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Abolishing Prostitution: The Swedish Solution - An Interview with Gunilla Ekberg by the Rain and Thunder Collective

Posted by NPNAAdmin at [3/5/2009 9:04 PM](#)

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Rain and Thunder has kindly made this interview available for us to share with you. You may also download it as a [PDF \(33KB\)](#).

Abolishing Prostitution: The Swedish Solution An Interview with Gunilla Ekberg by the Rain and Thunder Collective

Published in *Rain and Thunder: A Radical Feminist Journal of Discussion and Activism*, Issue 41, Winter Solstice 2008.

Rain and Thunder is a grassroots publication created and distributed by a collective of radical feminist women. *Rain and Thunder* provides a space for radical feminist thought, analysis, creativity, activism, and resistance to flourish. Learn more at www.rainandthunder.org or by contacting the Rain and Thunder Collective, P.O. Box 674, Northampton, MA 01061, USA, rainandthunder@yahoo.com.

Gunilla Ekberg is a long-time radical feminist activist and lawyer. She is a former special advisor on issues regarding prostitution and trafficking in women and children to the Swedish government. She is currently the Co-Executive Director of the non-governmental international organization Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, which works to combat sexual exploitation of women and children in all its forms.

R&T: If you could start by giving a little background on your work against prostitution and trafficking, particularly your experience as a special advisor on issues regarding prostitution and trafficking for the Swedish government?

Gunilla Ekberg (GE): My whole life has been about ending male violence against women. In 2001, I was asked by the Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Margareta Winberg to come to Sweden to create and implement a program on prostitution and trafficking in human beings, starting with a Nordic Baltic Campaign Against Trafficking in Women in 2002, during which I coordinated activities in the eight countries. I was given a lot of possibilities to implement quite radical feminist policies, thanks to the women who I worked with – the Deputy Prime Minister, the State Secretary, Lise Bergh, and Marianne Laxén, who was the Director for the Division on Gender Equality in the government. They were very supportive. In fact, the Swedish government at the time made the work to prevent and combat prostitution and trafficking one of their most important political priorities.

R&T: That's remarkable and seems to be a testament to the Swedish women's movement during that time.

GE: Change came through the Swedish women's movement. During that time, there were some violent crimes against women in prostitution. One prostituted woman, Catrine da Costa, was murdered.

R&T: Did that prompt action?

GE: Yes. And then with the 1994 elections, the number of women in the Parliament increased from 27% to 45% women. And we got a Labour/Left majority government. Of course when you have 45% women in the parliament, they start talking about male violence against women. The women's movement and the battered women's association lobbied the Labour Party Women's Association about issues of male violence against women, including prostitution. They then had a discussion within the Labour Party and decided to make the work against male violence against women a government priority. That's logical. On the contrary in countries where there are so few women in public office like in the U.S, violence against women is rarely discussed, or if it is discussed, the need to implement necessary policies and measures is not taken seriously.

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Welcome to NoPornNorthampton.org

NoPornNorthampton aims to increase awareness about the impact of porn on people and communities. We support the reasonable regulation of sexually oriented businesses in Northampton, Massachusetts and elsewhere. We ask businesspeople to balance profits with compassion. We do *not* advocate increasing government censorship of porn.

This site contains documentation that some people may find unpleasant. It is reproduced for the sole purpose of supporting NoPornNorthampton's arguments.

Welcome parents: Please see [How to Talk about Porn with Your 11-Year-Old Son](#) and the related video series, "[Things You Didn't Know About Porn](#)".

Porn is an important subject because the abuse of [women](#) and [children](#) is common in America, porn is a [factor](#) in this abuse, and porn is [pervasive](#) in our culture.

There are 500+ articles on this website--over half a million words of content--organized into categories (see our **Category Archives** below). Our critique of porn includes specific [legal](#) strategies that you can employ to

We should also keep in mind that there wasn't -- and there still isn't -- a particularly large pro-prostitution lobby in Sweden. Today, there are a number of academics -- two or three of them -- who are promoting a post-modernist, neo-liberalist analysis of prostitution. They're there, but not as visible in the public debate as they would like to be, and definitely not to the same degree or extent as in other countries.

The establishment of comprehensive social welfare policies in Sweden over 50 years was pivotal as was the understanding that you have to take into consideration the impact of power differences when you address social problems. Generally, I would argue that there is generally a greater understanding of power structures in Swedish society. But of course we had to fight on all levels. We also had a lot of media attention and coverage on the subject. There were lots of writings and conferences.

In many situations, political change comes from the struggle by a large group, but you also need people in power who are willing to push for change. Margareta Winberg, who at the time was the leader of the Labour Party Women's Association, decided that she would take it on. The 1998 government Bill on Violence Against Women included an analysis of prostitution as violence against women. This is an important cultural shift of consciousness away from a culture of prostitution. The cultural shift in Sweden was that we went from seeing prostitution as separate from other forms of male violence to naming it as a serious form of male sexual violence against women. And if prostitution is male violence against women, then it is a crime and consequently, there is a perpetrator. So, we need to focus on all the perpetrators in the debate on prostitution, not just the traffickers or the pimps, but the immediate perpetrator -- the man who commits the prostitution act on the prostituted woman who is no different than a rapist.

