

Profile of Clubs and Informal Sexual Locations in Paramaribo and Nieuw Nickerie

Stichting Maxi Linder Association
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Introduction

The overall goal of all activities carried out by the Stichting Maxi Linder Association, is health improvement. This specific project was conducted to set up a Lobby Network in order to achieve policy change in the area of commercial sex work. The *project goals* were:

Under international law, states have a duty to respect and ensure respect for human rights and humanitarian law, including the duty, to take appropriate action against the violators and to afford remedies and preparation to those who have been injured as a consequence of such violations.

Non discrimination:

The state must not discriminate sex workers in substantive or procedural law, policy or practice

Protective Measures:

The state must recognize that sex workers are victims of horrific financial needs, protect their rights and protect them from reprisal and harm.

Health and other services:

The state must provide sex workers with adequate health and other social services

The lobby network was set up in three phases. First: all 35 brothels that are registered with the Ministry of Justice and Police and with the Military Police were contacted and visited. Second: non-registered brothels and informal locations where commercial sex takes place were identified. These actions have laid the foundations for a solid working relation between the Department of Police, the Military Police, brothel owners, the Ministry of Health and the Maxi Linder Association. In the third phase, a two day workshop was organized on the topic of regulated sex work zones. During this workshop, different experts presented information to all relevant authorities and stakeholders. At the same time, trained sex workers were given the opportunity to advocate their human rights.

This final report of phase I, II and III shall be handed over to The National Assembly, The Ministry of Justice, The Ministry of Health and The Ministry of Home Affairs, and shall be discussed at the National level in Parliament.

Concrete Results of the project

- ~ Empowerment of Commercial Sex Workers.
- ~ A lobby Manual produced
- ~ Twenty-five persons including 3 sex workers trained with advocacy skills to carry out the necessary lobby.
- ~ An efficient lobby network established to advocate for the Human Rights of Sex Workers.
- ~ An effective working relationship established between the Department of Police, the Military Police, brothel owners, the Ministry of Health and the Maxi Linder Association.
- ~ Maxi Linder is monitoring the progress of the lobby activities
- ~ The administration of Maxi Linder is upgraded and reports more efficiently.

The Maxi Linder Association is aware of the fact that a revision of law could easily become a long term process. However, it is our goal to consolidate the first actions towards achieving policy change through debate in parliament within the coming year.

This project lays the foundation to start discussions at national Policy and Community level to recognize the rights of commercial sex workers, which are **Human Rights**. With this project, the Maxi Linder Association implements the "Standards for the Humanitarian treatment of the International Criminal Court 1999.

Profile of the Stichting Maxi Linder Association

Stichting Maxi Linder Association was formed in October 1994. The inspiration to continue advocating for the rights of female commercial sex workers originated from the venerated Maxi Linder. She was the first labor organizer for female commercial sex workers in Suriname. Maxi Linder was a pioneer in working to create solidarity, foster development and achieve empowerment among all sex workers.

Our organization has not only embraced these first attempts by Maxi Linder at eradicating poverty, abuse and inequality, but has expanded its goals by addressing a myriad of to day's pressing issues. We believe that the HIV/AIDs scourge that is sweeping the globe must occupy the topmost place of our priorities in the new millennium.

The overall goal of the association is to optimize the social, economic, mental and physical health and well-being of female commercial sex workers. Programs and services provided include information, education and communication, HIV / AIDs pre-and post test counseling and testing, social and psychological support, income increasing and income generating activities, legal

advice, job referral system, human rights advocacy, research and consultancy services.

1. Profile of registered brothels in the district of Paramaribo and Nieuw Nickerie

1.1 Methodology

From January through March 1999, all 35 clubs registered at the Ministry of Justice and Police, were visited by a team of three field workers. Next to these 35 clubs, another 5 clubs were included in the study. The addresses of these 5 clubs were obtained from sex workers who frequent the center of the *Stichting Maxi Linder Association* (SMLA). A total of 22 (55 %) clubs, of which 19 were registered, offered their cooperation and participated in the study. The remaining 45% of clubs did not participate in the study for a number of different reasons, such as

- @ the club was closed during several visits of the field work team
- @ the person answering the door denied that the facility was a club
- @ the address was incorrect
- @ the club owner or manager refused to cooperate

The field work team consisted of two counselors of the center and one third year student of the *Hanzehogeschool*. The questionnaire and check list for the sanitary inspection at the clubs, was designed by the director of the SMLA, in cooperation with the fieldworkers.

The fieldwork team visited each club during opening hours. They entered and asked for the club owner or manager. Whenever that person was available, they explained the purpose of their visit and asked for cooperation. When affirmative, they proceeded with the research activities. In case the owner or manager was not in the club or was not free at that time, the team made an appointment for a suitable day and time.

In each club, the team conducted an interview with the owner or manager covering the following topics:

1. *Profile of the club*
(type, registration, opening hours, number and nationality of the sex workers, number of rooms)
2. *Sanitary facilities of the club*
3. *Relationship between the club owner and the sex workers*
(recruiting, contracts, financial agreements, protection of the women)
4. *STD/HIV information and condom availability*

1 *Hanzehogeschool* in Groningen, Holland, is a school for social workers. The field work of this student was part of his 10 month training period at SMLA.

Apart from the interview, the team then continued with an inspection of the rooms and the sanitary facilities (bath/toilet).

After the visit to the club, the team returned to the center of SMLA to evaluate the information and to discuss their experiences. In 3 cases, the team decided after the evaluation to return a second time to the club for additional data. Each team member also kept a diary during the period of the fieldwork. The purpose of the diary was to take notes regarding the study, such as personal experiences or observations and remarks or thoughts. It also includes notes of informal conversations with sex workers who were present at the club during the visit of the team. The information from these diaries was included in the analysis of the results.

Before embarking on the results, it needs to be stressed that the information gathered from the club owners and managers provides us mainly with one side of the story, and must therefore also be regarded in that way. Information from the few sex workers that were informally spoken to during the visits of the fieldwork team confirms that the data presented in this document does not fully represent the actual situation.

1.2 Results

1. Profile of the clubs

A grand total of 22 clubs were visited, of which 17 were in Paramaribo and 5 were in Nw. Nickerie. Of these clubs 21 (95%) were nightclubs and only 1 (5%) was a hotel that rented rooms for a short time.

(see Table 1)

Table 1 : Type of club

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Nightclub	16	5
Hotel	1	--
TOTAL	17	5

The majority of the clubs (64%) registered with the Military Police as well as with the Ministry of Justice and Police, in accordance with the law. Only one club in NW.Nickerie was not registered. In Paramaribo, at five clubs (23%), the person that was interviewed did not know whether the club was registered. The remaining two clubs, both in Nw.Nickerie, were registered with only one of either the Military Police or the Ministry of Justice and Police.

(see Table 2)

Table 2 : Registration

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
No registration	--	1
Military Police	--	1
Ministry of Justice and Police	--	1
Military Police and Ministry of Justice and Police	12	2
Does not know	5	--

The clubs in the survey opened their doors as early as seven in the evening, and 41 % stayed open until three or four in the morning. One club in Paramaribo remained open around the clock.

(see Table 3)

Table 3 : Opening hours

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
19:00 - 00:00	1	1
22:00 - 03:00	8	1
00:00 - 04:00	2	--
20:00 - finish	1	3
24 hours	1	--
no specific hours	2	--
No information	2	

Table 4 shows that the number of women working at the clubs varied between as little as three and as many as eighty. Most clubs (50%) employed a small number of three to five women. Only two clubs in Paramaribo housed more that fifteen sex workers of which one club stood out with an average amount of eighty women.

