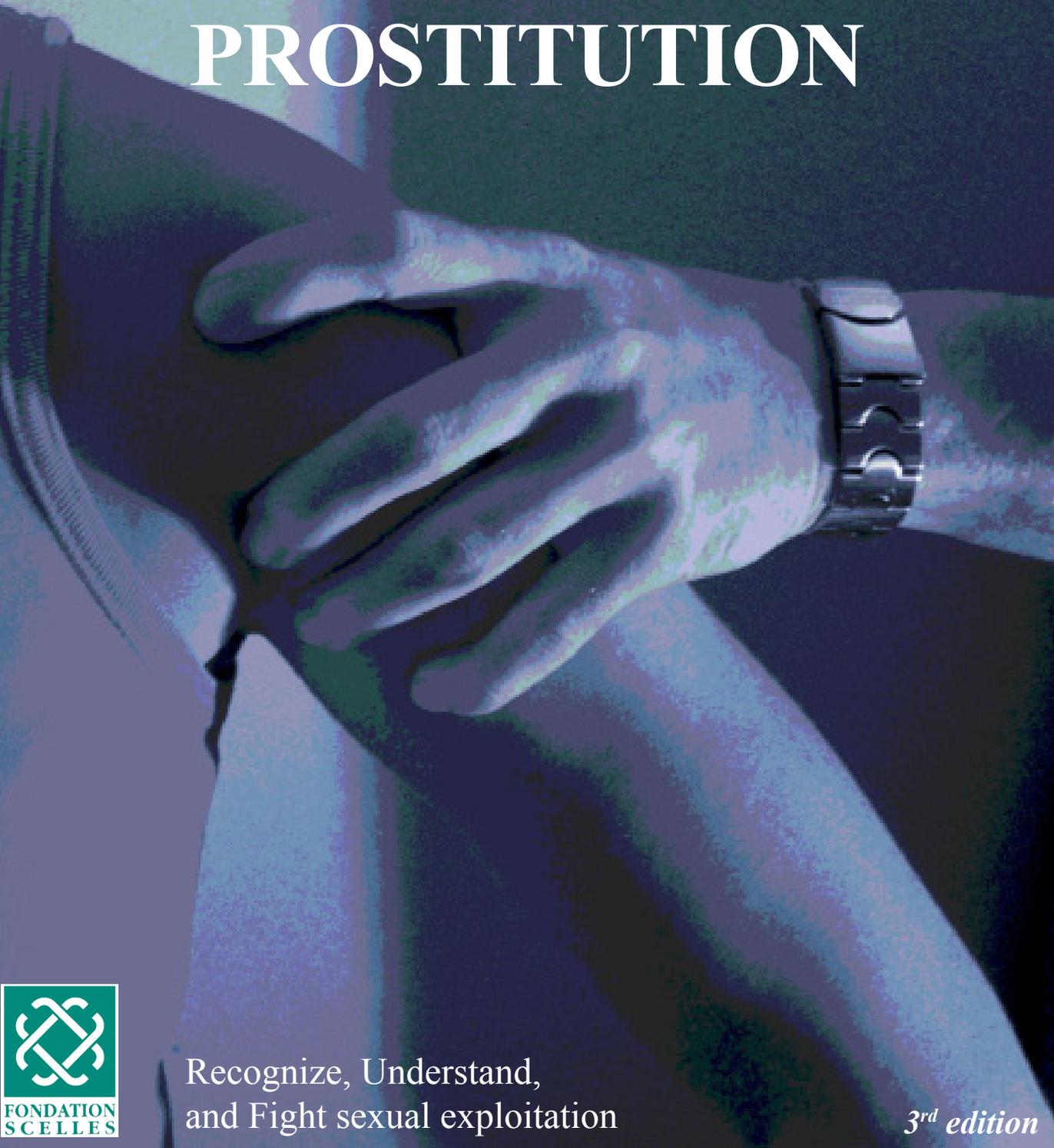


CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF PROSTITUTION



Recognize, Understand,
and Fight sexual exploitation

3rd edition

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*Originally published as
L'Exploitation de la prostitution : un fléau mondial*



SOMMAIRE

| | |
|--|-------------|
| A WIDESPREAD COMMODITIZATION OF THE BODY | P.4 |
| International prostitution: human trafficking | p.6 |
| From Bangkok to Paris, minors who are victims of sexual exploitation | p.8 |
| New methods: from prostitution for survival to trade | p.9 |
| BUSINESS AND ORGANIZED CRIME | P.15 |
| Criminal networks and prostitution | p.16 |
| Organized crime at the heart of the States: money laundering and corruption of government officials | p.18 |
| State complicity? | p.20 |
| PROSTITUTION = VIOLENCE | P.23 |
| Violence of prostitution | p.23 |
| Prostitution is violence | p.25 |
| The broken ones: prostitution destroys | p.26 |
| WHAT PUBLIC POLITICS EXIST FOR PROSTITUTION? | P.29 |
| International institutions face prostitution: the ideological battle | p.29 |
| Abolitionism and its ambiguities | p.31 |
| When Laws Fail: Prostitution Cannot be a Profession Like Any Other | p.33 |
| A new way: the neo-abolitionist model of Sweden | p.36 |
| Should the client be penalized? | p.38 |
| THE CHALLENGES OF OUR FIGHT | P.40 |
| LA FONDATION SCELLES | P.43 |
| HISTORY OF THE FONDATION SCELLES | P.44 |
| WHO ARE WE? | P.45 |
| LE CRIDES | P.46 |
| FONDATION PUBLICATIONS | P.47 |
| TO LEARN MORE... | P.49 |
| A GUIDE TO VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS | P.51 |
| OUR 4 WEBSITES | P.53 |

A WIDESPREAD COMMODITIZATION OF THE BODY

E., Ukraine

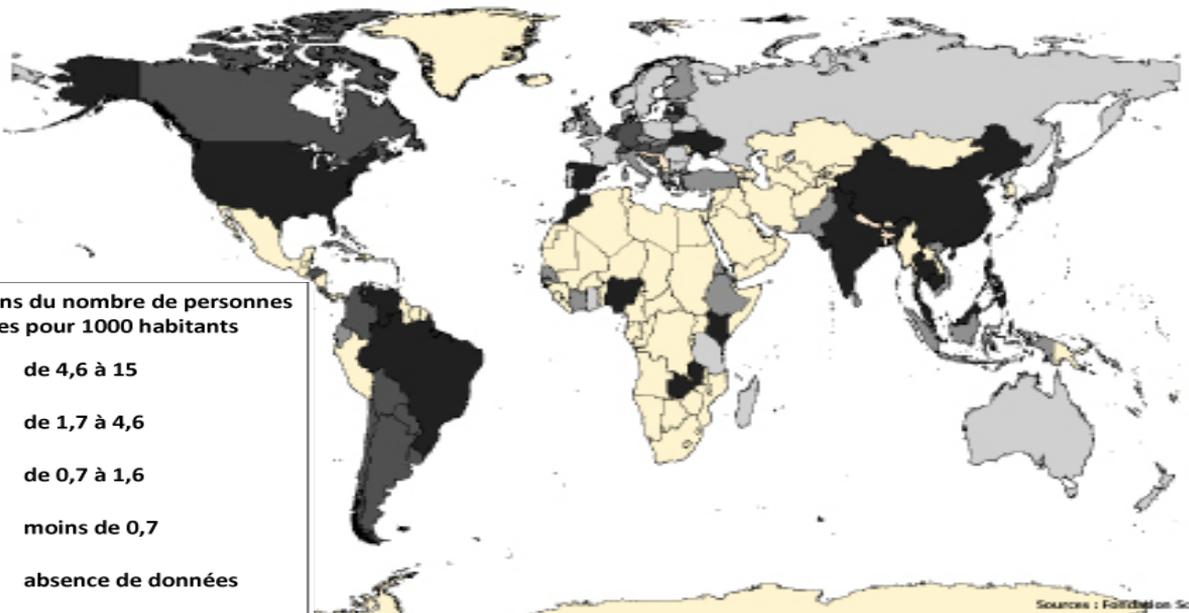
E. is 20 years old and lives in an Ukrainian village. She has no formal training. Nothing in particular is keeping her in the village, or in the Ukraine. Her day-to-day life is difficult.

She seriously considers leaving. Without asking anyone for advice, she responds to a wanted ad for a job in a foreign country. Following her response, she is immediately recruited. She quickly leaves the Ukraine in a car with a man she does not know.

For nearly thirty years, we have witnessed a widespread increase in prostitution around the world. We hear of women coming from Eastern Europe to prostitute themselves on the streets of our cities; we hear of students selling their bodies or who auction off their virginity to pay for school fees; we hear of all the young girls prostituting themselves to tourists in bars in Thailand. Today the bodies of women, children, and now more often of men, are becoming commodities sold on the internet, in peep-shows, or in brothels - in Bangkok as well as in Paris and London.

This is an alarming development supported by political disruptions, the opening of borders, the impoverishment of some and the enrichment of others, the trivialization of pornographic images, and the internet boom. Some will say that the phenomenon is far from new. While this is true, however, with the help of globalization, sexual commerce has achieved an industrial and global dimension that is becoming more and more worrisome. Today, the commoditization of the body appears to be the

LA PROSTITUTION DANS LE MONDE



A few days later, she finds herself trapped in a brothel with other young women in Budapest. She discovers the nature of the job for which she was recruited, as well as the living conditions that are imposed upon her, depriving her of all kinds of freedoms. She is immediately forced into street prostitution upon her arrival in France.



ultimate development of a liberal logic without limits. Commercialized sex is everywhere.

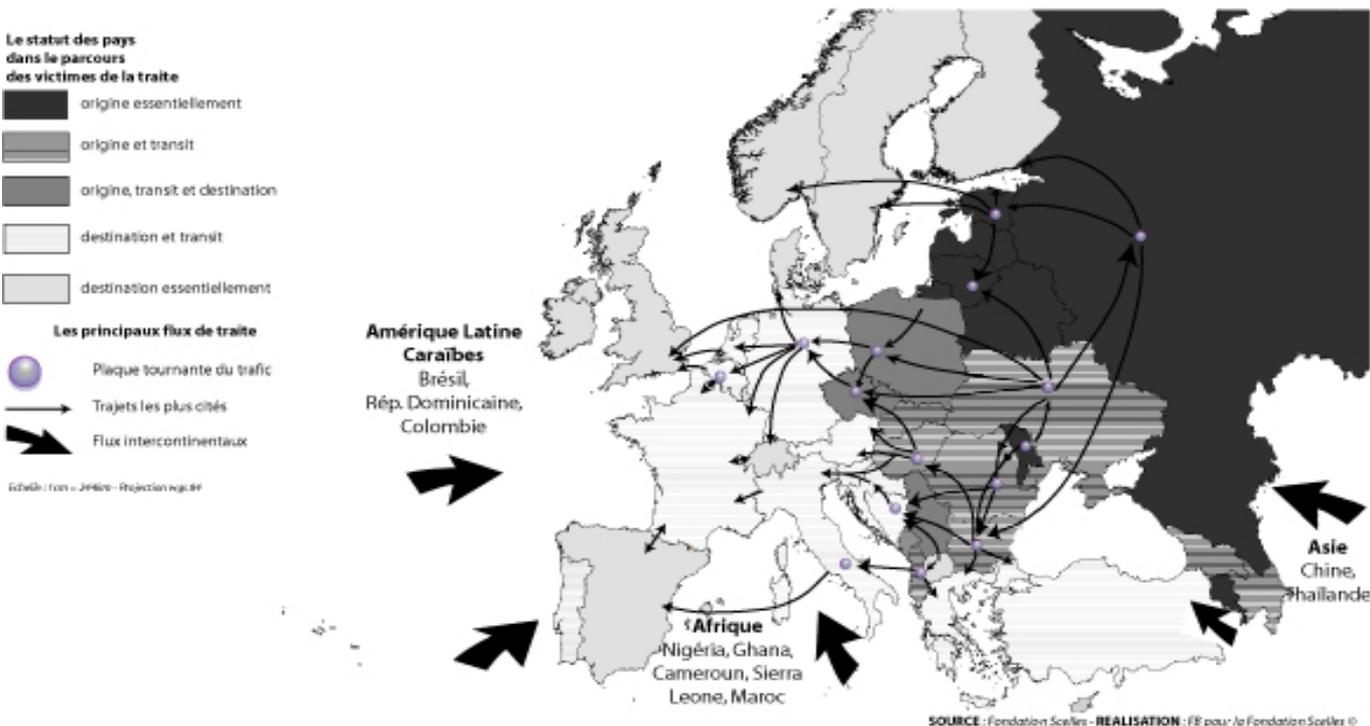
WHAT IS PROSTITUTION?

Prostitution is the act of delivering one's sex and body for a fee, of marketing sexual services and/or products legally or illegally, and of exploiting the human body, more specifically those of women and children, with a lucrative purpose. It is also a system that organizes the exploitation and appropriation of a category of women, children, and, more and more often, of men. This system functions in three parts: the prostitute, the pimp, and the client. More concretely, today prostitution is made up of many pimp networks; it's a real global sex industry.

We estimate that there are 40-42 million prostitutes in the world (UN, 2009), of which 75% are between 13-25 years old. More than nine out of ten prostitutes depend on a pimp. In Western Europe, between one and two million people prostitute themselves, of which a majority are immigrants and victims of human trafficking. In the Netherlands, roughly 20,000 prostitutes (in a population of 17 million people); in Spain and Germany, hypothetical estimates project upwards 300,000 prostitutes.

In France, the least affected country in Europe according to the Central Office for Suppressing Human Trafficking, there are 20 000 prostitutes, of

La traite des êtres humains en Europe



*Des marchés d'êtres
Human trafficking
markets exist in Europe,
very close to us. While
investigating African
prostitution networks, the
journalist Olivier Enogo
witnessed an auction in
Switzerland:*

*"At dusk, our hosts
blindfolded us and
drove, in the middle of a
procession of cars with
tinted windows, towards
a residence in the
woods.
The evening was
unfolding in a normal
fashion up until the
moment when guests
were invited to meet in
the "Auction Room," in
the basement (...). As
soon as we were settled
in, girls began
parading in front of us:
they were naked and
had numbers on. They
passed between the
rows of chairs to show off
their most beautiful,
natural assets. A body-
guard hidden behind the
stage rudely directed the
girls. The bidding began
(...)*

*The girl with the number
9 rebelled. She no longer
listened to the
organizer's orders: they
wanted to satisfy a
potential buyer who
wished to try her out on
the "runway," in front
of the crowd, before
making his purchase.
"Get on your hands and
knees, spread your legs,
or I'll beat you," yelled
the bodyguard in a
quarrelsome manner...."*

*(Excerpt from "Les
Filières africaines de la
prostitution. Mémoires
d'une enquête. Paris,
Ccinia communication,
2007.)*

which around two-thirds are foreigners.