R&T: How do you think we can create a cultural shift like that in countries like the U.S. where the culture of prostitution is so deeply embedded?

GE: Well, this culture is deeply embedded in most countries. Sweden was in many respects no different than the U.S. When we say the magic word, let's look at the demand -- the men who purchase and exploit women -- it's as if suddenly a light goes on for many. An example is when we carried out the Nordic Baltic Campaign Against Trafficking in Women. That campaign was a government campaign which is, in itself, a very unusual initiative. Governments came together and said, "We're going to do awareness-raising on trafficking of human beings" and agreed that this campaign was to focus on men's demand for women in prostitution -- something that had never really been talked about before. Sweden had a law since 1999...all the other countries didn't. In the three Baltic countries there were legislative proposals to legalize the prostitution industry.

The campaign took place in that context. We worked with women's groups and with governments and public authorities. We used as a point of departure the United Nations Protocol, Article 9.5, which says that every country which has signed and ratified this convention has to enact legal and other measures to discourage the demand. Each country then had to enact policy and awareness-raising measures to counter-act the demand. It could be awareness-raising. It could be all kinds of things. But we wanted to make the men who sexually exploit women and girls through prostitution accountable and visible.

Some countries were more reluctant than others to do so because they had a policy of prostitution that was more about tolerating the industry. However, they still agreed that such a campaign was necessary and important. This was the first time ever in the world that such a campaign was carried out. And because of this campaign, women's groups and parliamentarians and some female ministers in the Baltic countries fought to get rid of the legislative proposals to legalize the prostitution industry -- and succeeded! In Sweden, for example, we did an educational campaign in high schools with 15 to 18 year olds. We reached over 65,000 students. We organized day-long educational forums and discussions, with a screening of the film *Lilya-4-Ever...* We distributed an excellent book with articles on gender equality, against prostitution, against pornography, on the sexualization of women and girls in public space, etc. We did have lots of discussions about how boys treat girls (e.g. on how unacceptable it is to call girls or women demeaning names, to sexually harass girls, etc). We worked with kids who wrote some of the texts in the book. We talked about how many young men and boys get their sexual education through internet pornography sites and how this is detrimental to their attitudes towards women and girls. We also talked with girls about how they can refuse to deal with boys. It was really good. But, of course, to have real impact you can't just do this education once. You have to do it repeatedly to impact new generations.

Part of my tasks was also to "export" the Swedish anti-prostitution strategies -- that is to influence legislators and women's groups in other countries to campaign for similar laws. And we saw huge changes. For example, South Korea, South Africa, Norway and other countries have enacted the same legislation that criminalizes the buyer.

R&T: Would you talk about some of the main principles behind the Swedish law on prostitution?

GE: One of the first principles is that if you're trying to create a modern democratic society where gender equality is the norm and where all men and women should have similar rights and responsibilities, then you cannot legalize prostitution. In Sweden, it is understood that any society that claims to defend principles of legal, political, economic, and social equality for women and girls must reject the idea that women and children, mostly girls, are commodities that can be bought, sold, and sexually exploited by men. To do otherwise is to allow that a separate class of female human beings, especially women and girls who are economically and racially marginalized, is excluded from these measures.

Let me give you an example. At one of the international seminars we organized in a country with a legalized prostitution industry, there were a couple of men in the audience who were sitting right in front of me pretending to be listening to my lecture. When the seminar was over they crossed the street and went into a

reduce the risk of [secondary effects](#) (crime, blight, harassment) that can surround adult enterprises. Ultimately we hope to reduce the demand for porn by educating people about the impact it has on themselves and their relationships.

In Northampton, we are particularly concerned about [Capital Video Corporation's](#) porn shop at 135 King Street. This location is surrounded by [homes, counseling centers and houses of worship](#). Capital Video calls itself "the largest adult retail chain in the nation." It sells [violent, woman-hating pornography](#). It does business as [Amazing.net, Amazing Express, Amazing Superstore, Amazing Video and Video Expo](#).

Current and prospective Capital Video/Amazing.net employees: [Please see this overview of the issues](#).

Read about the adult-use [zoning and signage](#) (PDF) ordinances enacted in late 2006 by Northampton and our proposed [viewing booth health regulations](#).



View 100 top anti-pornography videos and more as compiled by [Anti-Pornography Activist Blog](#).



View Professor Gail Dines' March 2007 lecture on ["Pornography and Pop Culture"](#), which describes the increasingly harsh misuse of women in modern pornography, and how the people, money and values of porn have entwined with mainstream media and corporations. This 62-minute [Google video](#) (see our [overview](#)) is an excellent starting point for any discussion of feminism, media and porn. Our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) section (see below) addresses concerns that can arise, such as [First Amendment issues](#).

brothel. Now if they had come up to me and touched my breasts or said something abusive or offensive to me, I could've resorted to all of those measures that we have fought for -- for example, sexual harassment legislation. But instead they crossed the street, paid 50 euros to the receptionist in the brothel and did these same things to a woman designated as a "sex worker". Obviously none of the measures apply to her. She cannot claim that she has been sexually harassed or that she has been raped. She can't claim that she has been battered by these men. She has absolutely no rights.