Five different nationalities of sex workers were working at the surveyed clubs in Paramaribo and NW.Nickerie. Most clubs provided women from Santo Domingo, followed by Brazil and Guyana. Only two clubs in Paramaribo had also women from Colombia and Venezuela

(see Table 4)

Table 5 indicates that in 32% of the clubs each sex worker had her own private room. For most clubs however (45 %), the interviewees stated that the number of sex workers usually exceeds the number of rooms. This inevitably means that women have to share rooms. The maximum number of sex workers per room was two.

Table 5 : Number of sex workers per room

Number of sex workers per room	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
1 per room	4	3
2 per room	8	2
No information	5	--

2. Sanitary facilities

In 64% (14) of the clubs visited, the field workers were allowed to inspect the rooms and more specifically the sanitary facilities available to the women. The ratings that were given were "good"(7=50%) , "reasonable"(4=29%) and "bad". (3=21%). The rating "good" referred to clean and not smelly, "bad" on the other hand referred to really dirty and very smelly, and finally "reasonable" was somewhere in between.

(see Table 6)

When asked, 18% of the clubs claimed never to have been visited by the Bureau of Public Health. 45% had seldom or on a very unregular basis been visited.

Table 4 : Number and nationality of sex workers

Number	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
3-5	7	4
6 - 10	3	--
11-15	5	1
16 - 20	1	--
> 20	1	--
Nationality		
Brazilian	7	1
Guyanese	5	3
Santo Dominican	8	2
Columbian	1	--
Venezuelan	1	--

Table 6 : Sanitary facilities

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Good (clean)	5	2
Reasonable	2	2
Bad	3	-
No information	7	1

Table 7: Control visits by Bureau of Public Health

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Regularly	--	5
Very unregularly	7	--
Seldomly	3	--
Never	4	.. 8
No information	3	--

In Nw. Nickerie however, all five clubs (23%) received regular control visits, while in Paramaribo not one single club was visited regularly. (see Table 7)

Table 8: Ways of recruiting sex workers

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
They offer their services voluntarily	--	3
Via other sex workers	7	--
Via other clubs	1	--
Via a contact person in their native country	8	2
Club owner travels abroad to recruit	1	--

3. Recruiting sex workers

How sex workers are being recruited mainly depends on the nationality of the woman. Prior research of the SMLA2 has indicated that most of the Guyanese sex workers come on their own to Suriname to work in the sex business. Many of them work the streets of Paramaribo as well as the goldmines in the interior of the country. According to this survey, they also *offer* their services to clubs. The interviewees explained that many women are introduced to the club circuit through other sex workers, mostly Brazilian street workers or women working in the interior.

Sex workers of other nationalities (see table 4) are being recruited in their country of origin. 45% of the interviewees stated that they had a local contact person, a so-called recruiter, who would make all the arrangements, including buying airline tickets and visa for the women. Table 9 : Who pays for the airline ticket?

Once arrived, the club owner handled all legal and administrative affairs and acted as their warrantor. One club owner mentioned that he himself went abroad to recruit "his girls".

(see Table 8)

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
Club owner	8	1
Sexworker	4	1
No information	5	3

Five club owners stated that the women paid their own airfare when they came to Suriname. While nine club owners paid the airline ticket for the sex workers. (see Table 9)

2 O'Carroll-Barahona C, Altenberg J, Cannings D., Antonius-Smits Ch., Del Prado R., Needs Assessment study among street based female commercial sex workers in Paramaribo, Suriname, Paramaribo, Nationaal AIDS Programma, Ministerie van Volksgezondheid, 1994.

In the latter case, the sex worker was obliged to reimburse the airline fare to the club owner. The term to fulfill the debt varied between 2 weeks and 12 months.

(see Table 10)

4. Contracts with sex workers

Table 11 shows that only three clubs (14%) offered a written contract in the native language of the sex Workers. The overall majority of clubs (82%) did not have a written contract available. The duration of the contracts varied between three to twelve months. One club offered a two-week contract which could be prolonged to three or six months.

(see Table 12)

Table 11: Written contract in language of sex worker available?

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Yes	3	--
No	14	5

contract in the native language of the sex worker, another 36% of the clubs had some form of arrangement with the women. In one case, the club had a written contract in Dutch which was translated orally to the woman in her own language. Two clubs had written house rules and five clubs made oral agreements with the sex workers. 50% of the clubs did not have any form of agreement with the sex workers they employed. (see Table 13)

Table 12 : Duration of written contract

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
3 - 6 months	2	--
6 - 12 months	1	--
2 weeks, prolonged to 3 - 6 months	1	--
No written contract	13	5

Apart from the three clubs that offered a written

Table 13: Type of agreements between club owner and sex worker

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
Written contract	2	1
Oral agreement	11	4
No agreement	11	4
Written contract in native language of sex worker	3	0
Written contract in Dutch	1	0
Oral agreement in native language of sex worker	8	4
Oral agreement in Dutch	1	0
Written house rules	2	0
Oral agreements	9	4
No agreement	11	4

5. Rent per room

Hotels/bars offered rooms between Sf 1.000 and 5.000 per night. Sex workers, living at the club they were working for, paid on average Sf 16.700 per week for one room. The lowest rate was Sf 10.000 and the highest Sf29.000. Several clubs had different types of rooms available, with a separate price tag for each type of room. (see Table 14)

Table 14 : Rent per room

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Nightclubs		
Sf. 1 0.000 per week	4	2
Sf15.000 per week	3	--
Sf18.000 per week	1	--
Sf20.000 per week	" .)	--
Sf25.000 per week	1	--
Sf29.000 per week	1	--
Hotels/Bars		
Sf 1. 000 - 3.000/ night	2	--
Sf.3.000 - 5.000/ night	4	--
No information	--	3

Most rooms provided electricity and very basic furniture such as a bed. Sanitary facilities were also provided, including a shower, toilet and basin. The more luxurious rooms also offered cupboards, a dressing table with chair and even a television. A few clubs rented just the naked room in which case the woman had to buy her own furniture.

The rent was due each week, also at times when the sex worker was not able to work (for instance during menstruation or illness). Whenever a sex worker was not able to pay the rent, clubs offered four possible solutions, the most humane, being that the woman could pay the rent the following week. In other clubs the women borrowed money 1Tom each other in order to pay the rent. Unfortunately, what happened mostly was that the sex worker was sent away from the club, resulting in her ending up on the streets. (see Table 15)

Table 15 : Measures taken if rent is not paid

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Sex worker is sent away	4	--
Sex worker is sent back to own country	2	--
They borrow from each other	1	--
Can pay next time	2	--
No information	8	5
No information	8	5

6. Protective measures against misconduct of clients

Table 16 indicates that 32% of the clubs, and all of them in Paramaribo, had some kind of security system in place to protect the women against violence and misconduct of clients. In two clubs, private security men who patrolled the hallways and premises guaranteed safety of the sex workers. Another two clubs withheld the ID card or drivers license of the client while he was with a sex worker. This measure was not taken in order to protect the women from violence but rather to guarantee payment of the client. Two clubs worked with a "knocking system", whereby someone, mostly another sex worker, knocked on the door after a certain amount of time had passed. If everything was ok, the sex worker simply knocked back. Whenever there was no reaction from the woman inside, the door was opened to check what was wrong. The last club operated a "warning system" towards the clients, meaning that whenever a man had misbehaved he would receive a warning from the owner, manager or bartender. Of course, this last system did not really protect the sex worker in question, but was believed to work in a preventative way.

