

**Personal account of being involved in prostitution
and the case for the 'Nordic model'
From Rebecca, June 2009**

"I want that the 'Nordic model' [of criminalising the purchase of sexual acts whilst decriminalising those who sell them and providing resources to help people exit prostitution] is taken more seriously, for I consider that too much "blame" is placed on the individual prostituted woman or girl for the conditions that she has to work in.

I believe that men that choose to buy women and girls are made invisible by having the focus placed on the prostituted women and girls.

This invisibility means that johns [punters] will and do commit as much violence as they can imagine -for they know there is little or no sanction from their society.

Many men who choose to buy women and girls for their "sexual" desires, are really doing [it] to have complete control and power over another human being. She will be his sexual slave, whether it is for twenty minutes or for several months.

The more money the man has, the more he believes he is entitled to own the prostituted woman and girl's body and soul.

The reality of prostitution is that the woman or girl is not seen as a full human being, she is seen as goods to be sold and brought. She is seen as a commodity.

She has no feelings, no rights, no voice and her pain is of no important.

That is a harsh reality for the vast majority of prostituted women and girls.

Men who choose to buy women and girls for the short-term "pleasure" of having an orgasm are just seen as consumers, customers, even clients.

When, as a woman who was on the receiving end of prostitution, I want to live in a society that has a framework where men who buy other human beings for sex are labelled as criminals.

After all, we would strive to outlaw other forms of slavery. We are outraged by factories with child slave labour, we are outraged by trafficking in farms and fishing, we want exploitation [to end] in most jobs - except for prostitution.

Instead, it is easier to believe myths that "bad" women become prostituted, and that it must be their choice.

I think there is a need for a change in viewing "choice" and placing it where it belongs, with the men.

When a man chooses to buy and sell women and girls in prostitution, he has the power and control.

A john makes the choice to buy a woman and girl in the same frame of mind that he would buy a hamburger. Once he makes that choice, he made the choice to forget that she is a full human being.

Once he chooses to trash her humanity, it becomes his choose whether he uses violence on her, or he chooses to be a "decent" john.

It is the john's choice whether he will rape her or just talk, whether he treats her as "girlfriend material" or brutally sexually tortures her.

It is his choice to go high-escort, or street prostitute. [It is his choice] to go to saunas or into a brothel, or take into a private flat or hotel.

Every market that men can imagine is provided by the sex trade. If it makes a large profit, it will be provided.

It makes no difference to the prostituted woman and girl which part of the "business" she is in, her job will never safe.

If a john makes the choice to use violence, to rape, sexually torture, to murder - it makes no difference what her label is.

Street prostitutes are constantly raped, beaten up and far too often their murders are unreported.

[When] high-class escorts are brutally raped, it is seen as a hazard of the "job". Women in saunas are raped and beaten up.

Women in sex clubs are raped behind the building, many are stalked after they have finished their work.

No woman and girl who is labelled as prostituted can ever be fully safe, as long as johns own them.

That is why I feel to have the Nordic model would be a good start to building a society that places the responsibility onto men".

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