

Prostitution and Trafficking - Quick Facts

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Prostitution Research & Education 2012

Prostitution Is:

- a) sexual harassment
- b) rape
- c) battering
- d) verbal abuse
- e) domestic violence
- f) a racist practice
- g) a violation of human rights
- h) childhood sexual abuse
- i) a result of unequal job and educational opportunities for women
- j) a consequence of male domination of women
- k) a means of maintaining male domination of women
- l) all of the above

What is Prostitution?

"I had started having sex at ten years old; I knew how to please men, even if it killed me. But at night when I came home and I showered I scrubbed and lathered to try and get the streets off me. I hated being touched by tricks. Each time I did a call I felt as if I was being raped again. Working incall I never knew what my day would bring. My best friend was raped in the room next to me and I never heard a sound. The trick muffled her cries and walked out like nothing was wrong. Every day I would try to drown out the thought that I might be next. My mantra was get your money and get them out, but I was dying inside."

(Nekome, 2010, *How Prostitution Chose Me*. http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/survivor_writings/000242.html).

"The everyday life of prostitution is distant from most of us. And here, our imagination is a poor assistant. Negotiate a price with a stranger. Agree. Pull down one pant leg. Come and take me. Finished. Next, please. It becomes too ugly to really take it in. The imagination screeches to a halt." (Cecilie Hoigard & Liv Finstad, 1992, *Backstreets: Prostitution, Money, and Love*, Pennsylvania State University Press).

"For a great part of 1992 I lived in a beautiful apartment. I drove my expensive car. I bought lovely clothes and traveled extensively out of the country. I felt invincible. And I was miserable to the core. I hated myself because I hated my life. All the things I came to possess meant nothing. I could not face myself in the mirror. Working in prostitution lost my soul." (Debra Boyer, Lynn Chapman & Brent Marshall, 1993, *Survival Sex in King County: Helping Women Out*, King County Women's Advisory Board, Seattle: Northwest Resource Associates.)

As recently as 1991, police in a southern California community closed all rape reports made by prostitutes and addicts, placing them in a file stamped "NHI." The letters stand for the words "No Human Involved." (Linda Fairstein, 1993, *Sexual Violence: Our War Against Rape*, New York: William Morrow and Co.).

Prostitution is a Crime of Violence Against Women

“Male dominance means that the society creates a pool of prostitutes by any means necessary so that men have what men need to stay on top, to feel big, literally, metaphorically, in every way.”

(Andrea Dworkin, 1997, *Prostitution and Male Supremacy, Life and Death*, New York: Free Press).

“Far from being gender-neutral, prostitution is gendered to the hilt. The buyers are men whose goal is their sexual pleasure. The bought are largely women and girls whose purpose—if they are enough in control of their destinies to have a purpose—is often economic survival. The businesses are controlled by men, often assisted by women in their employ. Their goal is profit—and the profits figure in the billions.”

(Dorchen A. Leidholdt, 2003, *Prostitution and Trafficking in Women: An Intimate Relationship*. In M. Farley (Ed.), *Prostitution, Trafficking and Traumatic Stress*, New York: Routledge.

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Leidholdt%20Prostitution%20and%20Trafficking%20in%20Women.pdf>).

The prostitute “is a victim of every bad thing men do to women: physical and sexual abuse, economic oppression, and abandonment.”

(Mick LaSalle, 1995 (December 3), *Hollywood is Hooked on Hookers*, *San Francisco Examiner*).

Prostitution has much in common with other kinds of violence against women. What incest is to the family, prostitution is to the community. Prostitution is widely socially tolerated and its consumers (commercial sex customers who are called johns or tricks by women in prostitution) are socially invisible... Violence is the norm for women in prostitution. Incest, sexual harassment, verbal abuse, stalking, rape, battering, and torture –are points on a continuum of violence, all of which occur regularly in prostitution. A difference between prostitution and other types of gender violence is the payment of money for the abuse. Yet the payment of money does not erase all that we know about sexual harassment, rape, and domestic violence.

(Melissa Farley, 2004, *Prostitution is Sexual Violence*, *Psychiatric Times*. <http://www.psychiatrictimes.com/sexual-offenses/content/article/10168/48311>).

“The sex industry markets precisely the violence, the practices of subordination that feminists seek to eliminate from the streets, workplaces, and bedrooms.”

(Sheila Jeffreys, 1997, *The Idea of Prostitution*, North Melbourne: Spinifex).