Table 16 : Protective measures

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
Warning system	1	--
Knocking system	2	--
Private security service	2	--
ID card or drivers license of clients is collected at the bar	2	--
No information	10	5

7. Recruiting clients

In 95% of the clubs, the sex worker herself did recruitment of clients.

(see Table 17)

Recruiting of clients was predominantly done in the bar or communal room of the club. In some cases the sex workers brought a client they had met on the street, to the club.

Table 17 : Who recruits clients?

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
Sex worker	17	4
Club owner	--	1

Club owners indicated that the phenomenon of "boy friends" was in fact not accepted. Their reasoning was that whenever a sex worker had a boy friend, she almost always started to neglect business.

8. Relationship club owner and sex worker

When asked specifically to describe the type of relationship the owner/manager had with the sex workers, the following answers were given. 64% declared the relationship to be "good", 32% considered it to be "pure business" and 4% saw

Table 18 : Relationship club owner and sex worker

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
Pure business	5	2
Good	11	3
Protector/Fatherfigure	1	--

themselves as the protector and father figure of the women.

It needs to be emphasized that this information reflects only the side of the club owner/manager. To complete this picture, the views of the sex workers on this matter have to be added.

(see Table 18)

Table 19 shows that 59% of the clubs had no information about where the sex workers went after their term at the club was finished. Three clubs mentioned after that the women returned to their home country, without specifying whether the women remained in the sex business. Others clearly continued in the sex business by going to the gold mining fields of French Guiana or even Europe and the United States of America. Women in the latter case were thus clearly involved in trafficking.

Table 19: Where do the sex workers go finishing their contract or term?

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
Back home	1	2
Fr. Guiana	3	--
Holland	1	--
USA	1	--
Europe	1	--
Goldfields	3	--
No information	10	3

10. Std/HIV

Bi-weekly std check ups of club workers at the Dermatological Service, is mandatory in Suriname. 73% of the clubs claimed to abide that rule. Two clubs had weekly check-ups, one had monthly std control visits and two clubs had no information on the subject. Only one club admitted that the women never went for std control. (see Table 20)

Table 20: STD control at Dermatological Service

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Weekly	1	1
Bi-weekly	12	4
Monthly	1	--
Does not know	2	--
control	1	--

Table 21

with an STD

In most cases (56%), sex workers that were infected with an std, were not allowed to work for the duration of the infection. In one club, an additional fine of Sf 5.000 had to be payed. (see Table 21)

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Not allowed to work	10	2
Has to pay a fine and is not allowed to work	1	--
No information	6	3

On the issue of HI V, more clubs were reluctant to provide the interviewers with information. 55% had nothing to say on the subject. Nine clubs (41 %) declared that whenever an HIV infection was detected with one of the sex workers, she was immediately sent away from the club. According to the SMLA, this measure almost always resulted in the woman being forced to work the streets or gold mines in order to provide for herself and save money for a ticket back home.

(see Table 22)

11. Condoms

Table 23 shows that in 55% of the clubs condoms were available. Club owners as well as sex workers obtained condoms from a range of places. *Stichting Lobi* and the Dermatological Service were mostly mentioned.

(see Table 24)

Table 22: Measures taken if sex worker is infected with **mv**

	Paramaribo	Nw. Nickerie
Is sent back to her country	6	--
Has to quit the sex business	3	--
I don't get the results so I can't do anything	1	--
owner on this subject	7	5

Table 23: Where do sexworkers get condoms?

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
At the club	9	3
Elsewhere	8	2

Table 24 : Where are condoms bought?

	Paramaribo	NW.Nickerie
Dermatological Service	5	--
Stg. Lobi	4	3
Stg. Maxi Linder Association	2	--
Pharmacy/Drugstore	1	--
Supermarket	2	--
Directly from import agency	1	--
Abroad	1	--
Bureau of Public Health	--	2

1.3 General remarks and observations of the field work team

Observations and personal remarks from the diaries of the field workers provided the following information.

- ~ The overall majority of interviewees was very willing to cooperate and discussed all matters openly and relaxed.
- ~ Several club owners complained about the relationship they had with the Military Police. The Military Police was considered "difficult" and very often the club owner was sent from one desk to another, endlessly, before anything was done. Furthermore, they felt that they could not count on the Military Police in case of problems.
- ~ The club owners were displeased with the hostility between the sex workers. According to them, jealousy was the main reason for the women's bickering and fighting.
- ~ The interviewees complained that they were losing women to the gold mines. More and more sex workers go into the interior in order to earn extra money and many of them end up leaving the club all together. However, according to the sex workers, some of the club owners also conduct business in the gold mines in the interior. Whenever business is slow in Paramaribo, they themselves sent the women to the interior.
- ~ Although all club owners denied that children of sex workers were living at the club, at three locations, the field workers noticed children's clothing and shoes in some of the rooms.
- ~ During informal conversations with sex workers, they refused to discuss the club arrangements and the relationship they had with the club owner or manager. This area should be further explored with the women in order to get a complete picture of the actual situation and of how the relationship is being perceived by the sex workers.
- ~ At one high-income club, sex workers informed the field workers that only the best rooms were shown to them.

ANNEX 1- LIST OF CLUBS VISITED

Paramaribo

13. Mundial
14. Dorado
15. La Vigilantia
16. Hotel Mivimoh
17. Hennie's Rotishop
18. Diamond
19. Paradise Inn
20. La Brise
21. Condor
22. Wakara Tahina
23. Relax
24. Empire
25. City Palace
26. La Cenisa
27. Oasis Place
28. Club Coconut 29.
Manilla Club

Nieuw Nickerie

1. Tahiti
2. Professor
3. Green Dolphin
4. Olympic Bar
5. Ramtahal

2. Identification of non-registered brothels and informal locations in Paramaribo; where commercial sex work takes place

2.1 Methodology

Educators of the Stichting Maxi Linder Association (SMLA) conducted informal interviews with fifty (50) commercial sex workers, both male and female. The interviews took place on location, in the streets of Paramaribo. Two basic questions were asked:

1. "Where in Paramaribo do you conduct business?"
2. "Where do you rent a room to conduct your business in?"

A list was composed of all locations that were mentioned by the interviewees. This list was then complemented with locations provided by the SURIPROTECT initiative based upon their condom distribution. A total of **152 locations** were listed.

A team of four field workers of the SMLA was comprised to investigate the 152 locations. In order for the team to stay anonymous, they rented a mini-van to go into the streets of Paramaribo. The team would take the mini-van to a specific location, park it in the vicinity and observe activities or transactions that relate to commercial sex.

The team confirmed that commercial sex activities took place at all 152 locations.

Examples of informal locations are:

- i9 Dwelling-houses where sex workers can rent a room for a short³ time and/or the yard of the house
- i9 Public parks, such as "Palmentuin"
- i9 Schoolyards, after school hours
- i9 Parking lots of companies or shops in the center of Paramaribo
- i9 Small, non-registered pensions
- i9 Marketplaces, after business hours
- i9 Open plots with high grass
- i9 Cars parked at still places
- i9 Containers on the grounds of the "Nieuwe Haven" (the Harbor of Paramaribo)
- i9 Porches or doorways of shops or companies in the center of Paramaribo.