Therefore, we have to ensure that [all](#) women are included in what we fight for. Liberation is not just for some of us. We must have a political vision that that all women and girls should be able to live without any forms of violence committed against them by men, and then work for measures based on this political vision are implemented. And so that's one principle.

The other principle is that women in prostitution shouldn't be criminalized -- because they are victims of male violence. Rather, it is the perpetrators -- the pimps, traffickers, and prostitution buyers -- who should be criminalized. In Sweden, prostituted women and children are seen as victims of male violence who do not risk legal or other penalties. Instead, they have a right to assistance to escape prostitution. Another principle was that Sweden and its representatives were to oppose any measures to legalize or decriminalize the prostitution industry internationally.

R&T: Yet people still cling onto the "choice" ideology, that women "choose" prostitution. How do you respond to this?

GE: I actually don't think it's that difficult. First of all, I will never convince those who are firmly pro-prostitution, but I also have no intention to do so. It doesn't interest me particularly because it's useless. What interests me is to raise the consciousness of those who have an open mind. That's where the change is going to come from. The change is not going to come from those who are pro-prostitution. Most of them will never change their minds. We need to focus our awareness raising, consciousness-raising efforts, for those who are willing to question patriarchal beliefs.

When people talk about choice, the issues become very individualized and that's what really troubles me. If we start talking about Mary who's in prostitution and calls herself a "sex worker" and we don't talk about power structures, it's a problem. It's a problem when we just talk about the individual woman and not about patriarchy and about those who benefit and profit off of selling, buying and exploiting women in prostitution.

Neo-liberalism is an individualist ideology and neo-liberalism lacks an analysis of male power. Another important part of our principles was that anything we do on male violence against women has to have an analysis of differences of power between men and women. So if you have a feminist analysis, you ask yourself, "Who does this benefit?"

You have to talk about the historical power differences between men and women which lead to men oppressing women and putting women and girls in a subordinate position. If you don't have that analysis, you will never understand prostitution. Those who are pro-prostitution of course ignore power differences between men and women. They boil prostitution down to individual choice. If you analyze choice you recognize that choice is only possible if you choose from equal alternatives. You have to distinguish between making a decision and having a genuine choice. We make decisions in all kinds of situations that are difficult because that's part of everyday life. If I'm in a job I absolutely loathe, that pays badly, I may have to stay there. So I make a decision to stay there because I can't get another job right now. That is not to have a real choice. We're not talking about choosing between different brands of a consumer product. We're talking about a situation of male domination where there are different forms of oppression that are keeping women down. Can you make a genuine choice if you're living in poverty? No, probably not in a context where you have different oppressive conditions to contend with. I'm not saying that all women living in poverty end up in prostitution, but many of the women in prostitution come from a poor background so you have to think about it that way.

Pimps, traffickers, and buyers as sex tourists go to countries where women exist in oppressive social, political, legal and economic contexts or where there have been armed conflicts or natural catastrophes or where the political system and society is not working for women to recruit and purchase women and girls into the prostitution industry. And when you look at prostitution/trafficking within countries, it's the same thing. Men exploit the fact that women are marginalized/oppressed for different reasons e.g. their victims may be girls who've run away from home because they're being raped by their fathers or other male relatives, or women who are vulnerable due to drug use, leaving battering husbands etc.

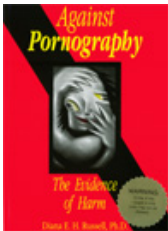
R&T: Would you talk about the positive changes that have come about since the Swedish model was implemented?

GE: In January 2009, it's time to break out the champagne! Then it has been ten years since the law came into force in Sweden. It is also the first day of the coming into force of the Norwegian law. For me, personally, I cried when the law was passed by the parliament in Norway. So much hard work. We all really felt like we had made enormous political change that day.

When the Swedish law was put into place, two monitoring mechanisms were created. One is the National Board of Health and Welfare which is tasked with following the situation of prostitution in Sweden. The other one is the National Rapporteur on Trafficking in Human Beings, Kajsa Wahlberg, who publishes annual reports on the situation concerning prostitution and trafficking of human beings within and into Sweden. But internationally the pro-prostitution lobby tends to ignore these reports because they do not want to hear the facts and figures that show that our strategies are working. Instead, they have created myths that the law



To understand how narrow, violent, unloving and distorted porn's vision of sex generally is today, we encourage you to review [this content analysis](#) of 50 top selling porn films and these cartoons from [Hustler](#), [Playboy](#) and [Penthouse](#). Professor Diana Russell has also kindly permitted us to make her book, [Against Pornography](#), available as a free PDF download. Dr. Russell presents the science and the raw material about porn so you can draw your own conclusions.