Prostitution is a practice of sexual objectification of women. “... Every act of sexual objectifying occurs on a continuum of dehumanization that promises male sexual violence at its far end.”

(John Stoltenberg, 1990, *Refusing to Be a Man*, London: Fontana).

Summary of research and clinical findings regarding violence in all types of prostitution

- 95% of those in prostitution experienced sexual harassment that would be legally actionable in another job setting.
- 65% to 95% of those in prostitution were sexually assaulted as children.
- 70% to 95% were physically assaulted in prostitution
- 60% to 75% were raped in prostitution
- 75% of those in prostitution have been homeless at some point in their lives.
- 85% to 95% of those in prostitution want to escape it, but have no other options for survival.
- 68% of 854 people in strip club, massage, and street prostitution in 9 countries met criteria for posttraumatic stress disorder or PTSD.
- 80% to 90% of those in prostitution experience verbal abuse and social contempt which adversely affect them.

(Melissa Farley, 2004, Prostitution is sexual violence. *Psychiatric Times*. <http://www.psychiatristimes.com/sexual-offenses/content/article/10168/48311>).

Where Does Prostitution Take Place?

The commercial sex industry includes street prostitution, massage brothels, brothels, escort services, outcall services, strip clubs, lap dancing, phone sex, adult and child pornography, video and internet pornography, and prostitution tourism. Women have also reported that they have been prostituted in private residences, private parties, hotels, bars, casinos, saunas, peep shows, farms, church and cults. Most women who are in prostitution for longer than a few months drift among these various permutations of the commercial sex industry. (Melissa Farley, Nicole Matthews, Sarah Deer, Guadalupe Lopez, Christine Stark, & Eileen Hudon, 2011, *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women*, Prostitution Research & Education and Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition.

http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Garden_of_Truth_Final_Project_WEB.pdf).

The bulk of the sex industry involved pimps and other sex industry entrepreneurs controlling women and girls, often by moving them from places in which they have family and friends into locations in which they have no systems of support. Movement is also essential because customers demand novelty.

(Dorchen A. Leidholdt, 2004, *Demand and the Debate*, New York: Coalition Against Trafficking in Women.

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Leidholdt%20Demand%20and%20the%20Debate.pdf>).

Who is in Prostitution?

“Many are school drop-outs from abusive families, often bearing children from adolescent relationships. Many have kids and grandparents to take care of. They face real financial pressures. But given their backgrounds, their options are limited.” (Thuli Madonsela & Cathi Albertyn, 2009, *Sexual Offences: Adult Prostitution*, South Africa: South African Law Reform Commission.

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Madonsela%20Albertyn%20Sexual%20Offences%20Adult%20Prostitution.pdf>).

“The hold that pimps and the street culture have over prostituted youth is too powerful to be displaced by traditional social services or brief interventions. There is no curriculum that can provide an abused and frightened 14-year-old girl with the cognitive ability and refusal skills to outthink a 26-year old offering love, money, and to take care of her.”

(Debra Boyer, 2008, *Who Pays the Price? Assessment of Youth Involvement in Prostitution in Seattle*, Seattle: Human Services Department. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Boyer%20Who%20Pays%20the%20Price.pdf>).

“Seventy percent of the subjects felt that [childhood] sexual abuse affected their decision to become a prostitute.” (Mimi H. Silbert & Ayala M. Pines, 1983, Early Sexual Exploitation as an Influence in Prostitution, *Social Work*. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Silbert%20Pines%20Early%20Sexual%20Exploitation%20in%20Prostitution.pdf>).

Early adolescence is the most frequently reported age of entry into any type of prostitution. As one girl said, “We’ve all been molested. Over and over, and raped. We were all molested and sexually abused as children, don’t you know that? We ran to get away... We were thrown out, thrown away. We’ve been on the street since we were 12, 13, 14.” (*Survival Sex In King County: Report Submitted To King County Women’s Advisory Board*, 1993, Seattle: Northwest Resource Associates).

“Incest is boot camp for prostitution.”

(Andrea Dworkin, 1997, Prostitution and Male Supremacy, *Life and Death*, New York: Free Press).