Behind the numbers hides a wide range of possible situations: victims of exploitation and networks, mothers, or students in desperate situations; French or foreigners; men, women, or children - the situations are numerous, even if they are all attached to the same phenomenon, to the same sex industry.

1. INTERNATIONAL PROSTITUTION: HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Maya left Bulgaria at the age of 18. Not long before, her father being unemployed, she had dropped out of school to work on a farm. One day, a friend tells her about her experience in a western country: she babysits children and earns much more money than she ever could in Bulgaria. Maya listened to her friend and believed her. She is offered the services of a trafficker in exchange for her passport and 1,500 Dollars. She travels for two days and two nights in a truck with no windows. She finally arrives in Italy and is immediately asked to pay for her debts. Maya refuses. She is beaten, drugged, and raped. Locked-up in a room, men come and go, one after the other, for months.

Baïna was trapped in her hometown in Nigeria as a young girl, by member of the pimping network. She was promised a job in a hair salon in Europe. At the same time, she was forced to partake in a session of "dju dju", a sort of charm to insure her obedience. The young girl spent several months traveling in many countries, guided by traffickers supposedly capable of securing a passport for her. In June of 2008, she flew to Paris and then took a train to Lyon. This is where the trap tightened even further. Upon her arrival, she was "given" to Amina, who, at 23 years old, had already been prostituting herself for 2 years, and who demanded 50,000 Euros for Baïna's travels. Amina the "Madame" put the young girl on the street, controlled her with violence, and collected her earnings: more than 20,000 Euros!

Sadly, Maya and Baina's stories are common. In the last decades, in part because of a political and economic evolution, prostitution has in fact been internationalized. Today, prostitution is dominated by human trafficking. This phenomenon is not new. In the past, it was called "white slavery" and in 1949 the United Nations clearly established a link between trafficking with purpose of prostitution and prostitution itself: "prostitution and the evil that accompanies it, that is to say trafficking with the intent of prostitution..." How many prostitutes are there today? Illegal by definition, this phenomenon is not easily quantifiable and the numerous estimations often vary.



THE STAGES OF DESCENDING INTO HELL

They are girls or young adults, age 16-35, single, divorced, married, or single mothers. All are in a situation of economic insecurity, with little education, and come from a broken home. Prepared to take any risks necessary to escape, they leave their country and family in the hopes of finding a better life. Some come from Eastern European countries (Moldavia, Bulgaria, the Ukraine, or Romania) and are drawn in by job offers in foreign countries, or are sold to traffickers by their families, their boyfriends, or by state institutions such as orphanages.

Others come from Nigeria or Ghana, two of the African countries with the most victims of human trafficking, and dream of studying in Europe, getting married, and making money to bring back to their home country. Seduced by a man, or sold by their family, they will be transported to Italy, Spain, or elsewhere, and bought by networks implanted in Europe. Once they arrive at their destination, their passport is taken away and they are demanded to pay back their travel debts: the girls are forced to prostitute themselves. This is how they find themselves on the streets of cities in Western Europe: Spain, Netherlands, Switzerland, France, England, Germany, Italy, Austria....

Sold many times over, bid upon at auctions, “prepped” in training camps, physically and psychologically broken, exposed to the worst treatments (gang bangs, zoophilia...) they are reduced to the level of slaves. Without resistance, deprived of an identity and liberty, alone in a country where they do not speak the language, they become the property of a third party and are controlled by a pimp. Extreme physical violence, the fear for the safety of their families left behind, and, for young African women, the use of traditional voodoo rituals that hurt and maintain their subordination.

We define the trafficking of human beings as “ the recruitment, transportation, or housing of people, by threats, force, or other forms of constraint, as well as by abduction, fraud, deceit, or by abusing authority or a situation of vulnerability, by offering or accepting payments or benefits to obtain the consent of a person, to have authority over another via means of exploitation” (i.e. forced work, organ donations, sexual exploitation, domestic slavery...)

It is important not to confuse illegal immigration with the trafficking of human beings. The illicit trafficking of migrants refers to a personal and voluntary movement, whereas the victim of trafficking is rarely in consent, or if they are, her/his consent has been obtained by force or trickery. The trafficking of migrants implies an illegal crossing of borders; human trafficking, on the contrary, does not necessarily imply the same displacement and if there is a border crossing, it can occur legally.

Maki, Sierra Leone...

“I am 23 and come from a village in Sierra Leone. Back home, I have two children who are 3 and 4 years old. My husband was the one who said I had to come to France, that I had to work (...).

At the airport, a man was waiting for us. My husband told me that he had something to take care of and would meet up with me afterwards. He told me this man would take care of me. But the plane landed in Italy and I was taken to a house where there were lots of other women. In that house, men would come and rape us (...).

Then, a man took me and two other girls to Paris. We took a night train and he told us not to speak with anyone. And that if we tried to escape, he would find us, and that without him, we couldn't do anything. In Paris, he took us to an awful hotel. He told us the hotel was really expensive and so we had to go out on the streets and find men; if we did what he told us, then they would be nice to us, feed and clothe us, and we would even be able to send money back to Africa.”

2. FROM BANGKOK TO PARIS, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF MINORS



Of the victims of prostitution, 48% are children under 18 years old. One of prostitution's characteristics today: the number of children sexually exploited is growing. According to UNICEF, there are around 2 million victims annually: girls and boys of all ages, victims of all kinds of exploitation and sexual abuse, of whom 1.2 million will be victims of global trafficking. Other associations estimate numbers even higher: between 2-3 million children in the world are prostitutes.

This evolution is promoted by extreme poverty and client requests for young persons. In Thailand, at least one third of the 2 million prostitutes are children; they are mostly girls. In Southeast Asia, between 30-35% of prostitutes are between 12 and 17 years old. In India, there are 270,000 child prostitutes. In Latin America, 65% of children on the streets (of which the number is estimated at 40 million) prostitute themselves regularly or occasionally.

These children are sold off by their parents, who are often convinced of assuring their child's chances of finding work and a better life in a foreign country. They are raised and brainwashed by pimps who benefit from their vulnerability because they live on the streets, come from a broken family, or are orphans. They are prostituted on the streets, in brothels, windows, and strip clubs, or used in pornographic films.



However, it is important not always think that this happens "elsewhere." According to the Council of Europe (2005), 50% of trade victims are minors in Southeast European countries. Recent reports all showed that today, Austria is the hub for the exploitation of minors, who come mostly from Eastern and Central Europe, whereas Greece is the primary destination for trafficked children of Albanian origin. Not long ago, even if public authorities refused to admit it, they noticed the presence of networks of Romanian adolescents in Paris subjected to prostitution, in front of our own eyes and with our indifference...

It is important not to think that this phenomenon only happens to children in the poorest countries. In western countries, minors, sometimes from the upper class, are also concerned. Mixed up in fragile situations, like broken families, abuse, or running away, they accidentally fall into the hands of the networks. The news regularly reports cases of young fugitives found by pimps

PROSTITUTES AT 13 YEARS OLD

X lives in Taiwan.

She says: "When I finished primary school, my father told me how poor my family was. 'Are you ready to sacrifice yourself to support your family?' So, he brought me to Taipei and sold me to the Madame of a brothel. I was only 13 years old and I was unaware of what would happen to me. This woman told me that I was expected to sleep with men. If I didn't do as she told me, I was beaten or raped by the guards and they threatened to kill my parents and brothers."



Sabrina, 13 years old, lives in Montreal.

She falls madly in love with a young man. Somewhat chubby and naïve, she becomes the object of many jokes among his friends. Luckily, her boyfriend is her knight in shining armor: he protects her from the sarcastic comments and intimidation of the gang, of which he is a member and in which he initiates her.

With presents, compliments, love and much flattery, the young girl falls into his trap. Her prince charming will make her do anything he wants, including leading her into prostitution so that she can make a lot of money for the gang.

who, benefitting from their vulnerability, capture them and coerce them to prostitution.

Others get caught up in street gangs, a well-known form of delinquency in Canada that is becoming increasingly present in European countries. Young female victims of these gangs are often between 13 and 16 years old and come from all social backgrounds; they are vulnerable, and dream of love and money. They allow themselves to be seduced by good-looking sweet talkers who turn them into humiliated sex slaves without money. In the gang Wolf-pack, which was dismantled by Quebec police in 2003, 30 of the female prostitutes (all minors) were less than 14 years old.

It is difficult to evaluate the magnitude of this prostituting of minors because, by definition, it is very clandestine. If we were to believe a Canadian social worker, it's an alarming phenomenon: "the children will often experience their first solicitation around 8-9 years old." But the worst of it all might be elsewhere: if there is a "market" for child prostitution, it's because there is a demand.

3. NEW FORMS: FROM THE PROSTITUTION OF SURVIVING TO BARTERING.

With the appearance of trafficking networks and, moreover, with the development of new technology, the traditional image of prostitution has greatly evolved. The locations of prostitution have multiplied. In addition to street prostitution, a hidden prostitution has sprung up in massage parlors, at bars, in brothels (legal or not, depending on the country), dating services, and above all, on the internet...

In France, in 2005, the Central Office for Suppressing Human Trafficking counted 60 girls and 4 boys under 18 years old among the 1,200 prostitutes appearing in legal proceedings. Furthermore, 7 minors (2 girls and 5 boys) figured among the 895 people accused of being pimps in 2005. The cases of child prostitution accounted for by the police involve a few dozen victims each year.

Statistics Cited by Associations

The following estimate emerged from activist associations dedicated to abolishing sexual slavery and fighting child prostitution: between 3,000-8,000 minors prostitute themselves in France. The Association Against Child Prostitution, for example, accepts the number of 8,000 minors who fall victim to prostitution, a number originally put forth by the President of the Voice of the Child. In general, it is estimated that between 6,000-10,000 children are prostitutes in France.

"La prostitution des mineurs à Paris," Final Report 2006, Cabinet Anthropos.



Due to internet, nothing is easier than publishing an advertisement or nude photos, and selling one's body for money with the most discretion and anonymity. Today, there is a growing number of young women, sometimes very young, but also men, who use these means to make ends meet. In a society where sex is displayed everywhere (advertisements, television), prostitution appears more and more often to be a possible solution to a difficult situation and many people no longer hesitate to take this leap, "just to get by."

How many are there? We don't know. We are only beginning to identify them. They are students who struggle to pay for their studies, the unemployed and the employed at the end of a difficult month, or even women who have a regular and sometimes well-paid job. They are men, more and more numerous, who sell their bodies to other men but, recently, also to women who are claiming their "right" to paid services. In certain large French cities, it is estimated that one third of the prostitutes will be men. In Berlin, the number is estimated at 3,000, the majority of whom are of Romanian and Bulgarian origins. In Brussels, a third of the prostitutes will be men.

Laura D., Student and Prostitute, France

"When you prostitute yourself one time, it gives you a financial respite, but that creates an addiction to money. So, when your wallet is empty, you think back to this solution. To think about it means the gears are already in motion."

These male and female prostitutes claim to practice occasionally, saying that resorting to prostitution happens only once in a while. The occasional, however, often becomes regular. When they are not taken control of by networks in search of new faces, these people are quickly trapped by their dependence on earning money fast. In addition to these hidden and supposedly occasional forms of prostitution, there are other practices emerging – ones that are perhaps more dangerous because they are not portrayed as prostitution. We call this "barter-prostitution."



Because of the housing crisis, a particular type of exchange has appeared: an apartment in exchange for "services." No lease, no rent, but rather a proprietor proposes some "meetings", "sex weekends", "a shared bed", or some "exciting mises-en-scène" in exchange of an apartment or housing. There is nothing illegal in this situation: only the internet site or the free newspaper that publish this type of advertisement can be held responsible for pimping, but the sites are often based in other countries and the wording is very careful and discrete.

You might only see this as an epiphenomenon, tied to an economic and social context, perhaps particularly if this type of exchange was not spreading so rapidly, especially among the younger population. We observe that it is the young, not always from underprivileged backgrounds, who

are ready to accept sexual relations in exchange for non-monetary profits: presents, housing, drugs, or protection for their gang.

In Italy, young girls, sometimes still teenagers, offer stripteases via webcams in exchange for cell phone credit. The length of the striptease varies depending on the amount of credit: 10 Euros for 15 minutes, 20 Euros for 20 minutes, and 30 Euros for 50 minutes. Others give access to their boudoir photos or an erotic conversation in exchange for 5 Euros worth of phone credit.



The majority of these people does not recognize the prostitution practices in these exchanges, but instead think that it is a form of quick “problem solving,” without consequences, for obtaining desired goods. These practices, becoming more and more widespread, shine light on the banality of the idea of sexuality as merchandise for a certain number of young people. Indeed, pornography is a part of everyday life for these teens.

This omnipresence influences their attitude towards sex as well as towards prostitution. Well beyond images, everything around them (in particular magazines for teens) presents sexuality as a way to obtain other things. A study conducted by the Danish social services in 2008 shows that for 10% of girls questioned and 37% of boys, it was normal to receive money or presents in exchange for oral sex...

What is it about prostitution, in this context, that is “traditional”? This is how we differentiate prostitutes who are supposed to be free, from victims of trafficking networks and these new forms of prostitution. Collectives have recently been created under the impulsion of “traditional” prostitutes to gain recognition for their activity as a job and to claim their rights. But they only represent an extremely small minority.

Prostitution today consists mostly of international networks, established all over the world. There are women, men, and children who prostitute their bodies, in escort agencies, in massage parlors, in gangs, or on the internet, in order to assure their survival or to obtain a name brand piece of clothing, sometimes without realizing the seriousness of their actions.

The big picture we have been discussing here underlines what has become the banality of prostitution and the disregard for boundaries. Young girls sell

their bodies for new sneakers and men do not hesitate to solicit minors who are 10 or 14 years old. This extreme liberalization pushes everyone to cross the limits. Can we accept this?



