosen Hicher** and **Laurence Noëlle** : Representatives of Survivors' Movement (France)
-  **Mia De Faoite** : Survivor of prostitution, activist and philosophy student (Ireland)
-  **Vednita Carter** : Chair of Breaking Free, board member of CATW (USA)
-  **Tanja Rahm** : Survivor of prostitution, author (Denmark)
-  **Discussant : Taina Bien-Aimé**, Executive Director of Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

LUNCH BREAK

2.30pm to 3.45pm Prostitution is not a sex work : panel with trade unions

-  **Chair : Yves Charpenel**, President of Fondation Scelles, Deputy General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of France
-  **Véronique De Sève**, Vice-President of the executive committee of CSN (Canada)
-  **Edward Mathews**, Director of Regulation and Social Policy at INMO (Ireland)
-  **Sabine Reynosa**, Representative of the Women's committee of CGT (France)

4pm to 5.30pm Parliamentary developments : presentation by Members of Parliaments

-  **Chair : Diane Matte**, Coordinator of CLES (Canada), Board member of CAP international
-  **Maud Olivier** : MP, Rapporteur of the Bill « reinforcing the fight against prostitution » (France)
-  **Gavin Shuker** : MP, Chairman of the all-party group on prostitution (United Kingdom)
-  **Ivana Bacik** : Senator, Mb of the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality (Ireland)
-  **Maria Mourani** : MP from Ahuntsic (Canada)
-  **Zehava Gal-On** : MP, Chair of Meretz, author of a Bill « targeting the demand » (Israël) TBC
-  **Jose Mendes Bota** : MEP, Rapporteur on « sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on gender

-  **Conclusion** : Jacques HAMON, President of Mouvement du Nid, Journalist

Speakers



AUDETTE Michèle Taina

President of the Native's Women Association of Canada (NWAC/AFAC)
President of the Quebec Native Women Inc. until 2004.
Associate MP Minister responsible for the Status of Women Secretariat in the Government of Quebec (2004-2008)
Quebec YWCA's Femme de mérite award in the Community involvement category in 2004.

@NWAC_CA

nwac.ca

[Native-Womens-Association-of-Canada-NWAC](https://www.facebook.com/Native-Womens-Association-of-Canada-NWAC)



BACIK Ivana

Irish Labour Party Senator for the University of Dublin constituency of Seanad Éireann in July 2007 (Ireland)
Barrister, Reid Professor of Criminal Law, Criminology and Penology at Trinity College Dublin since 1996

@ivanabacik

ivanabacik.com

[bacikivana](https://www.facebook.com/bacikivana)



BIEN-AIMÉ Taina

Executive Director of Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW)
Former Executive Director of Women's City Club of New York (WCC)
Founding Board member and former Executive Director (2000-2011) of Equality Now

J.D. from NYU School of Law and a Licence in Political Science from the University of Geneva/Graduate School of International Studies in Switzerland

@tainabienaime

catwinternational.org

@CATWIntl

[CATWINTL](https://www.facebook.com/CATWINTL)



BENSON Sarah

Chair of CAP international interim Board
Chief Executive Officer of Ruhama (Ireland)

@RuhamaAgency

ruhama.ie

[RuhamaIreland](https://www.facebook.com/RuhamaIreland)



BOISTARD Pascale

Minister of State for Women's Rights, attached to the Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Women's Rights (France)
MP of the National Assembly of France until september 2014.

@PascaleBoistard

pascale-boistard.fr

[PascaleBoistard](https://www.facebook.com/PascaleBoistard)



BOUSQUET Danièle

President of the High Council for Equality of women and men – HCEfh (France)
MP of the National Assembly of France, until 2012
Vice-President of the Delegation of women's rights and equal opportunities for men and women - National Assembly, until 2012

President (2010-2011) for the Parliamentary Mission on prostitution in France (report n.3334 – 13 April 2011).

Co-author of a resolution reaffirming the abolitionist position of France on prostitution, adopted December 6, 2011 (n.3522)

@dabousquet

haut-conseil-egalite.gouv.fr

@HCEfh



CARTER Vednita

Founder/Executive of Breaking Free Abolitionist/Survivor
CATW Board Member
CNN Hero 2014, Top 10 Global WOLF Connector Award 2014, Shared Hope International Pathbreaker Award 2013

« Prostitution has been known as the oldest profession. I know... that it's the oldest oppression »

(CNN Hero – 13 March 2014 - <http://www.youtube.com>)

@VednitaCarter

catwinternational.org

@CATWIntl



CHARPENEL Yves

President of Fondation Scelles
MP General Prosecutor of the Supreme Court of France
Vice-President of Equipes d'Action Contre le Proxénétisme (EACP)

@Fond_Scelles

fondationscelles.org

[fondation-scelles](https://www.facebook.com/fondation-scelles)



