The 2016 documentary ‘Hooligan Sparrow’ first shown at the Sundance Film Festival documented one Chinese feminist Haiyan Ye’s extraordinary practice of protesting a rape case. Haiyan Ye, whose nickname is ‘hooligan sparrow’, is a controversial Chinese radical feminist from a rural area, and she was famous for posting her nude photos on the internet in 2005. She insists that she focus on the issues of sex workers and AIDS. After seeing many female sex workers’ tragedies, like died of AIDS or other unknown reasons, she proposed sex workers should be legal in China Mainland, and she attempted to draw the social attention by providing free sex service for migrant workers. The director of this documentary is a Chinese student Nanfu Wang who lived and studied in the United States at that time, she heard the controversial practice of Haiyan of providing free sex service for Chinese migrant workers in cities, and she decided to go back to China and have an interview with her. At the same time, a bad social crime that 6 elementary school female students were raped by their school headmaster and another governmental officer happened in Wanning city, Hainan Province, China. Through reports from the victim’s parents, the two perpetrators were arrested by the police. Even though the law was changed in 2015, at that time, in 2010, the law system would view it like a crime of prostituting girls under the age of 14 instead of a crime of rape if the perpetrators defend that they paid for the victims. And actually, they attempted to pay for these girls and the police also claimed that the fact was these 6 students who initiated the contact with the head master rather than they were raped by the head master and the governmental officer. However, Haiyan did not believe what the police said was the truth because, according to the report, when the parents found their children in the hotel, they found their children in a bad and unstable mood and also their reproductive organs showed signs of being violated. Haiyan was afraid that the perpetrators would use this law to mitigate the degree of their crime, so Haiyan and some other Chinese feminists and activists, most of them came from rural areas like Haiyan, decided to go to Wanning city and protest the heinous crime that made by an educator and an governmental officer, they hoped that their protest can make more citizens take notice of this scandal and protect young girls away from those disgusting and unforgivable pedophiles as well as call on the legal agency to repeal this unreasonable law. The director Nanfu tried to use her camera to record this event and the practice and thoughts of Haiyan. There is no doubt that she met with many unthinkable and unbearable difficulties in the process from the police and local government who wanted to conceal the truth because the two perpetrators have their certain social privilege location and social resource. They attempted to destroy Nanfu’s camera and footages, but fortunately, she finally kept those footages and smuggled them back to the United States, so this documentary had a chance to be on. And these two perpetrators were sentenced to commit the crime of rape and got imprisonment 13 years and 6 months, and 11 years and 6 months respectively.

Here, I want to discuss what make me feel discomforted is Haiyan’s protest slogan in this event and she took advantage of this event to make citizens take notice of protesting the illegalization of prostitution. My response for Haiyan’s event is prostitution should not be legal and her slogan in the protest could be seen as an insult for female. I think because the different position between me and Haiyan, even if both of us are feminist, I barely have practice of knowing the life of a sex worker, and as an educated female from city, I would consider the legalization of prostitution would reinforce the subjection of women. And then, the insecurity meanings of the slogan “Get a room with me, let the pupils go” could see in different ways. She wrote this slogan in a position of a sex worker who hopes the realization of the legalization of prostitution, but I could see it more like an insult of female (includes Haiyan herself). I think the victims will increase if the sex workers be admitted because some of them are not voluntary but through human trafficking which is another complicated social issue. She is a sort of radical and she may not think twice before she showed her slogan. But I admire her courage to against with the corrupt police in the child rape case and reveal the inequality in sex worker issue. She became a sort of homeless people who was expelling by different local government because her radical protest in the rape case as well as the act of providing free sex for migrant workers in cities.

My puzzlement here is that there is no doubt that the freedom of speech of citizens should be kept and the life safety of these people like Haiyan should be protected, but is it really deserve to make the sacrifice like Haiyan (became a sex worker and a homeless people) when you are not supported by most people, include citizens and government? Even some of them simply blamed Haiyan just because her slogan “Get a room with me, let the pupils go” was ridiculous and claptrap. There were many different interpretation and readings of the meaning of her words and everyone wanted to prove that their meaning was the truth. I feel puzzled that how different voices can be accepted when most of people not agree with you? Because everyone should have the freedom of speech. Should people, like Haiyan, still insist their protest when their voices are not heard by people, their act be distorted and giving different meaning by people from different social location, and even their lives be threatened? In their mind, there is just a hope that inequalities should be changed.

The event of Haiyan Ye gave a rise to a heated discussion about the legalization of prostitution. The meaning of Haiyan’s act and words have different aspects in different social location and social events. People like Haiyan would not be the last one to receive different controversial voice from various social location. I think their voice is worth to be protected, even they cannot be heard and accepted sometimes.

This documentary made a contribution to reveal how Haiyan was expelled by the local government and became a homeless people, which let us thinking of the protection of different voices. What we can know about Haiyan is only her radical acts above if we do not have an access to know the difficulties she met during her fighting for inequality. It was not easy to be seen under the pressure of the society. The recording of Haiyan’s texts and acts is the representation of the her own, and in the documentary, the photo of the furniture, refrigerator, electric fan, and other things that had been throw away beside the high speed road, would be the evidence of the unfair expulsion of her not only body, but different voice.