On this blog, we use the terms "adult business" and "sexually oriented business" interchangeably.

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Category Archives

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doesn't work. They claim prostitution activities go underground, that there's more violence against women in prostitution, or that men travel to other countries due to our law. These are the three most common myths. We know of course that none of these are true.

First of all, immediately when the law came into force almost all the buyers disappeared from street prostitution. Obviously, because they didn't want to be arrested. Before the law existed, in 1996, research interviews with Swedish men about their experiences purchasing somebody for prostitution purposes were conducted. 13.6% of Swedish men over 18 had bought somebody once or more for prostitution purposes. In mid-November 2008 when a new research study was published, the number of purchasers or buyers was down to 8%. This is a good and trustworthy study -- solid, strong, and empirical.

We know that the number of individuals in prostitution has gone down considerably and that Sweden has the lowest number of victims of trafficking in human beings in the European Union. This is because the law functions as an effective barrier to the establishment of traffickers in Sweden. Sweden is no longer an attractive market. And the reason why Sweden is no longer an attractive market is because we targeted the demand, the men, by passing this law. The human traffickers are all about making profit. If you take away their profit, they will go elsewhere. So the best solution is to pass a law.

We know from Swedish police investigations into trafficking and procuring networks -- both across border and national -- that pimps in the Baltic countries are steering clear of Sweden. We have extensive phone-tapping evidence. For example, a pimp said he wanted to bring 15 young Estonian women to Stockholm for a couple of weeks to make money and the Swedish intermediaries said, "Don't do that. It's too expensive for you. Bring the women to Norway or Denmark or even better, Germany or Holland." Because that's where the markets are.

The Swedish law functions as a trade barrier -- if you want to use economic language. We made it more difficult for pimps to sell women as commodities in Sweden. In order to sell the commodities, the salespersons, the pimps, need to get in contact with the buyers. And the buyers are nervous about being arrested. There is a special internet department of the National Police that just focuses on prostitution, trafficking and pornography. Buyers think that doing things on the internet makes you invisible when the exact opposite is true. It is easy to track down the buyers' attempts to contact the pimps. We now have a court decision that allows as evidence in court email correspondence between buyer and pimp. This is a real step in the right direction.

You need also to educate the police to understand the underlying principles, not just how to implement the law. They need to understand that it is the buyers who are the criminals, not the women in prostitution. Before the law came into force, the police were highly critical. The prosecutors were highly critical. They said the law wasn't going to work. We don't like this. We don't want it. So we had to educate them.

We can also see important normative changes as a result of the law -- something that was another aim of this legislation. Get people to start thinking, "In Sweden, no one is going to be for sale and no one can purchase another person." Polls have been carried out regularly about the public support of the law which consistently has been between 70 and 79%. People support the law so that means the public educational part of it is working.

The police commissioner of Stockholm was especially critical of the law. However, when he retired, he made a point of going to the papers to say that he had been wrong and that the law was, in fact, working. And the reason why he concluded that it was working was because the police could use the buyers to find the pimps.

The buyers are prosecuted in the same trial as the pimps and traffickers, which means that, first of all, it alleviates some of the burden off the shoulder of the victim. In most procuring and trafficking cases in other countries, the conclusive evidence mostly comes from the stories the victims tell. Obviously, women rarely want to talk about the details of the violence committed against them. So when it comes to establishing who are the pimps and traffickers, the buyers are also cross-examined. In this way, you get some of the information that the women don't have because the women often don't know how the men get in contact with the pimps.

There is also a pedagogical advantage to prosecuting the buyers in the same trial. Suddenly they are on trial together with the established organized crime network. The police and prosecutors are making it really clear to the buyers that they are intimately connected with organized crime; something that makes most of them really uncomfortable. Some don't care, but the majority does.

Again, you can see the normative effects of the law. What happens when you put the law into place is that there are a lot of buyers that stop their exploitative behavior and don't continue to buy women in prostitution and those are the men we call the occasional buyers. Those men disappeared almost immediately because it was too risky. What we know is that about 3% -- and that number can differ a little bit between countries -- of the buyers are hard core. They will go to any lengths to buy somebody and sexually exploit her or him. But you do get rid of the majority of the buyers when the law is implemented. They may buy prostituted women when they travel, but even that is shifting now because we can see the norms changing. A small study was carried out during the World Soccer Games in Germany in 2006. Researchers interviewed men from different countries about their intention to buy women in prostitution. The study shows that Swedish men consistently claimed that they wouldn't. This may or may not be true, but at least they had a change in attitude.

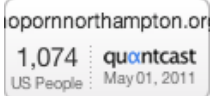
R&T: Do you have suggestions or input to give to activists organizing against prostitution and trafficking?