There is an economic motive to hiding the violence in prostitution and trafficking. Although other types of gender-based violence such as incest, rape, and wife beating are similarly hidden and their prevalence denied, they are not sources of mass revenue. Prostitution is sexual violence that results in massive economic profit for some of its perpetrators. (Melissa Farley, 2006, Prostitution, Trafficking and Cultural Amnesia: What We Must *Not Know* in Order to Keep the Business of Sexual Exploitation Running Smoothly, *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism*. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/FarleyYaleLaw2006.pdf>).

Men Who Buy Sex

In prostitution, demand creates supply. Because men want to buy sex, prostitution is assumed to be inevitable; therefore it’s considered ‘normal.’

A sex buyer said, “Being with a prostitute is like having a cup of coffee, when you’re done, you throw it out.” (Melissa Farley, Emily Schuckman, Jacqueline M. Golding, Kristen Houser, Laura Jarrett, Peter Qualliotine, & Michele Decker, 2011, *Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don’t Buy Sex: ‘You can have a good time with the servitude’ vs. ‘You’re supporting a system of degradation,’* Report at Psychologists for Social Responsibility Annual Meeting, Boston. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Farleyetal2011ComparingSexBuyers.pdf>).

A sex buyer explained that in prostitution, “she gives up the right to say no.” Another man told us that he clarifies the nature of his relationship to the women he buys: “I paid for this. You have no rights. You’re with me now.” (Melissa Farley, 2007, ‘Renting an Organ for Ten Minutes:’ What Tricks Tell Us about Prostitution, Pornography, and Trafficking. *Pornography: Driving the Demand for International Sex Trafficking*, Los Angeles: Captive Daughters Media. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/FarleyRentinganOrgan11-06.pdf>).

A man interviewed by Hite told her, "I am a firm believer that all women are prostitutes at one time or another." (Shere Hite, 1981, *The Hite Report on Male Sexuality*, New York: Knopf).

Discussing his experience in a strip club, one man said, "This is the part of me that can still go hunting." (Katherine Frank, 1999, *Intimate Labors: Masculinity, Consumption, and Authenticity in Five Gentlemen's Clubs*, Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Duke University, Durham, N.C.).

Women in prostitution in Kolkata told me they service twenty to thirty men a day on average, with no choice over the sex or the men. So do the math. Each woman... services as many as 8,000 men a year...

(Catharine MacKinnon, 2011, Trafficking, Prostitution, and Inequality, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*.

[http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/MacKinnon%20\(2011\)%20Trafficking%20Prostitution%20and%20Inequality.pdf](http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/MacKinnon%20(2011)%20Trafficking%20Prostitution%20and%20Inequality.pdf)).

The main users of women in prostitution are regular men who are in regular marriages, study in regular educational programs, and have regular jobs, some of whom are entrusted with upholding the very laws that they violate. In other words, studies indicate that prostitute-users in general are not marginalized men, unlike the women they use and abuse.

(Janice G. Raymond, 2004, Prostitution on Demand: Legalizing the Buyers as Sexual Consumers, *Violence Against Women*, <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Raymond%20Prostitution%20on%20Demand.pdf>).

The sex buyer seeks her subordination to his wishes, to turn her into his masturbation fantasy by depersonalizing her, by disappearing her name, her identity her feelings. He replaces her identity with the one he needs for his fantasy.

(Melissa Farley, Emily Schuckman, Jacqueline M. Golding, Kristen Houser, Laura Jarrett, Peter Qualliotine, & Michele Decker, 2011, *Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex: "You can have a good time with the servitude" vs. "You're supporting a system of degradation,"* Report at Psychologists for Social Responsibility Annual Meeting, Boston. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Farleyetal2011ComparingSexBuyers.pdf>).

Pimps and Traffickers

Nintey percent of prostituted women interviewed by WHISPER (Women Hurt in Systems of Prostitution Engaged in Revolt) had pimps while in prostitution.

(Evelina Giobbe, 1987, *WHISPER Oral History Project*, Minneapolis, Minnesota).

The sex industry entrepreneur "turns out" a woman or girl by eradicating her identity, erasing her sense of self, especially any belief that she is entitled to dignity and bodily integrity... Thus, prostitution is not only a system of gender-based domination; it is a system of gender-based totalitarianism.

(Dorchen A. Leidholdt, 2003, Prostitution and Trafficking in Women: An Intimate Relationship. In M. Farley (Ed.), *Prostitution, Trafficking and Traumatic Stress*, New York: Routledge.

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Leidholdt%20Prostitution%20and%20Trafficking%20in%20Women.pdf>).