According to the sex workers, security personnel rent the space to them for a certain amount of money or even a pack of cigarettes.

³ We refer the reader to paragraph 2.3 for explanatory notes on different sexual acts performed by sex workers, and the current prices

2.2 Additional findings and areas of concern

- ~ It has again been confirmed by the respondents in this study, that male clients are still offering more money for unprotected sex. Respondents claimed to know which colleagues of theirs were willing to provide unsafe sex in exchange for extra money.
- ~ There are still misconceptions among sex workers on the subject of HI V transmission. One of them being, that many of the interviewees were convinced that spitting out the spenn after the client has ejaculated in your mouth is completely safe and poses no risk for contracting HIV.
- ~ The current economic crisis forces sex workers to cut expenses, which drives the sex business more and more out into the open. One fonn of reducing expenses is to avoid renting a room by having sex in open, public places. The risk of being caught by the police however, becomes significantly higher in this situation. Sex workers complain that whenever a police car is spotted, a panic situation arises whereby the sexual transaction needs to be ended immediately. Very often, male clients will then quickly pull back the penis out of the vagina, without holding the condom. This results in the slipping off of the condom, which increases the risk of STI/HIV transmission.
- ~ This study also confirms earlier data⁴ on the link between sex work and (ill) legal drug use. Almost all sex workers use some kind of drug, alcohol and marijuana being the most popular. The real problem lies in the combination of sex work and illegal drugs, such as 'blaka djonko'. The so-called junkies are willing to perform any sexual act for as little as Sf. 1000 and are not at all concerned about safe sex.
- ~ A fairly new phenomenon in the streets of Paramaribo is the growing number of female sex workers who are psychiatric patients and are infected with HIY. Some of them are being committed to the psychiatric hospital on a regular basis. But whenever they are on the streets during an episode of illness, their general awareness decreases which has a negative influence on their safer sex practices.

4 Blakadjongo's in Paramaribo, In : Mainline, Tijdschrift voor druggebruikers, Amsterdam iii. I, 2000.

2.3 Explanatory notes on different sexual acts performed by sex workers and the prices, as of April 2001

Female sex workers

Sexual act	Explanation	Prices (depend on the location)
Short term	15 minutes of vaginal sex. 15 minutes of anal sex	Between Sf. 3000 - 20.0005 Between Sf. 15.000 - 30.000
Long term	A whole evening or day, all included	Between Sf. 40.000 - 60.000
Oral sex or Masturbation	Ejaculating in the mouth of the sex worker	Between Sf. 4.000 - 6.000
Specialties	E.g. Sex with urine (Golden shower) and/or faeces	Sf. 15.000

Male sex workers

Sexual act	Explanation	Prices (depend on the location)
Short term	15 minutes of anal sex	Between Sf. 5000 - 30.000
Long term	A whole evening or day, all included	Between Sf. 60.000 - 100.000
Oral sex or Masturbation	Ejaculating in the mouth of the sex Worker	Sf. 5.000
Specialties	E.g. Sex with urine (Golden shower) and/or faeces	Sf. 15.000

5 Junkies will go as low as Sf 1000 (0,45 US\$) for any sexual act, be it vaginal, anal or oral sex

3. COMMERCIAL SEX IN REGULATED SEX WORK ZONES - REPORT. OFA TWO DAY WORKSHOP

(Stichting Maxi Linder Association in cooperation with the Surinamese Police Department)⁶

Day 1

Opening by inspector Ro Gajadhar, head of the education department of the Surinamese Police Department.

The chairperson of the workshop, Drs. H. Malmberg-Guicherit welcomes all participants and invites the first speaker to the podium.

Presentation 1

"Nothing new under the sun" - Historical overview of commercial sex
M. Caprino, Historian

The topic of commercial sex was discussed in a broader historic perspective in which the presenter made the distinction between two phases.

Phase 1 : The oldest sources on commercial sex are clay tablets, dated some 4000 years before Christ. These tablets were found in the area between the Euphrates and the Tigris, and show drawings of commercial sex. It is known that men could enter the temple of Innana, the goddess of love, in exchange for money. There is also information available on group sex and male homosexual activities.

Phase 2 : Around 1300 years before Christ, the development of legislation pertaining to the subject of commercial sex, begun. Women, who without permission of their husbands performed activities outside their home, were severely punished. Roman law as well as the Bible mentions this form of punishment for women. The currently used Dutch term "hoer" (hooker) generated from 'ho-er', which was the term used for women who displayed indecent behavior in public.

In the 13th century, female slaves were sold to harems of rulers in Africa. In the forts, situated on the West Coast of Africa, special quarters were build where sailors could have sexual relations with slaves, in exchange for money. During their stay at the forts, the women were subdued to sexual harassment from the slave drivers. On the slave ships, it was again the sailors who took advantage of these women.

⁶ Paramaribo, June 16 and 17, 2000

Compiled by Drs. L. M. Monsels and Ch. Antonius-Smits, Lie.

Suriname

During slavery in Suriname, from the 17th century until the second half of the 18th century, commercial sex was common. Slave owners had many female slaves at their disposal to satisfy their sexual desires. Apart from that, female house slaves were often rented to elite gentlemen, for sexual purposes. The money that was 'earned' by these slaves had to be deposited to the slave owner. The woman in question never received financial compensation.

After the abolishment of slavery, in 1863, prostitution was one way of survival for women. The sources talk about 'idle women' and immorality.

The development of the balata industry went hand in hand with the growth of commercial sex. The relatively rich balata laborers were able to afford commercial sex workers.

In 1908, the "Surinamese organization of women for the uplifting and promotion of the moral conscience" was established. Emelie Alvares, teacher, nurse, preacher and society critic, was the chairperson. The organization was against the regulation of commercial sex. In 1918, intense discussions and different points of view on this topic divided the members, which ultimately resulted in the discontinuation of the organization.

In 1913, the "Commission for the well being of the population" was established. Their main task was to research and document the economic situation of the country as well as the state of well being of the population. In the report of this commission, the situation of the 'sluts' of Paramaribo is mentioned.

Information on commercial sex in the other (rural) districts of Suriname is scarce. Father De Clerq writes about the indecent behavior of single women of Indian descent. Commercial sex among Javanese women on the other hand, is openly described in the literature.

In 1930, Doedel and De Kom write about commercial sex as a survival strategy in times of crisis.

On March 24, 1943, the governor commands the arrest of civilians - read women - who endanger the health of military troops. With this order, the police was authorized to arrest anyone who was suspected of endangering the health of the troops. During a police raid, many women were captured and exiled to Katwijk.

During the sixties, up to the eighties, the economic situation in Suriname was reasonably prosperous. In that same time, the first brothels were opened. Only foreign sex workers worked in these brothels.

In the eighties and nineties, Suriname experienced another economic crisis. The sex business however bloomed as never before. The government displays a 'laissez faire' attitude towards commercial sex.

The following three perspectives on commercial sex can be expressed:

- A. Commercial sex is related to socio-economic development
- B. Commercial sex is immoral and criminal behavior (moralistic standpoint)
- C. Commercial sex is necessary because it provides for the sexual needs of certain members of society.

