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Ending Violence Against Women and Children AUGUST 2010 BULLETIN

We hope you've all had a rejuvenating summer and are gearing up for a new club year with FAWCO. As task force co-chairs, we aim to bring you up-to-date information about gender-based violence and the women and children affected by it every day. We hope to inspire you to join the fight!

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New EVAWAC Newsletter Format

Dear Kathleen,

You may notice that our most recent newsletters are a bit longer and are filled with a lot more diverse content. We understand that this is a lot to take in at once and that your time is important, but so are the issues surrounding violence against women and children.

There is no way to simply cram all of this information into quick sentences or short blurbs, but we hope that by providing a table of contents with links to specific articles, we are making it easier to read those articles that are of the most interest to you. We also want to make the newsletters a bit more fun and interactive so we welcome any suggestions on how to keep it interesting for our readers.

With that in mind, we would like your feedback on this new format as well as any feedback on particular articles or topics that you would like to see highlighted.

In the meantime, we hope you enjoy looking around and, hopefully, everyone will find something that inspires them to make a change no matter where you are!

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AODVC News

AODVC and FAWCO are continuing to collaborate on the Global Campaign to Empower Americans Abused Abroad.

Upcoming information sessions and ambassador trainings:

Sydney, Australia: Aug 28

Melbourne: Sept. 4

Mumbai, India: Sept. 15

Delhi, India: Sept. 18

[Click here for more
information.](#)

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International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its' Abolition

23 August 2010 -- The night of 22 to 23 August 1791, in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) saw the beginning of the uprising that would play a crucial role in the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade.



*Slavery Monument Zanzibar
Tanzania*

The **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition** is intended to inscribe the tragedy of the transatlantic slave trade in the memory of all peoples. Bringing to light all aspects of slavery is essential to constructing an overall dispassionate vision of this tragedy.

UNESCO's [Slave Route project](#) endeavors to promote such research that helps to explain, understand and reconstruct the threads of sometimes conflicting narratives and fill the silences of the past.

Before we can begin to understand what is happening in our world today, we must have a full understanding of what occurred in the past. It's not easy, but imagine if it were your life, or the life of someone you loved . . . you would want someone to take it seriously, wouldn't you?

Take a virtual visit of [Gorée Island](#), or check out the [Slave Trade Archives](#) and educate yourself. We are supposed to learn from our mistakes of the past, but present life shows that we may not have learned all we need to. [Get educated](#) and then, take action!

What do you know about W.E.D.?

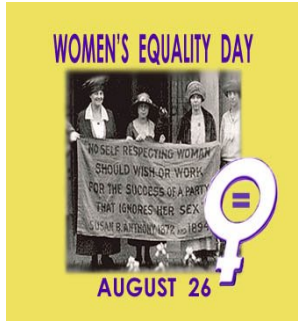


The US should change the laws that allow children to be arrested and prosecuted when they are victims of sex trafficking. Instead of arrest they should be offered support and protection as they are in New York and Washington states. (see "[Child prostitutes in the US, victims or criminals in this issue](#)")

A "**SAFE HARBOR**" law can:

Protect and prevent any person under the age of 18 from being charged, prosecuted or incarcerated for prostitution.

Refer exploited children to special services and



"No self-respecting woman should wish or work for the success of a party that ignores her sex."

On August 26th, 2010, Women's Equality Day (WED) is marking its 39th "birthday" of sorts, and we want to know, how much do you know about the commemorative day?

Take this quick quiz and test your knowledge on the plight of women who have fought for equality. *(the answers are at the bottom of the newsletter but try to answer them without looking to see how much you really know!)*

1. August 26th is celebrated as Women's Equality Day to commemorate

- a. the work women did during the Second World War
- b. the anniversary of women winning the right to vote
- c. the flappers of the 1920's
- d. the contemporary women's rights movement

2. In what year did Congresswoman Bella Abzug introduce legislation to ensure that this important American anniversary would be celebrated?

- a. 1992
- b. 1984
- c. 1971
- d. 1965

3. In what year did women in the United States win the right to vote?

- a. 1776
- b. 1848
- c. 1920
- d. 1946

4. How many years did it take for women to win the right to vote in the United States?

shelters that will support their recovery.

Require the training of law enforcement, judges and first responders.



