



Sex Workers Project

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Use Through:

10 a.m. EST, January 9, 2009

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**NEW REPORT FINDS THAT RAIDS ARE NOT AN EFFECTIVE TOOL IN
COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

Women who have been forced into sex work are not helped and may even be harmed by well-intentioned "rescue" raids on brothels, a new study of such women has found. The Sex Workers Project, a New York-based advocacy group working to end human trafficking, will hold an audio press conference on the report, *Kicking Down the Door: The Use of Raids to Combat Trafficking in Persons*, and its findings at 10 a.m. EST on Friday, January 9.

Dr. Melissa Ditmore, the report's primary investigator, said efforts to curb human trafficking should instead focus on community-based initiatives led by individuals familiar with areas rife with trafficking, including domestic help, agricultural labor and service work, as well as sex work.

AUDIO PRESS CONFERENCE REPORT RELEASE

10 a.m. EST

Friday, January 9

Toll free number: (877) 857-6176 – Password: Sex Worker

To reserve a line, please call Nicole Tidwell: (202) 326-8710

Participants in the audio press conference will include:

- **Dr. Melissa Ditmore**, principal investigator and author, *Kicking Down the Door: The Use of Raids to Combat Trafficking in Persons*
- **Andrea Ritchie**, Director, Sex Workers Project
- **Kelli Dorsey**, Director, Different Avenues
- **Cyndee Clay**, Director, HIPS

Using human rights and harm reduction approaches, the Sex Workers Project (SWP) works to protect and promote the rights of individuals who by choice, circumstance, or coercion engage in sex work. In addition to providing direct legal services to individual clients in criminal legal, immigration, and police misconduct matters, SWP engages in policy advocacy at the local, state, federal and international levels aimed at securing systemic change grounded in the experiences and concerns of our constituencies.

For an advance embargoed report, contact Nicole Tidwell,
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