



45thUBC Executive Board Meeting
Kaunas, Lithuania, 10-12 February
2006

Statement against trafficking

All people are born free, with the same value and human rights. This ideal is in dramatic contrast to trafficking and prostitution, which both can be defined as trade of human beings for sexual exploitation.

International trafficking in women and children can not be separated or be isolated from national prostitution. Women's and children's bodies shall not be something you can sell on a market, neither international nor national.

To give the exact numbers of how many women and children that are being trafficked is very difficult, since it's about an illegal business, but what we can say for sure is that trafficking in women and children is an increasing problem in the world today.

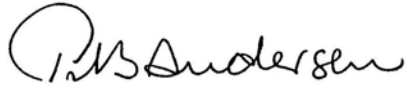
United Nation (UN) reports that estimated 4 million women and children annually have been trafficked from one country to another and within countries. A majority of these women and children will be used for sexual exploitation and prostitution. The international Migration Organisation (IOM) reports 1999 that approximated 500 000 women are annually being sold as sex slaves into the member states of the European Union and in several member states the number of migrant women is much higher than the number of local prostitutes.

Trafficking and prostitution are violations of women's and children's human rights. Neither prostitution nor trafficking is about sexuality. It's about money, it's about controlling and it's about men using and buying women and their bodies.

Trafficking and prostitution is an act of men's violence against women and children and therefore a reinforcement of gender inequality. With this perspective a prostitute woman is a victim of crime and should therefore have support from the society. If this is the way we view trafficking and prostitution it makes sense to act with purpose to deal with trafficking as a problem.

It's time to act both with words and with actions against trafficking. We have to work for women's and men's possibilities to have power and influence to take decisions in their own lives and also for the society they live in.

The President of the UBC

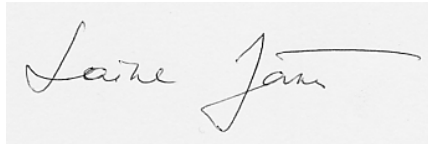


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Chairman of the Turku City Board, Finland

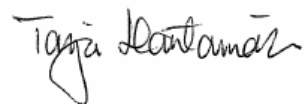
The Executive Board



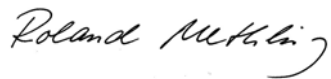
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Deputy Mayor



Pärnu, Estonia
Mr Mart Viisitamm
Mayor



Vaasa, Finland
Ms Tarja Hautamäki
on behalf of Mayor Markku Lumio



Rostock, Germany
Mr Roland Methling
Mayor



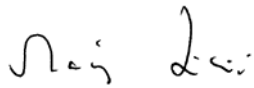
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