

# SEX TRAFFICKING

INFORMATION SERVICES TEAM

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## MORE MUST BE DONE TO REDUCE SEX TRAFFICKING

Australia is a signatory of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Part I, Article 6 contains the following: "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women."

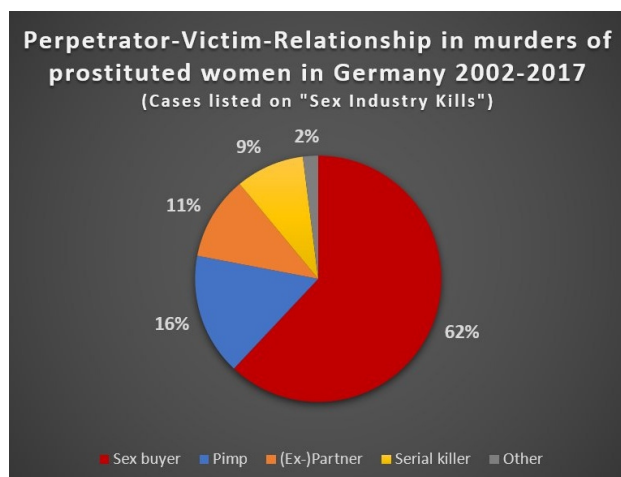
A 2013 study by the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) found that countries where the sex trade is decriminalized experience larger reported human trafficking inflows (in which vulnerable women and girls are forced to work as prostitutes) than countries in which the sex trade is prohibited.

This is in stark contrast to assertions by spokespeople for the sexploitation industry and politicians they have captured, who ignore independent research that reveals the truth.

The LSE study corroborated a 2003 study by the Scottish government on the consequences of prostitution policies in several countries.

Denmark fully decriminalized prostitution in 1999 and now has four times as many sex-trafficking victims as Sweden next door despite Sweden have a 40 percent larger population. Demand for prostitution rose in Denmark, but the numbers of voluntary prostitutes could not match the growth in demand so pimps resorted to trafficking.

Julie Bindel conducted 250 interviews in 40 nations and found that in almost every case prostitutes were in hoc and in trouble, and noted that the loudest voices for full decriminalization were pimps and brothel owners.



Bindel met a former "sex workers rights" activist, Sabrina Valisce, who, when confronted with the reality of full decriminalization in New Zealand, had a dramatic change of heart: "I thought it would improve things if everything was legal and above board, but it just gave more power to the johns and the brothel-owners."

Full decriminalization and legalization supposedly improves safety and quality of life for prostitutes, but in fact produces a race-to-the-bottom effect where prostitutes are pressured to offer more for less. Many end up working longer hours and offering a wider range of risky services, including unprotected sex, and acting out torture or rape fantasies that all too often lead to rape and murder.

Allowing the purchase of sex is unethical as it feeds rape culture by trivializing sex, weakens gender equality (as prostitutes are overwhelmingly women exploited by men), and treats sex as something that can be bought and sold. But sex is rightly treated differently from other activities. Sexual relations are a uniquely personal and

private act, the commodification of which naturally dehumanizes those involved and the society which allows it, which helps explain why nations that fully decriminalize, legalize or turn a blind eye to the sex trade suffer increased levels of sex trafficking.

If we accept the libertarian case for the normalization of prostitution so it's treated as any other kind of work, then we cannot restrict sex work to brothels and sole traders any more than we can restrict coffee making to coffee shops and sole traders. In this case all employers must be allowed to ask prospective employees to provide sex acts for the owners, other employees or customers just as they can ask them to provide these people with a cup of coffee, and reject them if they refuse to do so.

Workers are rightly protected from sexual exploitation, while this protection must not be overridden by contract any more than existing protections for workers, such as Australia's 'Racial Discrimination Act 1975' which prohibits employers paying blacks less than whites even with the consent of black employees.

## SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Decriminalization and legalization of the sex trade provides cover for and increases the incidence of the trafficking of women and girls.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Adopt the Nordic Model which has had great success in reducing prostitution and associated sex trafficking of women and girls.

- Treat prostitutes as an exploited minority.
- Decriminalize the sale of sexual services by prostitutes.
- Help prostitutes find other forms of employment.
- Criminalize the purchase of sexual services, pimping, and brothel operation.

