6 July 2011

Att: helen.mason@parliament.vic.gov.au

Edward O'Donohue MLC
Chair, Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee
Parliament of Victoria
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Dear Chair and members

A. Background

In 2010 the Drugs and Crime Committee of the Parliament of Victoria enquired into people trafficking for sex work in Victoria. The report (June) indicated that

- trafficking for sex could not be considered in isolation from other forms of bondage such as debt bondage; further that
- a preoccupation with sex was not useful because it displaced other groups (international students, labour migrants) from proper attention

In other words the proper context would be the context of slavery as defined in the Commonwealth Criminal Code and the 1956 anti-slavery Supplementary Convention

B. Response 1.

Whether additional rights should be included in the Charter, including economic, social, cultural, children’s, women’s and self-determination rights

The internationally recognised framework for dealing with bondage is the 1956 anti-slavery Supplementary Convention and reference should be made to this in the Victorian Charter

C. Response 2

Whether further provisions should be made regarding public authorities’ compliance with the Charter, including regular auditing and further provision for remedies

Experience in the European Union has shown that schools play a vital role in protecting young people by monitoring wellbeing and developing social inclusion. Further that active inspection processes are required by local governments, labour inspectors, OH&S staff, rooming house workers. (The ILO has produced guidelines and instruction manuals for inspectors.)

Yours sincerely,

Roscoe Howell

ENDS