Click sign to go to petition

- a. 72 years
- b. 120 years
- c. 20 years
- d. 51 years

5. Women in most of the western states won the right to vote years before the Federal Amendment was secured. 2010 is the 100th anniversary of women in Washington State winning the vote. California will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women winning the vote in 2011. Oregon will celebrate the 100th anniversary in 2012. What other state will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women in this state winning the right to vote in 2012?

- a. New York
- b. Florida
- c. Maine
- d. Arizona

6. What was the name given to the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which guaranteed women's right to vote in the United States.

- a. Abigail Adams Amendment
- b. Sojourner Truth Amendment
- c. Susan B. Anthony Amendment
- d. Gloria Steinem Amendment

7. Women who worked for women's right to vote were called?

- a. radical
- b. immoral
- c. suffragist
- d. all of the above

8. The term suffragist is derived from

- a. one who suffers
- b. a voting tablet in ancient times
- c. the Constitution
- d. the Bill of Rights

9. How many other countries had already guaranteed women's right to vote before the campaign was won in the United States?

- a. 6
- b. 2

- c. 1
- d. 16

10. What was the first country that granted women the right to vote?

- a. Canada
- b. Germany
- c. New Zealand
- d. United Kingdom

In looking at the questions, it seems surreal to think that there was a time when women were not considered equal and that we needed to fight for basic rights.

Virginia Slims had their slogan right "We've Come a Long Way Baby" but we still have so much further to go.

So, on this commemorative day, do something special to recognize those women who have stood strong and fought hard for us to have the opportunities we have today. Do something special to commemorate those special women in your lives (yourselves included) who are working just as hard for our future generation of young women to have even more opportunities.

A few ways you can get involved are:

1. Host a Women's Equality Day gathering in your home, a friends house or an informal get-together to gain knowledge of the significance of the 19th Amendment and discuss what you can do to make it better. ([see materials here](#))
2. Read up on the history and significance of Women's Equality Day at The National Women's History Project, [Clarissa's Box](#), [National Women's History Museum](#), or [The Women's Collective](#).
3. Make a donation to an organization that is working tirelessly to improve the lives of women and girls throughout the world (e.g., [Women for Women](#), [Equality Now](#), or [Vital Voices](#)). While these are just a few of the many organizations that are working to ensure equality for women and girls, there are many more out there that need help. They are just a Google search away!

Whatever you do, just remember that even though this is only one day that recognizes the plight of women around the world, we celebrate Women's Equality **EVERY** Day!!!

Go forth and conquer.

Tonya Teichert

Ending Violence Against Women and Children Task Force Co-Chair

Child prostitutes in the U.S.A. ... victims or criminals?

Depending on your perspective, your first inclination will fall more strongly on one side or another of this question. As a pediatrician deeply concerned about the rights of minors and violence against women and children, I see the vast majority of child prostitutes in the U.S. as vulnerable young women driven by circumstance, with few options, who have usually trusted others who have then taken advantage of them.

Living in Texas after many years in Amsterdam, I sometimes find that I don't agree with decisions of legislators and judiciaries in the state government, but I was glad to see that the Texas Supreme Court released an opinion in June declaring that a 13-year-old girl cannot be charged with prostitution. The court reasoned that if a 13-year-old child cannot legally consent to sexual activity, then that same child cannot consent to selling it. The idea that prostituted children are victims and not criminals is the strong message contained in the opinion.

In the case at hand, the girl offered oral sex to an undercover vice cop for \$20 and was subsequently arrested and charged as an adult. Upon discovering the girl's true age through a background check, the District Attorney's Office transferred her case from the adult criminal system into juvenile court. Within the juvenile system, the girl pled "true" to the prostitution charges and was sentenced to 18 months of probation for Class B misdemeanor prostitution. The girl decided to appeal.

The 13-year-old told her story to a county psychologist. She had experienced both physical and sexual abuse, and had a history of untreated substance abuse. The girl had been living with her "boyfriend" of 32 since she was 11 years old. The psychologist found her to be "emotionally impoverished, discouraged and dependent."

The Texas Legislature has established that children under 10 cannot legally commit crimes. Criminal law treats 17-year-olds as adults. The Texas juvenile system deals only with those individuals between

the ages of 10 and 17. Courts have broad discretion in handling the cases; individuals may receive mandated counseling or could even be incarcerated in youth facilities.