ESSENTIAL FACTS AND FIGURES

- A total of 20 million prostitutes in the world.
- At least 100 billion Euros comprise that annual turnover of global prostitution. 30 billion of this is in Europe alone
- 75% of prostitutes aged between 13 and 25.
- 3,000 “clients” per prostitute in Western Europe each year.
- A prostitute is 60-120 times more likely to be beaten or murdered than a member of the general public.
- 60-70% of prostitutes claim to have been victims of physical violence during childhood.
- France has between 18,000-20,000 prostitutes, 80% of whom are foreigners.
- The annual turnover of prostitutes in France equals 3 billion Euros
- More than 9 out of 10 prostitutes rely on pimps.
- In Western Europe, a prostitute earns between 100,000-150,000 Euros per year for her pimp.

“PORNO-CULTURE” AND ITS DANGERS

Broadcasted through various channels (peep shows, chat lines, magazines, films, videos, DVDs and the internet), pornography has become one of the most prosperous sectors in the sex market:

- In 1983, the global turnover of pornography totaled 6 billion dollars. In 2006, it exceeded 52 billion.

- 372 million web pages are devoted to pornography. 12% of internet sites are dedicated to it; as are 35% of downloads and 25% of search engine requests, of which the most common word is, of course, “sex.” (Internet Filter Review, 2006)

Within all this, we must not ignore the part played by child pornography :

- The number of images of child pornography was estimated to be four times higher in 2007 than in 2003.

- More than 4 million sites display images of children being sexually exploited. (United Nations, 2009)

These staggering figures are a clear sign of both the extent to which pornography affects the global economy and the influence it has on our society.

“Porno-Culture”

Today, pornography has intruded into all our lives and it forces itself upon each and every one of us, whether we are aware of it or not.

Why? Because sex is everywhere: on the T.V., on the Web, in the newspapers and in adverts, especially in women’s magazines. From car manufacturers to yoghurt makers, or even fashion designers - they all use and abuse sexual codes as a means of attracting the attention of the consumer.

And the images that bombard us are laden with pornographic codes: the image of women relegated to the level of sexual objects, an exacerbation of domination and bodies reduced to parts (breasts, buttocks, mouth), just as they are in pornographic language.

This “porno-culture” deeply modifies our behavior, even though it is difficult to assess to what extent. Some psychologists point to pornography as a major cause of sexual violence, both within sex itself and,

more generally, in the relationships between men and women. “Filming women who seem to enjoy being in a degrading situation and being victim to sexual domination and violence leads to men believing that women really do enjoy domination and sexual violence,” explains sociologist Richard Poulin.

Young People Faced With Pornography

In a society bearing the imprint of pornography, young people are being confronted earlier and earlier by a violent and crude vision of sexuality. According to a study by INSERM in 2005, 61% of 14-year-old boys had already seen a pornographic film, either on T.V. or on the internet. Furthermore, 80% of boys and 45% of girls had looked at pornographic images in the 12 months preceding the survey.

Pornography is becoming a source of reference for them and it is influencing their behavior and actions when confronted with sex. As the psychologist Guy Hénaut explains, “A large proportion of legal pornography openly exploits themes of female humiliation, rape and torture. In the eyes of young people, it approves sexual violence, because, for an adolescent, this is the world of adults who, by representing such violence legally and openly and, moreover, by making it fun, declares it respectable and justifiable.”

The consequences are alarming. New forms of delinquency or games that go too far are becoming common practice: “gangbangs”, gang rapes, “sexting” (the exchange of intimate or explicit photos, stolen or consensual, between adolescents via their mobile phones). Resorting to prostitution or sex as bargaining chips has become commonplace. Boys and girls sell sex for a few fashion items or a mobile phone. A recent case in Switzerland revealed that minors had been practicing oral sex with the aim of integrating into a group, as a sort of rite of passage...



BUSINESS AND ORGANIZED CRIME

Prostitution is a veritable industry on a global scale, a dehumanized industry where the prostitute, as sexual merchandise, becomes an object in commercial transactions between clients and pimps. This industry, like any other worldwide industry, functions with markets, a supply, financial stakes, and profits - in short, it's a business!

Agnès

*"I got out the only way possible: by denouncing my pimp. Since I've rediscovered my freedom, I haven't stopped thinking about all that I saw, learned, knew, and accepted. I've especially tried to analyze why and how we can become a consenting slave, a prostitute and proud to be one. (...)
A prostitute shouldn't have to atone or buy herself back. She's only guilty of being a victim. Nobody is prevented from making a wrong choice, from being weak. The guilty ones are those who exploit others, the pimps, the clients, and maybe us all, up to a certain point...
Maybe we should think about it more often."*

Ulla

"The real drama would be returning to brothels: taking a step back in order to legalize prostitution would also be legalizing pimping!"

1. PROFITS OF THE PROSTITUTION INDUSTRY

A pimp in Europe makes approximately 110,000 Euros per year for one girl. It is estimated in France that a prostitute brings "her" pimp between 460-762 Euros each day and that a network controlling a dozen girls can make up to 9,100 Euros per day. A recent case concerning a network of young female Romanian prostitutes in Lyon revealed that close to 650,000 Euros were sent back to Romania between April 2004 and August 2005.

It's a considerable profit with limited costs; a pimp buys a girl for sums that vary between 300 and 500 dollars, needless to say, he is reimbursed in one day or less! In addition, the "return on investment" is more profitable with human merchandise, as opposed to other criminal sales (drugs, weapons), because their "product" can be sold several times over.

The prostitution industry is an enormous machine that deals with considerable amounts of money. We are very far from the cliché vision promoted by the media of the "convivial" pimp. Today, the sex industry is in the hands of organized crime: between 76-100% of legal and illegal sex enterprises will be controlled, financed, or supported by organized crime.

Today, the trafficking of human beings is supposed to be the third largest criminal trade in the world, the most profitable one after weapons and drugs. The International Labor Organization (ILO) quotes even higher numbers: the trade with means of sexual exploitation could create annual earnings approaching 28 billion dollars, or 23,000 dollars per victim! Others say that of an estimated 32 billion dollars annually, 7 billion come from the traffic of children. Presently, prostitution is one of the foremost industries in the world.

2. CRIMINAL PROSTITUTION NETWORKS



When we say “organized crime” we are referring to criminal groups that profit from the globalization and from the development of new technology to internationalize themselves and to diversify their activities. Anything can be trafficked today: organs, waste, narcotics, all types of counterfeit objects, and human beings.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, the worldwide gross criminal income arrives at 1,200 billion dollars each year (estimation 2002) and constitutes 15% of world commerce. Since 2002, the G8 has acknowledged this dramatic increase in transnational organized crime in relation to economic globalization.

These criminal groups have several forms. In Europe, small, almost familial organizations mix in with high-level criminal organizations (the Albanian or Russian mafia). They get involved with sophisticated forms of the trade and benefit from connections higher up in the political and diplomatic world. Groups of lesser importance also cooperate with larger groups, like the Turkish mafia, Chinese triads, and Japanese yakuza, who are involved with several other forms of trafficking.



Whatever their size, these networks are mobile, perfected and organized. These qualities comprise their greatest strength. Albanian networks, for example, function in criminal groups of 4 to 10 people, consisting of clannish, geographic, or family ties, as veritable enterprises (market studies, activity rationalization, specialization of tasks, etc.).

These groups are controlled by geographic sectors of activity with, at the head of the organization, the council and their boss who supervise and orchestrate the main trends of criminal activity.

PIMPING : DEFINITIONS

For the most part, legislation differentiates between two kinds of pimping.

-DIRECT PIMPING is defined as “helping, witnessing, or protecting the prostituting of someone else; making a profit from prostituting others, sharing in the profits or the subsidies of a person who regularly prostitutes themselves; hiring, training, or leading a person into prostitution, as well as pressuring a person to begin or continue prostituting themselves.

-INDIRECT PIMPING consists of providing public or private spaces to prostitutes with full knowledge of what is taking place there. Real estate pimping comprises an important part of this group. It offers many uses, including cabarets, restaurants, nightclubs, and hostess bars. Even the simple act of lending a van to a sex worker is considered a pimping offence.

AT THE HEART OF A CRIMINAL NETWORK »

In 2007 and 2008 in Paris and Lyon, a network of Romanian pimps, the Gologan clan, appeared in court. Several members of this family, as well as their posse, were accused of having maintained a prostitution network in Lyon and Paris. Several of their victims were identified: all were foreigners held captive against their will, violated, and tortured.

During the trial, the ways in which the network functioned were methodically analyzed. Here are some of the different elements. The entire Gologan family had pimping activities in Italy, France, and Spain.

The clan managed the network from Romania and forced girls to work in France with the help of their husbands, other members of their families, or henchmen who were in charge of supervising the girls, collecting money, and intimidating clients who didn't pay enough.

From Romania to France

The network in Lyon was composed of about 50 young Romanian women, some were minors, and at least 30 people in Paris. The young women were generally recruited in Romania, principally at Iasi, where the Gologan family lived.

The majority were drawn in by promises of work as servers or female companions in France; these women were purchased from their families for pathetic sums, 300 Euros, or sometimes only for clothing; other pimps also resold some to Gologan.

The young women were then relocated to Italy or Spain where they were violently taught the ways of their future activity and the rates to demand, before finding themselves on the streets of Lyon or Paris. They were trained by more experienced prostitutes.

The moment they arrived, their passports were taken away and they generally prostituted under a false Moldavian identity provided by an accomplice in the network. In the Parisian network, an agency close to Gare du Nord was responsible for planning their trips.

Violence and Slavery

Judiciary information, and notably taped phone conversations of pimps, has revealed the brutality of several among them who maintain verbal and physical threats to reduce the prostitutes' opposition and to keep them silent.

The prostitutes are like "dishcloths you have to wring out and exterminate as soon as they're tamed," said Ionel Ciurariu, the right-hand man of the Gologan clan in Lyon, nicknamed "the knife maniac." Furthermore, a forensic examiner found 23 scars made by a utility knife on one of his prostitutes.

Several young women spoke of the constant threats they received (particularly threats of violence against their families in Romania), as well as being physically beaten, burned with cigarettes, and other tortures that they endured.

The prostitutes worked 7 days a week, at a rate of about ten clients per night. All of the money earned was given to the Gologans; the young women were left with only 8€ for food, 10€ for renting rooms, 10€ for the taxi, and condoms were not provided. The money gathered was sent to Romania in money orders addressed to fake names.

A search of the Parisian residence of a clan member permitted authorities to seize numerous Western Union money orders amounting to more than 8,650€ for the period between October 6th and December 12th, 2001. In 9 months, 644,000€ were sent from Lyon to Romania through the postal service.



Different intermediaries play a part at each step of exploiting women: agencies of all kinds, the creators of internet sites, advertisers, hotels, restaurants, the “ushers” who manage placement in the streets and “bouncers” who are in charge of protecting the girls; sometimes bar owners, hotel concierges, or taxi drivers become recruiters.

The New Face of Pimping

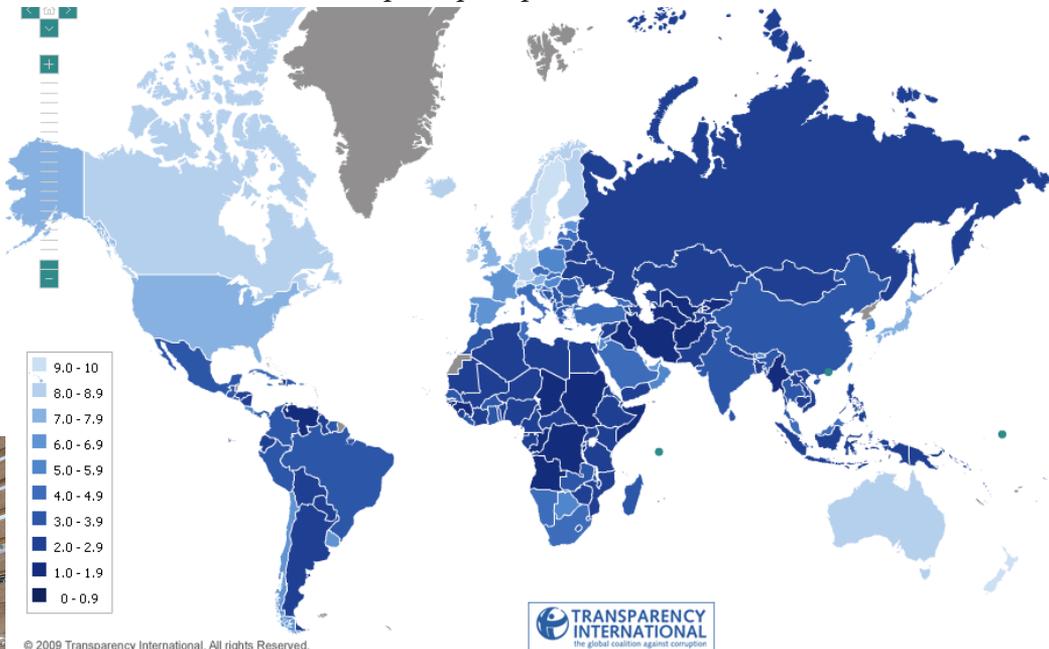
Who is a pimp? It's a man, or more frequently a woman; it's a former prostitute who has moved up to an intermediary level, who surveys the others; it's the boss of a network; it's a member of gang capable of picking out weak prey; it's a dealer, but also a parent, a husband, or a good friend who finds the possibility of bettering themselves quickly by prostituting their partner; it's a web master who makes sites for escorts, or the director of an escort company; it's a hotel owner, or a travel agency for sexual tourism, and international agencies for special meetings.

Faced with a structure of such complexity, it is generally difficult to pinpoint those responsible. Moreover, because of cell phones and the internet, pimps can manage their businesses from far away without the risk of being caught.

3. ORGANIZED CRIME AT THE HEART OF STATES: MONEY LAUNDERING AND CORRUPT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

These criminal networks pose a real danger. They “undermine society’s democratic principles” declared Pino Arlacchi, mafia specialist, in front of the United Nations. The development of these groups “at the core of the State, never against the State” has a destabilizing effect on society both by the nature of their activities and the violence of their actions, but also by the way they take advantage of the weaknesses in the system: by making the wheels of democracies work for their benefit. It is thus, that we can define the two central network function: corruption and money laundering.

