

## **Interview zum Thema Prostitution**

**with HOTEL EMPLOYEE / Ort wurde anonymisiert**

*Why do you work here?*

I tried to apply in 1980 at this hotel twice. I got no BAC and a child, I was desperately searching for work. I had no money to go to school anymore. There was no school for hotel personnel here in ... (*Ort anonymisiert*), only (...) offered a free formation. So I came here, did the three years formation and started working here.

*Do you like your work? And why?*

Yes. I like especially the openness – I get to meet a lot of different people from different countries. And if you are nice to them, they are nice to you too and help you. When talking to them, you learn a lot, how life is abroad for example. I like as well that I am paid regularly. There are enough hotels where the employees stay unpaid for months. Here you are paid. But there is a lot of demand, so the salary is not that high.

*Is the owner of the hotel a Cameroonian?*

Yes, he is. A Muslim from the North.

*Are there many tourists in the hotel? Non-African tourists? Why do you think the tourists come here? Which tourists do you like most? What does Kribi offer to them? Do you like the behavior of tourists?*

Most of the non-African tourists come from Switzerland and France. They're coming for marriage. Mostly it starts in the Internet, where white men get to know black girls. Then they come here, marry the girl and then they go back to Europe. But there, everything is different, the girls suffer and have no courage to tell their families. If you don't have a white husband here in (...), you're nothing. But it seems that things are slowly changing now – people are being sensitized.

For me, the main problem is the Cameroonians themselves. They think that they're more important if they have a family member in Europe. When you come back from Europe, you're being more respected. The parents even, they put pressure on their girls, they see white people as a solution to their problems. People are poor.

Cameroonian people don't help each other. But the Whites, they don't help us, either. When it concerns prostitution visa are given easily. I heard in the radio that 70% of the marriages are for traffic of human beings, are for prostitution!

*What do you think about prostitution in this place (Ort anonymisiert) ? Have you made any experience - maybe that tourists asked you, did you see something? What do you like to improve? What is solidarity for you?*

No, I don't have any personal experience. I heard in the radio that a woman from Douala found a white man and he took her to Europe. Then she realized that something is wrong. He took her to a house, a black woman was there, they took everything from her, examined her, she was given a room and started working there as a prostitute. She never met her „husband“ again. Once a man came to sleep with her, he was from her tribe in Douala, she asked him to help her. He bought her to bring her back.

But things like that are not possible here at (*this hotel*) (*Ort ersetzt*) . Our chef is Muslim, he doesn't accept that. If the people working here suspect anything, you have to go.

People are lazy. They don't want to make an effort. People should try to make effort. I always try to improve myself. I go to school every afternoon. That's what I prefer, the honest way to have a better life. People don't save money. Prostitutes should think about the future, save money for when they are old. You should plan your life. I am a bit afraid because this activity is so widespread, I don't know if it can be stopped but I have faith. Africans and Europeans should join their efforts to stop it. Also for the other generations. You should not envy people. You should contain yourself with what you have.

Concerning solidarity I think you should love your neighbor. In life people who have should help people that don't have. On Thursday I don't work. I cook and I give one plate my neighbor. When you give you receive. Not just money but for example you can help prostitutes by changing their minds. They could learn how to sew or to plate hair. Sensitize people, give advice so that they realize that they should stop and then help them to learn any job. Solidarity is to remain friends even though one is richer than the other. Don't envy. Share what you have, not everything but if it's only an advice, it is enough.