



School of Development Studies

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Adhiel and Jean du Plessis
The House Shelter for the Girl Child
<http://thehousegroup.org>

Dear Adhiel and Jean,

When the United Nations *Office* for Drug Control and Crime Prevention asked me to conduct a study of the relationship between drugs, sex work, and HIV, it became clear that I would need partners to help me with the field work in both Cape Town and Johannesburg. I needed these partners to be both knowledgeable about the subject matter and well networked enough to be able to conduct interviews in the areas where sex work is practiced. I also needed people sensitive to the concerns and motivations of prostitutes, and able to see past possible deceptions they might raise around substance use issues. I knew from our past encounters that The House was the perfect partner in Johannesburg.

I am writing to thank you for a job well done. Getting saliva samples and interviews from almost 100 sex workers in Hillbrow is no small task, but you were able to manage it without a hitch. While I encountered problems with my partner in Cape Town, you all were able to deliver the needed results in a prompt manner. As project manager, it was a great pleasure to work with such able and responsible partners.

For the past several years and to this day, I know I can rely on you all to give me accurate information on what is happening on the streets of inner city Johannesburg. You are unique in the nation in the quality and extent of your experience of this subject matter. As a person concerned with the welfare of the women and girls engaged in prostitution, I am also grateful to you for the immeasurable good work you have done over the years. Unlike many other service providers, you have personally fought in the trenches to solve the practical problems of this most marginalised population.

Thank you again for your help on this project and in general.

Sincerely,

Ted Leggett
Editor, Crime and Conflict Quarterly
Senior Research Fellow, School of Development Studies
University of Natal, Durban