Workshop: Youth and students movements for abolition

Tuesday 31 January
15:00-17:00, Seminar halls 2 & 3, India International Center

A new generation of abolitionist leaders is emerging in many countries. Young people are more mobilised than ever for two reasons: because they are the first affected and harmed by the sex industry, and because they actively believe in and promote a contemporary conception of equality and sexuality that is not compatible with women’s subordination to male privileges, economic power and domination.

Speakers:
Meghan Donevan, representative of Freethem (Sweden)
Raphaëlle Rémy-Leleu, spokesperson of Osez le féminisme (France)
Alejandra Scelles Torres, youth representative, CAES (Spain)
Shanie Roy, young survivor of prostitution & community worker (Canada)
Nana Taw, Media Associate, Apne Aap (India)
Khushboo Mishra, Programme Associate, Apne Aap (India)
Ghina Al-Andary, social work student, Lebanese American University (Lebanon)
Amrita Queen, All India Students’ Association leader (India)
Joyatri Roy, child protection expert (India)
Devika Shekhawat, youth leader (India)
Shakeel Ahmed Khan, Indian National Congress, former director of Nehru Yuva Kendra (India)

Moderators:
Pierrette Pape (European Women’s Lobby) and Zala Žbogar (CAP International)
Meghan Donevan
Sweden
@MeghanDonevan
Youth representative for Freethem @FreethemSE
Meghan Donevan is a member of Freethem, a Swedish youth movement preventing demand for prostitution, pornography and forced labour. Through lectures, research and creative campaigns, the organisation hope to inspire individuals and decision makers, on a national and international level, to take an active stance for a generation without trafficking in persons. Ms Donevan is also a support worker and project leader Talita, a non-profit organization offering help and support to women who have been exploited in prostitution, pornography or human trafficking for sexual purposes in Sweden and Mongolia. She is a researcher of issues of sexual exploitation, including prostitution, human trafficking and pornography.

Raphaëlle Rémy-Leleu
France
@RaphaelleRL
Spokesperson for Osez le féminisme @osezlefeminisme
Raphaëlle Rémy-Leleu is a young abolitionist activist and the spokesperson for Osez le Féminisme! since 2016. Osez le Féminisme! is a generalist feminist association that seeks to increase the level of equality in society. In 2013, Osez le féminisme! joined forces with several other youth organisations to create the coalition “youth for the abolition of prostitution” in order to support the adoption of a French abolitionist law.

Alejandra Scelles Torres
Spain
Representative of CAES
Alejandra Scelles is a young activist advocating against commercial sexual exploitation as a representative of Fondation Scelles in France and a representative of CAES, a youth movement against sexual exploitation in Spain. She is currently studying her Bachelor’s degree in Madrid, Spain.

Shanie Roy
Canada
Young survivor of prostitution & community worker
Shanie Roy is a survivor and activist against the sex industry in Canada. She was in the sex industry from age 15 to 19. Ms Roy is a community worker, works with la Concertation des luttes contre l’exploitation sexuelle (la CLES) and is co-founder of Collectif d’aide aux femmes exploitées sexuellement. @CAFES_femmes

Nana Taw
India
@ApneAap
Media Associate, Apne Aap
Taw Nana is a social activist. She is responsible for activities related to media and advocacy with Apne Aap Women Worldwide, an organization working towards ending sex trafficking by engaging with the victims, survivors and at risk of being prostituted girls and women. She has led many national and international campaigns including organising a candle light march in Sonagachi Redlight area, a first of its kind seeking justice for a murdered prostituted
woman. Recently, she has ideated a campaign ‘I Am Giving This Winter’, a donation drive for the Rohingya refugee community in Faridabad, Delhi NCR. Before venturing into development sector, she started out her career as a journalist in The Asian Age, a national daily in New Delhi.