Corruption perception indice in 2009



CORRUPTION AS A WEAPON

Corruption, passive or active, is essential in the functioning of the networks' branches. It exists at all levels of the process: recruitment and sales of victims, transportation, exploitation, trafficking protection, fabrication of identification papers and visas. It involves magistrates, members of parliament or members of the police, tax agencies, the national and international armed forces.

We know the role played by certain sections of the United Nations Peace Corps in the development of sexual exploitation of women in Bosnia, Herzégovine, Kosovo, Congo. But it also infiltrates administrations, like ministries and embassies, and the private sector (travel agencies, airline companies, and banks).

In short, government officials or employees, living off a low salary, agree to actively help criminals or to turn a blind eye to illegal activity in return for some extra money that will improve their day-to-day lives.

Fraud, like falsifying travel documents for IDs, make up a central element of the process. A few statistics prove this. According to the Minister of Belgian Foreign Affairs, the number of visas issued by the German embassy to Kiev went from 132,232 in 1998 to more than 210,000 in 2000; this is an increase of more than 60%. Intermediaries called "travel agencies" delivered the majority of visas without any kind of inspection.

Similarly, it is known that the majority of Chinese prostitutes who arrived in France in 2004 obtained visas as economic observers or participants in industrial and technical exhibition that were provided by travel agencies. Several proceedings recently accused the activity of embassies. In August 2006, a trafficking of visas that incriminated multiple administrative agents was discovered at the French Consulate in Moscow: 272,000 visas were issued in 2005, which was twice as many as in 2000.

MONEY LAUNDERING TECHNIQUES

In technical terms used by organized crime, money resulting from criminal activity is laundered, meaning that it is introduced back into the economic circuit to give it the appearance of legality. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), each year the amount of laundered money is between 500 and 1,000 billion dollars. What is even more worrisome is that in Europe, groups of organized crime use lawful social structures to reinvest their capital, which makes laundering difficult to detect.



Schengen Visa: Sex, Lies, and Consulates

On Tuesday, April 18, 2006, the Spanish Police arrested 100 people implicated in a prostitution ring specialized in trafficking women from provincial Russia. According to authorities, more than 70 Russian women were arrested during raids carried out in no less than five Spanish provinces.

The police declared that the network, headed by a Russian immigrant, received Schengen visas from the French Embassy in Moscow, before bringing the Russian women to Spain, where they then worked in brothels managed by Spaniards. These women had large debts with the mafia, making their escape practically impossible.

(Mediavisa.net, April 19, 2006)

In this way, pimps use the services of organizations like Western Union to repatriate money made by prostitution back to their country. The accounts are opened under the name of exploited young women who transfer money completely legally every day. The post office, a partner of Western Union in France, is thus becoming a major money launderer.

Once laundered, money is difficult to trace. It is transferred into dummy corporations (nightclubs or restaurants) or invested into real estate. The disassembly of several networks showed how money, which was generally entering into occidental Europe, was reinvested into Monegasque societies, head offices in Liechtenstein, and in villas or businesses in Costa Brava. Who does this surprise?



4. STATES' COMPLICITY?

Capable of benefiting from the faults and weaknesses of our systems, crime easily develops and adapts, leaving the states totally powerless and even indifferent. As a result, pimps and traffickers continue to benefit from such incredible lenience, which enables their activity. The recent economic crisis certainly lead to the emergence of a political will to fight against money laundering and tax havens. This battle, however, is only in the beginning stages and will require time and determination before it starts fighting against real criminals.

At the degree of present-day development, the sex industry, legal or illegal, contributes to national revenue and to states' growth. We could consider just the number of people involved in this industry: those involved with movie production, videos, or pornographic photos, sex stores, escort services, or sex hotlines. And we shouldn't forget all the professions tied to sexual tourism that involve a very large population, like taxi drivers, transportation companies, servers and other intermediaries, and hotel chains. Today, in the Netherlands, sexual tourism corresponds to 5% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product); in Indonesia, revenues tied to prostitution are 2% of the country's production compared to 14% in Thailand.

This is an evolution that the states do not always control, preferring even to develop politics that favor tourism and exploit the current situation, rather than considering politics of education and health. International occurrences even go so far as to encourage going down this path. The World Bank and the IMF agreed to loan money to countries like Thailand and the Philippines, provided that they develop the tourist entertainment industry. As highlighted by the Canadian sociologist Richard Poulin, who specializes in the subject, "They weren't thinking about Disney Lands!"



In a 1998 report, the International Labor Organization pushed cynical boundaries to the point of affirming that the sex industry in Southeast Asia acted as an instigator for local economic development. "...In addition to the prostitutes themselves, the revenue generated by the sex industry supports millions of workers..." the report explained. "In spite of this disgrace and the danger by which it is characterized, sex work yields much more than all other forms of unskilled labor."

They advocate a pragmatic approach to the problem ("the individual wellbeing of the prostitutes should not be taken into account to determine policies!"), explaining that it would be good to "tax the numerous lucrative activities that it yields."

Now capitalism takes precedence over human rights!



SEX TOURISM: BETWEEN EXPLOITATION AND COLONIALISM

It is estimated that nearly 10% of the 842 million tourists who travel outside of their country each year choose a destination based on the sex tourism offered there. Southeast Asia has been well known since the 1970s as being an area rife with sex tourism but, with the increasing popularity of this form of tourism, the destinations have become more varied: for example, today, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Senegal, Brazil, India, Gambia and Morocco have all become well known for sex tourism.

Sex tourism is also playing a continually greater role in child prostitution. According to UNICEF, there are close to 3 million children who are victims of commercial sexual exploitation each year. In the Mekong region in Southeast Asia, between 30% and 35% of prostitutes are aged between 12 and 17. In Mexico, social services indicate that more than 16,000 children work as prostitutes, namely in tourist locations.

However, developing countries aren't alone in this practice. Sex tourism is on the rise in our own, industrialized countries too, just a stone's throw away. Certain towns or regions, often those on the borders, have, in fact, become places with large sex appeal: Amsterdam, Janquera in Spain, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and the list goes on. Thus, 70-80% of clients in Catalan and Belgian brothels are French, with some traveling over 300 miles to make use of them. In 2005, UNICEF estimated that 50,000 German tourists crossed the border into the Czech Republic in order to take advantage of child prostitutes.

Impunity for Sex Tourists...

Participants in sex tourism generally tend to be from wealthy countries, such as the USA, Canada, Western European countries, Japan, and Australia. Some are "specialists", traveling with organized sex trips, and some travel alone, choosing their country of destination based on the different sexual offers. Other men and women, attracted by the transgression of the forbidden, will give in to the

offer once there, even though it wasn't their primary intention.

What are the motives? Maybe it's a taste of exoticism, fantasy, or the anonymous position that liberates all sexual desires. "We help them," they say, "it's in their culture." Behind these justifications stinking of racism, sex tourism, just as colonialism did in its time, plays on the power that money gives when faced with populations in utter destitution. This power is all the stronger because it comes with almost complete assurance of impunity.

Indeed, despite the mobilization of tourism professionals, despite an increasing awareness of the phenomenon, and despite developments in legislation, sex tourism shows no sign of declining in numbers and legal changes are few and far between. On the contrary, the way in which paying for sex has become commonplace and the search for adventures and thrills leads to the spread of a phenomenon against which countries, aware of the profits it can bring them, don't wish to fight.



PROSTITUTION = VIOLENCE



© G.D

People say: “They like it! They earn so much money...besides, they’re smiling!” To assert such clichés is to deliberately refuse to see the reality of prostitution. It is the desire to believe in a false idea of what prostitution is. “The clients only like us when we’re dressed sexy, well made-up, cheery, pleasant, welcoming, mischievous, and seductive...” testified one prostitute. They wouldn’t consider for a second what is concealed behind the smile and the makeup. They came looking for an illusion and a fantasy.

However, “behind these well made-up faces,” said the same prostitute, “behind the well-presented bodies, well prepared, behind the seductive smiles which expertly solicit clients, there is only hidden anxiety, unanswered questions, doubts, emptiness, fear of what the future may bring, and terror about their own lives, and life in general.” What reality is behind this artificial image?



1. THE VIOLENCE OF PROSTITUTION

The world of prostitution is a violent world, a world “where you must constantly be careful, where you learn to live with fear, and fear becomes a way of life,” say prostitutes. Danger is constant. Violence in all its forms, from insults to the most serious physical assault, can take place at any moment: a passer-by, another prostitute, a gang of youths, a client, the pimp...

In 2008, a report from the European parliament emphasized: “prostitutes are much more exposed to violence than other women.” They “run a much greater risk of being murdered than other women; they run a much greater risk of suffering physical and psychological damage, not related to ordinary violence but to the daily violence of prostitution.”

Such investigations, even if they are often based on limited examples, confirm these assertions. Canadian researchers have demonstrated that prostitutes are between 60 and 120 times more at risk of being assaulted

PROSTITUTION IS DANGEROUS

“Life Saving Techniques” is the “eloquent” name of a pamphlet destined for prostitutes to “inform them of the risks and dangers inherent in the business.”

These tips include how to negotiate with clients, clothing styles to wear, the kind of attitude to have during certain sexual practices, etc. A few excerpts say more about prostitution abuse than any speech could.

“-When approaching a car, keep a safe distance to avoid being attacked by knife, being spit at, or being sprayed with tear gas...

-In the car, close the door and immediately confirm that it can open again.

-Keep your money where he can see it, but not with the rest of your bills.

-Don't carry any object that could hurt you or be used against you, such as large bracelets or loose dresses. Avoid wearing scarves, foulards, bags with long straps, and any object that could be wrapped around your throat.

-During oral sex, do not close your eyes: keep an eye on him and his hands at all times. Throat tissue is very fragile: don't let him go too far down, guide his sex with your hand and avoid him holding your head or body...”

or murdered than the general public and that they have a mortality rate 40 times higher than the national average.

In an Australian study (a country where prostitution is legal), 81% of people questioned declared having been subjected to sexual services while working other jobs. In Glasgow, 94% of street prostitutes questioned were subjected to a sexual aggression: 75% were raped by a client.

According to another study, carried out in nine countries (Germany, Colombia, Turkey...) 71% of prostitutes had been subjected to a physical assault: 64% had been threatened with a weapon and 57% had been subjected to a sexual aggression.

Many times, the violent act came from the pimp or the trafficker. Certain criminal groups, like the Albanian groups, owe their notoriety to the extreme violence towards their victims: training or awful comments guide victims towards total submission, psychological pressuring, and threats made towards the victim's family. Violence also comes from the client, for whom the prostitute is the recipient of urges and fantasies they want to satisfy: “Sometimes they insult you, and sometimes they hit you,” summarized a former Canadian prostitute.

Psychological Violence and Social Stigmatization

The physical dimension of violence against prostitutes shouldn't, however, overshadow other more vague forms of violence.

Fear of retaliation, threats against family members, the weight of paying back a debt, of being surveyed, and constant control are also tools at the disposition of traffickers and pimps. On the side of the client, it's the tricks put in place to avoid protected sex, or to not have to pay (or paying a sum less than the one established) are also kinds of aggression towards the prostitute.

These kinds of poor treatment, torture, and psychological violence from pimps and clients are in addition to another, more symbolic, kind of violence: stigmatization inflicted by society.

Society declares that prostitution is necessary, but it is marginalized and scorned. Limited to certain streets or neighborhoods, prostitutes are subjected to verbal, sometimes physical, attacks from exasperated residents and to the policies of exclusion from public authorities.

It is passersby who call out insults, or, as the media recently recounted, an upset storeowner who installed iron rods in his storefront to prevent prostitutes from sitting down. It's the many municipalities that pro-



**Dominique,
Prostitute
for 15 years**

“When you get into prostitution, you don’t know when you’re going to get out. With age, you become more pressured to stay, you can no longer do something else and that’s really hard. There are prostitutes who are 75 years old who do it so they can eat! So, encouraging prostitutes to get out is all well and good, but we have to figure out how.

If you offer them just some measly internships, or an RMI (a minimum income job for inclusion into society), or jobs as washroom women or cleaning women, as is often the case, you might as well be putting them straight back onto the street. An exit is all about the preparation...”

**Leila,
Former Prostitute**

“The physical assaults are nothing compared to the emotional pain that tears you apart and makes it hard to breathe.”



claim anti-prostitution decrees and send prostitutes far away from the cities without, however, seeing the larger picture of the problems prostitution causes. It’s the police (especially in France following the interior security law of 2003, which reenacted passive soliciting as an offence) who multiply official reports and insults against the young women.

Some people argue that the dangers are tied to street prostitution and that the legalization of prostitution and the opening brothels would help protect the prostitutes. To these people, we reply: the violence is the same no matter the situation.

Deluxe escort girls or prostitutes in brothels – no one is safe from violence. Sociologist Richard Poulin showed that two-thirds of the 29 murders of female prostitutes, or those associated with prostitution, committed since 1989 in Quebec were people not prostituting on the street at the moment of the murder. Many of the women were working for escort services or working out of their own apartments.

2. PROSTITUTION IS VIOLENCE

In fact, violence in sex work is not only present in the activity; it is inherent in the act of prostitution itself. Prostitution is the repetition of non-desired sexual acts. And yet, as Doctor Judith Trinquart explained, “to have suffered a non-desired sexual act in exchange for money boils down to what we call in the medical world a sexual “breaking and entering” of the body. In fact, this is the equivalent of rape and has the same consequences as rape, whether it concerns children, teenagers, or adults.”

“One man pays to penetrate you, and after that, another and another. You feel reduced down to your orifices, witness to ancient sex workers. It’s not enjoyable to have your vagina, mouth, and anus penetrated by that many men. It’s disgusting having his sperm dripping from the corner of your mouth – it makes you want to vomit. Without a single care for you, they penetrate you with their hands, objects, and their penis.”

For some prostitutes under the control of pimps, in an effort to make the maximum profit, tricks happen one after the next. “You were only ever concerned with the money,” wrote Ulla, an emblematic leader of the Lyon rebellion of 1975, when she addressed her pimp. “You only added up the net income of my hard-day’s work, not even caring about the number of bodies it represented. At peak times, it was 40, even 50 bodies.”

DENIAL IN THE FACE OF PROSTITUTION

When faced with violence, sex workers have “things” to help protect themselves. Denial is one of these things.

