

LEGISLATIVE TRIUMPHS AND TRIALS IN COMBATING DEMAND FOR COMMERCIAL SEX

*Woodrow Wilson Center
Tuesday, March 9, 2010
3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.*

PARTICIPANT BIOS

TAINA BIEN-AIMÉ

Executive Director, Equality Now

Taina Bien-Aimé is the Executive Director of Equality Now, an international human rights advocacy organization that works to end violence and discrimination against women and girls. With offices in New York, Nairobi and London, issues of concern to Equality Now include rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, reproductive rights, trafficking in women and other forms of human rights abuses affecting women. Bien-Aimé was also Director of Business Affairs/Film Acquisitions at HBO and practiced international corporate law at the Wall Street firm, Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. For close to two decades, Bien-Aimé has provided expert commentary on women's rights, including sex trafficking, on print media, television, and radio, including the New York Times, AP, Reuters, CNN, NPR, The Glenn Beck Show, and numerous other national and international media outlets. Taina contributed essays to "Becoming Myself: Reflections on Growing Up Female," edited by Willa Shalit (Hyperion, 2006). Bien-Aimé is also a contributor to The Huffington Post. Taina holds a Juris Doctor from NYU School of Law and a License in Political Science from the University of Geneva and the Graduate School of International Studies, Switzerland.

ELEANOR KENNELLY GAETAN

Legislative Advisor, Coalition Against Trafficking in Women

Eleanor Kennelly Gaetan, Ph.D., served for over five years, 2003–2009, as Senior Coordinator of Public Outreach for the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. She was senior editor of five *Trafficking in Persons* Reports and managed congressional relations, including passage of two reauthorizations of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, in 2005 and 2008. Explaining the intrinsic connection between prostitution and sex trafficking was one critical theme around which she developed public education materials at the State Department. Before joining State, she was Senior Democracy Advisor at USAID/Romania where human trafficking was in her portfolio among other democracy issues. Eleanor currently serves as legislative adviser to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW). Eleanor holds a Ph.D. in comparative politics from University of Maryland and a BA from Yale University.

SAMIR GOSWAMI

Policy Director, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Samir has extensive organizing, media advocacy and public policy advocacy experience on the issues of criminal justice reform, workforce development, affordable housing and sexual and domestic violence prevention. He currently leads the End Demand, Illinois Campaign a grassroots effort to transform the state's response to prostitution and sex trafficking. While he was on the policy staff at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (1999 - 2008), he founded the Prostitution Alternatives Round Table and organized survivors of prostitution, community based and social service organizations, faith based institutions and worked with corrections, city, county and state officials and law makers to advocate for policy reforms to assist persons involved in prostitution and trafficking.

Samir was a lead advocate in passage of the 2002 Cook County Residential Treatment and Transition Center for Women (ILPA 92-0806), the 2003 Criminal Record Sealing Act (ILPA 93-1084) and the 2007 First Offender Probation Act (ILPA 95-0255). Samir was also the lead lobbyist and organizer for the Predator Accountability Act, (ILPA 94-0998) and assisted in successful legislative, organizing and media advocacy towards creating the 2005 Rental Housing Support Act (ILPA 94-0118) and the 1999 Homelessness Prevention Act which have resulted in millions more state dollars for the creation of affordable housing and homelessness prevention programs in Illinois. Samir is a 2010 Chicago Community Trust Fellow, a 2010 Chicago Foundation for Women Impact Award Honoree and a recipient of BPI's 40 Who've Made a Difference Award. Samir is a board member of Career Advancement Network and Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers.

LINA SIDRYS NEALON

Program Manager, Demand Abolition, Hunt Alternatives Fund

Lina Nealon manages the Demand Abolition program at Hunt Alternatives Fund, a family foundation that advances innovative and inclusive approaches to social change at the local, national, and global levels. Demand Abolition supports the movement to end modern-day slavery by combating the demand for sex trafficking. By conducting and disseminating research, convening key stakeholders to share best practices, and educating policymakers, Demand Abolition catalyzes systemic social change to reflect the dignity of all people. Previously, Ms. Nealon served as policy specialist and trainer with The Institute for Inclusive Security, a research and advocacy organization that promotes the full participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes. Ms. Nealon's dedication to eradicating slavery was inspired through her volunteer work with the Florida-based Coalition of Immokalee Workers and with Lithuanian organizations combating child sex trafficking. She serves on the advisory council of Women2Women International and is a member of the Massachusetts Anti-Human Trafficking Taskforce and the Suffolk County Demand Taskforce. Along with her husband, Boston bookstore owner Brian, Ms. Nealon has organized the shipment of over a 10,000 books to libraries and schools in Liberia and Afghanistan. They are expecting their first child in May.