COUTELLE Catherine

MP of the National Assembly of France.
President of the Delegation of women's rights and equal opportunities for men and women - National Assembly
Vice-President of the Special Commission of a bill
« reinforcing the fight against prostitution »

@ccoutelle

catherinercoutelle.fr

catherinercoutelle



DE FAOITE Mia

Activist, survivor of prostitution, student of Philosophy at Maynooth University (Ireland)
« My life began to fall apart in the spring of 2003, and I lost it all. My home, my car, my job, my family, my friends, and, worst of all, myself. Although I will never deny where narcotics and prostitution brought me, I refuse to let them define who I am today, because if they define me, they become me and they are not all I am, for I am now what I actually can choose to become ». survivingprostitution.wordpress.com

@miadefaoite

Ruhamalreland

@RuhamaAgency

ruhama.ie



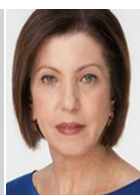
DE SÈVE Véronique

Canadian Confederation of National Trade Unions (Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux – CSN)
Vice-president to the CSN Executive Board for Women

« CSN wants to encourage reflection about sexual exploitation of women, to denounce the trivialization of the phenomenon in order to generate awareness likely to change attitudes about the harsh social reality of prostitution » (brochure « La prostitution », CSN, mai 2014, <http://www.csn.qc.ca/web/condition-feminine/accueil>)

@verodeseve

csn.qc.ca



GAL-ON Zehava

Member of Knesset for Meretz, Chairperson of the Meretz Party - Founder and Chair of Knesset Parliamentary Inquiry Committee on the Trafficking of Women - Co-Founder and former Executive Director of B'Tselem - Executive Director of the Tel-Aviv-based International Center for Peace in the Middle East - First signatory of a abolitionist bill proposed by Members of Knesset - National Council of Jewish Women's Prize for Advocacy of women's rights and promotion of gender equality - President and Prime Minister of Israel Award for work on human rights and the prevention of sex trafficking - Ometz Award for social justice and women's rights [2012] - Knights of Quality Government award from the Movement for Quality Government in Israel [2014]

@zehavagalon



GUPTA Ruchira

Board Member of CAP international - President of Apne Aap (Inde) - Journalist, worked in the United Nations in various capacities for over ten years in Nepal, Thailand, Philippines, Kosovo, USA, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia and Iran - Emmy Award [1997] for 'outstanding investigative journalism' for her documentary, 'The Selling of Innocents', on the trafficking of women and children from the villages of Nepal to the brothels of Mumbai - Felicitated at the White House (2000) for her work to combat trafficking after the US Bill became an Act - Abolitionist Award [2007] to honour Heroes in the Fight Against Modern Slavery - Clinton Global Citizen Award [2009], New York for her relentless efforts to end human trafficking and gender based violence.

@Ruchiragupta

apneaap.org

@apneaap

apneaap



HAMON Jacques

President of Mouvement du Nid (France)
Journalist, Former Chief redactor of quarterly review
« Prostitution et Société »

@mouvementdunid

mouvementdunid.org

Mouvement-du-Nid-France



HICHER Rosen

Representative of Survivors' Movement (France)
Member of Space International
Initiator of a « March for the abolition of prostitution » - 743 kms (461 miles) from Saintes to Paris.

« Had there been a law at the time prohibiting the purchase of sexual services, my 22 years as a prostitute would not have existed: 22 years of waste which I won't be able to make up for... »

@hicherrosen

marchepourlabolition.wordpress.com

rosen.hicher

Marche.Abolition



KHATOON Fatima

Survivor of prostitution
Member and Leader of the Apne Aap Girls' program in Uttari Rampur red light area (Bihar - India)

« ...The girls and women in the red light areas do not want to sell their bodies, it is these men who buy their bodies that makes this trade thrive today and continues to ruin the lives of women like us »

(I will continue my fight - <http://www.onebillionrising.org/rlarindi-amessages-from-survivor-leaders/>)

@apneaap

apneaap.org

apneaap



MATHEWS Edward

Director of regulation and social policy – INMO (Ireland)

« *We believe it is unacceptable for someone to buy another's body for sexual gratification, exploiting the poverty, past history of abuse, or limited life choices of the person being bought* ».

(Social Policy - Prostitution – target the real criminals, <http://www.inmo.ie/MagazineArticle/PrintArticle/10204>)

@EddieMathews

[inmo.ie](http://www.inmo.ie)



MATTE Diane

CLES Coordinator and (Canada) and Board member of CAP international

@_LaCLES

[lacles.org](http://www.lacles.org)

CLES-Concertation-des-luttres-contre-exploitation-sexuelle



MENDES BOTA José

Member of the Portuguese Parliament (Partido Social Democrata - PSD) - Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe - General Rapporteur on violence against women of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination - Political coordinator of the Parliamentary Network

“Women Free from Violence” - Rapporteur on: “Prostitution, trafficking and modern slavery in Europe” (doc. 13446, 20 March 2014), “Violence against women in Europe” (doc. 1334, 31 October 2013), “Promoting best practices in tackling violence against women” (in preparation)

[mendesbota.com](http://www.mendesbota.com)



MOURANI Maria

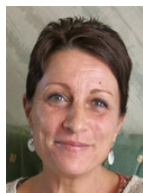
Independent Member of Parliament for Ahuntsic, Quebec, Canada
Sociologist, criminologist, expert in street gangs and organized crime

Author of « *La face cachée des gangs de rue* » (2006)

and « *Gangs de rue inc. : leurs réseaux au Canada et dans les Amériques* » (2009), Editions de l'Homme.