That’s what one prostitute, active for almost 15 years, explained: “Brainwashing (...) is an essential thing if you want to last in this line of work. In the beginning, I often lied to myself, I told myself stories, and I made myself think that being a prostitute wasn’t that bad, it wasn’t that horrible.

Being able to tap into this psychological process was a vital thing, even a question of survival (...); seeing my prostituting clearly would have been unthinkable.

If one day, I unconsciously looked at this reality and this sadness in my life, I would fall into alcoholism and depression (...).

Now, I’ve found an irrefutable method: I take my head and stick it into a sand hole like an ostrich, and repeat endlessly: “everything is ok, everything is ok.”

This underlines to what point prostitution dehumanizes the sex worker. For the client and the pimp, the sex worker is nothing more than an object: “They treat you poorly (...) like you are shit, as if you aren’t a person like any other, but just a thing.” A thing for which the pimp and the client maintain all the rights. Because in paying, the client takes possession of the prostitute’s body and submits it to their own desires. The sex worker is turned completely into an instrument: the client physically takes possession of their body and the entire person. Treating them like tools makes the woman an object for servicing a third party.

In trying to protect themselves, sex workers further accentuate the phenomenon by banalising it and accepting what they have suffered: “I act like I don’t hear the insults,” said one prostitute.

“When the client says ‘Dirty slut’ to humiliate you, what would you say back?” explains another prostitute. “I don’t want to play his game, so I don’t say anything.” The sex workers themselves participate in this dehumanizing phenomenon by installing a barrier between prostitution and their private and social life. Hidden behind a fake name, behind makeup or certain behaviors, the prostitute becomes someone else; she divides in two.

3. SHATTERED HUMAN BEINGS: PROSTITUTION DESTROYS PEOPLE

The endless repetition of dehumanizing acts and the omnipresence of violence, sometimes in its most extreme forms, is bound to give rise to physical and mental issues for sex workers. Consequences can be even more severe, since prostitutes have often been previously affected by violence.

“ONE DOES NOT CHOOSE PROSTITUTION BY CHANCE”

Indeed, why do people choose prostitution? A lot of people argue that they were in a state of destitution or poverty. However, financial problems do not always explain why people choose prostitution: not everyone suffering from poverty or extreme destitution resorts to prostitution in order to survive. In addition to obvious financial issues, personal weaknesses also play a role.

Field studies and social worker testimonies confirm this: “A link exists between having suffered from violence and sexual abuse and entering

A WAY OUT OF PROSTITUTION

Many sex workers claim they want to stop prostituting themselves. But the path is long and difficult. “We are affected for life,” say the prostitutes.

The longer the time spent in the world of prostitution, the harsher the traumatic effects for the prostitutes and the harder it will be for them to get out of the prostitution world. That is one of the greatest acts of violence.

Being trapped in traumatic cycles, coupled with destructive reasoning, makes prostitution a vicious spiral from which to save oneself.

A prostitute is marginalized both by the societal opinions and the stigmatization she endures. She is scared of how society sees her and doesn't trust social workers or administrative workers.

By quitting their job, the prostitute must change lifestyles and face daily struggles. And yet the difficulties associated with prostitution initially led them to drink and take drugs so they could “make it through (...).”

Now add being dependent on quick money. After earning the equivalent of one month's salary in a few hours, it's difficult to go back to a “normal” life, which offers little more than re-entry jobs or a poorly paid job.

the world of prostitution, as well as substance use and abuse.” “Between 60-70% of sex workers said they have been victim to physical violence during their childhood, and that parental alcohol and substance abuse were linked to entering prostitution” (extract from the project of report on prostitution and its consequences on women's health, European Parliament, March 2008).

Resorting to prostitution often goes hand in hand with difficult life paths: emotional deprivation, family issues and running away from home, sexual assaults, incest, and drug addiction. Prostitution then becomes a way to fulfill emotional or social deficiency through the illusion of power and liberty, a way to get a revenge on past abuse by making the client pay, or to perpetuate the abuse by endlessly experiencing it over and over.

Prostitution Consequences

Selling one's body has profound consequences that cannot be found in any other activity. A European Parliament report observed that: “Typical psychological problems in prostitutes include depression, suicidal tendencies, panic attacks, traumatic stress, trouble sleeping, flash backs, and migraines.”

To maintain a balance, it is said that sex workers disassociate between a private personality and a prostitute personality, by using fake names and wearing makeup. Beyond the “mise en scene,” this disassociation leads to a kind of split personality: the sex worker hides their job from their loved ones and often has difficulty building a social and family life. “I can't have a social life (...),” said a prostitute from Geneva. “I don't want to introduce myself to people, not because I'm a prostitute, but because I have to lie to people.”

This system of psychological defense constitutes a shield that allows the sex worker to keep their distance from the dealings with clients and pimps. This is what we call “decorporalization;” it is a phenomenon also evident in victims of conjugal violence, or war veterans.

It involves self-anesthesia to keep going: mental anesthesia via the doubling process, as well as physical anesthesia. “Sex workers beaten while prostituting,” explains Doctor Judith Trinquart, “do not feel pain; then, when they go home and look in a mirror, they see the cuts and bruises... These mechanisms of hypoesthesia and anesthesia lead to automatic self-negligence: the body becomes an instrument, and object.”

Consequently, with such woman, we can observe troubles with sensitivity to pain and with tactile sensations: their threshold for pain is above average and their sexuality is dysfunctional or absent.

Along with these troubles come other forms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), as explains Dr. Trinquart. The list includes: “repetitive and overwhelming memories, nightmares, a fear that abuse will reoccur, avoidance tactics, hyper-vigilance, minimizing contacts and emotions in order to avoid anything that might repeat the abuse, sleeping problems coming from the hyper-vigilance, lack of concentration, and memory loss.” Certain studies estimate that 67% of sex workers are affected by such troubles.

Prostitution appears to be a real violent system. It represents an aggression against someone else’s body. Faced with this reality, silence is intolerable. From now on, the challenge for our society is to break this indifference, which would foster a society without prostitution.



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WHAT OF THE PUBLIC POLICIES?

1. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FACED WITH PROSTITUTION: THE IDEOLOGICAL BATTLE

"We can thus declare that sex trafficking is taking place in France and that it is by far the most prosperous business, thanks to the contribution of the "clients" and their complicity in this slavery of women, who they use as objects (...).

Because the basis of the problem of prostitution and the trafficking of women is predominantly down to the 'client'."

Jean Scelles

In December 1949, the United Nations Assembly adopted the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. The text, which sets out the ban on the trafficking of women and on all forms of regulation of prostitution, begins with this strong mission statement: "Prostitution and the accompanying evil of the traffic in persons for the purpose of prostitution are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community." Ratified by 74 countries, the Convention signaled recognition of a long battle began at the end of the 19th century in England by Josephine Butler, for whom prostitution was a form of slavery which oppresses women and which involves the whole of humanity.

30 years later, in 1979, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women reasserted this abolitionist commitment and the organization's wish to fight against the trafficking of women. Member States are thus called upon to take "all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and the exploitation of prostitution of women" (Article 6).

THE 1949 CONVENTION TODAY

Despite all this, the legal framework has been gradually called into question. It was the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) – the first international legal document establishing the rights of those under 18 – which first explicitly banned trafficking and exploitation for child prostitution as well as pornography and all forms of sexual exploitation. Then, in 1993, the United Nations introduced a new concept in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (20 December 1993, A/RES/48/104): "forced prostitution" was listed amongst the forms of violent acts. It was then Europe which was next to take action; in 1993, the



European Council made its move, creating a work group on the trafficking of women and “forced prostitution” in the Member States and, since then, the idea of “forced prostitution” has been imposed time and time again in the majority of European and international texts.

One may think that by emphasizing child prostitution on the one hand and the trafficking of human beings on the other, the international and European organizations are, above all, looking to prioritize and to work more effectively. However, it isn’t quite so simple. Great ideological states hide behind these choices; by focusing on human trafficking and on child prostitution – notions on which a consensus is automatically reached – implied categories and differences are established. If “forced prostitution” exists, there exists, equally, “free” or “voluntary” prostitution and if prostitution is seen as a form of abuse and violence for children under 18, it can appear as a legitimate and acceptable form of work for adults over 18.

Certain international authorities, that have gone so far as to call for the economic recognition of “sex labor,” are reinforcing this dangerously liberal inclination. For example, in 2001, the World Health Organization (WHO) called for the legalization and decriminalization of “sex labor” in order to

PROSTITUTION AND THE LEGAL SYSTEMS

Abolitionism aims at the removal of all forms of regulations of prostitution (brothels and police and health files and registers). Prostitution is neither forbidden nor controlled; it is a matter for the private sphere.

Only the public demonstration of prostitution is criminally punishable, as well as any form of admission or exploitation of this activity.

The ABOLITIONIST legal system has been adopted by the majority of countries across the world. France acquired it in 1946 with the Martha Richard Law, which stipulates the closing of brothels, followed by a series of measures allowing for all constraints previously placed on prostitutes, such as the obligation to present oneself to the police and enrolment onto special registers, to be rescinded.

REGULATIONISM views prostitution as a necessary and unavoidable evil and thus that it is better to direct, control, and organize it.

Prostitution is thus carried out according to administrative regulations including the marking out of places where it is practiced (brothels, designated districts), health checks, and registrations. In Europe, the main “regulationist” countries are Holland, Germany, and Austria.

PROHIBITIONISM sees prostitution as a crime. It is forbidden and all who participate in it (prostitutes, clients and pimps) are taken to court.

Prohibitionist states include China, most of the American States, Ireland, and some of the former “Eastern countries” (such as Lithuania, but the majority of these countries are tending to move towards regulationism). However, banning prostitution does not mean that it doesn’t exist; rather, it takes place unde

Katia, Moldova:

"I was desperate but I continued to look. I asked everybody and looked everywhere, but there was nothing, nothing, nothing."

In winter 2000, I met a girl from my village who I had not seen since school! She had heard that I was looking for work. I don't know how or from whom, but, you know, news travels fast where I'm from!

One day, she came to my sister's to meet and speak with me... She told me that one of her good friends could provide me with work in France, relating to my trade as a seamstress. I believed her because, you know, half of Moldova no longer lives in Moldova. People seize any opportunity to get out of there so yes, I believed it."



"A prostitute is not seen as a person, but as a thing, an object, a slave, whereas the "client" is the buyer, the master who possesses the magic power – money – thanks to which, he can freely carry out his fantasies, no matter how despicable or degrading they may be."

Jean Scelles

reduce the AIDS epidemic. The same year, the European Court of Justice granted women coming from Eastern Europe the right to migrate in order to work in the Dutch sex industry, in the same working conditions as any other liberal profession.

Others have even gone so far as to try to achieve the recognition of the existence of a form of voluntary trafficking. Trafficking would therefore become acceptable and tolerable as long as the person gave his or her consent and was fully aware that they were heading into prostitution, as if a person's consent could make trafficking acceptable. To use the words of the Canadian feminist Elaine Audet, "the benchmark for judging what is and what is not acceptable is the harm done to a person, not their consent."

The United Nations, the European Union and the European Council have, therefore, little by little, abandoned all reference to sanctions for pimping and indeed, all commitments and desire to fight against the development of prostitution. The international community is happy, therefore, to set out a legislative framework with the goal of putting into place a shared policy of fighting against human trafficking on the basis of the lowest common denominator. As for the rest, the European and international bodies, breaking away from the spirit of the 1949 Convention, abandon it to the abilities of Nation States.

And yet the same ideological disagreements appear at State-level, particularly in Europe, with countries split into two opposing camps: abolitionist and regulationist.

2. ABOLITIONISM AND THE AMBIGUITY SURROUNDING IT

Based on the 1949 United Nations Convention, the abolitionist system tolerates prostitution, but not its regulation. The prostitute is viewed as a victim who the State must help to reintegrate into society and pimping, in the largest sense of the word, is banned. However, having said this, in reality, its actual practice is far from good and some countries are often relaxed in their carrying out of their abolitionist system. For example, Spain, with the Penal Code of 1996, established a distinction in the law between "coerced prostitution" and "free prostitution," only punishing the act of pimping if carried out in conditions displaying signs of violence, coercion or abuse of vulnerabilities, such as age or the position of superiority etc. Furthermore, certain autonomous regions, like Catalonia, have legalized brothels whereas the country itself remains officially abolitionist. Similarly, in Belgium, if pimping remains illegal then prostitutes can carry out their work in brothels by renting a window and voluntarily subscribing to special files intended for this purpose.

Even France itself, caught between a fear of illegal immigration and a desire to satisfy exasperated residents, lets certain things slide, allowing them to pass through the abolitionist system. While the 1949 United Nations Convention clearly saw prostitutes as victims requiring protection, France maintains that the prostitute is a criminal. Since the 2003 Domestic Security Law, soliciting has been a crime punishable by 2 months in prison and a 3,750 Euros fine. In addition, prostitutes are incessantly threatened with being arrested and placed in custody.

Les régimes juridiques de la prostitution en Europe



However, according to a statement made by Michèle André, a member of the Senate, in May 2010, the number of convictions has been relatively low and the sentences imposed were considerably lighter than the maximum set out by the law. 751 convictions were made in 2004 and 996 in 2005, yet this trend then reversed declining to 474 convictions in 2006, then 535 in 2007 and 351 in 2008.

Furthermore, foreign victims, in particular those in an illegal situation, only receive assistance and the right to remain in the country if they co-operate with the police and judicial authorities, but, as we know, it is extremely difficult for these people to provide information on their pimps without putting both their own lives and the lives of those who are close to them in danger.

The Path of a Young Czech Girl Sold into Prostitution in France

“There were 5 of us in the car: Andréa, Jon, the two girls, and me. Once we had arrived, at 4 o’ clock in the morning, Andréa told us that he didn’t have any money to pay for the hotel, so he left us out on the pavement, tired and in the cold. Each one of us needed 2 clients at 50 Euros each in order to pay for the hotel. I cried; I didn’t even know what having a client meant, or how to act with one. The two girls already knew. Cars came and stopped and I saw how they opened the door on the driver’s side. They weren’t afraid; they knew what to do. One of the girls called me over because a client had requested me. I couldn’t do it, so the client left. They gave me such a telling-off because I had let 50 Euros get away and they told me that I would be in trouble with Andréa. The client came back and they pushed me into the car. Fortunately, he was kind. He understood that I was being forced to work as a prostitute, so he gave me the 50 Euros without doing anything. At the hotel, Andréa came into my bedroom and asked me straight-away why I had refused the client. I didn’t respond. I was afraid. So, he began to hit me and the blows were so violent that I was covered in bruises. As he was leaving, he told me to never again refuse a client. I didn’t have a choice. Thus, I carried on working for him despite my absolute disgust. I can’t find the words to express just how dirty I felt inside.”