Pimps assume psychological, biological, social, and economic control over the lives of the women they sell to johns through the use of chronic terror, cunning use of various aspects of captivity, and isolation from others who might offer support and validation. In addition they employ starvation, sleep deprivation, protein deprivation, conditioned physiologic hyperarousal, unexpected sexual violence, and learned helplessness. (Harvey Schwartz, Jody Williams, & Melissa Farley, 2007, Pimp Subjugation of Women by Mind Control. In M. Farley (Ed.), *Prostitution and Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections*, San Francisco: Prostitution Research & Education).

The answer to the question, “why do prostitutes stay with their pimps?” is the same as the answer to the question, “why do battered women stay with their batterers?” (Melissa Farley, 1996). In order to survive captivity, humans bond with their abusers.

In Milan, Italy in December 1997, police uncovered a gang that was holding auctions of trafficked women from the former Soviet Union. The women were stripped, displayed and sold for an average price of US \$1000. Traffickers and pimps use extreme violence to control their women. In Italy, police report that one woman in prostitution is murdered each month. In two cases, women who resisted were killed as means of terrorizing and controlling the other women. (Donna Hughes, 2000, The “Natasha” Trade: The Transnational Shadow Market of Trafficking in Women, *Journal of International Affairs*. http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/natasha_trade.pdf).

Physical Abuse and Trauma

The abuse that is constant in prostitution, indeed endemic to it, requires dissociation from yourself and the world to survive. You may create another self, give her another name; she is the one who goes out and does this “work” and may defend doing it... Being subject to constant rape, beaten to stay, prevented from looking into other options, sustaining the trauma of a war zone or a torture chamber, needing drugs to keep doing it—is this what you mean by employment? (Catharine A. MacKinnon, 2011, Trafficking, Prostitution, and Inequality, *Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review*. [http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/MacKinnon%20\(2011\)%20Trafficking%20Prostitution%20and%20Inequality.pdf](http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/MacKinnon%20(2011)%20Trafficking%20Prostitution%20and%20Inequality.pdf)).

“In the process of selling my body, I was shot five times, stabbed more than 13 times, beaten unconscious several times, had my arm and nose broken, had two teeth knocked out, lost a child that I will never see again, was verbally abused, and spent countless days in jail.”

(Brenda Myers-Powell, 2008, Is Paying for Sex Really Worth It? No. Prostitution exploits many women’s deep pain, *Ebony*. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Survivor%20-%20Brenda2.html>).

A 1982 study of 200 women in San Francisco prostitution found that 70% had been raped by the men who bought them on average 31 times.

(Mimi Silbert & Ayala Pines, 1982, Occupational Hazards of Street Prostitutes, *Criminal Justice and Behaviour*).

“About 80% of women in prostitution have been the victim of a rape. It’s hard to talk about this because the experience of prostitution is just like rape. Prostitutes are raped, on the average, eight to ten times per year. They are the most raped class of women in the history of our planet.” (Susan Kay Hunter and K.C. Reed, 1990, “Taking the side of bought and sold rape,” Speech at National Coalition against Sexual Assault, Washington, D.C.).

A Canadian Report on Prostitution and Pornography concluded that girls and women in prostitution have a death rate 40 times higher than the death rate for all women in Canada.

(Special Committee on Pornography and Prostitution, 1985, *Pornography and Prostitution in Canada*).

Psychological Trauma

Sixty-eight percent of 827 people in several different types of prostitution in 9 countries met criteria for PTSD. The severity of PTSD symptoms of participants was in the same range as the PTSD of treatment-seeking combat veterans, battered women seeking shelter, rape survivors, and refugees from state-sponsored torture. Symptoms of PTSD are acute anxiety, depression, insomnia, irritability, flashbacks, emotional numbing, and being in a state of emotional and physical hyperalertness.

(Melissa Farley, Ann Cotton, Jacqueline Lynne, Sybille Zumbeck, Frida Spiwak, Maria E. Reyes, Dinorah Alvarez & Ufuk Sezgin, 2003, Prostitution & Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, *Journal of Trauma Practice*. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdf/Prostitutionin9Countries.pdf>).

Almost three-quarters (71%) of the women we interviewed had clinically significant symptoms of dissociation. A primary function of dissociation is to handle the overwhelming fear, pain and to deal with the systematized cruelty that is experienced during prostitution (and earlier abuse) by splitting that off from the rest of the self.