[maria.mourani](https://www.facebook.com/maria.mourani)

[mariamourani.org](http://www.mariamourani.org)



NOËLLE Laurence

Representatives of Survivors' Movement (France)
Consultant, speaker and trainer specialized in the development of behavioural and interpersonal skills, in the prevention of all forms of violence.

Member of Space International

Author of « *Renaître de ses hontes* », Le Passeur Eds,

France, 2013

« *Today, I consider myself a resilient prostitute. Because I was able to turn this life experience into a power. I want to combat so that society might change perceptions of those who are still despised, rejected, charged with all evils; so that in the end they can speak shamelessly and live in dignity* ».



OLIVIER Maud

MP of the National Assembly of France
Member of the Delegation of women's rights and equal opportunities for men and women - National Assembly

Rapporteur of the Delegation of women's rights and

equal opportunities for men and women - National Assembly
Author of « *prostitution : protéger les victimes et responsabiliser la société* », September 2013

@OlivierMaud

[maud-olivier.fr](http://www.maud-olivier.fr)

[maud.olivier](https://www.facebook.com/maud.olivier)



PAPE Pierrette

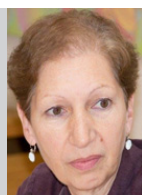
Policy Officer and Project Coordinator of European Women's Lobby – EWL (Brussels)
President of Isala (Belgium)

@PierrettePape

[European-Womens-Lobby](https://www.facebook.com/European-Womens-Lobby)

@EuropeanWomen

[womenlobby.org](http://www.womenlobby.org)



QUIDET Claire

Board member of CAP international
Vice-President of Mouvement du Nid (France)
Human resources manager for France Télévisions

@mouvementdunid

[mouvementdunid.org](http://www.mouvementdunid.org)

[Mouvement-du-Nid-France](https://www.facebook.com/Mouvement-du-Nid-France)



RAHM Tanja

Danish therapist, author and survivor of prostitution
Member of Space International - In 2014, she got a degree in social education at University College Zealand (Denmark) - Author of an open letter « for those who buy sex » (Til dig der køber sex) – January 3, 2014

« ...in fact, you never told me what you thought I would hear. Instead, you said what you needed to hear. What helped to confirm your illusion, and that meant that you did not have to decide why I wonder could have ended there, at the age of 20 years. Basically, you were indifferent. For you only had one goal and that was to prove your power by being able to pay you from using my body as it suited you ».

@TanjaRahm

Tanja-Rahm

tanjarahm.dk



REYNOSA Sabine

Commission on Women CGT (France)

« For CGT, prostitution is one of the most violent expressions of male domination, and cannot be considered, nor as a profession or as a "service offering" »

(CGT, Montreuil, 6 novembre 2013, <http://www.ulcgt11.fr/spip.php?article3751>)

cgt.fr/-Egalite-Femmes-Hommes-.html



SCELLES Philippe

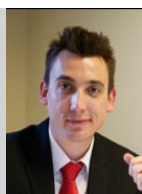
General Secretary of CAP international interim Board
Honorary President of Fondation Scelles (France) -
Vice-President of Equipes d'Action Contre le Proxénétisme (EACP)

@Fond_Scelles

fondation-scelles

@SCELLES1

fondationscelles.org



SHUKER Gavin

Labour MP for Luton South (UK)

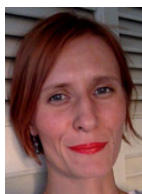
Chair of an all-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on
Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade

APPG's Report « *Shifting the Burden: An Inquiry to assess the operation of current legal settlement on prostitution in England and Wales* » published in march 2014.

@ShukerOffice

gavinshuker.org

gavinshukermp



ZOBINA Anna

Chair of the European Network of Migrant Women (ENoMW)

Research Analyst of Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies – MIGS (Cyprus)

@MigsCy

medinstgenderstudies.org

medinstgenderstudies

Press Contact

Grégoire Théry, Executive Director of CAP international
contact.capinternational@gmail.com
Cell : +32 496 21 64 66

Yves Charpenel, President of Fondation Scelles
y.charpenel@gmail.com
Cell : +33 6 64 24 44 52

Juliette Quidet-Marty, Press liaison for Mouvement du Nid
presse@mouvementdunid.org
Cell : +33 6 41 83 42 14