Conclusion:

Incomplete and incorrect information and education about sex and sexuality, in combination with the taboo atmosphere in which commercial sex is regarded, result in a 'laissez faire' attitude. People are afraid to discuss the subject openly.

Chairperson

On the subject of commercial sex, we can safely say that indeed, there is nothing new under the sun.

It has been out there throughout history. It would be very interesting to conduct further research on the events regarding the exile of women to Katwijk, during the second World War.

The audience is now invited to ask questions or make comments.

Question 1

What happened to the children of the women that were banished to Katwijk?

Answer

The women were banished for a period of approximately 1,5 years. The documentation on the whole event is very limited. Therefore it is, until now, not known what exactly happened with the women and their children. Little information I have, I got from oral sources. For more than one year, I have been trying to gain access to the confession books (police records of evidence) from the 1940's. Unfortunately, without success.

Comment of Mr. Levens, Inspector of police

I will bring this matter to the attention of management to help you grant access.

Question 2

Have you also looked at male prostitution? Do you have any information on the subject of homosexuality and male clients? I think it is important to consider also the role of men in the sex business.

Answer

My primary focus is on women. I have not yet embarked on the gender approach of certain social problems.

Presentation 2

Commercial sex and the Ministry of Health Drs. R. Codfried-Kranenberg, Director of Health

We are here together to talk about commercial sex in Suriname, something that is not often discussed openly. In this presentation, I will look closer to commercial sex in relation to public health. What is the impact of commercial sex on the health situation of the population and on the health care system? The link between commercial sex and the Ministry of Health lies in the fact that commercial sex workers can catch certain diseases, such as sexually transmitted diseases. It is extremely important that during those episodes, the sex worker does not work. If not, transmission continues from sex worker to client and in some cases from client to his sexual partner at home.

Then there is the financial aspect: money for treatment, medication and possibly hospitalization. In case of HIV/AIDS the costs run even higher. If for example, a man catches HIV from a sex worker and he infects his wife, the wife gets pregnant and delivers an infected baby. All these people need to be treated and nursed for long periods of time. These costs are enormous and will have to be paid somehow.

Then there are the social problems, such as discrimination, lack of adequate support etc. Sex workers are a risk group for STDs because of the nature of their work. Society needs to be protected against STD/HIV and that is possible through regulation. Commercial sex in regulated sex work zones will only succeed if the sex workers undergo regular and mandatory medical check-ups. Furthermore, it is important to install an effective registration and control system. The zones will have to have adequate sanitary facilities, educational materials will have to be available and finally, condom machines.

Chairperson

The presenter has clearly indicated the importance of prevention. I now open the floor for questions.

Comment

I would like to ask the Ministry of Health to support the activities of the Maxi Linder Association, not only with street workers, but also with sex workers who operate in what we call the 'gray zone' (those who work at home).

Answer

I can assure you that the Ministry of Health fully supports the foundation. But there is always room for more.

Presentation 3

Commercial sex and the Dermatological Service Drs.

S. Sadal, Director

The Dermatological Service was established in 1971. From the beginning, we have dealt with the whole field of sexually transmitted diseases, including sex work. Sex workers were examined, treated and given std education. We provide std care, leprosy care and dermatological care.

The prevention and control of std is one of the tasks of our service. In the 1980s, we were fairly successful in controlling std's because most of the diseases could easily be treated. The most important ones were gonorrhoea and syphilis.

We distinguish between three types of sex workers:

1. Local and Guyanese street workers
2. Foreign club workers
3. Call girls (the gray zone)

The treatment of std's is continuously adapted to the most recent international developments. The first 15 years, we administered prophylactic treatment, every two weeks. Now, we focus on safe sex and condom use.

It is not always easy to get the sex worker to come to Derma. They have many excuses at hand. Since the establishment of the Maxi Linder Association, the efforts within this specific target population have been more successful.

The Dermatological Service has a reasonably good relationship with the sex clubs, although, it has happened that we were forced to close down a club, due to unhygienic circumstances. In 1980, a military commission was in place to deal with the control of sex work activities. Experience has taught us that the use of force rarely produces the wanted results. A lot of the sex work activities in those period, took place underground, resulting in a total loss of control.

The current arrangements we have with the club owners is, that each new sex worker visits the std clinic where she receives a complete std check-up, including hiv testing. Since January 2000, we charge all foreign sex workers Sf 10.000 for the hiv test. After the check-up, she receives a letter in which the clinic states that she has been examined and a date for a follow-up visit.

With this letter, the sex worker has to present herself to the immigration department of the police in order to obtain a residence permit.

The promotion of safe sex has been very successful for the clubs; the number of infections is very low.

There is one very important concern, and that is the terribly out dated legislation on std's. The last time the std law was amended was is 1964. It is extremely urgent that the existing law is amended and adapted to the current situation.

Question 1

Don't you think that by charging the women for the hiv test, you will reach even less street workers?

Answer

Only foreign women are being charged.

Question 2

I understand that in the interior of Suriname, there is a thriving sex business. Do your activities also reach that part of the country?

Comment

I know of several nightclubs in the interior, namely in the Sarah area. The Medical Mission recently started with a 'floating' clinic to treat std's and malaria.

Question 3

Who pays for the medical examination?

Answer

The sex worker pays; she earns the money; she can afford the expenses.

Question 3a

We would like to know if the foreign sex worker really can afford the expenses. Do you have any information on what kind of payment system is being used in the clubs?

Answer

I agree that this is something that should be discussed with all persons involved. I know that it is a touchy subject.

Comment

What is the status of a club owner? I consider him to be an employer who is responsible for the safety of his employees, including providing them with health care insurance.

Question 4

How often are sex workers being tested for hiv?

Answer

Every new arrival gets tested and after that only on medical or other indication.

Presentation 4

Commercial sex and the law R.

Levens, Inspector of Police

The speaker refers to two articles of the law that pertain to commercial sex, namely one article on streetwalking and one on exhibitionism. It is noteworthy that these articles only regard female sex workers. This poses a problem because in today's society, we also have male sex workers and transvestites.

The fine for breaking the law, is only Sf 50,= or 14 days of detention. The amount of the fine is ridiculous, since it does not even cover the expenses of the receipt.

In the 1960's, we were first confronted with sex workers walking the streets of Paramaribo. The relationship between street workers and the police was somewhat ambiguous. On the one hand, the police used the sex workers as informers and on the other hand, they arrested them in the streets because they broke the law on streetwalking or for robbing their clients.

Based on experience, I can conclude that the police department maintains a toleration policy towards sex workers. I strongly support the idea of the government recognizing the sector in combination with amendments of the existing laws. Regulated sex work zones could be the solution, if certain rules are put in place, as well as mechanisms of control.

Question 1

It has come to my attention that transvestites have to undress whenever they are brought to the police bureau. Why is that? I also hear that they have to sweep the floors of the bureau. Whenever their civil rights are being trampled, where can they go to seek justice?

Answer

It is important to determine the correct gender of the arrested person in order to sent them to the right cell house (female or male).

Question 2

We hear of many complaints about sex workers who are being abused by policemen. Do you know of such cases? What happens with such an officer?

Answer

I will inform police management about these discriminatory practices.

Question 3

There are many sex workers in my neighborhood. Sometimes I can not sleep during the

night because of all the noise and trouble they make. What can the police do for me?

Answer

This is one of the reasons why I am a supporter of regulated sex work zones.

Question 4

Male and female sex workers seem to be treated differently by the police. Women are punishable while men go free because they are not mentioned in the law.

