

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) Sex Workers:

Hands-On Safe Sex Health Promotion Experts

Caroline de Castro

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RICHARD GERE JULIA ROBERTS



PRETTY WOMAN

ROBERT et RAYMOND HAKIM —

Catherine Deneuve
Jean Sorel
Michel Piccoli



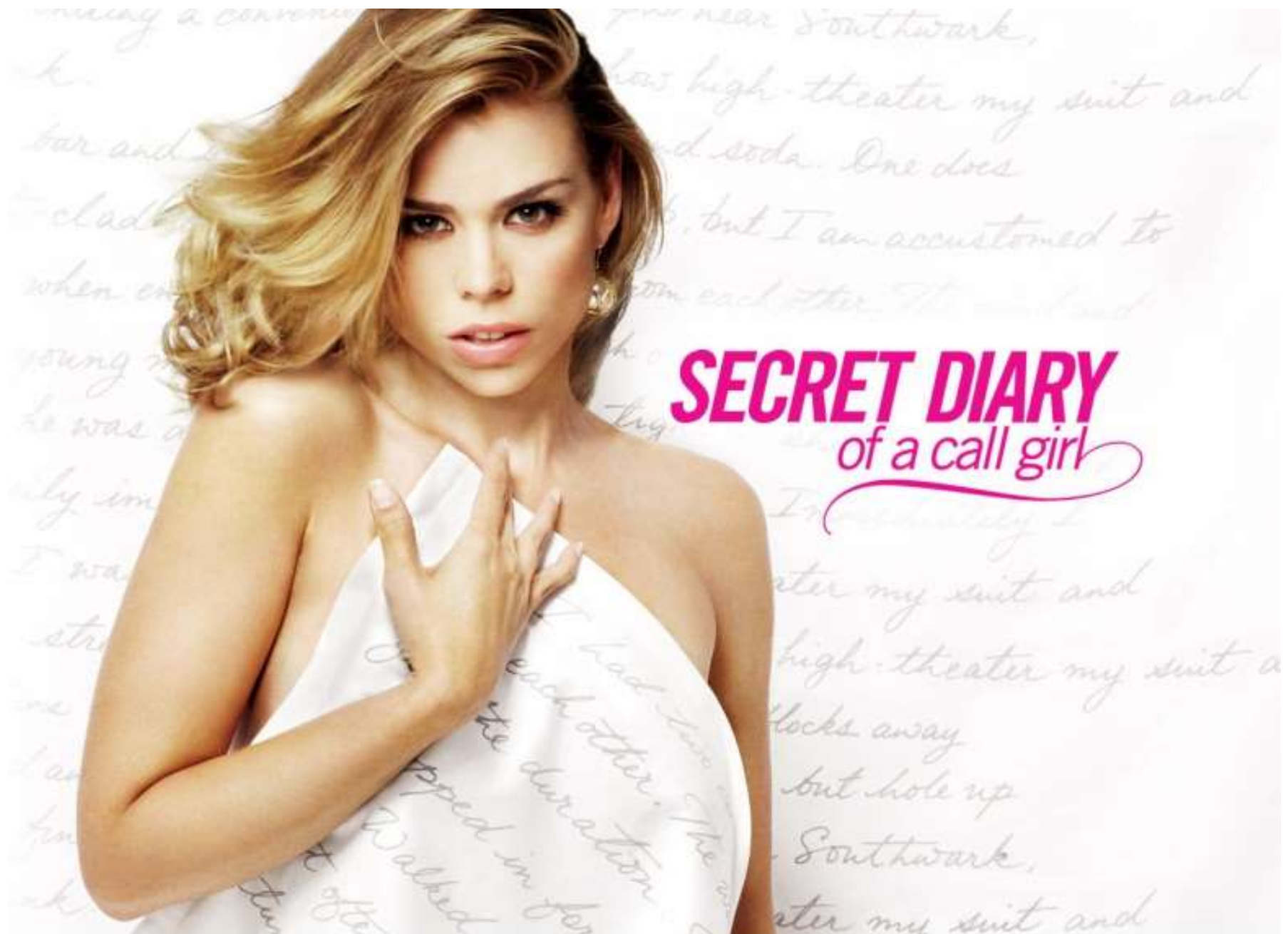
un film de
Luis Bunuel

BELLE DE JOUR

— d'après le roman de
JOSEPH KESSEL
—

— GENEVIÈVE PAGE • PIERRE CLÉMENTI • FRANCISCO RABAL





SECRET DIARY
of a call girl

Hollywood and the media portray sex workers as

Victims

Vectors of disease

Drug addicted

Trafficked

Amoral

White trash

No other options

Dirty

Street-based

Uneducated

What's wrong with this picture?

