



**SANTA BARBARA RAPE CRISIS CENTER**  
**CENTRO CONTRA LA VIOLACION SEXUAL**

**VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 5: MAY 2005

---

**SWEDEN'S PROSTITUTION SOLUTION: GROUNDBREAKING 1999 LEGISLATION**

In a deep sea of clichés despairing that ‘prostitution will always be with us,’ one country’s success stands out as a solitary beacon lighting the way. In just five years Sweden has dramatically reduced the number of its women in prostitution. In the capital city of Stockholm the number of women in street prostitution has been reduced by two thirds, and the number of johns has been reduced by 80%. There are other major Swedish cities where street prostitution has all but disappeared. Gone too, for the most part, are the renowned Swedish brothels and massage parlors that proliferated during the last three decades of the twentieth century when prostitution in Sweden was legal.

In addition, the number of foreign women now being trafficked into Sweden for sex is nil. The Swedish government estimates that in the last few years only 200 to 400 women and girls have been annually sex trafficked into Sweden, a figure that's negligible compared to the 15,000 to 17,000 females yearly sex trafficked into neighboring Finland. No other country, nor any other social experiment, has come anywhere near Sweden's promising results. By what complex formula has Sweden managed this feat? Amazingly, Sweden's strategy isn't complex at all. Its tenets, in fact, seem so simple and so firmly anchored in common sense as to immediately spark the question, “Why hasn't anyone tried this before?”

In 1999, after years of research and study, Sweden passed legislation that a) criminalizes the buying of sex, and b) decriminalizes the selling of sex. The novel rationale behind this legislation is clearly stated in the government's literature on the law: “In Sweden prostitution is regarded as an aspect of male violence against women and children. It is officially acknowledged as a form of exploitation of women and children and constitutes a significant social problem... gender equality will remain unattainable so long as men buy, sell and exploit women and children by prostituting them.”

In addition to the two pronged legal strategy, a third and essential element of Sweden's prostitution legislation provides for ample and comprehensive social service funds aimed at helping any prostitute who wants to get out, and additional funds to educate the public. As such, Sweden's unique strategy treats prostitution as a form of violence against women in which the men who exploit by buying sex are criminalized, the mostly female prostitutes are treated as victims who need help, and the public is educated in order to counteract the historical male bias that has long stultified thinking on prostitution. To securely anchor their view in firm legal ground, Sweden's prostitution legislation was passed as part and parcel of the country's 1999 omnibus violence against women legislation.

## **COURT DECLINES TO CONSIDER INMATE'S SEXUAL ASSAULT LAWSUIT**

WASHINGTON (AP), Monday March 07, 2005

The Supreme Court declined Monday to consider whether an inmate may sue prison officials after his cellmate sexually assaulted him. Justices let stand a 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that reversed a \$1.5 million jury award for Anthony Riccardo, an inmate at the Centralia Correctional Center in Illinois. Riccardo twice before had changed cellmates after failing to get along. Lt. Larry Rausch then paired him with Juan Garcia, whom Riccardo objected to because of fears of gang violence. Two days later, Garcia forced him to perform oral sex in their cell.

A jury concluded that Rausch had subjected him to cruel and unusual punishment and ordered him to pay \$1.5 million. But the 7th Circuit disagreed. Prisons are dangerous places, it said, and so prison officials should only be held responsible if they are “deliberately indifferent” to a substantial risk of serious harm. Erwin Chemerinsky, a Duke law school professor representing Riccardo, argued in filings that high court review was necessary to clarify the legal standard of “deliberately indifferent.”

Jurors this summer, for example, will decide whether seven Texas prison officials should be held responsible for discrimination based on sexual orientation, in a suit by a former gay inmate who says he was repeatedly raped while behind bars. “Other circuits have said that complaint of potential violence is enough because inmates cannot protect themselves and because it is necessary to err on the side of protection rather than risk violence,” Chemerinsky wrote in filings.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **JOIN US FOR THE NEXT ADVOCATE MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 9TH, 6PM – 8PM**

This month, we will be joined by Marcelino Sepulveda who will talk about Helpline and the new 2-1-1 program being launched for Santa Barbara County. Hope to see you on May 9<sup>th</sup>!

### **SBRCC NEEDS MORE ADVOCATES – HELP SPREAD THE WORD!**

- The next **Spanish Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **August 2, 2005 – September 20, 2005**. Classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Maria by email at [maria@sbrcc.net](mailto:maria@sbrcc.net) or by phone at 963-6832, x. 27.
- The next **English Crisis Intervention Training** is scheduled for **October 3, 2005 – November 30, 2005**. Classes will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them contact Heather by email at [heather@sbrcc.net](mailto:heather@sbrcc.net) or by phone at 963-6832, x. 28.

### **SHINING STAR LUNCHEON: WEDNESDAY, MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> 11:30AM – 2PM**

The Shining Star Luncheon is the keystone of SBRCC's annual fundraising efforts. It is a public acknowledgment of community members who have had a significant impact on the lives of sexual assault survivors. This year's luncheon will be a celebration of SBRCC's 30 years of service to our community, and will be held at the Coral Casino in the Four Seasons Biltmore.

The honorees receiving SBRCC Shining Star Awards in 2005 are: *Harriet Eckstein* and *Ivonne Zarate*, two former SBRCC staff members who were instrumental in advancing SBRCC's capacity and effectiveness in responding to sexual assault in our community, and *Montecito Bank & Trust* for its long-standing support of SBRCC's work.

Tickets for the Shining Star Luncheon are \$100 each and can be reserved by calling 963-6832. However, tickets to the luncheon are available for volunteers at the reduced price of \$40 per person. Of course, we'd love it if all of you could come for free, but our budget just can't accommodate it. We're hoping that the \$40 ticket will make it possible for you to join us. Your presence at the luncheon adds a special aspect to the event. You are the face of our organization and the ones who make our work possible. Giving our supporters the opportunity to meet you is a great way to reinforce the important work we do and the incredible number of volunteers who so generously give of their time and energy to our community.

If you are interested in attending the luncheon or in helping to coordinate the event, please contact Myfanwy, SBRCC's Development Director, at [myfanwy@sbrcc.net](mailto:myfanwy@sbrcc.net) or at 963-6832, x. 25. You may also want to check out the \$20 raffle for a week in Aspen. And, please spread the word to your friends, family members or co-workers who might also be interested in attending.

### **LONG-TERM COUNSELING TRAINING**

If you have completed SBRCC's 60-hour Crisis Intervention Training, have been active as an advocate for six months, and are interested in becoming a Long-term Counselor, you can register for the next Long-term Counseling Training. As a Long-term Counselor, you will provide face-to-face, long-term individual, couples or family counseling to sexual assault survivors and/or their significant others. In addition, you can co-facilitate support groups for adult or teen sexual assault survivors. The next 20-hour Long-term Counseling Training, facilitated by SBRCC's Counseling Supervisor Marilyn Goldman, will begin in June 2005 upon completion of the current Crisis Intervention Training. An orientation meeting will occur in mid-late May to provide an overview of the training and to determine specific training dates. **If you are interested, please contact Alana at [alana@sbrcc.net](mailto:alana@sbrcc.net) or at 963-6832, ext 23.**

### **MAY OFFICE CLOSURE**

SBRCC's office will be closed on Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day. Of course, the 24-hour hotline will still be operational throughout the holiday.



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**



- Susan L. on May 4<sup>th</sup>
- Deisi on May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Lea on May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Charlotte on May 28<sup>th</sup>