Comment

Legislation pertaining to commercial sex work is out dated and stems from colonial time. It no longer connects with our current sense of justice on these matters. On top of that, the law was written from a male point of view.

Presentation 5

The sex business in Suriname

J. Altenberg, CEO Maxi Linder Association

The Maxi Linder Association defines commercial sex as "sex in exchange for. . . ". We distinguish between street workers and club workers. Club workers mainly come from Columbia, Brazil and the Dominican Republic, for a short time period of three to six months. The term 'trafficking' refers to the trade of women within and outside our borders. Within Suriname, club workers are often being sent to the gold mines in the interior. Internationally, certain routes have been established. From Suriname, the women travel to Holland and from there further into Europe. Finally, there is a third group of sex workers, those who work at home, in the so-called 'gray zone', the hidden sex business.

The Maxi Linder Association originated from the National Aids Program in answer to an urgent need from the target population itself. Street workers expressed the need for more information on medical and legal matters pertaining to sex work. The activities of the foundation are being carried out in view of the overall goal of the foundation, namely improving public health. But not only health issues are important. There is enormous concern about the issue of abuse of human rights, within the sex business. We already heard from Inspector Levens the problem of an outdated law, which leaves opportunities for arbitrariness.

35 clubs are currently registered with the immigration department of the police. Research has shown that the number of locations in Paramaribo and Nw. Nickerie where sex is being sold is near 150. The foundation has registered 248 street workers. According to the Dermatological Service another 500 club workers operate in the club circuit.

As part of the presentation, Soenita, a sex worker, will tell her story. We give you a summary of her experiences:

Soenita works the streets as a transvestite. She was born a boy, but from the age of thirteen, she lives her life as a woman. She did not have a sex operation. At the age of sixteen, she was forced to work the streets in order to maintain herself and her younger brother and sister. She earns between Sf 10.000 and Sf 15.000 per trick. She has always used a condom, but she knows of colleagues who work without because clients are willing to pay more for unsafe sex.

She knows that policemen also visit sex workers. Some refuse to pay while others are willing to pay more in order to guarantee confidentiality. Personally, she has had a very humiliating experience at the police bureau. She had to undress herself completely. She also knows about one case where a policeman shot a transvestite in the mouth.

Comment (Mrs. Metroos, Inspector of Police, Head of the immigration department) I would like you to officially report each case of abuse you know of, to the police.

Question 1

I would like to warn against generalization of individual cases of police abuse. Apart from the Maxi Linder Association, is there any other organization where sex workers can turn for help?

Answer

As far as I know, the Maxi Linder Association is the only organization that promotes the protection of the rights of sex workers. The sex business is very real, according to the number of sex workers that are registered at our foundation, the number of clubs and the number of five to six clients per sex worker, per day. The national bureau of statistics recently conducted a household survey and in the preliminary results, only one man has indicated that he paid for sex outside. How does that concur with our numbers?

Question 2

How does the foundation help sex workers that want to leave the business?

Answer

We have a program, 'alternative job training', where people can learn new skills. We have, for example, a catering service and we offer sewing classes.

Panel discussion

Members

Drs. C. Marica, Vice-Director Ministry of Labor

M. Caprino, Historian

Drs. R. Codfried-Kranenburg, Director Ministry of Health

R. Levens, Inspector of Police

H. Metroos, Inspector of Police, Head Immigration Department

J. Altenberg, CEO Maxi Linder Association

E. Brakke, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Head Consular Affairs

P. Wasimin, Military Police Department, Head Immigration Department

The chairperson acts as moderator for the discussion and asks the members who did not present, to give a short statement regarding their views on commercial sex.

Metroos

There is no problem with local sex workers. Foreign sex workers enter the country with a visa for six months. As soon as they arrive they need to prolong their permit to stay. When their contract with the club is terminated, we do not grant any more prolongation and they have to leave the country.

Marica

Sex work is not legalized in Suriname. It is therefore also not recognized as 'labor', by the Ministry of Labor. The ministry comes into contact with sex work when it involves a minor because then it is regarded as child labor, which is prohibited by law. **Brakke** I do not know of foreign sex workers. I only know of tourists. The women enter the country with a tourist visa and the department of consular affairs treats them as such.

Wasimin

We use the term 'night club hostesses'. Mr. Wasimin then explains the procedure that is being followed by his department, with regards to the foreign sex workers when they enter Suriname.

(see Annex I)

After these short statements, the audience is allowed to ask questions.

Question 1

Is sex work in Suriname legal or not? Or is it only illegal for women? Or only for Surinamese women? I am confused.

The police tolerate sex work although it is illegal. Again I would like to stress the importance of a regulated sex work zone.

Levens

Question 2

I know of a 14-year-old girl who works the streets. What can there be done?

Brakke

If it involves children, you have to contact the police. Whenever I come across a minor working the streets, I immediately contact inspector Metroos. The case then gets investigated.

Chairperson

Can someone define the term 'child labor'?

Marica

All labor performed by someone under the age of 15 years.

Brakke

There is not enough support for young Surinamese girls in the sex business. You can report cases to the youth police, but there is no real help offered. Regular support organizations for children are not willing to take in these young sex workers because they are afraid that these girls will have a negative influence on the others.

Question 3

What happens if a foreign sex worker delivers a baby in Suriname, which she does not want to keep.

Rita Day (Bufaz)

We know of some cases and all of those children have been put in a foster family. It can pose problems because the mother often has no formal papers or documents in which case adoption by another family is not possible.

Question 4

I know of some Brazilian sex workers who travel with passports that contain false information. Often, the age, which is indicated in the passport, does not correspond with their real age. Does the immigration department of the police have formal communication structures with the Brazilian embassy in Paramaribo? According to me, it is necessary that these things should be discussed at the highest levels.

Metroos

This is the first time I hear of such a case. Formal communication structures with the embassy are in place, but the control of this data will be very difficult.

Question 5

I appreciate the courage of Soenita to come here and tell her story. Will it still be safe out there for her? Where can she go for protection, when she needs it?

Levens

Soenita should not be afraid. She can come and see me any time. I will make sure that anything she reports will be investigated thoroughly.

Nobody needs to be afraid. Nobody's life is in danger. I would like to ask every sex worker Metroos here today to come forward and share his or her experiences. Only then can we take action.

Chairperson

I would like to suggest that the Maxi Linder Association bring all parties together in order to exchange information.

Question 6

How can the military police consider these foreign sex workers to be nightclub hostesses? If you know that a club owner signs for them, then you must know that they are not regular tourists. By acting as guardian, does the club owner not officially become a pimp?

Wasimin

The club owner indicates the reason why the women enter the country. The request form for the visa says 'hostess'.

Brakke

And that is not illegal.

Chairperson

Doesn't these hostesses need a working permit from the Ministry of Labor?

Marica

All this information is new to me. Sex work is not legalized in Suriname. The Ministry of Labor does not consider sex work to be 'labor'. Only if it regards children and minors, the ministry will act. All foreigners, who want to work, need a working permit. Hostesses could never receive this permit from the ministry because the profession does not exist. We do not recognize hosting as a profession.

It is possible that a working permit that was issued for a regular profession is being abused. As far as I know, we never received any requests for working permits for hostesses. If this profession was recognized, it would mean that the ministry would have to conduct a needs assessment to find out how many hostesses are required for the Surinamese market. All labor contracts need to be checked by the ministry. The ministry has never checked a contract between a club owner and a hostess.

