



## **CAP international and its Swedish member organisation Talita welcome Swedish move towards the criminalisation of sex purchase abroad**

Thursday 7 December, 2017

This morning, the Government of Sweden presented a law aimed at criminalising the purchase of sex abroad.

This decision demonstrates again Sweden's consistency and determination in the fight against prostitution and its exploitation.

*"With this law, Sweden signals its continuing commitment to a more equal society for Swedes, while also increasing efforts to achieve a world free from prostitution" said Sarah Benson, chair of CAP international. She added: "Extending the prohibition of the purchase of sex for its own citizens abroad is a clear contribution to the efforts to decrease sexual exploitation of marginalised women and girls in third countries. This move by Sweden creates a valuable opportunity for all countries to reflect on the importance of harmonising legislations towards the universal abolition of the prostitution system".*

*"The Swedish legislation says that we cannot achieve an equal society when individuals in general, and women and children in particular, can be bought and sold. This should apply to all individuals, regardless of where they find themselves in the world. Talita sees this law as absolutely necessary in achieving the society - both nationally and globally - that Sweden strives towards. We are proud that the Swedish government has taken this historic step," said Talita Project Manager Meghan Donevan.*

Since the historic adoption of the Swedish legislation in 1999, more and more countries have adopted abolitionist legislation. The ongoing spread of this "Nordic model" is the most effective way to disrupt the inherently exploitative and extremely lucrative prostitution market.

CAP international, Talita and all 23 member organisations of CAP intl in 18 countries commend the great efforts of Swedish feminist NGOs and decision makers who have contributed to the presentation of this bill and strongly support its quick adoption.

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