- Racist
- Sexist
- Bad science
- Emotive
- Moralising
- Political

WE'RE FOR SYDNEY

theTelegraph

Long-grassers: Indigenous women trade sex for food and cigarettes

By Paul Toohey News Limited Network May 06, 2013 12:26PM



Picture: Daniel Hartley-allen Source: news.com.au

The Sydney Morning Herald

National

Truth, lies and suspicion in the sex-slave trade

August 12, 2012

Maris Beck



Despite prosecutors dropping sex trafficking charges against Mao Ru Zhang, she still faces suspicion. *Photo: Angela Wylie*

INSPIRED BY A
TRUE STORY

THE CLIENT LIST

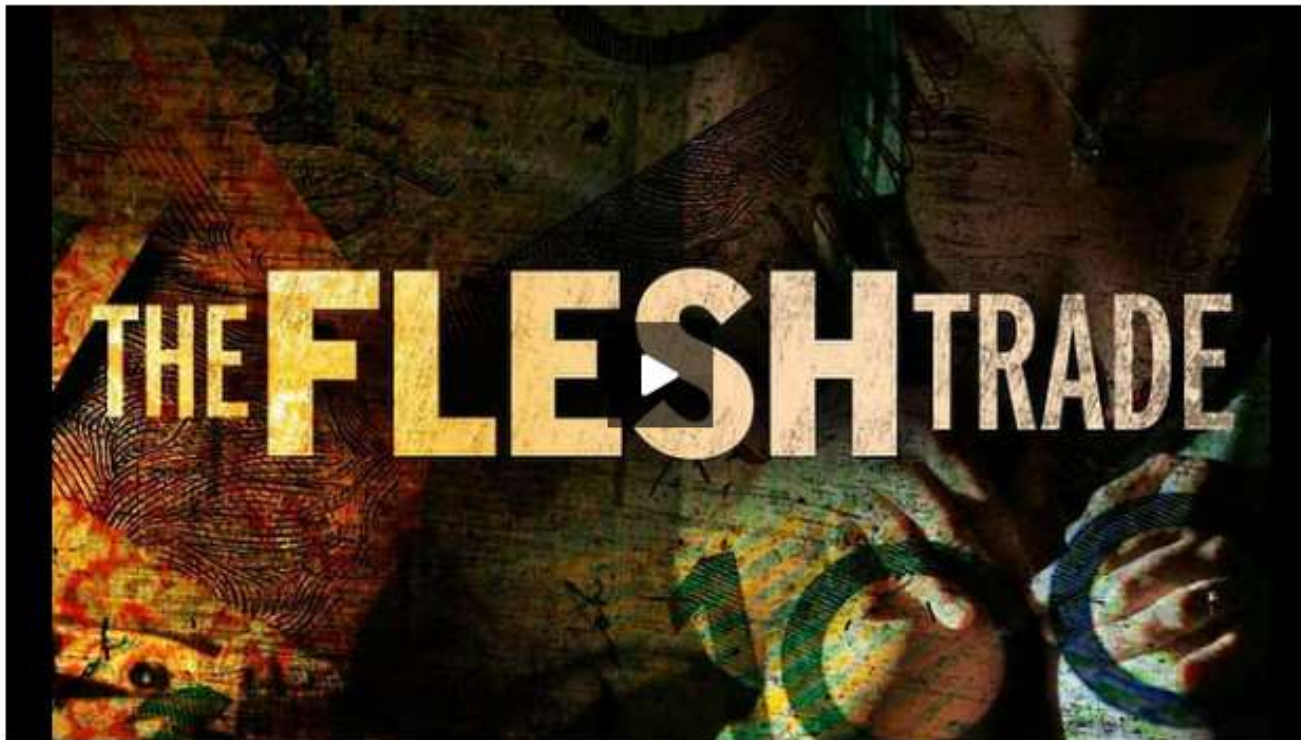
A MOTHER
WILL DO ANYTHING
FOR HER FAMILY.