Question 6b

If the ministry does not grant a working permit and the women enter the country with a tourist visa, how do they wind up working in a club?

Marica

Anyone can receive a tourist visa. You can easily get a short-term residence permit for three to six months. Only for a long-term residence permit you need a working permit.

Question 7

A certain club owner does receive working permits for his women. How is that possible?

Marica

This information needs to be reported to the department of inspection of the Ministry of Labor, because this should not be possible. It is possible that people obtain working permits under false pretences. For the ministry, sex work does not exist.

Why not? Because sex workers don't pay taxes. I don't know if hostesses pay taxes.

Question 8

What happens if a foreign sex worker is HIV positive? **Wasismin**

She will have to leave the country.

Comment

I would like to remind everybody that the real issue here is exploitation. The women's network is currently brainstorming on solutions for wandering girls. Our focus is on protection against exploitation. We need to come up with some guidelines and rules.

Comment

I would like to compliment all the presenters and the members of the panel on the way they have shed some light on the issue of sex work and all the problems that accompany it.

The chairperson closes the discussion and thanks the participants. The item 'lobbying' is postponed to the following day.

Final comment

All women have rights that need to be respected.

Day 2

Short introduction to the lobby document "Regulated sex work zones" J. Altenberg, CEO Maxi Linder Association

Why this document? Out of information from the field and discussions with stakeholders, it has become clear that different categories of sex workers are being treated accordingly. Club workers are being tolerated and find themselves in fact in a regulated sex work zone. The situation on the streets however is drastically different.

I would like to direct your attention to the following facts:

1. It is statistically proven that sex workers, who have regular medical check-ups, have less std, including hiv. The public health situation of the whole society will benefit from this.
2. Street workers have a high incidence of std and drug abuse. There is no regulation at all at this level. There is total arbitrariness. There is a lot of competition on the streets, no standard prices and on top of that extremely low condom use.
3. Violence is an integral part of a street worker's life. Protection is almost non existent.
4. There is a lot of ignorance with the police on the matter of the law and on how to deal correctly with street workers. It is time to clear up the mess!

Question 1

Are you talking about a certain street or will there be a number of houses put up for street workers to perform their acts?

Altenberg

We have no fixed answer. This will be one of the issues to discuss in the working groups

Chairperson

The notion of 'regulated sex work zones' is fairly new to our society. We would like you to discuss it extensively today.

Question 2

I have seen suggestions for locations, in the lobby document. I do not agree with them. Is it possible to discuss that?

Altenberg

Yes, please! We would like to hear from you. Please feel free to share all your thoughts and suggestions with us.

Working groups

Group 1	Sex workers
Group 2	Police department and Military police Representatives of
Group 3	Ministries and government agencies Representatives of
Group 4	NGO's and labor unions

Guidelines

1. You will discuss the lobby document, with specific attention for the paragraph "discussion" .
2. Each group appoints a chairperson who will monitor the discussion and make sure everyone gets the chance to participate. 3. Every view/standpoint needs to be put in the report. 4. The basis for the discussion is respect for each other. Please do not attack persons, attack views.
5. Keep track of the time
6. Every group appoints someone who will report the findings in the plenary session
7. Please write down your findings
8. You should discuss the issues in relation to your field of expertise or work setting

Points of discussion

1. Read the criteria for regulated sex work zones on the last page of the lobby document. Please provide us with comments, thoughts, and/or amplifications
2. In your field of expertise, what are pros and cons of regulated sex work zones? What kind of resistance could we expect? From whom?
3. What kind of facilities should be available in a regulated sex work zone? What are the minimal requirements or criteria of *locations* for regulated sex work zones.
4. What will be your specific contribution to the process of realizing regulated sex work zones in Suriname?

Plenary report

Group 1 Sex workers

Participants

T. Tait-Codrington (chair) A.

Beighle-Symor (reporter) W.

Wielingen

L. Doornkamp

J. Wolff

C.Lewis

O. Arnon

S. Gangabisoensingh Mevr.

Ernst-Van de Leede

Item 1

We would like sex work to be recognized as labor. The age of 21 years is too high. It would be more realistic to bring that age to 16. The government should create more support facilities for children in order to keep them from the streets.

We would like to see more workshops on health care, hygiene, std/hiv and budgeting. Regulating sex work should be done in cooperation with sex workers.

We are willing to pay taxes but in exchange we would like to receive social benefits such as child support, health insurance, a pension fund, etc.

Item 2

Pro's are: safety, social benefits and a fixed price

Con's are: increased visibility and identification of sex workers; not all clients will be prepared to go there

Item 3

Resistance will come, but it is important to keep talking. We suggest creating a 'pickup' zone and a 'direct zone'. We think the "Boulevard" is a good location.

Facilities that are needed are: condoms and lubricants; police surveillance, sanitary facilities, a fixed price and protection against violence.

Item 4

We would like to educate our peers and talk about the advantages of regulation.

We would like to lobby for this cause and work together with Maxi Linder Association. We want the whole society to accept sex work.

Group 2 Police Department and Military Police

Participants

P. Wasimin, Head Immigration department Military Police (chair and reporter) H.

Metroos, Head Immigration department Police Department

R. Levens, Inspector of police

Ch. Samoedje, Vice-head Immigration department Police Department

Item 1

We do not agree with the suggested areas. We think of the area 'Waterkant' until 'Veerplein' .

Item 2

Advantages: improvement of control and overview of all sex workers; a fixed set of rules that are clear for everybody; possibilities for protection against violence improve; the out dated laws will be revised.

Disadvantages: everybody who breaks the rules will be punished

Item 3

Facilities: a building with rooms and a huge wall around it, sanitation and fire protection

Item 4

Support, participation and regulation

Group 3 Representatives of ministries and government agencies

Participants

B. Marica, Vice-director Ministry of Labor (chair)

M. Caprino, Historian (reporter)

Samijo, National Bureau of Statistics

M. R. J anmohamed, Dermatological Service

R. Codfried-Kranenburg, Director Ministry of Health

D. Hordijk, Counselor Dermatological Service

S. Achthoven, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Consular Affairs

P. Kartoredjo, Coordinator education department Dermatological

Service L. Hilaire, Social worker, 's Lands Hospital

M Bunwaree, Social worker, Bureau of Public Health, Health education department

Before the discussion took place, the group agreed on the following:

We, as a group, cannot promote sex work because of existing norms and values in our society. We agree that the government has the responsibility to provide jobs for all citizens, with the exclusion of sex work. However, we are realistic and do not deny the existence of sex work. Therefore, we think that the commercial sex sector should be regulated.

I tern 1

The suggested areas cannot be approved from an educational and tourism point of View.

More information needs to be provided on items 1,2 and 8. The treaties that are being mentioned should be added as an annex.

Item 6 should be rephrased. The initiative should be a private one. The government has the task to control (health and safety inspection).

There should be more information on the clients of sex workers.

Item 2

Advantages:

- . Sex work will be recognized as a societal phenomenon
- . Medical and labor control becomes possible
- . The population of sex workers can be localized and thus reached for educational purposes
- . The zone will have educational value since it is out in the open and for all to see . Street sex work will be taken away from highly populated areas
- . It is less expensive for the government

No specific disadvantages were mentioned, except for stereo typing (identification)

Item 3

Resistance can be expected from churches, people who live in the neighborhood, educators, hotel owners (competition) and social groups (morality).