GE: Any political measure that you try to push for -- whether it's a law or policy, you have to have a political

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*HiStats counts date from 5/12/07.
 The NoPornNorthampton website was launched in 2006.*

Recent Entries

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3/14/2011

[Preferred Terminology for Sex Trafficking and Prostitution](#)

3/6/2011

vision, which means that you have to discuss what is the goal you want to reach -- or what kind of society do you want to live in? Yes, we want to abolish prostitution, and we want to do it NOW so how do we get there? First you think about what goal you have and then you think about the measures that will take you there. In many countries all they do is scattered measures with no clear goal in mind. And politics is about setting the road for where we're heading.

We know that we're probably not going to be able abolish prostitution completely in Sweden in my lifetime, but we do have a political vision of working towards that direction, towards abolition. This is in stark contrast to the political vision of those who are pro-prostitution, whose vision is limited to stating that prostitution is work; that it's the oldest profession in the world; that men will never stop buying women because they need access to women sexually whenever they want to; because it's sexual liberation for women and who am I to tell others what to do -- anyway! If you have that kind of idea about reality, your political vision is sorely limited to reducing the harm of prostitution. This is really problematic because they try to fix things for women in prostitution within an inherently oppressive system, whereas if you have a feminist point of view, the goal is that all women and girls should live lives without being violated, whatever the form of male violence, which requires radical measures!

We need to speak loudly about what it is we want to do and not compromise about our goals. We want to abolish prostitution. We don't want women and girls, or boys for that matter, to be victims of prostitution and trafficking in human beings. And to be successful, we have to talk about the men who are the perpetrators. They don't have the arguments to go up against those who are pro-prostitution. If the lobbyists say that prostitution is work, they don't have the analysis or words to say why it's not. So get good at understanding what prostitution is, its individual and structural effects, and develop your arguments!

We know from research on the demand in Sweden, and for example in Scotland and in Chicago, that men themselves identify three measures that would make them stop buying somebody for prostitution purposes. One is having their name and photo posted on a public billboard. Another is to be placed on a sexual offenders register. But the most important deterrent, they say, is legislation that penalizes the buying of a sexual act.

Educate yourself about prostitution and start discussing with friends and other activists. In their hearts, most women know very well that prostitution is harmful. Women know, but they don't have words to describe why. They don't have the arguments to go up against those who are pro-prostitution. If the lobbyists say that prostitution is work, they don't have the analysis or words to say why it's not. So get good at understanding what prostitution is, its individual and structural effects, and develop your arguments!

I always provide three questions to those I teach for them to understand that prostitution is male violence. The first question is: (1) Who are the women who are used in prostitution? We have already talked about this. The second question is: (2) What do men do to women in prostitution? The pro-prostitution lobby will never answer the second question. They talk about how it's dangerous to be prostituted on street corners because you risk being murdered, and how much better women will fare in legal brothels, but they never talk about the actual prostitution act that the buyers do to the women: the penetration, the touching, the humiliation. And this is the same wherever women are being prostituted. If they would talk about the prostitution act and understand profoundly the harm of prostitution, their whole analytic context would fall apart. It's easy to talk about health standards and gynecological exams, but when we talk about the actual prostitution act, they can't handle that and have no arguments.

The third question is: (3) What are the effects of prostitution on the women in prostitution as well as society at large? Prostitution doesn't just have individual impacts on women in prostitution. It impacts all women in that society. If you have a country that thinks it's appropriate and acceptable that women are to be for sale then you normalize the idea that men have the right to buy and sexually exploit not just a particularly marginalized subclass of women, but all of us.

It's important for all of us to understand prostitution and to have a political vision that prostitution can be abolished. We have to talk about and act against the buyers and perpetrators, at the same time we figure out how we can assist women [to] get out of prostitution. And this will make a difference.

Meanwhile, here in Western Massachusetts, the "Massage/Escort" and "Adult Employment" ads continue in the Valley Advocate. These are from the March 5 issue:

[Kristyn Komarnicki Writes about Choices](#)

3/6/2011

[NOMAS Applauds Senator Reid's Stand Against Prostitution](#)

3/1/2011

[June 25-30: Radical Feminist Seminar, Wheelock Media Institute, Stop Porn Culture Training in Boston](#)

2/28/2011

[Rain and Thunder Calls for Contributions to Disability Issue](#)

2/22/2011

[Infographic: The Stats on Internet Pornography](#)

2/9/2011

["Playboy mansion? More like a squalid prison: Former Playmates tell of 'grubby' world inside Hugh Hefner's empire"](#)

12/31/2010

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What You Can Do

Northampton and environs

[Ask the Valley Advocate's Publisher to Drop the Massage/Escort Ads](#)

Ask the [City of Springfield](#) to use "amortization" to get adult businesses to comply with current zoning laws that protect homes and schools

[As appropriate, register complaints about Capital Video's porn shop](#) with the building inspector, police, board of health, the mayor or the city council

[If the Capital Video store hurts the interests of its neighbors \(e.g. secondary effects, unsafe traffic flows, overflowing parking, disruptive patrons or offensive signage\), a nuisance claim may be appropriate](#)

