AAT was notified to rescue two girls, a 16-year old girl and a 23-year-old girl who are Burmese nationality (Shan ethnic group), tricked and forced into prostitution for many months at Jesica Pub (disguised brothel) in Ipoh, Malaysia. They were locked up in room upstairs of the pub after prostitution services and could not go anywhere. They wanted to go home. Besides, there were traffickers watched over them all the time. They could not talk much as afraid that the traffickers could hear them. The trafficker called back to the 16-year-old girl’s parents for negotiation, if they want their daughter back, they had to pay 90,000 Baht in exchange. The trafficker then would get another two more girls (tricked other girls) to replace the girls that were going back.

**Travelling back from Malaysia to Thailand**

The trafficker used Thailand as transit and dropping point. She dropped these girls at a hotel in Hatyai, Songkhla to transfer them back to Myanmar, the hotel is where the traffickers usually use for to dropping girls before transferring them to another country.

**AAT Successful Rescue**

AAT Investigation Team and the network had contacted with the girls since they were in the brothel to get sufficient information to locate the brothel and the other girls imprisoned they are in the Jesica Pub before going investigation.

After the investigation, AAT team contacted to the Department of Special Investigation Thailand (DSI), and the Immigration Checkpoint city of Songkhla, Thailand to rescue two girls, a 16-year-old Shan girl and a 23-year-old Shan woman from the traffickers in Hatyai, Songkhla province before being sent back to Myanmar.

With cooperation of Songkhla Immigration Police, Songkhla Provincial Social Development and Human Security and AAT Team, we rescued those two girls from the hotel room in Hatyai, Songkhla. AAT further
worked with Tenaganita and D7 police (Malaysian government units) for extending investigation on the Jesica Pub in Malaysia. They raided and rescued 20 girls out of the place, which girls comprising 19 from Shan State, Myanmar and one from Vietnam. They are now undergoing the victim identification process.

With the information from AAT’s investigation, we could help 22 women altogether from human trafficking and exploitation for sexual purposes in Ipoh, Malaysia. Further reading: http://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/nation/2017/03/11/police-rescue-20-victims-of-sex-exploitation-in-ipoh/

**A story from one of the victims**

This individual case shared us her trafficking story. She was trafficked to Bangkok from Shan State, Myanmar since she was 14 years old. She was tricked into prostitution and sell her virginity and it was sold for 30,000 Baht. The trafficker named Nang Su kept 15,000 out of 30,000 Baht. She had to sell sex services 2-3 times per day and earned 1,900 Baht for one-time service. But she only got 650 Baht and Nang Su kept 1,250 Baht.

After she had lesser customers, Nang Su transferred the girl to Ipoh, Malaysia through her trafficker network. She had to wear hijab with the command of the trafficker in order to cross to Malaysia. She was sent to be in prostitution at Jesica Pub in Ipoh. She was locked up in the room, besides there were CCTV in operation all the time. She could not escape or go anywhere. The traffickers were the one who bought food and stuffs for her. She was in debt 15,000 Baht since the time she arrived in Malaysia. She had to sell sex services for 150 times to clear the debt. She would earn 30 Ringgit per round after selling sex service 150 times by she had to send picture of each service to Nang Su while sending the customer out after finishing the service.

She had to sell sex services 8-9 times a day but decreased to 2-3 times later on. She wanted to go back home but the trafficker told her to pay off debts before she could leave. The debts included travelling expense 15,000 Baht from Bangkok to Ipoh, Malaysia and 90,000 Baht for the shipping costs of her belongings from Bangkok to Malaysia. She needed to pay off these debts to get to go home. She could not stand the conditions. Therefore, she asked for help from AAT.

The case received protection and sent into Thai Government Shelter
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