Holding that the Legislature has already determined that children under the age of 14 cannot legally consent to sex, the Texas Supreme Court adds that those under 14 are exempt from prostitution laws. "Because (the defendant) cannot consent to sex as a matter of law, we conclude (she) cannot be prosecuted as a prostitute," Judge O'Neill wrote. The Court goes on to discuss that the Legislature has long recognized children's vulnerability and drafted laws for their protection. When the Court examines this case under that protective lens, it states that it is impossible "to find that children under fourteen understand the nature and consequences of their conduct when they agree to commit a sex act for money, or to consider children quasi-criminal offenders guilty of an act that necessarily involves their own sexual exploitation."

Though this seems to be a step in the right direction, it also begs the question why the girl's 32 year-old "pimp" was not prosecuted. Other equally concerning questions arise around the appropriate rehabilitation for such a girl, who will soon reach the age where she can be prosecuted as an adult.

Excerpted from [Stopvaw.org article: USA "Texas Supreme Court Declares Child "Prostitutes" Victims, Not Criminals,"](#) which was compiled from: When the Victim is the "Criminal," The Houston Chronicle (23 June 2010), Court Rules Child Prostitutes are Victims, Not Criminals, ABC News (23 June 2010).

FAWCO Club Spotlight: AWCA

This is the first in a series of articles in which we aim to share philanthropic and advocacy efforts of different FAWCO clubs around the world in the area of gender-based violence. We hope that you will be inspired by the work of other clubs and willing to tell us about your club's efforts as well!

Carol Tarr Tsaltas, incoming President and former Philanthropy Chair for the AWCA (Amsterdam), shared the following about her club's work:

- 1) What is the club's current involvement with any**

women's shelters? How long has your club been involved with these organizations? How do you support them?

For several years, our club has had a relationship with a local collaborative of womens' shelters, the *Blijfgroep*. Initially we were able to do a large annual fundraiser for them, but in recent years, we've come to realize that this is not possible under Dutch tax laws. However, we've gotten quite good with giving donations in kind. At our annual June Luncheon, we collected several sacks of children's clothing (new and used), strollers, car seats and other items from members and donated them to the Blijfgroep's crisis center. I'd received an email from our contact there just one week before the luncheon, requesting children's clothes as they suddenly had a lot of children in the shelter and very little clothing in appropriate sizes for them, specifically for boys ages 6 through 10. Our club president kindly wrote a special communique about our collection and the items poured in. We also participated in the creation of a workbook for children who've experienced or witnessed domestic violence. The photographer was an AWCA member, and we found them a graphic artist and a children's book illustrator through the wider expat network as well. My children were also models for the book as they were looking for a children of varying ethnicity's for the photo. The shelter is very happy with the prototype and is now seeking funds of donations in kind for publishing.

2) How does your club offer resources and support to club members who might be suffering from domestic violence?

We have a Support Committee, created about 5 years ago, which is a confidential resource designed to facilitate members helping eachother in times of need. Information about this committee is in every issue of our Tulip Talk bulletin, and members can contact the Support Chair directly, who then provides appropriate resources, and/or mobilizes other club members to help out, such as in the case of visiting members in the hospital or bringing meals to families with newborn babies.

3) Is your club aware of AODVC (Americans Overseas Domestic Violence Crisis Center)? Is information about this resources available to your club members?

Yes. We provide information about AODVC on our website and in every issue of our monthly club bulletin. AODVC offered an information session and ambassador training program last October,

**Women's Equality Day
Quiz Answers:**

1. b
2. c
3. c
4. a
(from the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848 to 1920)
5. d
6. c
7. d
8. b
9. d
(New Zealand (1893), Australia (1902), Finland (1906), Norway (1913), Denmark (1915), USSR (1917), Canada (1918), Germany (1918), Poland (1918), Austria (1919), Belgium (1919), Great Britain (1919), Ireland (1919), Luxembourg (1919), the Netherlands (1919), Sweden (1919)
10. c (1893)

and I was actually trained as an Ambassador for the Amsterdam region. In the near future I will be giving a presentation to the Blijfgroep.

4) Does your club act in any other ways to prevent gender-based violence, in advocacy work on issues specific to Amsterdam, etc.?

Not at the moment, though there have been individual club members who have worked on behalf of sex workers in Amsterdam with a group called *Scharlaken Koord*. It seeks to free women from prostitution, by offering safe houses, job training, education, and a preventive outreach to teenage girls (www.toheildesvolks.nl/scharlaken-koord).

If you enjoyed reading this column and would be willing to share information about your club's involvement with local women's shelters or other organizations addressing gender-based violence, please email me at endingviolence@fawco.org.

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