<p>Massage/Escort Buxom Belle Triple D Cup Sweet as Pie 413-336- <hr/> ★LISA'S BACK★ Buy 1 Massage Get 2nd 1/2 Half (Lisa Only) ★Wednesday Special★ 1/2 Off Massage (Lisa Only) ★737- New Therapist Looking for Experienced Help <hr/> ♥♥ SASHA ♥♥ Petite ♥ Sweet & SEXY In/Out ♥ 413-519- ♥ <hr/> ♦ EROTIC TOUCH ♦ With essential oils Sweet, Sexy, Discreet w/ No Rush-GFE 24/7 ★ In/Out 413-262- ★End of Winter Specials</p>	<p>Massage/Escort TEMPORARILY YOURS! Experienced & Mature. Accomodating Service In call/Out call-Very- Reasonable Rates- Male & Female Welcome. Could be your Mistress! ★ 413-977- ★ <hr/> ★MEET TARA★ Sweet, Sexy & Sophisti- cated w/Hot, Tight Body Most Days & Some Sat's No Blocked Calls or Text ★413-204- ★ <hr/> ★HAWAIIAN★ ☆SOPHIE☆ ☆☆(203)302-...☆☆ <hr/> PETITE BLACK HAIRED BEAUTY To fulfill your DARKEST Desires 413-695- <hr/> Chocolate Spice Very Sexy Dominican & Black Beauty♥24/7 36-24-38, In/Out ♥♥860-262- ♥♥ <hr/> ♥ INTIMATE PLEASURES ♥ I'll make you keep CUMING! GFE♥IN/OUT CALLS ♥24/7 ♥♥ 413-386- ♥♥ <hr/> THE PERFECT SENSUAL COMPANION IS RIGHT AT YOUR FINGER TIPS. JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY!!! EARLY BIRD SPECIALS 24/7 ★413-214- ★</p>	<p>Adult Spas <hr/> STAR SAUNA New Haven CT. (Behind Dunkin Donuts) • Dry Sauna • Body Shampoo • Massages 203-389- \$10 OFF WITH THIS AD <hr/> Adult Employment ***** \$\$ HELP WANTED \$\$ COMPANY PRESIDENT Hiring Attractive Lady For Personal Masseur No Experience Required Help Reduce My Stress VERY WELL ENDOWED In Need Of Oral Relief Our Privacy Assured 860-258- <hr/> Adult Entertainment <hr/> got milf? www.com <hr/> ASK ABOUT OUR NEW BULLETIN BOARD RATES ADVOCATE CLASSIFIEDS 1-800-442-4266</p>
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Contact [incoming publisher Jim Foudy](#), his superior, [Aaron Julien](#), and editor [Tom Vannah](#) to let them know it's unacceptable to facilitate and profit from prostitution.

See also:

[Editor & Publisher Column: "Arrests Raise Questions About Newspapers Running 'Prostitution' Ads" \(1/14/09\)](#)
 Granted, ad revenues are getting tight. Jobs are scarce, as well. But so long as prostitution is a crime and patronizing a prostitute is also a crime, should newspapers run ads that clearly hawk prostitution services? What is the difference between running ads for prostitution and running ads for illegal gambling or illegal drugs?

[Springfield Republican: "Rape victim left for dead \(update\)" \(12/27/08\)](#)
 ...the bleeding, unconscious form was a savagely beaten and raped woman in her early 50s, victim of the third such attack in three months in the city's South End...

Police said she had suffered severe head trauma and her body temperature had plunged to a life-threatening low of 80 degrees...

The victim is a white female with a long history with police, Delaney said, though he did not detail her arrest record.

"I hate to say it. I don't want to make her a victim twice," Delaney said..

"The general public should know that this was a woman who engaged in risky behavior, not someone who was abducted at random," he said.

[Huffington Post: "Break the Chains of Modern Slavery: End Demand"](#)
 After years of parliamentary debate, in 1999 Sweden passed the Sex Purchase Law, which criminalized buying and decriminalized selling sex. This placed the emphasis on the buyers, while allowing women to seek help without being fined or deported. In five years, the number of prostituted women in Sweden dropped 40%. Today, the government estimates that less than 400 women are trafficked into the country, while in neighboring Finland it's 17,000.

Tell Capital Video attorney [Michael Pill](#) of Shutesbury ([contact information](#)) how you feel about his efforts to help a [convicted criminal with mafia ties](#) set up a [hard-core](#) porn shop next to [homes](#), churches, counseling centers and a bike trail ([see PDF](#)) in Northampton

[Contact your Northampton City Councilor](#)

[Write a letter to the Daily Hampshire Gazette](#)

[Write a letter to The Republican](#)

All regions

[Download and distribute these free posters against pornography and prostitution from the Not For Sale Media Project](#)

[Help Us Spread the Word Online](#) (quick and easy)

[Ask Monster to reject Capital Video's job ads](#)

[Ask Blue Razor to decline Capital Video's website registration business \(explicit language\)](#)