(Melissa Farley, Nicole Matthews, Sarah Deer, Guadalupe Lopez, Christine Stark & Eileen Hudon, 2011, *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women*, Minnesota: Prostitution Research & Education and Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition.

http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Garden_of_Truth_Final_Project_WEB.pdf).

Korean women in prostitution had severe PTSD and other psychological symptoms that reflected extreme emotional distress. (Young-Eun Jung, Jeong-Min Song, Jihye Chong, Ho-Jun Seo, & Jeong-Ho Chae, 2008, Symptoms of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Mental Health in Women Who Escaped Prostitution and Helping Activists in Shelters, *Yonsei Medical Journal*).

Racism

Women in prostitution are purchased for their appearance, including skin color and characteristics based on ethnic stereotyping. Throughout history, women have been enslaved and prostituted based on race and ethnicity, as well as gender. In order to understand the trauma of prostitution, it is necessary to understand the ways in which racism and sexism are inextricably connected in prostitution.

(see Vednita Carter, 1993, Prostitution: Where Racism and Sexism Intersect, *Michigan Journal of Gender & Law*.

Also see Melissa Farley, Jacqueline Lynne & Ann J. Cotton, 2005, Prostitution in Vancouver: Violence and the Colonization of First Nations Women, *Transcultural Psychiatry*.

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/ProstVancouver.pdf>; Melissa Farley, Nicole Matthews, Sarah Deer, Guadalupe Lopez, Christine Stark, & Eileen Hudon, 2011, *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women*, Minnesota: Prostitution Research & Education and Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition.

http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Garden_of_Truth_Final_Project_WEB.pdf).

In pornography the skin of black women is taken to be a sexual organ, female of course, despised, needing punishment. The skin is the place where the violation is acted out—through verbal insult (dirty words directed at the skin) and sexualized assault (hitting, whipping, cutting, spitting on, bondage including rope burns, biting, masturbating on, ejaculating on). (Andrea Dworkin, 1993, *Pornography Happens to Women*, Speech at “Speech, Equality and Harm: Feminist Legal Perspectives on Pornography and Hate Propaganda,” University of Chicago Law School. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Dworkin%20Pornography%20Happens%20to%20Women.pdf>).

Women in African-American communities are disproportionately targeted for the abuse and violence of prostitution, stereotypically marked as sexually insatiable or deviant. At the same time, the racist assumption that prostitution is somehow acceptable in African-American communities creates a nearly insurmountable barrier of shame and perceived rejection to women used in prostitution, effectively silencing them from speaking about their experiences and feelings. It is through this paradoxical dynamic that Black women are held in the bondage of slavery. (Vednita Carter, 2003, *Providing Services to African American Prostituted Women*. In M. Farley (Ed.) *Prostitution, Trafficking and Traumatic Stress*, New York: Routledge).

“It’s how they treat you. Like cowboys and Indians. They’d rape the women and take them and sell them. Just like Black people and slavery. We’re not supposed to have anything. Not supposed to say anything. Not supposed to look them in the eye or be disrespectful.” (Interview with Native woman in Melissa Farley, Nicole Matthews, Sarah Deer, Guadalupe Lopez, Christine Stark, & Eileen Hudon, 2011, *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women*, Minnesota: Prostitution Research & Education and Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition. http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Garden_of_Truth_Final_Project_WEB.pdf).

Native women and girls disproportionately experience risk factors for entering the sex industry such as a history of sexual abuse, poverty, racism, and substance abuse. What is called “survival sex” by some is actually prostitution due to poverty, intimidation, and fear. Many of the Native women in prostitution in North America were trafficked into prostitution while they were children. (Sarah Deer, 2010, *Relocation Revisited: Sex Trafficking of Native Women in the United States*, *William Mitchell Law Review*. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Deer%20Relocation%20Revisited.pdf>).

For many, the experience of prostitution stems from the historical trauma of colonization. Imposing a sexist and racist regime on First Nations women, colonization simultaneously elevated male power within the colonized community... (Melissa Farley, Jacqueline Lynne & Ann J. Cotton, 2005, *Prostitution in Vancouver: Violence and the Colonization of First Nations women*, *Transcultural Psychiatry*, 42, 242-271. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/ProstVancouver.pdf>).

Prostitution and pornography

In a study that compared men who buy sex with who don’t buy sex researchers found that sex buyers masturbated to pornography more often than non-sex buyers, imitated pornography with partners more often, and had more often received their sex education from pornography than the non-sex buyers. Over time, as a result of their prostitution and pornography use, sex buyers reported that their sexual preferences changed.