Finally, there still remains the equally ambiguous financial aspect. Prostitutes don’t have the right to health insurance (they are obliged to take out individual insurance) nor to pension schemes. Nevertheless, their income is still subject to taxation: prostitutes are liable to the tax on non-commercial profits, like all other professions, an illogical policy which has often earned France the title of being “the first French pimp.”

3. WHEN LAWS FAIL: PROSTITUTION IS UNLIKE ANY OTHER PROFESSION

Furthermore, and as of a certain time now, other ideas and principles have appeared in Europe. Since prostitution has become a very lucrative business for pimps, who are possibly enriching the States, a liberal current is advocating the decriminalization of prostitution. They fight for volunteer type of prostitution to be recognized and for the pimping system to be legalized.

Thus, the European States have established judicial systems that authorize and organize a pimping system: bordellos are opened, prostitutes have work contracts, they are enrolled and controlled, and pimps become respectable businessmen. This is the regulated system. These countries justify their choice by claiming to be fighting against the mistreatment of human beings and the exploitation of child prostitution. They affirm that they are protecting sex workers and guaranteeing public peace and health check programs.

The Netherlands adopted this regime and the show windows in Amsterdam have become a hallmark. Germany, Greece, Austria, Switzerland, Australia, and New Zealand followed suite. In these countries, prostitution is authorized. It is recognized as a legal activity and is not distinguished from other branches of the economy. Sex workers benefit from social health coverage and sign their own work contracts. The pimp is considered a Business Manager and is not punishable by the law unless he profits from under-aged or non-consenting workers.

As the first country to have applied the regularized principles, today the Netherlands is realizing their failure. True, this activity does bring in around one billion Euros per year in taxes for the Dutch government, but an explosion of prostitution and sexual tourism accompanies this enrichment. In 1981, there were 2,500 sex workers in the Netherlands, then 30,000 in 1999. Amsterdam became the top sex-tourism destination in Europe.

Furthermore, mafias and organized crime are claiming their growing share: in 1960, 95% of sex workers in the Netherlands were Dutch; in 1999, this number had dropped to 20%. In the city of Amsterdam, where there are more than 250 brothels, 80% of sex workers are foreigners - 70% of who

NEW PROSTITUTION LAWS IN FRANCE?

Since prostitution clashes with the most fundamental principles of our society (especially gender equality and non-commercialization of the human body), it must be “considered a violent process where the majority of victims are women and whose consequences are often significant. Therefore, perspectives adopted by public policies cannot fall anywhere short of a world without prostitution.”

This act of faith opens the parliamentary commission’s report on prostitution, released on April 13th, 2011. Over a period of six months, and under the presidency of Danielle Bouquet (Socialist Party), seven French deputies of various political views listened to over two hundred testimonies (sex workers, associations, professionals dealing with the prostitution world, etc.) in order to examine the state of prostitution in France and offer a new approach to the issue.

From Protecting Victims to Holding the Clients Accountable

The Parliamentary commission reasserts France’s abolition stance to prostitution and advises a two-axis policy:

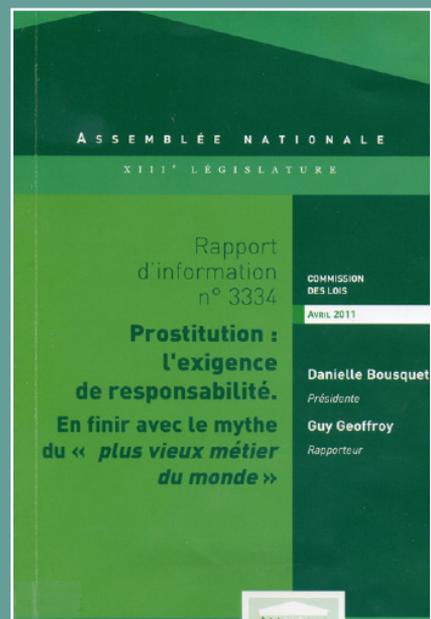
1. Protecting sex workers: “public policies (must offer) credible alternatives to prostitution and ensure that the sex workers’ fundamental rights are respected” / “the struggle against human trafficking and pimping is an absolute priority, the vast majority of sex workers being victims of sexual exploitation.”
2. Giving society a sense of responsibility and raising awareness amongst prostitution clients: “the law must clearly state everyone’s responsibility in the perpetuation of the prostitution system; and based on the Swedish model - must also hold clients accountable by telling them that they share some responsibility: “Prostitution would not exist without clients.”

It is ultimately a call for the penalization of the client.

A Law in Progress

Since April 2011, a resolution reaffirming the French abolitionist principals was adopted by the entirety of Deputies from the Parliamentary political landscape. Closely following this, Danielle Bousquet (PS) and Guy Geoffroy (UMP) proposed a law in December 2011. Among other measures, the law would include the creation of a “prostitution offence,” resulting in two-months imprisonment and a fine of 3,750 Euros. An overall improvement in protecting victims of human trafficking and pimping is also envisioned.

The debate is open. Let’s hope it will find a place among the parliamentary projects in the coming months. It falls back on associations to spread this text and assure the necessary awareness to share these messages as much as among the politicians as the public at large.



NEW DEBATES, NEW CHALLENGES...

Today, the debate about prostitution tends to shift to other seemingly distant spheres: sexual assistance for disabled people and surrogate pregnancies. These are two examples that question the availability of the human body; they are two debates that use compassion as an alibi to make the principle of treating one's body as a tool acceptable.

Sexual Assistance: a kind of prostitution that does not dare to be named

Sexual Assistance is a form of erotic and/or sexual escort intended for people with disabilities who request it. The job of sexual assistant appeared in the Netherlands in 1980, then in Germany, in Denmark, and in Switzerland in 2009.

The debate regarding sexual assistance erupted in France in 2007. That year, a conference called "Physical dependence: intimacy and sexuality" was organized in Strasbourg. Today, the debate continues to generate controversy.

Jean-François Chossy, Union for a Popular Movement (UMP) deputy, was given the mission to reflect upon the "evolution of mindsets and the changes of society's view on disabled people." Since November 2010, he has been working on a bill to legalize the status of sexual assistants. However in January 2011, Roselyne Bachot, Minister of Solidarity and Social Cohesion, declared herself against the bill: "I am absolutely, categorically, and totally opposed to it." Such an occupation would have to either be "volunteer work," or "sexual services that one pays for," or in other words "prostitution," declared Bachot.

Remunerated sexual assistance has indeed the same legal status as prostitution in France. Anyone organizing a meeting between a remunerated sexual assistant and an in-patient staying at a residence or outpatient staying at home could be accused of pimping.

Beyond the legislative changes that creating such an occupation would lead to, this claim implies the

acknowledgement of "a right to an emotional and sexual life," whose consequences would be dangerous. How could we deny this right to other groups of people (prisoners, people with diseases)? Formalizing the right to sexuality means formalizing the duty to satisfy it, and is therefore a way to legitimize prostitution.

From Sexual Assistance to the Commoditization of the Body

Surrogacy is a method of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) used in cases of female infertility caused by the absence or deformation of the uterus. The surrogate mother carries the child of a couple who provide their embryos.

The French law formally banned this practice following the 1994 human body respect law. The new bioethical law passed in June 2011 reasserted this principle.

But several countries, including countries in Europe, recognize and supervise surrogacy. In those countries, surrogacy is always remunerated (in the form of salary or a compensation) beyond medical costs. It is indeed inconceivable that a woman should place her organs and nine months of her life at somebody's disposal for free. As a consequence, a "belly market" develops, "constituting enticement for the most vulnerable women to sell themselves, a new form of exploitation and servitude."

To legalize surrogacy would therefore mean equating pregnancy with a service and the body with a piece of merchandise.

Paule, Former Prostitute in Belgium:

"In the Bars, 95% of the men I saw were married. To think that married women say prostitutes are needed for single and handicapped men!

These are the clichés that we're up against. Deep down, these women know that it's their husbands who come."



Elodie:

"Those who think we are pleased by them...we let them think that. It's serious that a client can think that we get pleasure from him... he just doesn't get it."

are without papers and were victims of human trafficking. The situation became so severe that the mayor of the city famous for its "Red Light District" bought back (for 15 million Euros) a part of the prostitute's windows and publically recognized that the neighborhood had become "a refuge for (human) traffickers and drug dealers."

In addition, the stigmatization of prostitutes has not lessened. Since no one wants prostitution to take place in their neighborhood, the activity is limited to specific geographic zones. Because of this, public opinion of prostitution has barely evolved. In order to obtain a loan, get insurance, or even to open a bank account, sex workers always face the same reticence.

This is the reason why many prostitutes prefer remaining anonymous and renounce the social rights they were promised. In Germany, only 1% of prostitutes signed work contracts with the owner of the Eros center. This shows that, going beyond stigmatization, prostitution cannot, in any context, be a profession like any other. In 2007, Ursula von der Leyen, German Minister of Family and Women's Conditions, recognized herself: "Prostitution is a job like none other." She called for a change in legislation.

4. A NEW PATH: THE SWEDISH NEO-ABOLITIONIST MODEL

Today, abolitionist and legalization approaches have shown their limits and no one knew how to seriously respond to the problems posed by prostitution, nor were they able to largely diminish human trafficking or the number of prostitutes, nor assure the latter's protection.

In abolitionist countries, like France, due to ambiguous politics, prostitution continues to develop and diversify. In wanting to organize and legalize prostitution, the legalization approach conceals the reality and violence. That is why, in order to recognize and condemn the violence of prostitution, certain countries must chose a different path.

In 1999, the Swedish Parliament, with 43% women, voted a law forbidding the purchase (and even the suggested purchase) of sexual services whatever the situation of the sex worker (underage or adult, considered "free" or "forced"). "The person who uses payment to procure an occasional sexual relation will be condemned - if the offence does not become the object of a penal punishment – to a fine or imprisonment of six or more months." Additionally, the prostitute herself is not susceptible to being charged for an offence, nor for soliciting.

This law results from a renewed analysis of the prostitution phenomenon. Its three main points include :

1. Man's demand generates prostitution

"Prostitution involves the masculine sexuality and not the feminine sexuality. Without the masculine demand (...), there would be no prostitution." This was written in the 1980s by the Swedish sociologist Sven-Axel Mansson. The "client" is at the root of the demand for prostitution- he perpetuates the exploitation of prostituting others.

2. Prostitution is the expression of a type of domination of the man over the woman. This is the very basis of its functioning: the woman is lowered to the rank of a sexual object that men are free to purchase. Accepting prostitution means accepting an unequal and disrespectful society. The fight for equality of the sexes will not succeed as long as men can buy women's bodies.

3. "Treating a person like merchandise, even with their consent, is a crime," as explained Margaretha Wimberg, Swedish Minister of Sexual Equality. The law known as "Women's Peace" quickly noticed results: prostitution diminished from 30-50% and recruitment clearly slowed down, as if this

"In the prostitution relationship, the "client" makes the first step. He buys or rents a car because he has money. He is the one that should be held responsible. His Majesty will benefit from impunity; this sovereign privilege is not recognized everywhere."

Jean Scelles

THE CLIENT OF PROSTITUTION GOES UNRECOGNIZED

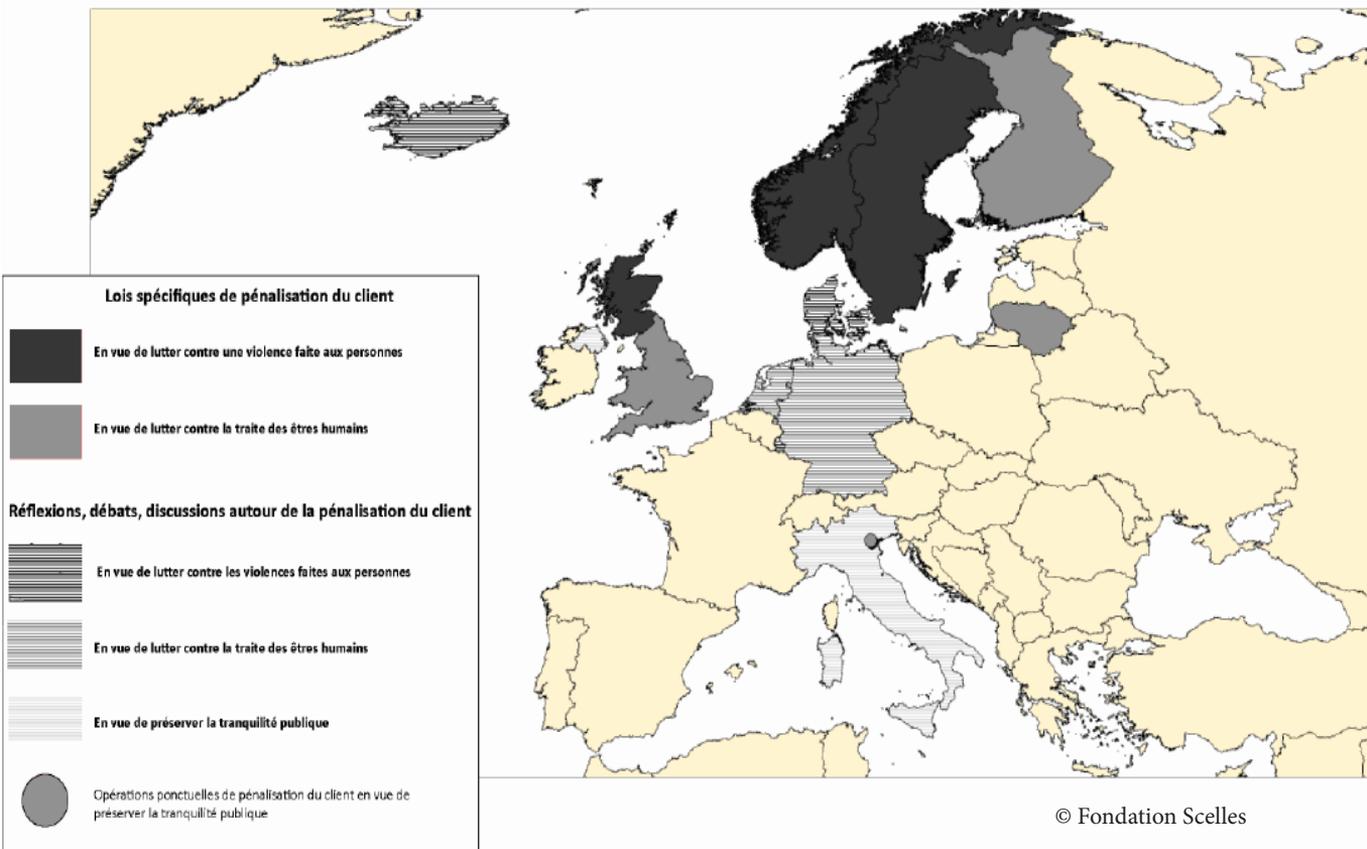
A study on sexual behavior conducted in France in 2007 indicates that 3.3% of men confirm having been with a prostitute in the 5 years prior to the study, with this figure rising to close to 18.1% for those who have had the experience at any point in their life. Moreover, according to the same survey, the proportion of young men turning to prostitution is on the rise.