[Ask directNIC to decline Capital Video's website registration business](#)

[Report degrading billboards to the Outdoor Advertising Association of America](#)

[Patronize hotels that do not offer in-room adult movies](#) and support the "Clean Hotels" Initiative

[Divest from the media companies, telecoms, hotels and other corporations that profit from porn](#)

[Ask Calvert \(a socially responsible mutual fund firm\) to divest from porn distributors](#)

[Counter the bad education of porn with better sex education in the schools](#)

["Conversations key to children's safety"](#)

[Challenge the liquor licenses of adult enterprises that hurt the surrounding community](#)

[Advocate for intelligent prostitution laws that are easy on women, tough on johns](#)

[Combat sex trafficking at the Polaris Project's TraffickingResourceCenter.org](#)

[All employers must comply with](#)

[Sweden's Prostitution Solution: Why Hasn't Anyone Tried This Before?](#)

In the fog of clichés despairing that "prostitution will always be with us", one country's success stands out as a beacon lighting the way. In just five years Sweden has dramatically reduced the number of women in prostitution. In the capital city of Stockholm, the number of women in street prostitution has been reduced by two thirds, and the number of "johns" has been reduced by 80%...

[A Closer Look at Sweden's Success with Reducing Prostitution: Skeptics Rebutted](#)

[BBC News: "New Norway law bans buying of sex" \(1/1/09\)](#)

There has already been a visible decrease in women working on the streets of central Oslo, local media report.

[Norway makes it a criminal offense to pay for sex \(11/21/08\)](#)

[US Department of State: "Prostitution: To Legalize Or Not"](#)

[Prostitution: Factsheet on Human Rights Violations \(explicit language\)](#)

In one study, 75% of women in escort prostitution had attempted suicide. Prostituted women comprised 15% of all completed suicides reported by hospitals...

[Prostitution looks chic, but truth is ugly \(Chicago Tribune, 4/27/08\)](#)

A comprehensive 2004 mortality study, funded by the National Institutes of Health and conducted by the American Journal of Epidemiology, shows that workplace homicide rates for women working in prostitution are 51 times that of the next most dangerous occupation for women (which is working in a liquor store). The average age of death of the women studied was 34.

[Pornography Trains and Indoctrinates Prostitutes](#)

In a study of 475 people in prostitution (including women, men, and the transgendered) from five countries (South Africa, Thailand, Turkey, USA, and Zambia)...92% stated that they wanted to escape prostitution immediately...

[Newsweek: "A School for Johns"](#)

[Says San Francisco's district attorney, Kamala D. Harris,] "To suggest that this is somehow an issue that only involves consensual adults, that's just not true. No matter how these girls and women are packaged for sale, the reality is that for many of them, their life experience is often wrought with abuse and exploitation," says Harris...

[New York Times: "The Girls Next Door": Worldwide Sex Trafficking: Role of Porn](#)

Kevin Bales of Free the Slaves says: "The physical path of a person being trafficked includes stages of degradation of a person's mental state. A victim gets deprived of food, gets hungry, a little dizzy and sleep-deprived. She begins to break down; she can't think for herself. Then take away her travel documents, and you've made her stateless. Then layer on physical violence, and she begins to follow orders. Then add a foreign culture and language, and she's trapped..."

"There's a vast misunderstanding of what coercion is, of how little it takes to make someone a slave," Gary Haugen of International Justice Mission said. "The destruction of dignity and sense of self, these girls' sense of resignation..."

[Press Release: Action Network to use RNC and Minnesota State Fair to Bring Attention to Problem of Sex Trafficking](#)

Runaway, homeless, abused and at-risk children are approached by pimps and drug dealers within 48 hours of landing on the streets.

[The New Yorker: "The Countertraffickers"](#)

Traffickers have become smarter...about recruitment, increasingly using a technique known, with some dissonance, as "happy trafficking." (Anti-trafficking organizations object to the phrase.) Happy trafficking involves a Faustian deal. Victims who have worked off their "debts" (invented by pimps, arbitrarily increased by "fines" and alleged costs, and fully reinstated, if not increased, with each resale) are permitted to go home on the condition that they send back someone else--or two or three someone elses--to take their place. In order to make the sales pitch persuasive, they must represent their own emigration experience as having been a positive one. They may sometimes admit that it involved prostitution, but never that it was an onerous, degrading job in which, say, they were given no choice about the number of clients, what sexual services to provide, or whether condoms would be used...

[Escort Prostitution: A Response to Tom Vannah, Editor of the Valley Advocate](#)

Mr. Vannah concedes that "there is some percentage of people who are not willing participants in the sex industry", but believes that if the Advocate refuses to accept Massage/Escort ads, this will unacceptably crimp "artistic freedom". He mentions Mapplethorpe pictures as an example. How dropping ads for commercial sex enterprises will compel the Advocate to turn away Mapplethorpe pictures is not clear to us...