(Melissa Farley, Emily Schuckman, Jacqueline M. Golding, Kristen Houser, Laura Jarrett, Peter Qualliotine, & Michele Decker, 2011, *Comparing Sex Buyers with Men Who Don't Buy Sex: 'You can have a good time with the servitude' vs. 'You're supporting a system of degradation,'* Report at Psychologists for Social Responsibility Annual Meeting, Boston. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Farleyetal2011ComparingSexBuyers.pdf>).

We thought that prostituted women's PTSD was so high that it could not go up any higher. We did not expect to show that the making of pornography or the coercion to imitate it had a statistically significant effect on the PTSD suffered by the women we interviewed in prostitution. But in fact our results showed that when women had pornography made of them, it hurt them even more. It is data that causes you to weep. (Melissa Farley, 2007, 'Renting an Organ for Ten Minutes': What Tricks Tell Us About Prostitution, Pornography, and Trafficking, In *Pornography: Driving the demand for international sex trafficking*, Los Angeles: Captive Daughters Media. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/FarleyRentinganOrgan11-06.pdf>).

To distinguish pornography from prostitution...is to deny the obvious: when you make pornography of a woman, you make a prostitute out of her. In the immortal words of one trick, "Yes, the woman in pornography is a prostitute. They're prostituting right before the cameras. They're getting money from a film company rather than individuals." It is also to deny the plain fact that pornographers are pimps, third-party sex profiteers, buying and selling human beings to johns, who are consuming them as and for sex. (Catharine A. MacKinnon, 2005, Pornography as Trafficking, *Michigan Journal of International Law*. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/MacKinnon%20Pornography%20as%20Trafficking.pdf>).

Eighty percent of prostitution survivors at the WHISPER Oral History Project reported that their customers showed them pornography to illustrate the kinds of sexual activities in which they wanted to engage. Fifty-two percent of the women stated that pornography played a significant role in teaching them what was expected of them as prostitutes.

(Evelina Giobbe, 1990, A facilitator's guide to prostitution: a matter of violence against women, 1990, WHISPER:, Minneapolis, MN).

The Intricate Relationship Between Prostitution and Trafficking

Prostitution and sex trafficking are the same human rights catastrophe... Both are part of a system of gender-based domination that makes violence against women and girls profitable to a mind-boggling extreme. Both prey on women and girls made vulnerable by poverty, discrimination, and violence and leaves them traumatized, sick, and impoverished. The concerted effort by some NGO's and governments to disconnect trafficking from prostitution—to treat them as distinct and unrelated phenomena—is nothing less than a deliberate political strategy aimed at legitimizing the sex industry and protecting its growth and profitability. (Dorchen A. Leidholdt, 2003, *Demand and the Debate*, Speech at The Forces of Demand in Global Sex Trafficking Conference, Chicago. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Leidholdt%20Demand%20and%20the%20Debate.pdf>).

In an economic study of prostitution and trafficking in 150 countries, the authors concluded that on average, countries with legalized prostitution had greater inflows of human trafficking.

(Seo-Young Cho, Axel Dreher, and Eric Neumayer, 2013, Does Legalized Prostitution Increase Human Trafficking? *World Development*).

Needs of Prostituted Women

Eighty-nine percent of 854 people in prostitution from nine countries told us that they wanted to escape prostitution, but 75% needed a home or safe place, 76% needed job training, 61% needed health care, 56% needed individual counseling, 51% needed peer support, 51% needed legal assistance, and 47% needed drug/alcohol treatment.

(Melissa Farley, Ann Cotton, Jacqueline Lynne, Silvia Zumbeck, Frida Spiwak, Maria E. Reyes, Dinorah Alvarez, & Ufuk Sezgin, 2003, Prostitution & Trafficking in Nine Countries: An Update on Violence and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, *Journal of Trauma Practice*. <http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdf/Prostitutionin9Countries.pdf>).

When you say you want to offer us assistance, we say, 'We want real jobs, not blowjobs.' Housing, better welfare rates, more job training, education opportunities without the risk of being cut off welfare. We want more detox beds and real opportunities for the women still out there. We need better exiting programs. Not a brothel so the millionaire white men who come for 2010 Olympics can have better access to violence against women. (Aboriginal Women's Action Network Speaker, 2009, Speech at the One is Too Many Summit, Vancouver. http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Aboriginal_Survivor_from_AWAN_Vancouver.pdf).

