

Written by Amanda Martin

Thursday, 05 February 2009 15:17 - Last Updated Thursday, 05 February 2009 15:18

On February 14, 2009, the GABRIELA Network (GABNet) of the Mariposa Alliance, will commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Purple-Rose Campaign against the trafficking of Filipino women and children.

At the beginning of the Purple-Rose Campaign, GABNet was one of the first and only organizations to identify the role of imperialist globalization on the labor and sex trafficking of women. Ten years later, our victories span the passage of landmark legislation like the International Marriage Broker Regulation Act (IMBRA), creating Purple-Rose Committees throughout the country, holding local and federal governments responsible for trafficking, and bringing the Purple-Rose Campaign to 11 countries.

During the failing global economic system, GABNet recognizes the need for the Purple-Rose Campaign more than ever. "Every year, a million people enter the sex trade, and we know that California is a top destination for trafficked humans," said Amanda Martin, Co-coordinator for GABNet Los Angeles.

This year, GabNet reaffirms its commitment to the Purple-Rose Campaign by organizing a week of activities aimed at anti-trafficking work. From February 9th-14th, GabNet Los Angeles will focus on educating the local community on the detrimental effects of trafficking and other forms of violence against women.

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In the beginning of the week, GABNet, Los Angeles will be hosting a Soul Collage workshop for women and an educational discussion on progressive relationships. Chapter members will also be delivering advocacy messages to the local offices of U.S. Senators and Representatives to urge them to reauthorize IMBRA. To engage youth on the issue of trafficking and gender violence, GABNet will also conduct two workshops for the Civitas After School Program in Downtown Los Angeles.

GABNet calls on all women interested in raising the struggle against the labor and sexual exploitation of women to join the Purple-Rose Campaign. For more information on events contact us at: losangeles@gabnet.org or call 510-502-6522.

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