Who, then, are the clients of prostitution who have remained hidden in the shadows for such a long time? It is commonly said to be "the marginalized and the lost," however the first studies on the issue show just the opposite. There is no classic example of the unter: he comes from all socio-professional backgrounds, all age groups and he can be in a relationship, single, or divorced. The client is really the average citizen.

However, that isn't to say that all men will visit prostitutes. Those who turn to prostitution justify their actions by citing the sexual urges or physical needs which today's modern women – who they see as too liberated and independent – don't satisfy. For them, it is a quick and easy excuse.

Studies have allowed us to uncover a wider range of motivations. Thus, there are those who wish to satisfy desires that they often keep hidden from their partner and those who want to be "consumers" of sex. There are also the emotionally detached who find it hard to have a real-life relationship with women, those who search out the fantasy of the "dirty bitch", the sex fiend, and those who are "allergic to commitment and responsibility" and who therefore seek sex and pleasure with no consequences or risks.

What is clearly shown by these various categories is that turning to prostitution is not, as sociologist Saïd Bouamama explains, something reserved for "sick losers, but an act driven by society, resulting from pornography, social exclusion, and the images we create of male and female sexuality." It is not simply the expression of biological needs, but also a social and cultural construction that relies upon a patriarchal and archaic model of masculinity; what men look for above all in prostitution is the right to irresponsibility, confirmation of a virility based on domination, and the feeling of being all-powerful.



measure had a barrier-effect against trafficking. True, the law was accused of having an effect of pushing prostitution into other spaces (into border zones) or into clandestine operations (prostitution in apartments or on the Internet). It was also accused of provoking higher rates of rape. There are so many arguments to be discussed.

That said, the positive impacts remain undeniable. Beyond numbered results, and because an overall program of broadening public awareness and sensitivity accompanied this law's application, it profoundly shook up public opinion: 80% of Swedish people are in favor of penalizing the client of prostitution.

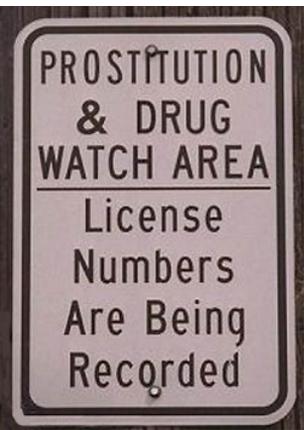
Brigitte :

"We can't help them", goes the so-called discourse, "we're therapists" – it's completely false. As for me, if I listened to them, it's only because it helped me to escape the rest."

5. SHOULD CLIENTS OF PROSTITUTION BE SANCTIONED?

The client of prostitution remained in the background for a long time: he was the one never talked about, the one for whose sake the whole system was created and organized without him ever being directly addressed. One of the consequences of the debate in Sweden was to lay the groundwork for a reflection on the responsibility of the clients in the prostitution system: why should prostitution be reduced to the prostitute-pimp duo, even though the two main actors of com-

mercial sexual relations are the sex worker and the client? Why should the person that sells his/her body be morally condemnable and condemned while the person who is buying is unanimously free of responsibility?



Thanks to research and awareness-raising campaigns, the key role played by the client in the expansion of the prostitution system is better known today. We are still far from collective awareness, but international texts (Warsaw convention, Palermo Protocol) and some national laws now take into consideration the client and call for concrete measures to discourage the demand.

The motivations, however, leading to those texts are various: fighting human trafficking (by only sanctioning the clients of human trafficking victims), or preserving public order. While Scotland and Norway have made clear their will to follow the Swedish lead and included their client penalization laws in a broader fight against violence made to persons, other countries go only half-way and produce laws that are difficult to implement. Thus Finland and now England have taken measures to sanction the purchase of sexual services from people victims of human traffic or under the control of a pimp.

In France, only the client of underage prostitutes or particularly vulnerable sex workers (disability, infirmity, physical or mental deficiency, pregnancy) is condemnable.

However, several studies show that the mere threat of a sanction can be a disincentive. To put it bluntly, as long as the clients will not be sanctioned regularly and systematically for buying a prostitute's services – regardless of who that sex worker is - there will be no evolution in mentalities.

Indeed, calling for dissuasive policies or even a “depenalization” of the demand is not about blindly convicting the client of prostitution, it is about promoting a society of equality and respect. The prostitution system is based on gender inequality and on male domination over women. As long as men are allowed by law to buy women's bodies, there will be no possibility for equality.

Sanctioning the prostitution demand is an indispensable requirement to the affirmation of a new equality relationship between men and women. A clear message must be sent to the whole of society: women's bodies and other humans' bodies are not for sale.

THE CHALLENGES OF OUR FIGHT

Having reached this point, a new question appears: what kind of society do we want? Which values are we going to stand up for, considering the state of extreme globalization and limitless liberalism?

Prostitution is the worst outcome of the liberal system. It is the organization of merchandising of the human body and exploiting the most extreme distress and pain. In light of the increasing impoverishment of populations, the inefficiency of policies against this kind of phenomenon does not allow one to feel positive about the future. In the next decades, the number of victims of prostitution and the derived profits could potentially double.

Christine :

"When you're in this system, you only see the people inside it; you don't see anything else. I worked at night; I didn't have any hour of reference for eating or sleeping. I didn't watch the news for years. You live offbeat, you forget about the world outside of your own. It's like a sect. It is really hard to get out- you keep telling yourself: "I'll quit tomorrow!" At a coffee shop I would have a tea, and then ten minutes later I would have a martini. Today I am frightened to realize that I spent 10 years in that rotten environment. You loose track of time."

Do we want a society where bodies are commodities? Do we want a society where the most elementary human rights are trampled upon every day before our eyes?

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person," affirms the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "No one shall be held in slavery or servitude: slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms... No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment."

An abundance of flouted principles so that some men (clients and pimps) may keep their right to exploit someone else's body...

Considering this statement, we, the Scelles Foundation would like to remind you of some principles:

- **The "right" to exploit or rent someone else's body, even with their consent, is not a human right.** Prostitution perpetuates a form of slavery, and to those who say: "My body belongs to me and I am free to use it as I wish," we reply that prostitution is the "choice" made by those who no longer have a "choice."

- **Prostitution is an unbearable kind of violence, because it involves both the integrity of one's body and identity.** But also because it is an outrageous

form of domination: the bodies of women, young girls, and children are made available to satisfy the sexual needs of men. To acknowledge prostitution means to institutionalize a context of domination that mostly involves women.

- **Prostitution is “incompatible with the dignity and worth of each individual,”** as stated the United Nations Convention of 1949. In the name of human dignity, a concept included in the Penal Code, the existence of each individual has value in itself and must be enforced. In other words, even if everyone is free to use his body as they wish, a higher value compels us to act with respect for human dignity.

- **The human body is not for sale.** Prostitution is not a “service.” A prostitute gives up her/his entire body for someone’s money. But a body is not for sale and this principle is established in the Civil Code: “The human body, its elements and its products, cannot as such be the object of a proprietary law.” (Article 16)

We believe in abolitionist principles, we make a commitment to ban the exploitation of sex workers, in particular in the context of human trafficking.

“What we should aim for is a global change of mentalities, it will require a long-term battle, but the challenge is essential.

Through our publications and media efforts we strive to increase public awareness about the kind of violence sex workers must endure and encourage public authorities to stand up for this cause.

We have to change the image of prostitution in the public opinion, impose the respect of both sexes, ban the image of women as objects of sexual pleasure, establish the idea that there is no freedom in prostitution, and that instead, it is a violation of human rights...those are our goals.”

Dinah Derycke,
senator

OUR GOALS

- **Increase public awareness about the scale of the challenge.** Prostitution affects us all. Values as fundamental as the respect of others, equality, and development are shaken by sexual exploitation. To disapprove of prostitution as a system that exploits human beings means preserving our respect of these values.

- **Change the perception of prostitution.** We call on public opinion to acknowledge the reality of this system and to disapprove of what seems to have become a certain and everlasting fact. We want prostitution to be seen as a consequence and not a cause of socio-economic disparities, as well as gender disparities, so that a true change of mindset can be initiated.

- **We demand a coherent, global policy.** The only way to effectively fight against all kind of sexual exploitation is by truly coordinating exchanges between social services, health care, police, and judicial services.

- **Obtain the harmonization of European policies.** In Europe, as borders disappear every day, the harmonization of national legislation is essential. The harmonization based on clear principles such as respect, equality and the disapproval of any kind of legalization of pimping.

- **Introduce a sense of responsibility into the clients' minds.** Clients of prostitution represent a very important part of the system of violence endured by sex workers. Their responsibilities should be at the center of public debates and policies regulating prostitution.

The Scelles Foundation does not exercise any moral judgment and it does not question the prostitute's free will. We fight on behalf of all prostituted persons for whom the "choice to work as a prostitute" is nothing but an illusion.

Prostitution concerns us all and we need your help to fight it.



A photograph of an elderly man and woman. The man on the left is smiling and has white hair and a mustache. The woman on the right is wearing dark sunglasses and has short grey hair. They are both dressed in formal attire.

THE SCELLES FOUNDATION' STORY

The Scelles Foundation, officially recognized since 1994, was created in 1993 by Jean and Jeanne Scelles, both Christian Democrats, who bequeathed their fortune to the project.



Philippe Scelles
Honorary president

Jean Scelles, a member of the Resistance, was imprisoned in 1941 in Alger when he discovered prostitution while listening to a pimp – a fellow prisoner – who explained to him the way he “educated the women and punished them when recalcitrant.” Saved by the skin of his teeth, he promised to dedicate his life, together with his wife, to protect human dignity by acting to improve public opinion awareness, lobbying within the political sphere, and requiring systematic prosecution of traffickers.

Between 1953 and 1973, 40 lawyers associated with “Action Teams against procuring” filed more than 300 lawsuits against pimps. These teams continue constantly fighting against procuring, filing an average of 15 lawsuits a year.

When Jean Scelles died in 1996, his nephew Philippe Scelles, who helped him to create the Foundation, became President. Since then, the Foundation has continually expanded, thanks to the dedication of a great number of employees and volunteers.

Yves Charpenel, former Counsel for the Prosecution at the Cassation Court, has been President of the Foundation since 2010.

Prostitution, human trafficking, sexual tourism, and pornography; these are all factors that cause indignation. It's the unsupportable drama of children and adults whose bodies are exploited for commercial profits.

Our duty and mission is to know about, understand, and fight against this terrible scourge and to create a world free of any “commercial sexual exploitation.”



President

WHO ARE WE?

The Scelles Foundation, officially recognized since 1994, works daily to advocate, analyze research, lobby, and fight against commercial sexual exploitation.

Our objectives:

- To fight against pimping
- To fight against the prostitution system which leads to human trafficking
- To fight against the demand by dissuading clients of prostitution
- To reject all kinds of legalization of prostitution
- To assist victims by helping of our partner associations

Our Actions :

Information:

The CRIDES (Centre de Recherches Internationales et de Documentation sur l'Exploitation Sexuelle = International Research and Documentation Center about Sexual Exploitation) was created in 1994. This international observatory of sexual exploitation, unique in Europe, provides a permanent watch, public information, and evaluation.

Advocacy:

Based on its analyses, the Scelles Foundation proposes recommendations to French and European political authorities concerning how best to fight against the exploitation of prostituted persons and against violence connected with prostitution.

Multidisciplinary cooperation: In order to reinforce the collaboration between various actors like the police, justice, social agents, and political authorities, the Scelles Foundation organizes meetings and inter-disciplinary projects.

Public awareness:

Promoted via our publications, events, organization of conferences and seminars, and our web sites.



THE CRIDES,

Center for International Research and Documentation of Sexual Exploitation

The CRIDES is a forum for meetings, inquiries and exchanges of information regarding international human sex trafficking. It is regularly consulted by French and foreign experts including associations, institutions, journalists, lawyers, researchers and those involved in the defense of human rights.

Its goals are to:

analyze every aspect of the phenomenon: prostitution, sex tourism, pimping, child pornography, human trafficking for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation

encourage reflection and the development of opinions

inform all those interested in these issues

The CRIDES is organized around three primary activities:

Documentation :

A multimedia library: over 450 books, 400 films, reports and television programs
A bimonthly press overview called “Infos Mail”

A database of over 8000 documents: analyses by experts, proceedings and academic studies, essays and dissertations, journalistic articles, activity reports...

A selection of over 1000 surveys and reports published throughout the world concerning human trafficking and sexual exploitation, which can be downloaded from the CRIDES database on the Scelles Foundation website

A catalogue in French that lists resources relating to prevention efforts, information and awareness-raising, aid and protection, rehabilitation, training, trans-national and multi-disciplinary cooperation, suppression and legislation.