Prostitution Policy and Law

Eighty-one percent of the Nevada women told us that they wanted to escape prostitution, regardless of its legal status. "It's all the same emotionally, no matter where we work," said one woman, referring to other – illegal – locations where she had been rented for sex.

(Melissa Farley, 2007, Legal Brothel Prostitution in Nevada. In M. Farley (Ed.), *Prostitution & Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections*, San Francisco: Prostitution Research & Education).

There are basically four legal approaches to prostitution. Prostitution can be criminalized, legalized, decriminalized, or abolished. Where there is *criminalized prostitution*, all parties to the prostitution transaction are arrested: the woman who is selling sex in prostitution, the buyer or john, the pimp, and the trafficker. *Legalized prostitution*, as in Nevada, specifies where prostitution is permitted to take place, and it is regulated via zoning. Legalized prostitution can also include municipal *tolerance zones* or *red-light zones*. *Decriminalized prostitution* removes all laws against pimping, pandering, and buying women in prostitution, in addition to decriminalizing the woman in prostitution herself. *Abolition of prostitution* is a human rights-based legal approach that aims to stop the buying, selling and trafficking of women in prostitution while *at the same time* supporting those in it to escape prostitution instead of arresting them. Victims in this fourth legal approach are the only ones who are decriminalized. The fourth alternative to legalized prostitution is exemplified in the 1999 Swedish law that prohibits the purchase of sexual services. Recognizing that prostitution deserved abolition and that it is a form of male violence against women, the Swedish Parliament decided to criminalize not only the pimps and traffickers but also the buyers or johns. The person in prostitution is not criminalized since Sweden has recognized that she is a victim rather than a criminal.

(Melissa Farley, 2007, Conclusion: Legalization of Prostitution, a Failed Social Experiment. In M. Farley (Ed.), *Prostitution & Trafficking in Nevada: Making the Connections*, San Francisco, CA: Prostitution Research & Education. See also Max Waltman, 2011, Prohibiting Sex Purchasing and Ending Sex Trafficking: The Swedish Prostitution Law, *Michigan Journal of International Law*.

[http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Waltman_ProhibitingSexPurchasingEndingTrafficking_MichJofInt'LLaw33\(2011\).pdf](http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdfs/Waltman_ProhibitingSexPurchasingEndingTrafficking_MichJofInt'LLaw33(2011).pdf)).

The Swedish legislation only targets buyers of persons in prostitution. The offense comprises all forms of sexual services, whether they are purchased on the street, in brothels, in so-called massage parlors, from escort services, or in other similar circumstances... From the Swedish experience, we know that when the buyers risk punishment, the number of men who buy prostituted women decreases, and the local prostitution markets become less lucrative. Traffickers will then choose other and more profitable destinations.

(Gunilla Ekberg, 2004, The Swedish Law That Prohibits the Purchase of Sexual Services, *Violence Against Women*.

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/pdf/EkbergVAW.pdf>).

State and local laws against prostitution in the United States criminalize both men and women for engaging in prostitution. Yet in a clearly discriminatory manner, women are arrested many times more often than men. In 2003 about 92% of prostitution-related arrests in Boston were women and only about 8% of arrests were men. Similarly 89% of arrests in Chicago between 2001-2004 were women, 9.6% were men, and 0.6% were pimps. (Donna M. Hughes, 2005, *Combating Sex Trafficking: Advancing Freedom for Women and Girls*, Speech at Northeast Women's Studies Association Annual Conference, University of Massachusetts.

http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Hughes%20combating_sex_trafficking.pdf).

In the Netherlands, legalization amounts to sanctioning all aspects of the sex industry: the women themselves, the buyers, and the pimps who, under the regime of legalization are transformed into third party businessmen and legitimate sexual entrepreneurs... In countries where women are criminalized for prostitution activities, it is crucial to advocate for the decriminalization of the women in prostitution. No woman should be punished for her own exploitation.

(Janice G. Raymond, 2003, Ten Reasons for *Not* Legalizing Prostitution and a Legal Response to the Demand for Prostitution, *Journal of Trauma Practice*.

<http://www.prostitutionresearch.com/Raymond%20Ten%20Reasons%20for%20Not%20Legalizing%20Prostitution.pdf>).