Vietnamese Women’s Museum activities target marginalized groups for achieving its equity and development objectives

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WM Museum Mission

* To increase knowledge and understanding of the cultural heritage and contemporary lives of Vietnamese women by collecting, preserving, interpreting and exhibiting material evidence;

* To promote gender equity.
Visitors at the Reopening Ceremony of the Permanent Exhibition
Women in Family
Women’s Fashion
Visitors’ Interactions
Discovery Centre for Children
Past exhibitions and the renovation in researching and approaching marginalized women groups
Installation exhibition of women living with HIV/AIDS

“Who? Care”
The Exhibition “Women overcome their difficult faith”
Exhibition of Street Vendors
Exhibition of Changing Lives

Châu làm tất cả chỉ để được bố gọi là con. Mỗi khi được nghe tiếng gọi con gái, tim châu như tan chảy vì hạnh phúc, nhưng chuyện đó thì hiện làm cô á.

I am doing everything possible to have father call me daughter. Each time I hear him call me daughter, my heart melts with happiness - but this is very rare.

VÌ SAO? / Why?

1. Cú út ruột vào hay thua đề là hành chung bới, danh đập mẹ con tôi, hành chung cả bố mẹ đề tôi. Năm ngoái, tôi bị tai nạn xe máy phải vào viện. Hạnh khá không chấm sóc tôi lại còn vào viện gây sự, bất tôi vay tiền cho hành chung đề. Tôi không vay hành danh tôi ngày trong viện.

My husband insulted and beat me and my children whenever he drank and lost at gambling. He even insulted my parents. Last year I had a motorbike accident and had to go to hospital. He didn't look after me but quarrelled with me. He asked me to borrow money for him to gamble. When I refused he beat me up in the hospital.

2. Anh ta theo dõi tôi cách đây hai năm rồi, có cả một quyển sổ ghi chép xem tôi đi đâu, làm gì, mặc gì... Dù làm về ta anh ta tra xét, mảng chung và danh đập, xong là anh ta lại bắt làm "chuyện do". Hằng thằng không kể những ngày "bi" thì hâu như ngày nào cũng vậy. Lỉn xông, anh ta thường Xuất dựa vương huống cho tôi. Có lần, hàn cơn mang ăn chần đứng tôi và bất công, quả trưng đến để trong glo xe tôi ở cổ quan.

He started to follow me two years ago. He had a whole book noting down where I went, what I did, and how I was dressed. When I arrived home from work he interrogated, insulted and beat me, then forced me to have sex. Except for "those days" in a month, it happened everyday. After the divorce, he frequently sent me incense. Once, he put in my bicycle's basket a portrait of me (for a deceased person), a bowl of rice and a boiled egg which is a gift for the dead.
Exhibition of Peaceful Place

Chím nơi nơi đất khách
Floating lives

There are six members in my family. My father is a worker while my mother's health is not good so we have to be poor. I felt sad and I could not earn any money to help my family. One of my friends invited me to travel to China to work as a waitress. When I was trying to escape, they caught me and hit me. I tried to run and think of other ways to return to Vietnam. I had to live there for 5 months and I was rescued back to Vietnam by Chinese police. I could not believe that I finally got back my freedom. I was lucky to be able to go back to Vietnam.

My parents could not have children so they adopted me. When my mother was 39 years old, my mother gave birth to my younger sister and that's why she got very much attachement to me. I dropped out of school and spent all my days hanging out with friends and participating in memorable events. One day, a group of Chinese asked me to go to a Lao in China with him. I was really excited and followed him. After two days staying in a guest house, he asked me if I was interested in traveling to China with him as China was a beautiful country. I agreed and followed him to China. He brought me to his student houses where he planned to sell me to a Chinese man. I could not do anything but cry.

I am a Hmong-ethnic minority girl in Yang Quang province. I was usually beaten by my stepparent and my stepbrother and even by my father. I wish I could run away from that family. I know a friend who had a similar problem and thought of her as the best. But I could not imagine that she would think of me and take me to China.

I had to serve 15 customers per day. The hotel owner and her employees were like cruel animals torturing me because I did not know how to please the customers. I was infected with an STD. She gave my brother some money to let me go back to Vietnam to recover treatment and I promised I would come back to work.

The teacher of my class came to visit me. There were two girls, my friend and I, who could not go to school because of our ideals. I was cursed by my teacher, Oh! I don't know why. She told me to work in a brothel in China. I said, I'm going to China, that's why I don't go to school. Then two girls said, we are going to China, too. They said to me that I should go back after we return to Vietnam. But I am scared that she will sell me to China as a prostitute.

I had to serve 5 customers per day. The hotel owner and her employees were like cruel animals torturing me because I did not know how to please the customers. I was crying with tears of happiness on the day I reunited with my family. I thought I was in a dream and kept asking everyone if this was a dream.
Opening Ceremony of the Exhibition “Single Mothers’ Voices”
Visitors’ Feedback

“Thank you for the beautiful and very touching museum. It is very inspirational to show the strength in these women. I am glad their lives are better and it makes me very thankful and appreciative for the life I have and the family and good fortune that I am blessed with. Thank you. Good luck in the future.”
(D. Mitchell, Canada)

“I have long hoped to visit the Women Museum of Vietnam. The displays are wonderful and fully depict the lives of all Vietnamese woman. What touched me with great emotion is the study and support of single mothers. I too am a single mother and grandmother. Thank you !”
(Dr. Marjorie Sanchez Walker, USA)
Very interesting stories from strong women in the Vietnamese society. Congratulations on making a positive difference to the community.

L. & R. Williams

Sydney
Australia

January 7, 2011
The first entry for 2011! I found this museum on the last day of my trip to Vietnam. I am so grateful to have found it because the beauty, elegance, and power shown of the Vietnamese woman is wonderful to see. The Peace House seems like an amazing organization as well and I wish all the strong women there the most happiest and safe lives in Viet Nam.

Thank you,

Katherine
New York City - USA
I have been travelling for more than 5 months now, to New Zealand, Australia, Bali and now Vietnam and have seen about 50 museums on my journey - this is one of the best I’ve seen!

The exhibits are very beautiful and informative. I especially liked "Single Mother's Voices"! It is amazing what from an achieved and that they have such a real sisterhood.

Good luck for the future!

Katharina (AUSTRIA)
Results

- Outstanding success with local and international visitors.
- To raise the awareness of the community about all the exhibitions which mentioned marginalized women groups.
- To promote gender equity
Conclusion

- VWM is one of the museums in Vietnam pioneering in renewal and renovation of operations and research target groups so as to fulfill well the function of social critic of a gender museum.
- VWM will continue to diversify its activities and public relations in order to bring the museum closer to the public and build it into a gender museum of international standards.
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!