Legal brothels' sex slavery links

October 10, 2011

Nick McKenzie and Maris Beck



Autoplay ON OFF [Video feedback](#) [Video settings](#)

Flesh Trade - The brothels of Melbourne

Reporter Nick McKenzie highlights some of the brothels implicated in sex trafficking across Melbourne.

More than 500 Sydney prostitutes are offering unprotected sex to clients in brothels

Exclusive by Nick Tabakoff The Daily Telegraph January 10, 2012 12:00AM [29](#)
[comments](#)



Girls at the legal brothel 'Liasions' in Edgecliff. Pic. Kristi Miller Source: The Daily Telegraph



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U.S. Laws on Trafficking in Persons

The Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-386), the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 (H.R. 2620), the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (H.R. 972), and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (H.R. 7311) provide the tools to combat trafficking in persons both worldwide and domestically. The Acts authorized the establishment of G/TIP and the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons to assist in the coordination of anti-trafficking efforts.

-01/01/08 [William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008](#)

-01/10/06 [Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005](#)

-01/07/03 [Prosecutorial Remedies and Other Tools To End the Exploitation of Children Today Act of 2003 \(PROTECT Act\)](#)

-01/07/03 [Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003](#)

Stay C...



Country P...

Select a C...

Sex workers say

- Have a critical approach to representations of sex workers
- Listen to us. We are the key stakeholders and experts about our own lives and policies that affect us
- Public policy based on evidence, not media spectacle or sexual moralising
- Evidence that is based in social health (example to follow)

Snapshot of the sex industry in NSW

- Sex work decriminalised in NSW since 1995 for Australian-born and migrant sex workers
- Sex Services Premises (SSPs) operate as legitimate business in every local government area in NSW
- Police are no longer the key regulator - local councils, WorkCover, NSW Health in partnership with SWOP
- Decriminalisation means sex worker organisations can receive government funding
- SWOP funded in response to the HIV epidemic in 1990

Decrim = better health outcomes



- LASH Report 2012
- “ Better health outcomes for sex workers are typically reported from decriminalised systems such as the Netherlands, Germany and NSW”
- “The NSW decriminalisation model has been commended by international authorities as best practice”

Donovan, B., Harcourt, C., et al., (2012). *The Sex Industry in New South Wales: a Report to the NSW Ministry of Health*. Sydney: Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales.
[http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechrweb.nsf/resource/s/SHPReport/\\$file/NSWSexIndustryReportV4.pdf](http://www.med.unsw.edu.au/nchechrweb.nsf/resource/s/SHPReport/$file/NSWSexIndustryReportV4.pdf)

Decrim = better health outcomes



- "SWOP has developed strong collaborative partnerships with other health services"
- "over time the organisation became widely acceptable to sex workers and owners in the sex industry"
- "STI prevalence at least as low as the general population"
- "These low levels of STIs have been maintained over the last decade"
- "still no documented case of a female sex worker in Australia acquiring or transmitting HIV infection at work"
- "HIV in female sex workers remains rare in Australia"

What does SWOP do?

- Peer education
- Workplace outreach to ~750 SSP throughout NSW
- 11 person outreach team reflects industry diversity
- 2011-2012 SWOP provided 8,350 Occasions Of Service (OOS) to people connected to the sex industry
- ~5,000 OOS to sex workers including online engagement
- Over 2,000 of those were with CALD sex workers in 244 CALD parlours
- Drop-in
- Counselling
- Support/referral/information
- Community development
 - Workshops
 - Events
 - Social media
- Advocacy
- Resources

'Sex trafficking' is rare

- Coercion and exploitation of anyone is abhorrent
- Sex work without the worker's consent is a crime
- Global evidence of sex trafficking
- But little evidence of it in Australia – extremely rare cases: 2 people found to be coerced into non-consensual sex work in the last 5 years
- Let's not lose perspective
- "The LASH team found **no evidence of recent trafficking** of female sex workers in the Sydney brothel survey"