## KEY SOURCES

*Decriminalization of Prostitution: The Soros Effect*, Jody Raphael, Dignity, Volume 3, Issue 1, Article 1, 2018.

*Does Legalized Prostitution Increase Human Trafficking?*, World Development, Seo-Young Cho, Axel Dreher, Eric Neumayer, Volume 41, pp.67-82, 2013.

*Most 'sex workers' are modern day slaves*, Julie Bindel, The Spectator, 19/8/17.

Nordic Model Now! website ([nordicmodelnow.org](http://nordicmodelnow.org)).

*Vulnerable Children and Young People: Sexual Exploitation Through Prostitution*, Scottish Executive, 2003.



# What is the Nordic Model?

The Nordic Model (also known as the Sex Buyer Law) is an approach to prostitution that has been adopted in Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Northern Ireland, Canada, and France. It has several elements:

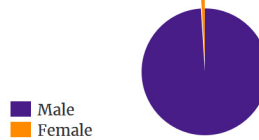
- 1 DECRIMINALISATION OF THE PROSTITUTED**  
Prostitution is inherently violent. Women should not be criminalised for the exploitation and abuse they endure.
- 2 SUPPORT AND EXIT SERVICES**  
High quality, non-judgemental services to support those in prostitution and help them build a new life outside it, including: housing; training and education; child care; legal, debt and benefit advice; emotional and psychological support.
- 3 BUYING SEX BECOMES A CRIMINAL OFFENCE**  
Buying human beings for sex is harmful, exploitative and can never be safe. We need to reduce the demand that drives sex trafficking.
- 4 A HOLISTIC APPROACH**
  - A public information campaign
  - Training for the police and CPS
  - Tackling the inequality and poverty that drive women and girls into prostitution
  - Effective laws against pimping and sex trafficking, with penalties that reflect the enormous damage they cause

FIND OUT MORE: <http://nordicmodelnow.org/>



# Prostitution is Unequal

## Punters



IN A STUDY OF UK PUNTERS:

- 27%** Believed he was entitled to any act he wanted
- 47%** Believed the woman had no rights
- 49%** Had bought sex abroad

WHAT HE SAID

"Men go to prostitutes so they can do things to them that their girlfriends would not put up with."

"My favourite experience was when she was totally submissive."

"I punt because I like young, pretty girls who are young enough to be my daughter, or even my granddaughter."

"I feel sorry for these girls but this is what I want."

## Prostituted



IN A STUDY OF PROSTITUTED WOMEN:

- 70%** Were sexually assaulted as children
- 75%** Had experienced homelessness
- 89%** Wanted to leave

WHAT SHE SAID

"I was used like a public toilet."

"I would go somewhere else with my thoughts until he got off me and it was over with. I don't know how else to explain it except it felt like rape. It was rape to me."

"It's all the same emotionally, no matter where we work."

"We want real jobs, not blowjobs."

For a fully referenced version of this pamphlet, see <http://nordicmodelnow.org/>

## BUYING SEX MAKES MEN MORE PRONE TO VIOLENCE

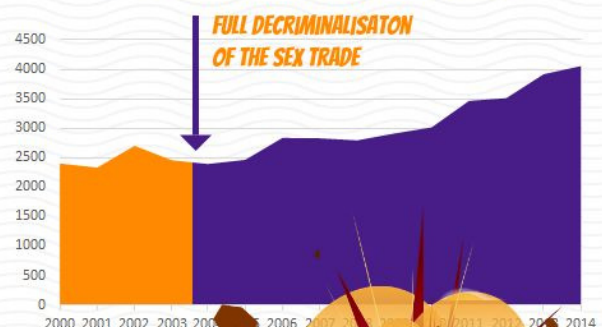


"Prostitution treats women as objects, not human beings."

NORDIC MODEL NOW!

## WHEN PROSTITUTION INCREASES, SO DOES VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

NEW ZEALAND REPORTED CRIME FIGURES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULTS AND RELATED OFFENCES



PROSTITUTION AFFECTS EVERYONE

NORDIC MODEL NOW!

[www.nordicmodelnow.org](http://www.nordicmodelnow.org)