Research and analysis:

All research conducted by the CRIDES is accessible on the CRIDES portal of the Scelles Foundation website :

CRIDES thematic overviews intended for the general public that address more than 20 different subjects

Geographical overviews developed from the Foundation’s research that



concern target countries on several continents
Les Cahiers de la Fondation (“The Journal of the Foundation”), intended for experts, synthesize knowledge and analysis by addressing a specific theme of commercial sexual exploitation



Exchanges and partnerships :

On November 3rd 2008, the CRIDES began its online collaborative platform, an important source of shared documents in French and English. The platform offers the general public a large number of the resources that the CRIDES has accumulated during the 15 years of its existence (compilations of resources, good practices, and videos; studies and publications dealing with commercial sexual exploitation; a calendar of events...). It also offers communities of researchers and social workers a space in which to collaborate (including workshops and forums). This platform aims to:
make CRIDES documents regarding sexual exploitation available to the public,
provide social workers, associations, institutions, and researchers with a space for work and communication,
create a network in the struggle against exploitation that will reinforce each individual’s work through mutual collaboration.

Department staff

2 permanent workers, interns, volunteers (documentalists, writers, translators)

Research fields

Sexual exploitation, prostitution, pimping, sex tourism, trafficking in human beings for commercial sexual exploitation, pornography...



Documents available

Analyses, proceedings, academic studies, reports by experts, essays and dissertations, articles, activity reports...
These documents are all available in the CRIDES office and some are freely accessible on the Foundation’s website.

Users

Researchers, lawyers, social workers, journalists, associations, interns, students...

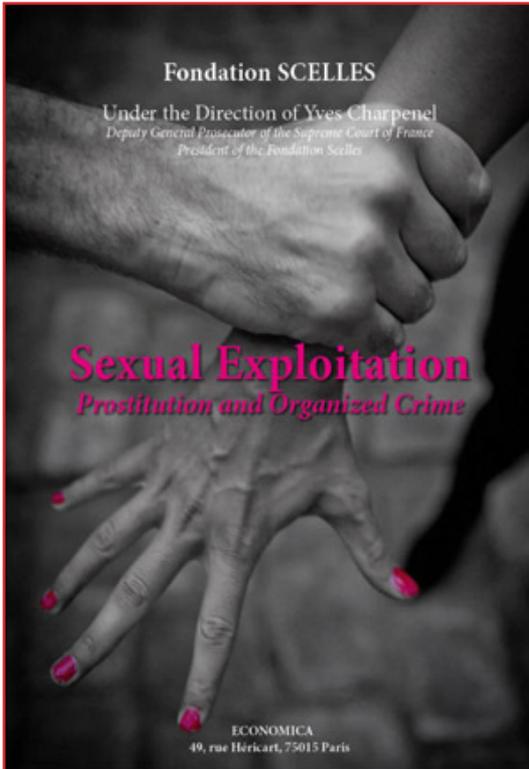
Accessible by appointment, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 – 16:00

CRIDES

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PUBLICATIONS BY THE FOUNDATION



For the second consecutive year, the Scelles Foundation presents a panorama of prostitution around the world: an analysis of 54 countries and 10 themes at the heart of the issue.

This “tour” of our societies, often faced with directionless globalization, shows the complexity and severity of this particular violence towards the weakest among us.

It involves all of us in France, Europe and the world in 2012 because the dignity of the most weak is up against the fierce capacity of our countries to not yield to the temptations of the merchandization of the body.

The general economic crisis and the growing blur of shared values that should inspire us have shaken up, as never before, the perspective towards sexual exploitation.

For, if it is a question of a veritable “economic horror”, then it is the human sufferance that is at stake. Of course, there are traffickers that abuse and sell, and their accomplices who buy and keep quiet, but above all, there are victims who are all too often invisible.

This book, which strives more to show than to prove, has found its place if it succeeds in inciting reflection and greater insight.

The situation analysis, which you’ll uncover throughout this book, is the fruit of the work of a dozen women and men unfamiliar with the word “resignation” and who are dedicated to constructively enriching this unavoidable debate.

The group of countries represented here, along with the discussed themes, offers the reflection of a reality far from the fantasies and make-believe to which it is often reduced.

Available on

http://www.fondationscelles.org/pdf/rapport_mondial/sexual_exploitation_prostitution_Fondation_Scelles.pdf

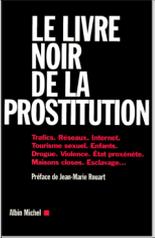
Rapport mondial sur l'exploitation sexuelle : la prostitution au cœur du crime organisé *Fondation Scelles – Economica 2012, 215 p. (only in french)*

The Scelles Foundation publishes the 1st global report on sexual exploitation.



Le Livre noir de la prostitution

Sold out.
Several thousand copies have been sold. It's a good way to inform: pass it around amongst to your friends....



L'Esclavage sexuel : un défi pour l'Europe

Fondation Scelles. Edition de Paris, 2005. 280p. (only in french)

How are various European countries fighting against trafficking of human beings for sexual exploitation purposes? And against pedophilia, child pornography, or against sexual tourism?



Algérie, dialogue entre christianisme et Islam

Ed. l'Harmattan 2003. 282p. (only in french)

Jeanne Scelles-Millie speaks of her feelings, inspirations, and frustrations resulting from her fight in favor of the social, cultural, and political liberation of the Algerian population.



La prostitution adulte en Europe

Ed.Erés, 2002. 262p. (only in french)

This document is a clear and detailed overview study about prostitution of adults in Europe.



Vers un humanisme méditerranéen

Fondation Scelles, 2010. 240p. (only in french)

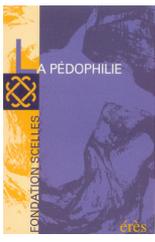
Anthology of texts written by Jean and Jeanne Scelles, a couple recognized and esteemed by the Muslim community. Preface by Dalil Boubaker.



La Pédophilie

Ed.Erés, 2001. 231p. (only in french)

This work begins with a historical and sociological description, showing the evolution of the place of the child in our society and ends with the topic of pedophilia and the Guigou Law of 1998.



Les Cahiers de la Fondation synthesizes knowledge and the analyses proposed by the CRIDES since 1995. Each booklet, regularly updated, is dedicated to the commercial sexual exploitation with a specific thematic approach:

- French government and the profits of prostitution
- Extraterritorial penal laws
- Commercial sexual exploitation - under French laws
- Causes of sexual trafficking in South East Asia
- Maltreatment and commercial sexual exploitation
- Political approach concerning the freedom to prostitute oneself

Cahiers de la Fondation



La prostitution face au sida

Ed.Erés, 2001. 112p. (only in french)

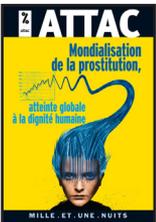
This wide approach studies the double problem of prostitution and AIDS, which have been rarely studied until now and which are updated here thanks to rigorous data collected by international organisms.



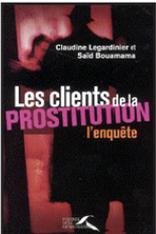
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION...



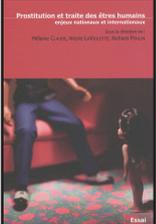
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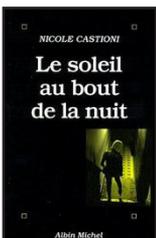


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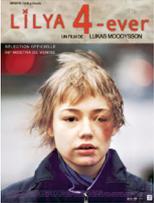
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- L'Imposture, by Eve Lamont, Québec, 2010
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- Not for Sale, by Marie Vermeiren, LEF, CATW, 2006
- Or, by Keren Yedaya, Israël, 2004
- Slovenian Girl, by Damjan Kozole, Slovenia, 2011



AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

- Fondation Scelles, Human Shop, 2008
- Stop the Traffic, Girls going wild in the red light district, 2012
- European Women's Lobby, For a change of perspective, 2011
- ACPE, Spot tourisme sexuel, 2008
- ECPAT, Spot tourisme sexuel, 2009

All of these references are available at the CRIDES.

The Scelles Foundation offers thematic and geographic analyses about human trafficking and prostitution: Trafficking and Prostitution in Europe, The Criminalization of Clients in Europe and the World, Sexual Tourism, Prostitution in the Media...





A GUIDE TO VARIOUS ASSOCIATIONS



A chart recapitulating the main associations in France : a succinct introduction to these associations, with their specialties and their differences, which should help readers to quickly find what they are looking for.

A detailed presentation of each association : the main pieces of information about these associations is summarized in a few pages: their contact information, an overview of their history including their actions and missions, a detailed list of establishments, and a close look at their various means of communication.



How to be informed about the phenomenon of prostitution?

You'll find, in this part, a detailed directory of the various tools used by associations: directories, prevention and sensitivity tools, videos, books, posters... all you need to know about tools and methods used by the associations. We added, as a matter of interest, some useful websites and a short list of the legal tools available.



A directory of other associations in France

We also mentioned in this guide all the French associations who work, directly or not, in the field of prostitution: helping people by informing and supporting them. Thanks to the alphabetical classification, you will easily find the contact information you seek, together with a short summary of their activities.



LES ASSOCIATIONS PARTENAIRES

ACPE (Association Contre la Prostitution des Enfants = Association against Children Prostitution) is fighting with all legal means against sexual and commercial exploitation of children, all over the world.

acpe-asso.org

AMICALE DU NID, with more than 200 employees and 8 establishments in France, this association is taking care, as a priority, of prevention, of social and professional integration of adult persons victims of prostitution.

www.amicaledunid.org

EQUIPES D’ACTION CONTRE LE PROXENETISME.

is the only French association fighting directly against procuring. It has a social action in favor of persons in danger of being prostituted, or already prostituted, in order to help them to give up. It takes legal actions, together with the public prosecutors, in order to obtain compensation from the pimps.

eacp-asso.fr

FONDATION SCELLES, state approved since 1994, is working day after day, making investigations, collecting information, and acting as an analysis and lobbying center fighting against commercial sexual exploitation. PARIS

fondationscelles.org

MOUVEMENT DU NID is working in order to create an impulse to reject prostitution, so to make its disappearance possible. With 34 establishments and more than 300 militants, the Mouvement du Nid welcomes prostituted persons and assist them for a social integration approach. The association is running global prevention actions against prostitution, as well as

a wide partnership in France and over the world in order to develop a thoughtful action about prostitution

mouvementdunid.org

LE COFRADE, Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits Conseil Français des Associations pour les Droits de l’Enfant (French Council of Associations dedicated to Children Rights) is working in close connection with numerous associations dedicated to children rights. It is therefore in a stronger position to promote their common views, and have a wider influence on the authorities for a better application of the Convention (for the children rights).

cofrade.fr

ESPPER, the association, created on January 22nd. 2001, by the founding organizations of “Ensemble Pour Soutenir les Projets et Programmes en Faveur des Enfants de la Rue » (Together to support projects and programs in favor of children in the streets) intends to encourage actions in favor of social and professional rehabilitation of children and teenagers of the streets wherever in the world, whatever can be their living site, their gender, their origin, their activities, their beliefs.

espper.org

Sur le site :

[**www.fondationscelles.org**](http://www.fondationscelles.org)

OUR 4 WEBSITES

www.fondationscelles.org

institutional site.



crides.fondationscelles.org

documentary basis



The institutional site of the Foundation presents its various actions, from communication to defence, and suggest documents enabling to understand the implications of prostitution. It is visited by more than 200.000 internauts every year.

The platform of the international research and documentation center about sexual exploitation (CRIDES) offers to general public most of its resources (tools and good practices, publications and videos) collected over 18 years of activity; it also offers to researchers and social workers a common workshop.

www.passe-passe.org

prevention, awareness for teenagers



infos.fondationscelles.org

Last news about prostitution



The Foundation committed itself with the Minister for Young People, Sports and Associations, to carry out actions for a better awareness of young people about the dangers of prostitution. The content is developed by the Foundation, together with the main associations.

You'll find last news about prostitution, analysed and commented day after day by our experts. Videos, testimonies and basic articles, updated by our colleagues, as well as the whole content of our Newsletter: Fondation Scelles Infos.



FONDATION SCELLES

Connaître, Comprendre, Combattre l'exploitation sexuelle

La prostitution est un sujet tabou. Parce qu'il est question de sexualité ? Parce qu'il est question d'argent ? Parce que c'est un espace chargé de fantasmes ? Parce que c'est un domaine intouchable, renforcé par une pléthore de clichés solidement ancrés dans les consciences collectives ?

« C'est le plus vieux métier du monde », « c'est un mal nécessaire », « la prostitution évite le viol »...

Il faut pourtant **ouvrir les yeux**. A l'ère de la mondialisation, la prostitution est devenue une **véritable industrie** : elle génère d'énormes profits entre les mains d'une criminalité dangereuse, elle est dominée par **une violence sans égale**, violence physique, sexuelle, psychologique, sociale... Elle est une atteinte à l'intégrité de l'être humain et l'exploitation scandaleuse d'un état de vulnérabilité.

Vous ne pouvez pas..., vous ne devez pas vous rendre complice de ce système inhumain par votre silence.

Certains nous traiteront de moralistes et de puritains. D'autres nous opposeront le « droit » à disposer librement de son corps, le « droit » à la sexualité.... Mais *« ce n'est pas le sexe, le plaisir ou la liberté qui font problème dans la prostitution ; c'est l'argent, c'est la violence, c'est l'oppression des femmes, c'est le trafic d'êtres humains (...) »* (André Comte-Sponville).

Des personnes prostituées, réunies en collectifs très appréciés des médias, apparaissent régulièrement sur nos écrans pour clamer leur liberté de se prostituer et revendiquer la reconnaissance de leur activité comme un métier.

Nous ne remettons pas en cause leur parole et ce qu'elles disent être leur « liberté » de choix. Mais nous dénonçons la réalité de la prostitution que leur discours occulte : **incestes, viols, précarité économique, dépendance aux drogues, violences, tortures, exclusion sociale...** Et nous affirmons que la prostitution ne peut en aucun cas être réduite à un choix individuel : c'est un fait de société.

Il convient dès lors de s'interroger. **Pouvons-nous accepter qu'un nombre croissant de femmes, mais aussi d'enfants et d'hommes, poussés par le besoin et le désespoir, en viennent à commercialiser leur corps ?** Dans une société de progrès et d'ouverture, que voulons-nous défendre ? Les valeurs de respect et d'égalité auxquelles nous croyons sont-elles compatibles avec la violence, la destruction de l'être humain, la stigmatisation et la criminalité inhérentes à la prostitution ?

NOUS DEVONS CHOISIR.

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Retrouvez-nous sur **FACEBOOK**, **TWITTER**