SWOP's CALD outreach

- About 50% of the sex industry is CALD
- This % is increasing
- SWOP's model of targeted CALD peer education has been a success
- **CALD sex workers now lead the way teaching hands-on safe sex education to their clients**
- Their success is recognised in National HIV Strategy names CALD sex workers

[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-national-strategies-2010-hiv/\\$File/hiv.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-national-strategies-2010-hiv/$File/hiv.pdf)

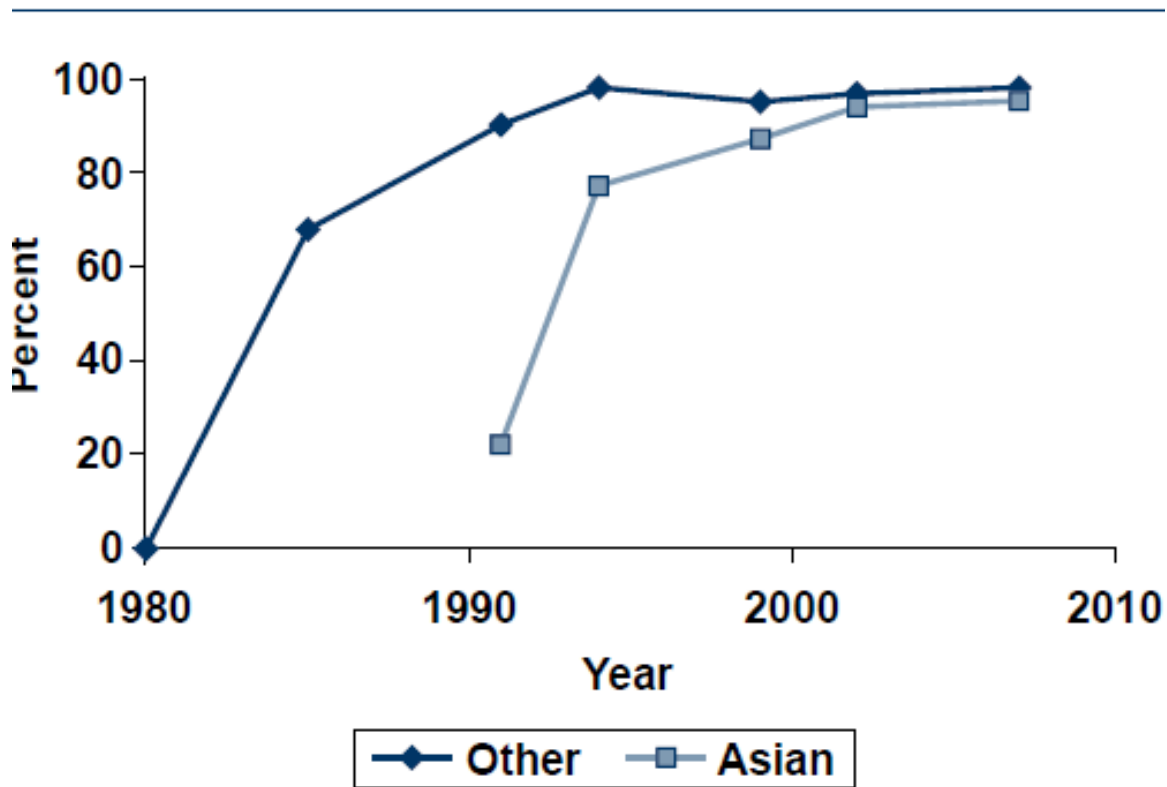


Figure 1. The proportion of Asian and non-Asian brothel-based sex workers in Sydney that reported condom use for vaginal or anal sex with all clients, 1980 - 2007. (Source Donovan et al., 2010a)



2008 media showing police raid of a workplace.

They found no trafficking victims, only workers with valid visas.

Migrant sex workers say

- Migrant women make a clear decision to leave home and take their chances overseas
- We are NOT trafficked victims, but respected by our families as breadwinners
- Migrant sex workers trust SWOP peer educators who have the same cultural and sex work background

Conclusion

- SWOP's approach is working and must be maintained
- BUT high turnover means our efforts must be maintained or increased:
 - + more CALD specific resources targeting new-to-industry sex workers
 - + more peer-to-peer education from SWOP outreach workers
 - + maintain partnerships with other health services

Thank you 😊

Caroline de Castro
Na Mon Cheung