The location should preferably be out of the center of town and should be open 24 hours a day.

If the location is in town, it should have time limitations and be small in size. (Red light district)

Good sanitation needs to be available, different types of sex work should be offered such as peep shows and rooms. Condom machines and police surveillance needs to be present. The initiative should be a private one and a mobile health center has to be available.

Item 4

The public sector needs to guide, control, facilitate and work together with all stakeholders.

Things to consider: the age of sex workers should be carefully considered as well as a system to collect taxes.

Group 4 NGO's and GO's

Participants:

Y. Brader, Labor Union ("Moederbond") (chair)
L. Pin as-Colin, Projekta Foundation (reporter)
F. Sowdagar, Community development foundation Welgelegen
N. Ramdin, Women's Parliament Forum/ Maxi Linder Association
M.S. Vreugd, Nurse, Labor Union St. Vincentius Hospital
A. Verwey, Labor Union ("Moederbond")
M. van Campen, Community development foundation Welgelegen
H. Melcherts, Chairperson of the Community development foundation
Welgelegen
I.Loemban Tobing-Klein, Chairperson UNA Suriname/Chairperson Women's
Network Suriname-Holland

Item 1

We need to legalize sex work. Rules should be formulated and should apply to all sex workers. Control measures should be taken and everyone who breaks the rules should be punished. Sex workers need to register and organize themselves in order to be able to defend their rights. We need educational programs for sex workers and the broader society.

Item 2

Advantages: Control and regulation is possible; protection guaranteed; hygiene and health conditions improved; taxes can be collected and children will no longer be abused.

Disadvantages: resistance from pimps and sex workers, the society as a whole and clubs

Item 3

The location should be neighborhood friendly and disturbances should be prevented.

Protection and safety should be guaranteed, as well as privacy.

The facilities that need to be present: good water supply, condoms and good sanitation

Item 4

Education for sex workers; alternative job training; a broad network for advocacy

Annex 1 - Specification on nightclub hostesses (commercial sex workers) in Suriname, P. Wasimin

1. Club owners ask the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, department of consular affairs, permission to request visa
2. When permission is granted, the nightclub hostesses are brought to Suriname. The women have to reimburse the travel expenses to the club owner within a certain time limit.
3. The club owner picks the women up at the airport where they receive a valid visa
4. The passports and tickets are being registered at the immigration department. The club owner receives two registration cards for each nightclub hostess. If someone does not possess a return ticket, it needs to be purchased on the spot.
5. The passports and tickets are then sent to Paramaribo. The arrival date is being stamped in the passport.
6. After three or four days, the club owner can pick up the passports, tickets and one registration card.
7. The club owner takes the women to the Dermatological Service for a medical check-up, including std and mv/aids.
8. When the woman is declared 'healthy', the club owner goes to the immigration department of the police for extension of the visa.

The procedure in the district of Nickerie is as follows:

1. Steps 1 through 4 and 7 are the same
2. The club owner goes as soon as possible to the immigration department in Nw. Nickerie, with the following documents: passports, tickets, and declaration of the Dermatological Service and registration cards.
3. The arrival date is being stamped in the passport and the visa is being prolonged with one month.
4. Each month, the club owner requests an extension of the visa. (six months is the maximum period)
5. After six months, the women need to leave Suriname. The club owner books them a flight back home.

Annex 2 - List of participants

<i>NAME</i>	<i>ORGANISATION</i>	<i>POSITION</i>	<i>REMARK</i>
1. Ernst-v/d Leend,	Maxi Linder Association (MLA)	c.E.O.	Presenter
D. Arnon, Q.	Maxi Linder Association	Educator	
Caprino, M.	Maxi Linder Association		
Hordijk, D.C.	Dermatological Service	Historian	Presenter
Sno, M.	Dermatological Service	Counselor/Educator	
Janmohamed, M.R.	Delmatological Service		
Gajadhar, R.	Police Department Suriname		
Tucker, S.R.	Peace Corps		Opening
Kartoredjo, P.	Dermatological Service	Volunteer MLA	
Ketwaran, S.	CCGEF		
Levens, R.E.	Police Department Suriname		
Metroos-Playfair, H.	Police Department Suriname		Presenter
Samoedj, Ch.	Police Department Suriname	Head Immigration dpt.	Panel
Malmberg -Guicherit,H.		Immigration dpt. Chair	
Brakke-Geer, E.	Ministry Foreign Affairs/CONZA	of the day Head	
Samijo, B.	National Bureau of Statistics	Consular Affairs	Panel
Wasimin, P.	Military Police		
Asin-ChiuALien, H.	CHA		Panel
Brader, Y.	Labor Union (Moederbond)		
Hewitt-Hensen, L.	Labor Union (Moederbond)		
Verwey, A.	Labor Union (Moederbond)		
Wolff, I.	Maxi Linder Association		
Beighle-Symor, A.	Maxi Linder Association		
Loemban Tobing-Klein	UNA Suriname/NVSN		
Dos Ramos-Karso, L.	Jovroce Foundation		
Bunwaree, M.	Bureau of Public Health		
Doornkamp, L.	Maxi Linder Association	Social worker	
Hilaire. L.	's Lands Hospital		
Wielingen, W.	Maxi Linder Association	Social worker	
Lewis, C.	Maxi Linder Association		
Sadal. S.	Dermatological Service	Director	
Codfried-Kranenburg,R.	Ministry of Health	Director	Presenter
Vreugd, M.S.	Labor Union (A VVS)	Nurse	Presenter
Van Campen, M.	Community Development Foundation,		
Pinas-Colin, L.	Projekta Foundation		Welgelegen
Achthoven, S.	Ministry Foreign Affairs		
Melcherts, H.	Community Development Foundation,		
Sowdagar, F.	Community Development Foundation,		Welgelegen
Marica, C.	Ministry of Labor	Vice-Director	Welgelegen
Taitt-Codrington, T.	Maxi Linder Association		Panel
Gangabisoensingh, S.	Maxi Linder Association		
Ramdin, N.	Women's Parliament Forum		
Monsels, L.	University of Suriname (IMWO)		
Antonius-Smits, Ch.	Public Health Dpt. Univ. Suriname	Acting head	Reporter Reporter

4. DRAFT PROTOCOL TOLERATED (REGULATED) SEX WORK ZONE

- ... Tolerated Sex Work Zones must be established by law
- ... Adoption of human rights laws in accordance with the United Nations Human Rights Commission Conventions and Recommendations
- ... Adoption of Labor Laws in accordance with the International Labor Organization's Conventions and Recommendations on working conditions
- ... Admittance of Sex Workers from the age of 21 only
- ... Provision of opportunities for Educational Workshops on Health; General- and Personal Hygiene and Legislation
- ... Regular Health check-ups (bi-weekly) on Sexual Transmitted Infections and Cervical cancer
- ... Regulation of the Legal Sex Work Zone with the protection and support of the Suriname Police Force
- ... Maintenance and provision of sanitary facilities including adequate and safe housing controlled by the Ministry of Health.
- ... Levy a tax on Sex Work to pay into social security
- ... Provision of effective Legal Protection, non-discriminatory treatment, and restitution
- ... Promotion and support of cooperation between commercial sex workers, law enforcement agencies and non-governmental organizations capable of providing assistance
- ... Sufficient supply of quality condoms for Safer Sex Practices