Khushboo Mishra
India
@ApneAap
Programme Associate, Apne Aap
Khushboo Mishra leads Apne Aap’s field intervention, working towards empowering girls and women at risk of prostitution and trafficking. She has helped mainstream the children from marginalized communities by enrolling them to schools, organizing activities including self-defence training, in an effort to make every life count. She has done her Bachelors in Economics from Delhi University.

Ghina Al-Andary
Lebanon
Lebanese American University
I'm a senior Social Work student minoring in Psychology. I have focused throughout my field placements and non-academic internships on gender issues. My first field placement was with KAFA (@KAFA_Lebanon) in which I worked on the issue of prostitution and human trafficking, more specifically; I created a proposal on how to design services and reach out for women in prostitution. I did a summer internship where I worked with economically disadvantaged Lebanese and Syrian refugee women on livelihood. And my last field placement was in a women’s jail; and there I worked with migrant domestic workers (survivors of human trafficking and exploitation) who have been imprisoned for committing certain felonies. I offered individual counselling and formed a support group for these women. I have as well been a volunteer with the Red Cross/ Youth department for the past five years in which I also helped lead awareness sessions about gender issues for youth.

Amrita Queen
India
All India Students’ Association @AISA_tweets
Joined the All India Students’ Association in her 1st year of graduation (2013). Was part of Bekhauf Azaadi which started after the 16th Dec gang rape. When the entire country was questioning the woman’s morality, AISA was creating a discourse around freedom without fear, freedom to go anywhere anytime, to marry, to not marry. Whether the woman was drunk, where she was, what clothes she was wearing, this question is irrelevant. Also active in campaigns and organised events around women issues under Pinjratod (women’s collective).

Joyatri Ray
India
Child protection expert
Joyatri Ray is a social development professional with over 22 years of work on child protection, focusing primarily on child trafficking, child sexual exploitation and online child abuse in India and across South Asia. She has been associated with various government, non-government organisations to promote child protection. Her work on Child protection issues in the context travel and tourism has been acknowledged by various government bodies. She has also served in UN Women (formerly known as UNIFEM), with particular focus on human trafficking in travel and tourism. She has served as Director – Corporate Social Responsibility for ING entities in India. Presently, she freelances with varied organisations and corporates to develop child protection mechanisms as part of their policy and practice. She also mentors small and medium sized organisations on advocacy actions, strategy formulations and result oriented implementation plans to
strengthen their fight against human trafficking. She also works with un-organised sector to raise awareness on gender relations and child protection issues and how they can ensure that their operations are not used to exploit women and children.

Devika Shekhawat  
India  
Youth activist
Devika is a young social activist who has been working on issues of Gender and politics for as long as she can remember. She is co-head of The Gender Studies Cell in St. Stephens College. She believes that the small struggles and acts of rebellion by people, communities and collectives built the larger framework of a resistance against structures and institutions of oppression.

Shakeel Ahmed Khan  
India
Indian National Congress, former director of Nehru Yuva Kendra

MODERATORS

Zala Žbogar  
Slovenia
@CAPIntl
Communications and Campaigns Officer, CAP International
Zala Žbogar is a young feminist professional who joined the Coalition for the Abolition of Prostitution in April 2016 as Communications and Campaigns Officer. Previously she worked on communications with the oldest women's peace organization, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

Pierrette Pape  
Belgium
@PierrettePape
Policy and Campaigns Director, European Women’s Lobby @EuropeanWomen
Pierrette Pape is Policy and Campaigns Director at the European Women’s Lobby (EWL). She has been at the EWL since 2009, and most specifically in charge of monitoring and influencing the EU policies on violence against women and sexual and reproductive health and rights. She coordinates the EWL campaign ‘Together for a Europe free from prostitution’ and the network of abolitionist NGOs ‘The Brussels’ Call’. She is also an activist in various women’s organisations in Belgium, such as a grassroots NGO working to assist and support persons in prostitution, a feminist NGO working on gender and development, and she is a member of the editorial Board of the Belgian publication ‘Chronique féministe’.