While a few women may choose a life of prostitution in a truly voluntary fashion, the reality for most is a history of sexual and/or child abuse, separation from their family and/or country, and poverty. Addictions to drugs or alcohol are common. They are routinely lied to, coerced, abused, threatened, and blackmailed (e.g. 'I'll hurt your family back in the Ukraine if you don't cooperate').

When a "progressive" outlet like the Advocate runs ads for commercial sex enterprises, it not only publicizes them but legitimizes them. It also puts a big dent in the Advocate's moral authority. If the Advocate truly wants to be a friend to underdogs, it needs to side with them over callous profiteers.

[MSNBC Investigates Human Trafficking and Prostitution in the US; Valley Advocate Advertises "Foreign Fantasies" Where "Everything Goes"](#)

[Wall Street Journal: "Craigslist Gets Tougher On 'Erotic Services' Ads"](#)

[OSHA regulations on working with/cleaning up certain bodily fluids. Report non-compliant adult enterprises to OSHA.](#)

[How the People Reclaimed Oklahoma City from a Major Eruption of Adult Businesses and Crime](#)

More actions to come...

Contact Us

Email info@nopornnorthampton.org, write to NoPornNorthampton, 351 Pleasant Street, PMB 101, Northampton, MA 01060-3961, or call 413-320-2027. **Please indicate if your comments should be kept private.**

How to Send Comments

Please email your comments to info@nopornnorthampton.org. Please indicate if your comments should be kept private.

Support NoPornNorthampton

NoPornNorthampton is composed of local volunteers. Please help fund our efforts in publicity, education and research. Send a check payable to No Porn Northampton, 351 Pleasant Street, PMB 101, Northampton, MA 01060, or make a secure donation online at [Click & Pledge](#). You may also send contributions via [PayPal](#) to info@nopornnorthampton.org.

NoPornNorthampton has received a Certificate for Solicitation from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Division of Public Charities, meaning we are permitted to raise funds from the public. We have no intention or expectation of making a profit from our activism. Since some funds may support political activities, donations are not tax-deductible.

Some links for books go to Amazon, where we have an affiliate relationship. Any monies generated from these book sales will be contributed to NoPornNorthampton. The cost of your purchase is not affected.

Press Releases

[11/25/07: NoPornNorthampton Offers 500,000+ Words of Innovative Porn-Fighting Power](#)

[5/1/07: NoPornNorthampton Reaches Out to Springfield Neighborhood with Advice on Adult Enterprises](#)

["New York Press No Longer Marketing Arm for Prostitution/Trafficking"](#)

[Another Victory for NOW-NYC: New York Magazine Drops Sex Ads](#)

[Prostitution Research & Education: How Prostitution Works](#)

Real sexual relationships are not hard to find. There are plenty of adults of both sexes who are willing to have sex if someone treats them well, and asks. But there lies the problem. Some people do not want an equal, sharing relationship. They do not want to be nice. They do not want to ask. They like the power involved in buying a human being who can be made to do almost anything.

[Dorchen Leidholdt. "Demand and the Debate"](#)

...what most people refer to as "prostitution" is usually domestic trafficking. The bulk of the sex industry involves 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. In the United States, for example, there are national and regional sex industry circuits in which prostituted women and girls are rotated among cities, ensuring customers variety and sex industry entrepreneurs control...

As Norma Hotaling has demonstrated in her work to educate and deter buyers and as the Swedish government has shown in arresting buyers, while demand is essential to sex industry success it also represents the weak link in the sex industry chain. Unlike prostituted women and girls, prostitution customers do have choices to make. And when they see that choosing to buy women devastates lives and threatens their own freedom and social standing, they make different choices...

[How to Deter Johns from Buying Sex](#)

Far from the common belief that 'prostitution will always be with us', it's not that hard to deter johns from buying sex. These two articles present the results of a survey of 110 Scottish men between the ages of 18 and 77 who had paid for sex:

[Sex industry in Scotland: Name and shame the punters](#) (Daily Record, Scotland, 4/28/08)

One punter said: "You can buy a lot of things but you can't buy your reputation - losing your reputation is the biggest deterrent."

...Men often used prostitutes in their lunch hour, some using company cars, and the interviewees said getting their car impounded and their company finding out would stop them...

A third thought rape was just men getting carried away and 12 per cent thought that it was not possible to rape a prostitute. A full 10 per cent claimed the concept of rape simply didn't apply to these women.

And almost a quarter thought that once they had paid for sex, they had free rein...

[Said one punter.] "You need to know how to manipulate and control [prostituted women], which is easy with street prostitutes, you just dangle drink and drugs in front of them."

[Prostitute punters more violent](#) (The Herald, Scotland, 4/28/08)

The report states: "54% of the men who frequently used women in prostitution had committed sexually aggressive acts against non-prostitute partners compared to 30% of the less frequent users.

"The more frequently a punter used women in prostitution, the more likely he was to have committed sexually coercive acts against non-prostituting women..."

...some 89% would stop using prostitutes if "named and shamed" on the sex offenders' register.

[Gloria Steinem at Smith: Cooperation, Not Domination](#)



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